



TR Register Shropshire Group's Visit to the Black Country Living Museum Tuesday 12th September 2023



The Black Country is often seen as the collection of 20 or so towns falling within the four Metropolitan Boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. While no-one quite agrees on the exact boundaries of the region, there is one thing known for certain: Black Country folk changed the world.

They built the world's first successful steam engine; put the first steam train (the Stourbridge Lion) on US soil; fuelled the introduction of the first minimum wage; produced the anchor for the Titanic; practically built the Crystal Palace; and so much more. From the early 20th century onwards, the Black Country region became one of the most industrialised parts of the UK with coal mines, iron foundries, glass factories, brick works and more dominating the landscape.

The sheer intensity of industry earned the Black Country a worldwide reputation and its goods were shipped around the globe. But industry at such scale came at a huge cost, and the landscape was turned inside out for its resources. In 1862 the American Consul to Birmingham, Elihu Burritt, famously described the region as "black by day and red by night" because of the ubiquitous black smog by day and the fiery glow of the furnaces at night.

The Black Country Living Museum is an award-winning open-air museum that tells the story of one of the very first industrialised landscapes in Britain. Set across 26 acres, you'll explore carefully reconstructed shops, houses and industrial areas that represent the Black Country's story. You'll learn how steam power, human ingenuity and an increasingly interconnected world transformed this region into a manufacturing powerhouse.

You'll meet historic characters who'll tell you stories of what it was really like to live and work during this revolutionary period of history.

Most importantly, you'll see history brought to life before your eyes - hear the clang of hammers, smell the smoke billowing from red brick chimneys and maybe even taste the best fish and chips in the Black Country!

Itinerary:

09:30	Meet at Telford Services (M54 J4), Shifnal, TF11 8TG
10:00	PROMPT start of run
10:40	Arrive Himley Hall, Himley Park, Dudley, DY3 4DF to re-assemble.
11:00	Depart Himley Hall. It will not be feasible to drive from here as a convoy to the Black Country Living Museum. Driving instructions will be provided.
11:30	Arrive Black Country Living Museum, Discovery Way, Dudley, DY1 4AL. Group Entry Prices: Adults - £17.00 65 plus - £15.50 Car parking £3.50 - exit by token purchased on entry
16:00	Depart museum but you may leave earlier or stay longer if you wish.

For more information about the Black Country Living Museum see:

<https://bclm.com>

For more information about the run contact:

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NB: Group entry gives a great saving in prices, but the museum insists that only one payment be made for the entire group. Anyone entering separately will incur the higher charges of:

Adult £22.95

Over 65 £20.99

Therefore, it is essential that we meet in the museum car park and enter as one. Helen & Roger Critchley will collect admission fees from you (**cash only please**) and pass these to the museum staff. Don't forget the £3.50 for car parking.