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## BLISTS HILL VICTORIAN TOWN WINS GOLD



Accepting the trophy on behalf of the Museum, at a ceremony at the International Convention Centre on 29th October, are (third left) Director of Operations Traci Dix-Williams and (fourth left) Deputy CEO Anna Brennand. Others, left to right are Suzanne Virdee and Nick Owen (BBC TV West Midlands) and Penelope, Viscountess Cobham, Chair of VisitEngland.

Blists Hill Victorian Town has won a gold award in the Best Large Visitor Attractions category at the highly prestigious Heart of England Excellence in Tourism Awards. The accolade was announced at a glittering ceremony at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham. The Museum beat off stiff competition from the other two finalists, the Black Country Living Museum and Drayton Manor Theme Park and will now go through to the National Excellence in Tourism finals next April. The Awards, in association with the EnjoyEngland Awards

for Excellence 2010, are a celebration of the very best in tourism in the West Midlands and showcase the diverse and fantastic range of attractions, accommodations and tourism venues that the region has to offer. It follows a massive £12 million development at Blists Hill Victorian Town which includes a new Visitor Centre, Mine Railway, Incline Lift and a new parade of shops along Canal Street. This is the second award the Ironbridge Gorge Museums has won recently, as early in October it secured the Jaguar Arts & Business Award for its partnership with local motor dealer Inchcape Shropshire.

### BUSINESS CLUB BENEFITS

Just a reminder to all Business Club members that in November and December you can take advantage of a fantastic 20% discount in the Museum retail outlets - perfect for those Christmas purchases. Our shops stock a range of high quality gifts including beautiful china, decorative metalwork, books, glassware, jewellery, confectionery and stationery. The newly launched 'Made in the Gorge' Range has now been extended to Coalport China Museum as well as Blists Hill Victorian Town. It features exquisite decorative ceramics, art glass and metal ware made by our resident artists. Business Club tickets must be presented when purchasing items.

### FESTIVE KINDNESS

The Trust would like to say a big thank you to three of our Business Club members for responding to our Christmas tree and decoration appeal this year. Decorating our 10 Museum sites over the festive period means we need a lot of trees and baubles which is why the Ludlow Food Centre, Aga Consumer Products Ltd and QMP donations were very welcome. Two large Christmas trees and decorations have been purchased thanks to the donations and are now on display in the brand new Blists Hill Visitor Centre for all to see.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
to all our Business Club Members

### CHRISTMAS PREVIEW SHOPPING EVENING

People flocked to the first of our exclusive invitation only Shopping Evenings held at the new Blists Hill Victorian Town Visitor Centre and Shop held on 19th November. Guests were welcomed by Father Christmas and entertained by music. They were able to sample the delicious food and drink available to buy as they perused the fantastic range of gifts that are now in stock. Three more of the seasonal evenings are planned for next year so watch this space for more information about them.

**FREE ENTRY TO SHOP GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS**  
Open 10am - 5pm

Information correct at time of printing but subject to change without notice

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## AUTUMN GOES WITH A BANG



Visitor numbers over the half-term holiday were strong and we also had a sell-out attendance for two of our hugely popular annual events - Ghostly Gaslight held on 31st October and the Fireworks Night on 7th November. If you missed it - make sure you come next year and join in the fun! Three thousand people came to the Ghostly Gaslight event which saw the town's shops and attractions take on a Halloween theme for the evening. Fantastic lighting was provided this year by the company who were due to light the Michael Jackson UK Tour.



## CHRISTMAS CHARITY CONCERT

A wonderful evening of Christmas Carols and readings will take place in the Engine Shop at Coalbrookdale on 15th December at 7.30pm. It will feature the Shropshire Male Voice Chorus and Mezzo Soprano Helen E. May. All are welcome to attend. Entry costs £5 per person and the event will raise much needed funds for the Trust. Refreshments and a raffle will also be available to purchase. For tickets call 01952 884 391 or purchase them from the Ironbridge Visitor Information Centre on the Iron Bridge. Tickets are also available on the door on the night.



## IRONBRIDGE LECTURE

Well known TV presenter Adam Hart-Davis will be visiting Enginuity to deliver the 2009 Ironbridge Lecture in association with the University of Birmingham, on Tuesday 1st December from 5.30pm as part of the Coalbrookdale 300 celebrations.

## A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS



On selected weekends leading up to Christmas, visitors to Blists Hill Victorian Town will be treated to an array of traditional celebrations, as well as the chance to do some last-minute shopping. The town, where life

in the Victorian era is recreated, will be festooned with Christmas decorations; the shops will be full of unusual and interesting festive gifts and the townsfolk busy preparing seasonal goodies and making traditional Victorian presents. A seasonal market, carol singers and bands around the town, a flurry of snow showers and the option of visiting Father Christmas will all add to the festivities. (For dates see events calendar).

Please note Business Club passes will not be valid on these days. Admission is £13.25 adults; £10.50 senior citizens; £8.50 children and students in full time education aged 5-18 years, under 5's free.

## DECEMBER EVENTS & DIARY DATES

**1st - 31st** - Christmas Activities at Coalport China Museum.

**5th - 6th** - Christmas Shopping Event at Coalport China Museum.

**5th** - A Victorian Christmas Sunday at Blists Hill Victorian Town.

**9th & 16th** - Christmas Music Hall in the Forest Glen Refreshment Pavilion.

**12th & 14th - 16th** - Christmas Tile Decorating Workshops at Jackfield Tile Museum.

**6th, 12th & 13th and 19th & 20th** Victorian Christmas Weekends at Blists Hill Victorian Town.

**15th** - Festive Charity Concert in the Engine Shop, Coalbrookdale.