

THE ENLIGHTENMENT LANDSCAPE

PLACES TO VISIT



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PLACES TO VISIT

BERSHAM HERITAGE CENTRE AND IRONWORKS NEAR WREXHAM, POWYS



Bersham Heritage Centre near Wrexham has the remains of John Wilkinson's East Works, part of the Bersham Ironworks complex. There are two exhibits: 'John Wilkinson, Wales and the Wider World' concerning the history of Bersham Ironworks and the career of John Wilkinson, and 'Sharp as Steel' about the history of Brymbo Steelworks and its connection to Wilkinson.

Admission is free and the Centre is open from January to October. Check the website for opening times.

Bersham Heritage Centre, Wrexham LL14 4HT
Phone: +44(0)1978 261 529
Website: <http://www.wrexham.gov.uk> and enter 'Bersham Heritage Centre' into the search box

SOHO HOUSE, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM



Home to industrialist, entrepreneur and Lunar Society member Matthew Boulton, Soho House contains an impressive collection of ormolu and silver manufactured at Boulton's Soho Works, as well as Georgian furniture, including items used by the Boulton family. The dining room where the Lunar men regularly met to talk, debate and carry out many of their experiments is a highlight of the house.

Open during the Spring and Summer months. Soho House, Handsworth B18 5LB
Phone: +44(0)121 554 9122
Website: <http://www.bmag.org.uk/soho-house>

ERASMUS DARWIN HOUSE, LICHFIELD

It has been said of Erasmus Darwin that no one since has rivalled him for achievements in such a wide range of fields – physics, chemistry, geology, meteorology and all aspects of biology.

Erasmus Darwin House is run by The Erasmus Darwin Foundation and aims to raise awareness of the life and achievements of this great eighteenth-century polymath. The house is situated close to the cathedral and can be accessed through the herb gardens, which are formally divided into Mrs Darwin's culinary herb garden and Dr Darwin's medicinal herb garden.



Erasmus Darwin House, Lichfield WS13 7AD
Phone: + 44 (0)1543 306260
Website: www.erasmusdarwin.org

THE INFIRMARY, UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER



The former Infirmary, or Worcester Royal Infirmary as it was later known, has a rich and varied history spanning some 240 years, with the impact of its staff extending well beyond the immediate area. The building has been restored by the University of Worcester and now houses an exhibition financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which explores that history. Scientific exploration is encouraged through a range of hands-on, interactive displays, which are intended to be as much fun for adults as for young people.

The Cromford Mills site is open daily from 09.00 to 17.00 (except Christmas Day). Admission is free. There are three tours available, details of which can be found on the Cromford Mills website. It should be noted that, owing to the nature of the site, access for visitors with disabilities and wheelchair users is restricted.

Admission is free and the gallery is open from 09.00 – 17.00 Monday – Friday. School and group visits are welcome. The Infirmary, Worcester WR1 3AS
Phone: + 44 (0)1905 542373
Website: <http://www.facebook.com/TheInfirmary>
Website: <http://www.cromfordmill.co.uk>

WEST MIDLANDS HISTORY

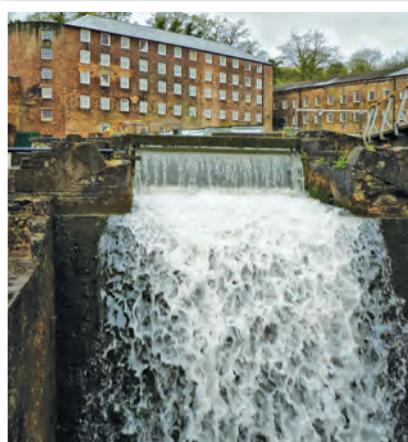


PEOPLE OF IDEAS, INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE



© Erasmus Darwin Foundation

CROMFORD MILLS, MATLOCK



© Arkwright Society

Cromford Mill, the world's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill, was built in 1771 by Sir Richard Arkwright. The site presents a remarkable picture of an early textile factory complex, which was quickly copied by mills in Lancashire, Germany and the United States. Although under threat of demolition in the early 1980s, Cromford Mills have been restored and granted Grade I listed status.

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JOSEPH WRIGHT GALLERY, DERBY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY



© Richard Talby

Joseph Wright was born in Derby, the son of a local lawyer. Among his patrons were Josiah Wedgwood and Richard Arkwright. Although some of his paintings have been associated with the Industrial Revolution of the eighteenth century, Wright's principal interest was in the dramatic rendering of light and shade offered by such subjects. There is a major collection of his work to be found in the Joseph Wright Gallery at Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

The Gallery is open from 10.00 to 17.00 Tuesday – Saturday and 13.00 to 16.00 on Sundays. Admission to the Gallery is free.

Derby Museum and Art Gallery, Derby DE1 1BS
Phone: + 44(0)1332 641901
Website: www.derbymuseums.org

PICKFORD'S HOUSE, DERBY



© Derby Museums & Art Gallery

A short walk from Derby Museum and Art Gallery is Pickford's House. Joseph Pickford moved to Derby in about 1760, after serving an apprenticeship with his sculptor and stonemason uncle in London, and became acquainted with a group of Midland intellectuals associated with the Lunar Society. In addition to St Helen's House in Derby and Etruria Hall in Stoke-on-Trent, Pickford designed and built several houses in Derby's Friar Gate. Number 41 Friar Gate, built in 1770, was the Pickford family home and workplace.

The house is open 10.00 to 17.00 Tuesday – Saturday, 13.00 to 16.00 on Sunday and Bank Holidays and closed on Monday.

Pickford's House, Derby DE1 1DA
Phone: + 44 (0)1332 715181
Website: <http://www.derbymuseums.org>

THE WEDGWOOD MUSEUM, BARLASTON, STOKE-ON-TRENT



Housed in a new, purpose-built museum and visitor centre, the Wedgwood Museum tells the story of Josiah Wedgwood and his family and explores their significance to the

pottery and ceramics industry of the West Midlands. The Museum has a wide range of exhibitions tracing the history of the Wedgwood family and business from the eighteenth to the twentieth century and offers innovative ways of exploring an important part of the region's industrial heritage. Guided tours of today's factory are also on offer.

The Wedgwood Museum, Stoke-on-Trent ST12 9ER
Phone: +44 (0)1782 371902
Website:
<http://www.wedgwoodmuseum.org.uk>

THE BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM, DUDLEY



© Black Country Living Museum

The Black Country Living Museum offers visitors a chance to experience what it was like to live in the area as it became industrialised. The 'village' has been reconstructed brick by brick, and has, among other attractions, a working bakery, a nail shop...and a traditional pub. You can also take a trip along the canal and go down a coal mine. Of particular interest is the full-size working replica of Thomas Newcomen's 'atmospheric' engine. 2012 marked the tri-centenary of the invention of this 'fire engine', as it was known, the first one of which was installed in 1712 at Lord Dudley's Coneygre Colliery in Tipton.

Black Country Living Museum, Dudley DY1 4SQ
Phone: + 44 (0)121 557 9643
Website: <http://www.bclm.co.uk>

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUMS, SHROPSHIRE



© Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

Often referred to as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, the Ironbridge Gorge is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The centrepiece of the Gorge is the world's first cast-iron bridge, built over the River Severn in 1779. Among the ten different museums in the area is the Museum of Iron at Coalbrookdale. It is housed in the Great Warehouse adjacent to the site and includes the remains of the water-powered blast furnace where Abraham Darby I

perfected the smelting of iron with coke instead of charcoal. There are models, films and displays of domestic and decorative ironwork that bring to life the revolutionary techniques that made Coalbrookdale the most famous ironworks in the world.

Close by the Museum are the former homes of the Darby family, packed with family belongings, from which there is a view of the restored Furnace Pool that once helped power the ironworks.

The Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Coalbrookdale TF8 7DQ
Enquiries are dealt with by email rather than phone and should be sent to information@ironbridge.org.uk
Website: <http://www.ironbridge.org.uk>