

NEWS & NOTES *continued*

INTERACTIVE FUN

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Hands-on Experience

Great Britain's Royal Mint recently opened the doors of its Llantrisant facility to visitors.

➤ England's King Edward I moved the Royal Mint to the Tower of London in 1279, but the coining facility has been based in Llantrisant, Wales, since 1968. After spending £9 million, including a £2.3 million Welsh government grant, to construct a new visitor center, "The Royal Mint Experience" opened to visitors on May 18.

The exhibition is located at the mint, just 13 miles from Cardiff, and highlights the history of the facility and the money and medals it produces. Tours allow visitors to watch as more than 700 coins are struck every minute. Before their eyes, blanks become coins in the institution once headed by Sir Isaac Newton, master of the Royal Mint from 1699 until his death in 1727.

The attraction is open seven days a week and features a guided factory tour, an interactive

display with six self-guided exploration zones, an education/corporate space, a café and a gift shop. For an additional fee, visitors can strike their own mementos. Tours also are available in Welsh.

Anne Jessopp, The Royal Mint's director of commemorative coin, says, "The Royal Mint Experience has enjoyed a busy start since opening...and we are enjoying welcoming both UK and international visitors to Wales' newest tourist attraction. The Royal Mint Experience gives visitors a unique behind-the-scenes [look], showcasing over 1,000 years of coin-making history, and the craftsmanship and innovation for which The Royal Mint is known worldwide."

To learn more about the Royal Mint Experience, visit www.royal-mint.com/en/the-royal-mint-experience.