



Welcome to the seventh Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site E-newsletter

April 2009

Since the sixth issue of this e-newsletter, the fourth successful set of Discovery Days has taken place within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. This time over 100 events took place across nine days and whilst the weather was not as good as in the past, the events were very well supported.

Conservation and economic development work continue to move forward and there have been some changes at the mills as well.

I hope you will find these updates of interest. The next printed newsletter will be out this summer.

Adrian Farmer

Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

Day of free discovery walks

UNESCO's International Day for Monuments and Sites on April 18 features a couple of free events in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site this year.

From 11am to 1pm, there is a free walk around Belper, where the Strutt family's industrial and social innovations transformed the community. We'll be looking at how the town has changed by referring to old images and maps, and the walk will include a look at buildings restored through the recent Townscape Heritage Initiative grant scheme. There's no need to book, just turn up. Meet at Belper Market Place.

As an alternative, from 2pm to 4pm you can enjoy a free walk around Derby, important in the 18th Century as a centre for science, art and industry. Explore the history of the town with maps and pictures from the museum collections and find what is left in the city today. Again, no need to book. Meet at Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

If you can't make April 18, there are more Belper heritage walks carrying on through the summer, on the first Sunday of each month at 2pm. For these it's £3 per person (children free) which benefits the Strutt's North Mill museum.

On May 3, July 5 and September 6 walks begin from Belper Market Place. On June 7 and August 2 walks begin from Strutt's North Mill. The July 5 walk is planned to be food themed as it takes place during Belper's Food Festival. Each walk is different and covers different parts of the town.

Development work pushes on

SUKIE Khaira, the Economic Development Coordinator for the World Heritage Site, has had a busy few months supporting a number of projects. These include:

Building 17 Cromford Mill

AN APPLICATION was submitted to Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership to fund the conversion of the currently vacant Building 17 into four floors of managed workspace. The ground floor of the building would be for visitors and house an auditorium with interpretation facilities and a reception area. Due to the scale of the project it will be developed in phases with the ground floor and two floors of workspace completed first then at a later date the final two floors of workspace being refurbished.

Match funding for the project is being sought. The workspace will be for all types of businesses although due to the location and the Grade I listing of the building it is more likely the creative industry sector would be located there.

Tourism Masterplan for the DVMWHS

EAST Midlands Tourism last year highlighted the need for the DVMWHS to develop a Tourism Masterplan to identify the opportunities and priorities for development within the WHS. Jim Oribine is the consultant

leading on this and has been working closely with key stakeholders and partners to get their views. A series of meetings were held and a workshop held in Darley Abbey where a number of partners from within and outside of the DVMWHS attended to discuss the vision for the WHS.

The Masterplan has developed an idea of three tourism hubs at Derby, Belper and Cromford/Masson. Each has its own distinctive elements and these will be focused on to draw visitors to the WHS. Funding for the Tourism Masterplan was provided by East Midlands Tourism and Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership.

Branding Strategy for the DVMWHS

AN AGENCY Called England is the successful branding company working with the WHS Partnership to develop a branding strategy for the DVMWHS. Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership have provided the £20,000 of funding for the branding strategy. It is hoped the work will be completed by July.

Darley Abbey Regeneration Masterplan

FUNDING has been secured to develop a strategic masterplan for Darley Abbey. This will include carrying out a building condition survey and conservation plan for the mill buildings and stable block. The feasibility study will be looking at future ownership and viable usage options for the Darley Abbey Mills complex and the various buildings within Darley Park. There will also be access and public realm issues to consider, with the opportunity to maximise the tourism potential of the Derby sector of the World Heritage Site within the scope of the studies. The funding came from Derby City Council, Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership and European Regional Development Funding. The studies will be completed by March 2010.

Belper North Mill Visitor Centre feasibility study

DERBY and Derbyshire Economic Partnership also funded a feasibility study for the Visitor Centre at Strutt's North Mill, Belper. Acorn Consulting carried out the study to look at the options for possible expansion of the current visitor centre and museum into another part of the mill which would allow them to increase their educational offer. Options for increasing the income generated and the sustainability of the centre were also considered.

Short, medium and long term options were outlined with possible sources of funding to support these options. The report was completed in mid March and there are recommendations and follow up action points for Belper North Mill Trust, Amber Valley Borough Council and the DVMWHS Partnership which will need to be undertaken in order to begin the process for expansion of the visitor centre in the long term.

Conserving the built fabric of the World Heritage Site

Belper

THE SCOPE of the English Heritage led Derwent Valley Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (DVPSiCA) building repair grant scheme is being reassessed to see whether more buildings in the conservation area can be included now the Heritage Lottery Fund led Townscape Heritage Initiative grant scheme has come to an end.

Operating in parallel with the £2m Belper & Milford Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), the DVPSiCA, like its predecessor the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme, has focussed its attention on Bridge Street and Chapel Street while the commercial core of Market Place and King Street and repairs to the Strutt mill-workers houses of Milford and Belper were left to the larger funding initiative, but it is now hoped these areas may also benefit from the continuing English Heritage led grant scheme.

Cromford Station

THE VISION for a northern portal to the world heritage site is very near to being realised as the larger waiting room at Cromford Station approaches the conclusion of an eighteen-month conversion and extensive restoration. Under the direction of Mansel Architects, the Arkwright Society's building team has sensitively extended the accommodation of the grade II listed waiting room upwards into a light and airy mezzanine to provide additional office space.

The work to the exterior has included the re-covering of the roof in reclaimed Welsh slate and the restoration of distinctive chimney stacks using new stone. Additionally, repairs and construction of new sliding sashes to the numerous windows have been undertaken by the Arkwright Society's own joinery shop, at Cromford Mill.

During the works stabilisation work to tie-back disturbed stonework became necessary on the discovery of structural movement in the platform canopy, which resulted in delays and unforeseen costs.

Internally, lath and lime plaster ceilings and moulded cornices have been restored using sub-contracted specialist craftsmen, while the in-house building team carried out the traditional timber wainscoting up to dado height, which has been reinstated throughout.

This Arkwright Society-inspired project has been realised by contributions from major funding partners including the Railway Heritage Trust, the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership, the Pilgrim Trust,

the Architectural Heritage Fund and the Derwent Valley Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas which is funded by English Heritage, Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council.

'Up-line' Waiting Room

THE 'down-line' Station Project is complimented by the private initiative for the repair and re-use of the charming 'French chateau' style waiting room on the platform opposite. This too is almost fully restored and ready for business as unique holiday accommodation thanks to substantial private investment.

The 'down-line platform building was added to the station in 1874 but was carefully designed to complement the other and be part of a picturesque group that includes the Station Master's house high above the station, the footbridge and tunnel entrance. The 'up-line' waiting room dates from 1860 and is the work of the architect, G H Stokes, the son-in-law of Joseph Paxton. Its pair of impressive stone chimney stacks has been reinstated at considerable cost and its distinctive diamond-light cast iron window frames have been expertly repaired and re-glazed and new Westmorland slates cover the roof.

Research by local architect Barbara Bowman identified the authenticity of the zinc roof flashings, commonly used on railway buildings. The owners hope to conclude the project by reinstating a clock as close to the original company pattern, set within its stone niche under the spire surmounted entrance. Genuine Midland Railway colours to the exterior paintwork complete the restoration.

Cromford Village

ON CROMFORD HILL the original pattern of cast iron windows have been faithfully reinstated front and rear to No 33 in the row known as Victoria Terrace. One of the first projects to receive an offer, in March 2008, under the Derwent Valley Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas, three new patterns have been made by Derbyshire foundry, Dorothea Restorations, to reinstate both the traditional window type and material that would at one time have graced the entire row. With patterns now available it is hoped that other owners in the row will build on this exemplary work of this owner and take the opportunity of replacing modern frames without the cost of moulds being made each time.

A traditional limestone paving sample has recently been laid in North Street Cromford, the location of Arkwright's first mill-workers' housing. The sample allowed experimentation with a variety of different laying methods and mortar bedding mixes with the aim of re-creating a lost craft/construction technique. The long-term objective is to undertake a full paving restoration to North Street as funding opportunities arise.

Looking for Enlightenment!

'ENLIGHTENMENT! Derbyshire Setting the Pace in the 18th Century', has seen Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, Strutt's North Mill in Belper and Derby Museums and Art Gallery working together on a major project for the DVMWHS.

With a £200,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery fund collecting cultures programme and other funding, these three Accredited Derbyshire museums will be able to add artefacts to their collections to help record and understand the Enlightenment in Derbyshire. The museums are looking for topographical art, early geological and natural science publications, watches and scientific instruments, miners' and map makers' equipment, items that record the changes to peoples lives in the Derwent Valley; even boxes of threads and items uniquely associated to individual mills!

Now into its tenth month, the Enlightenment! programme board have just appointed an Assistant Collections Officer. Bill Longshaw will be assisting the Derbyshire Museums Manager and the board to deliver the Enlightenment! programme, including exhibition planning, activities, workshops, events and other work across the three partner sites.

Acquisitions to date include:

- A group of nine watercolours by an unidentified artist of Matlock and the surrounding area all dated Nov–Dec 1860. As well as the usual tourist views of High Tor and waterfalls in Lumsdale, there is a view of Smedley's Hydropathic Hotel at Matlock, now the headquarters for Derbyshire county Council. This is one of the earliest dated views showing the newly built railway viaduct. These are probably drawn by a tourist staying in Matlock seeking out interesting views for their own sketchbook, recording mill buildings, cottages, the view from the bedroom window – what nowadays we as tourists would record in photographs. Purchased for £900, with support from Derbyshire County Council, this group can be seen at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
- 'On the Derwent, Derbyshire', a watercolour painting by Joseph Clayton Bentley, dated 1842. The painting shows the view from Matlock looking south down the River Derwent towards the Boat House public house, behind which lime is being burnt. While the landscape seems to be accurately drawn, there is some concern about the buildings and it is not clear whether in fact these were painted subsequently in the studio. There have been significant changes to the landscape since, with the river banks being reinforced, the road realigned and a railway viaduct

spanning the valley. Purchased for hammer price of £1600 with support from Derbyshire County Council. This picture can be seen at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery

- Two pewter alms plates from King Street Methodist Chapel, Derby (1820). These plates will be on display at Derby Museums and Art Gallery
- Over 7000 antique Chelsea and Derby figure parts and moulds from the Spode Museum Trust. The antique figure parts are made from clay, wax, plaster or porcelain. Some are casts from moulds and others have signs of working to them which suggest that they are either part of an original sculpture, or that they have been fettled up with a modelling tool to increase definition. The clay and porcelain parts have all been fired. These parts highlight the importance and influence of the 18th on Derby Porcelain. The collection is to be conserved, catalogued and displayed to the general public at Derby Museums and Art Gallery and other venues, such as the new Allenton Library in May 2009.
- In February Derby Museums successfully bid for four portraits of 18th Century engravers and their families – Valentine Green, Mrs Green and Child, John Boydell and Thomas Pingo. They are British Mezzotints from the collection of the honourable Christopher Lennox-Boyd. John Boydell reproduced many of Joseph Wright of Derby's paintings as engravings. The total hammer price for the lot was £350.

Forthcoming Activities

- Places in the Landscape – An exhibition of the landscape in Derbyshire through the travellers' eyes. 25 April to 10 June 2009 at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery
- Night at the Museum – a chance to see some of Derbyshire County Council's collection of landscape paintings of Derbyshire in Places in the Landscape, in the company of Ros Westwood, curator of the exhibition and other local historians. This event is at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery on Friday 15 May, 7pm – 9pm, admission Free. For further information contact 01298 24658
- An annual evening walk in July. People will get the opportunity to use the train if necessary. These walks will take place across the Derwent Valley and will vary in length to cater for a range of walking abilities. The focus will be on different areas of interest each year with the aim of encouraging participants to explore and observe particular features of the DVMWHS.
- Science based lectures beginning with an 18th century slant on a topic, followed by specialists lecturing on modern subjects.

To find out how you could become a volunteer for the Enlightenment! project or for more information contact Lucy Yarham, Regional Collections Development Officer (lucy.yarham@derby.gov.uk) or Ros Westwood, Derbyshire Museums Manager (ros.westwood@derbsyhire.gov.uk)

New bridge awaits a name

A COMPETITION to name the new bridge across the River Derwent in Derby city centre was launched on April 2 when the Cathedral Green development was officially opened by the Mayor of Derby, Councillor Barbara Jackson.

Works to improve Cathedral Green – just outside the town's historic Silk Mill – began in 2007. The area has been relandscaped to create a gentle slope from Full Street down to the river, and incorporates seating, paving, terracing, lighting and planting, as well as a new events space for Derby LIVE.

The new footbridge links the Green with Stuart Street, and has been designed to swing to one side when water levels are high. It weighs in at 95 tonnes and has a distinctive needle-shaped mast to echo the heritage of the Silk Mill.

The competition sees four names up for public vote via the homepage of www.derby.gov.uk and www.derbycityscape.com. People will have until the end of May to cast their vote and the winning name will be revealed when the bridge is officially named at the Festival on the Green in June.

Councillor Hilary Jones, Leader of Derby City Council, said: "The Cathedral Green project has been beset by difficulties and delays, but looking at the Green now, it was worth it – it's a fantastic green city centre space that I look forward to seeing being used and enjoyed by many, many people in years to come."

John Cadwallader, Chief Executive of Derby Cityscape Limited, said: "High quality public space is a vitally important amenity for the people of Derby and for those new people we are looking to attract into the city centre as residents, office occupiers, business and leisure tourists. This remodelled area with its iconic bridge brings into play the River Derwent and the World Heritage Site as major features within the city centre."

Working on the Cromford Canal

MARCH was a busy month on the Cromford Canal. Two major retaining walls were repaired, one just south of Leashaw Farm and one at Whatstandwell. The Leashaw Farm one is now complete and the Whatstandwell one is hoped to be finished shortly. Work was also carried out to try to repair a leak at Simms Bridge. This has been partially successful but unfortunately there is still some water coming through. This can often be the case with long established leaks which develop a number of channels all of which have to be found and dealt with.

Network Rail have removed, repaired and returned the bridge over the line at Whatstandwell Station whilst at the same time Derbyshire County Council staff have been repairing and repainting the adjoining bridge over the canal. Unfortunately there have been problems with the paint system which has delayed completion of this work.

Whilst the towpath was closed immediately south of Whatstandwell it gave an opportunity to thin some of the overhanging trees and branches covering the canal. The desire is to reduce the amount of shade to a maximum of 30 per cent to reduce the build up of leaf litter resulting in silting and encourage a more balanced habitat. Tree removal is always sensitive but in this case some management is essential to preserve the diverse nature of the canal.

The railway aqueduct unfortunately remains closed whilst additional information is gathered and consideration made of how it is repaired. The towpath closure has caused considerable inconvenience so a temporary bridge was put in for Easter so the towpath could be reopened pending the aqueduct being repaired.

New manager at Strutt's North Mill

THERE'S a new face at Belper's award-winning independent museum, based in Strutt's North Mill. Sharon Cooke has been appointed as the new manager, taking over from Mary Smedley who stepped down in November.

Sharon comes from Games Workshop, the Nottingham-based table-top war-gaming company, where she had managed the company's museum and coordinated its exhibitions and events since 2005. Her previous museum roles involved working with social history, ethnography and industrial collections. Said Sharon: "I'm looking forward to developing the unique collections at the mill and exploring ways of presenting its fascinating history to the public."

Sharon is planning a busy year of events to interest and encourage new and previous visitors, locals and tourists, young and old, throughout 2009.

This new era is an ideal time for people to get involved in telling the story of Belper, and the World Heritage Site, by signing up as a volunteer at the mill, either as a guide, receptionist or in another role. Contact Sharon on 01773 880474 to find out more.

New look shops at Cromford Mill

EMMA Bridgewater, successful entrepreneur and creator of the world famous pottery, will be visiting Cromford Mill on April 28. She will officially launch Cromford Mill's 'new look' shops, including its flagship store "Shop in the Yard". The shops, which are now open, offer brand new ranges to suit all tastes; so whether your interest is history, the creative arts, or browsing through the extensive range of souvenirs, there's sure to be something of interest.

Discovery Days expand to nine days of events

THE DERWENT Valley was the birthplace of the factory system, leading the world in to the Industrial Age – that global significance was celebrated during the Discovery Days which ran from October 25 to November 2 2008.

Despite the rain which fell, particularly on the final weekend, the expanded event (it used to last two days) attracted more people than ever, with nearly 4,000 people turning out over the nine days.

One of the most popular attractions this year was a captivating promenade performance by the 1623 Theatre Company of Shakespeare's Macbeth, held in Derby's Silk Mill, one of the world's first factories. At the other end of the 15-mile Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, the horse-drawn narrow boat attracted much attention along the Cromford Canal on Sunday.

As well as these, the usual mix of guided walks, exhibitions and children's craft and nature sessions were supported by four very different musical events, talks about aspects of the World Heritage Site and a chance for some hands-on conservation work along the Cromford Canal.

"Despite the worse weather we've ever had, people still turned out and enjoyed the many events," said World Heritage Site Co-ordinator Adrian Farmer. "There were so many volunteers involved this year and they were a credit to the World Heritage Site – it all went very smoothly, and despite the occasional drenching they all did their bit and made it a great celebration of the valley's heritage and its potential as a tourist hub for the future. I can't thank them enough.

"The new nine-day formula worked, with emphasis on different sections of the World Heritage Site on

different days. People were able to work their way up the valley over the nine days, without having to dash up and down the 15 miles of A6 when they should have been enjoying the activities.”
He added: “We’ve had some very positive responses back – people clearly enjoyed discovering the Derwent Valley despite the rain. We’re already looking towards 2009 and a range of activities just as good for the nine days of October 24 to November 1.”

Annual lecture

FORMERLY known as the Annual Arkwright Society Lecture, the Phillip Whitehead Memorial Lecture commemorates the life and work of Phillip Whitehead MEP who died in December 2005. Phillip was strongly committed to and involved in the work of both the University of Derby and the Arkwright Society. The third annual lecture will be held on April 22 in the Court Room of Derby University’s Kedleston Road campus, at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Dr Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, a leading architectural historian, author and broadcaster on both TV and radio.

Dr Thurley will address the issue of The Reform of Heritage Protection drawing on his experience as Chief Executive of English Heritage in finding ways of making heritage protection fairer and more effective and campaigning through ‘Heritage at Risk’ to draw attention to heritage sites in trouble, a task made the more urgent and problematic in times of economic recession.

The event is free but booking is essential – contact Angela Drinkwater at a.drinkwater@derby.ac.uk.