



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

October 2007

Since the fourth issue of this e-newsletter, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership has released a 16-page newsletter, which is available at the mills and libraries in the valley, or to download at http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/Derwent_uploads/DVMWHS%20Newsletter%20low%20res.pdf This update is primarily an opportunity to remind people about the Discovery Days weekend later this month – I do hope you'll be able to come to at least some of the 60 events planned for October 20 and 21.

Over the summer, the Derwent Valley Mills WHS hosted gatherings for both ICOMOS-UK and the Local Authorities World Heritage Forum (LAWHF), and interest from other countries continues to grow (see story below).

I hope you will find these updates of interest.

Adrian Farmer

Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

Most ambitious Discovery Days weekend to date

PREPARATIONS for this year's Derwent Valley Mills Discovery Weekend on October 20 and 21 are nearly complete. Following the highly successful discovery days in 2005 and 2006, more activities than ever are planned for an action-packed weekend to introduce visitors to the East Midlands' only World Heritage Site.

This year, a group of Rolls Royce post-graduates have helped to co-ordinate the Discovery Days, working with all our hard-working and enthusiastic volunteers to provide the best possible programme of events.

Many of the events planned are free-to-enter and are listed here (north to south):

Masson Mills

- Tours on the hour, every hour from 12 noon to 4pm (3pm Sunday)
- Steam engine in steam to welcome visitors at mill entrance
- An opportunity to use a weaving machine
- Children's competition to count the bobbins
- Children free with an accompanying adult. Adults £2.50, Concessions £2.

Cromford Mill and Village

- Free tours of Cromford Mill at 10am, 12 noon and 2pm both days. Meet in mill courtyard. Find out about the world's first water-powered cotton mill.
- Free tours of the village, including lock-up, at 11.30am and 3.30pm both days. Find out about the community Arkwright created around his mill. Meet in mill courtyard.
- St Mary's Church, next to mill, open for viewing 10am to 12 noon Saturday and 10am to 5pm Sunday. See the newly refurbished mural decorations.
- Free walk to Cromford Station at 10.30am Sunday. Find out about the Arkwright Society's new project, restoring the station to provide an impressive entry point to the World Heritage Site by train. Meet in mill courtyard.
- Tour of Slienter Woods and Mill, including exhibition area, starting from Via Gellia Mills at 10.30am on the Sunday.

Willersley Castle

- Free tour of the castle and grounds at 10.30am on Saturday and 2pm on Sunday. Meet in Cromford Mill courtyard. Find out about the home Richard Arkwright created but never lived in.

Cromford Canal

- Friends of Cromford Canal's traditional horse-drawn canal boat travelling between Cromford Wharf and High Peak Junction on both days.
- Free history walk along the canal from Cromford Wharf to High Peak Junction at 1.30pm Saturday and Sunday. Looks at the canal's past and plans for its future. Meet at Cromford Wharf.
- Free woven boat workshop for families at Cromford Wharf (Sunday only). Starts at 11am, and launching all boats on to the canal at 4pm.
- High Peak Junction Workshops open both days – free entry and audio tour. Working forge also in use on Sunday.
- Display in the Gothic Warehouse at Cromford Wharf on the nature reserves within the World Heritage Site from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, with children's activities including badge-making. Both days.
- Display in the Gothic Warehouse of artwork on the World Heritage Site by Belper artist Mark Langley.
- Traditional rope making and canal ware painting in the Gothic Warehouse.
- Friends of the Cromford Canal videos and sales stand in the Gothic Warehouse.
- Leewood Pumphouse open and working both days. The Pumphouse will be in steam, pumping water from the river to the canal.
- Friends of Cromford Canal raffle draw at Cromford Wharf, 2.30pm on Sunday.
- 'Derwent Valley Delights' guided walk to explore the hills and woodlands of the Derwent Valley, from Whatstandwell canal car park at 11am Saturday (4pm finish). Bring your lunch and a drink, and wear suitable clothing. Adults £2 Concessions £1. For more details contact 01629 823204 (booking 08456 058 058). Places may be available on the day.

Ambergate

- Free guided nature walk through Shining Cliff Woods with Dan Abrahams of Natural England. Start from Hurt Arms Car Park, Ambergate, 11am on Saturday.
- Friends of Cromford Canal Ambergate Amble Sponsored Walk from Ambergate to Cromford along the Cromford Canal towpath. Begins from Chase Road, Ambergate at 9.30am, Sunday.
- Morris dancing in the Hurt Arms Car Park, Ambergate, 1pm on Saturday.
- Exhibition in Mobile Library in the Hurt Arms Car Park, Ambergate, 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Strutt's North Mill and Belper

- Beth's Poetry Trail free guided walk around the town, starting at 10am on Saturday in Belper River Gardens.
- Tour of Belper's historic industrial housing at 2pm on Sunday. The story of the Strutts and their provision of homes for the millworkers. Meet at Strutt's North Mill.
- Free tree trail tour around Belper River Gardens from 10am on Sunday, with tree officer Sean Parry. Meet by the boat house in the gardens.
- Free history tour of Belper River Gardens at 11am on Sunday. Meet at Strutt's North Mill.
- Maids of the Mill perform a Doctor Who and the Daleks dance in the River Gardens at 10.45am, 11.30am and 12 noon in the River Gardens on the Sunday.
- Hands On History at Strutt's North Mill. Free children's discovery session – a chance to handle real historic items! 10.30am to 12.30am on Saturday. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Tours of Strutt's North Mill hourly from 1pm to 4pm. Discover more about this historic mill and the cotton spinning story.
- Tour of Herbert Strutt School, Derby Road at 12 noon on Sunday – meet at the front entrance. A last chance for the public to see the grammar school built by George Herbert Strutt being used as a school before its closure at the end of the year. See the school where James Bond star Timothy Dalton and many others were educated.
- Screening of Maypole Productions' Samuel Slater DVD at 11.30am on Sunday in Herbert Strutt School, Derby Road.
- Morris dancing in Belper Market Place, 2.30pm on Saturday.
- Organ grinder Patrick Cooke in Belper town centre from 10.30am to 12.30am Saturday, and outside Strutt's North Mill from 2pm to 4pm Sunday.
- Alison Uttley: Derwent Valley Writer – a celebration in words and songs, by Joyce Varty and Pete Castle. This programme features readings taken from various Alison Uttley books about life in the Derwent Valley at the end of the 19th century and descriptions of the Derbyshire countryside

at different times of the year. These are interspersed with traditional English folk songs, some of which she quotes in her writing. Afterwards take a look around this unique historic chapel. 5pm-6.30pm Sunday in the Unitarian Chapel, Field Row, Belper. £4 entry fee (Concessions £3).

- Light and music: an atmospheric celebration of water in the River Gardens, 6.30pm to 7.30pm Saturday and Sunday, with a short procession of light-boxes and lanterns made at community workshops with a musical accompaniment, meandering towards the bandstand to see a triptych of projections with live acoustic music by local professional musicians.
- Ken Russell's *Women in Love* (1968) at The Ritz Cinema, King Street at 8.30pm Saturday and Sunday. Features filming in Belper River Gardens and Cemetery, and Belper-educated Alan Bates. Usual Ritz pricing applies.

Milford

- Free tour of Milford's historic community (East side) at 10am Saturday. Revealing the work done by the Strutts to transform the village's east bank of the Derwent. Meet in Nealies car park by Strutt Arms.
- Free tour of Milford's historic community (Makeney village) at 10am Sunday. Revealing the work done by the Strutts to transform the village's west bank. Meet in Nealies car park by Strutt Arms.
- Morris dancing in Strutt Arms Car Park, 11.30pm on Saturday.

Heage

- Tours of Heage Windmill from 11am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday. This 18th Century, six sailed windmill was restored to working order in 2002. Tour guides wear period costume and will be grinding flour, weather permitting.
- Vintage tractors on display at Heage Windmill, 11am to 4pm Saturday.
- Balloon race from Heage Windmill, 11am to 4pm Sunday.

Darley Abbey

- Free walk around the historic industrial village at 10am on Saturday. Meet at the viewing area overlooking the river and mills, for a walk around this early industrial community.
- Derbyshire Songs and Stories concert of music and prose from the county, starting at 7.30pm Saturday in the Community Hall, off New Road, Darley Abbey. £4 entry fee (Concessions £3). Folk songs and traditional tales from and about Derbyshire presented by two of the county's top folk artists, Keith Kendrick and Pete Castle.
- Fungus Foray and Walk in Darley Park, starting from the car park opposite the Abbey Pub, at 1pm on Sunday. Discover what's hidden away in Darley Park.

Silk Mill, Derby

- Grasshopper beam engine will be in steam on Saturday, 10am to 4.30pm.
- Free performances of 'Sinful ShaXXXpeare' by the 1623 Theatre Company at 1.30pm and 3.30pm on Saturday.
- George Sorocold, who engineered the first mill on the Silk Mill site, conducts free guided tours between 10am and 4pm on Saturday. Tours will be running on Sunday between 1pm and 4pm.
- Images of the Derwent Valley paintings and prints by local artist Wallace Spence on show Saturday and Sunday.
- Exhibition on plans for the redevelopment of the Silk Mill at Derby, Saturday and Sunday.
- 7mm scale model railway running from 1pm to 3.45pm on Sunday.
- Guided tours of the Midland Railway Study Centre at 1.15pm, 2.15pm and 3.15pm on Sunday. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

Derby Museum and Art Gallery and Derby City Centre

- Free guided tour of Joseph Wright's Derby, starting at 10.30am on Saturday from the Tourist Information Centre in Derby Market Place.
- Free gallery talk on Joseph Wright of Derby, Painter of the Industrial Revolution, at 12.30pm on Saturday. Joseph Wright painted many of the sites and people involved in the story of the Derwent Valley Mills, cradle of the factory system. Learn more about this important British painter and see some of his most impressive paintings in the Museum and Art Gallery.

Unless otherwise stated, all events run from 10am to 4pm and are free of charge. Normal admission charges will be in operation at Strutt's North Mill, Belper and Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills (accompanied children free at the latter).

Museum's Historic Bus Away Day (Saturday only)

Take a ride on Derby Museums' traditional double-deck, half-cab motor bus from the Silk Mill, calling at Darley Abbey, Milford, Belper North Mill, Cromford and Masson Mill, Matlock Bath. These vintage bus

rides are free but donations are welcome. The vintage bus will make 2 guided tours up the Derwent Valley, leaving Derby's Silk Mill at 9.45am and 3.30pm, and arriving at Masson Mills at 11am and 2.45pm, and leaving Masson Mills for the return journey at 11.45am and 3.15pm.

Ring the booking line

Contact the booking line to reserve a place at events. Tel: 01773 841488 and ask for a Discovery Days reservation. Alternatively visit the Ripley Tourist Information Centre. Last day for bookings is Thursday 18th October. It is not essential to book a place on these events, but a place can only be guaranteed if pre-booked. If an activity is over prescribed, booked places take precedence. Spaces are limited on all events, and the organisers reserve the right to turn people away if demand is too great. No charge is made for booking. Most events are free but for all events with an entrance fee, no pre-payment is needed – please pay at the door.

Website is a big attraction

EVER-increasing numbers of people from across the world are taking an interest in the history of Belper and the rest of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. In the past year, the www.derwentvalleymills.org website – the official website for the World Heritage Site – has been visited on 130,249 separate occasions, an average of 357 visitors per day.

Over half a million pages were viewed during the year, and the average length of stay was exactly five minutes. Of those who visited, 1,031 were from China, the largest number for a single country outside the UK or US. The website was visited by people from 102 different countries, including the Vatican See. More people (12.94%) entered the site through the events diary than through the main index page (10.43%)

The downloadable children's quiz sheet (<http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/pdf/quizsheet.pdf>) was the most popular download (599 times), followed by the Belper and Milford Townscape Heritage Initiative information (575 times) then the visitor guide (527 times)

The website's success continues to grow. The most recent week of data shows 3,412 individual visits, or 487 visitors per day. In just that one week, people from 32 different countries used the site, and 14 people downloaded the Management Plan and 15 downloaded our Derwent Valley Line train window guide.

The latest addition to the website is a page with extensive information about the annual Discovery Days weekend, to be found here: http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/04b_community/02_whday07.htm

New arrival as Economic Development Work gets underway

LATEST arrival for the Derwent Valley Mills partnership is Sukie Khaira, who has now been appointed as Economic Development Programme Coordinator thanks to funding from the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership.

Sukie initially has two years to develop and deliver on proposals put forward in the DVMWHS Economic Development Plan, and other projects which have arisen since that plan was completed in December 2005. She has already spoken to many of the key stakeholders in the area, and is developing a detailed programme of work.

Townscape Heritage Initiative excels at regional awards

THE work of the Belper and Milford Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) which has transformed parts of Belper Town Centre and helped re-open the Ritz Cinema, has been recognised after it received two awards at this year's Royal Town Planning Institute's 'East Midlands Planning Awards'.

The Awards recognise and reward initiatives that are judged to have significantly advanced the science and art of town planning for the benefit of the community and provide an outstanding example of the beneficial impact of positive planning.

The THI was announced the winner in two categories:

- The East Midlands Branch of the Royal Town Planning Institute Heritage Award, and
- The East Midlands Branch of the Royal Town Planning Institute Overall Winner of the 2007 Branch Awards.

The THI is co-ordinated by Amber Valley Borough Council, in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership, Derbyshire County Council and Belper Town Council.

Market Place study completed

THE Belper and Milford Townscape Heritage Initiative has completed a comprehensive study to consider potential changes to the Market Place.

Over the last eighteen months the team, led by Allen Tod Architects, has completed consultations and discussions to investigate ideas for the site and has now produced a feasibility study. As a follow on step to this study, the Steering Group has requested that Amber Valley Borough Council undertakes a development brief for the Market Place.

Derbyshire County Council has identified a number of criteria for a successful relocation of the existing public library. It has examined a number of potential locations in the light of these criteria; however it does not propose to pursue the option of locating the library on the Market Place.

The feasibility study will be available for members of the public to view at Belper Library, Bridge Street and St John's Chapel, St John's Road from 8 October until 16 November 2007. More information can be obtained by writing to the Townscape Heritage Initiative Project Officer, Town Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3SZ.

The Regional Spatial Plan

WHEN the World Heritage Site Management Plan was first published in 2000 the county- wide Derby and Derbyshire Structure plan had in it a policy to ensure the protection of the Site and its setting, as defined by the Buffer Zone.

Since then a new system of 'spatial' planning has been introduced by the Government and county structure plans have been replaced by regional spatial strategies, i.e., regional plans.

A draft plan for the East Midlands was published by the East Midlands Regional Assembly in September 2006. The draft plan acknowledges that the DVWHS is the only World Heritage Site in the region and includes a policy for the highest level of protection for internationally designated sites and their settings. However at the Examination in Public of the Plan, held in Leicester in June 2007, Barry Joyce, representing the DVMWHS Partnership, argued that the relevant policy (policy 26) should explicitly name the DVMWHS, state that protection given would relate to the Site's "outstanding universal value" and give some status to the Management Plan.

Following the Examination in Public proposed changes to the regional plan will be issued for a further round of public consultations, prior to the final plan being adopted by the Secretary of State early in 2008. We shall have to see if our requests have been agreed to.

Annual report completed

THE annual monitoring report for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site has now been completed and signed off by the Partnership. It has been another busy and challenging but successful year for the Partnership which manages the Site. The full report is available to download from:

http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/Derwent_uploads/DVMWHS%20Annual%20Report%200607.pdf

2007/8 looks as if it will be equally as busy – new working groups have been formed to deal with wider aspects of the World Heritage Site management, including an education group, an Economic Development Steering Group, a Funding Group looking at ways of attracting funding in to the World Heritage Site, and a Collections Group which is developing an artefacts collecting policy for the DVMWHS.