



Welcome to the third Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site E-newsletter September 2006

Since the second issue of this e-newsletter, the annual monitoring for the World Heritage Site has been written, detailing in 32 pages the achievements made between April 2005 and March 2006. It was an exceptionally busy and progressive year for the Derwent Valley Mills, as you'll be able to see once the report has been approved by the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership – a copy will be available to download from the www.derwentvalleymills.org website, hopefully from September 29, 2006. When visiting the site, click on the Conservation Section, and then on the subheading Management Documents. Scroll down to find the Annual Report 2005/6.

Activity has continued apace since March, particularly with the preparations for the second Discovery Days weekend on October 28 and 29. I hope you will find the updates below of interest.

Adrian Farmer

Co-ordinator, Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

Discovery Days offer an event-packed weekend

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site has a wide variety of attractions and places of interest which will be showcased when the second **World Heritage Site Discovery Days** weekend takes place on **Saturday 28** and **Sunday 29 October 2006**, with a host of special events (many of them **free-to-enter**). Following last year's successful Discovery Day, a whole action-packed weekend is now planned to introduce visitors to the only World Heritage Site in the East Midlands.

Adrian Farmer, the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator, said: "The visitor feedback from last year was so positive, it was decided to make it an annual event. This year the occasion will be even bigger with over 40 activities and events taking place over the two days."

Cromford Wharf will once again be a hive of activity. The horse drawn canal boat is back again this year by popular demand, making its way between Leawood Pumphouse and Cromford Wharf. Rope making, narrow boat painting demonstrations and street organs will conjure up a lively atmosphere while guided walks take place along the towpath.

As in 2005, there'll be free tours of Cromford Mill, as well as the historic industrial communities of Darley Abbey, Belper, Cromford and Milford. New tours this year include a look in the grounds of Willersley Castle, St Mary's Church at Cromford, and Slinger Woods.

At Masson Mills, there will be working textile machinery to see on both days, a steam engine on show at the main gate, a bobbin competition and children's entertainment. Derby Museum and Art Gallery is hosting a tour of the Joseph Wright gallery, and a Joseph Wright walk around the town centre will start at the Tourist Information Centre in the Market Place.

The weekend will also feature art pieces and workshops.

Tan Draig O.B.E and Todd Hinds will be participating in **Together** - a piece of performance art spanning the whole weekend and continuing a theme which they have used in a variety of settings. Starting from Ladybower in the north the two men will walk southwards attached to each other by elastic cords. The work promises to add a touch of humour and spectacle to the weekend's proceedings as Tan and Todd make their way down the Derwent Valley ending in Derby on the Sunday night. Look out for them on their journey!

On Saturday and Sunday evening the bandstand at Belper River Gardens will be transformed into a giant magic lantern. Drop by between 6.30pm and 7.30pm to witness this enchanting spectacle organised by Fleet Arts, featuring images created by children mixed with photographic scenes of old Belper.

For fans of traditional music and stories *Derbyshire Songs and Stories* at Belper's Unitarian Chapel on Saturday and *A Celebration of Alison Uttley* at Cromford's Gothic Warehouse on Sunday are an absolute must. While nature lovers can enjoy a wildlife wander at Shining Cliff Wood and a fungal foray at Darley Park. There is also plenty for families and children to enjoy – from decoupage and giant board games at Derby's Silk Mill to Halloween antics, arts workshops and competitions at Belper, Cromford and Masson.

Councillor Joyce Sanders chairs the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership which is co-ordinating the Discovery Days. She said: "Our World Heritage Site has many facets, and can provide a full day of activities for all ages and interests throughout much of the year. Up and down the Derwent Valley, volunteers are busy planning a whole host of exciting and innovative events for the Discovery Days weekend. We're hoping there will be something to appeal to everyone, whether it is a tour, guided walk, art workshop, competition or game – the weekend promises to be jam packed full of interesting things to see and do."

To find out more about all the events visit www.derwentvalley.mills.org and look out for the Discovery Days leaflet coming out in September. This year a booking line will also be in operation for many of the events – so book early to avoid disappointment. Just ring 01773 841488 and ask for a Discovery Days reservation.

Derwent Valley Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme

In the context of reduced national funding for conservation area enhancement schemes from English Heritage, Derbyshire has received a significant proportion – over 50% - of the available funding in the East Midlands Region, after having been offered £200,000. However, the allocation to the Derwent Valley for the financial year 2006/7 has been significantly reduced to £21,000 with a further £28,000 being contributed by the local authority partners. This money will continue to be shared between the settlements of Cromford, Belper and Darley Abbey.

At Cromford a particularly important project receiving funding is the grade II listed, West Platform building at Cromford Railway Station, dating from 1874. This very visible building at present badly lets down the image of the World Heritage Site, being redundant and in a state of disrepair.

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Economic Development Plan, prepared in December 2005, identifies the critical importance of the railway to the economic future of the Valley. It also identifies the need to more effectively promote and interpret 'the Arkwright Cluster' at the northern end of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The current proposal would help deliver these key objectives while removing a significant building from the Buildings at Risk Register.

The Arkwright Society has commissioned an 'options appraisal study', jointly funded with the Architectural Heritage Fund. This has been prepared by Mansel Architects, of Belper. The study sets out the Society's vision for the project, which includes the restoration of the station building and the creation of offices as a holding operation, managed by the Arkwright Society, the income from which will assist in achieving the ultimate project vision of the provision of a visitor information and orientation point.

The estimated cost of the works, of £262,755, is hoped to be raised by a potential funding partnership package comprising the Railway Heritage Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, the Derwent Valley HERS, the District and County Councils, with the balance being met by low interest loans from the Architectural Heritage Fund, to the Arkwright Society.

In Belper, the repair work at 130 Bridge Street, originally used as a pork butcher's shop at the bottom of the lane known locally as Piggy Hill, is progressing well, in readiness for the re-occupation of a building that has been out of use for a number of years.

In addition to privately-funded internal alterations, a comprehensive schedule of traditional window repairs, re-roofing, removal of masonry paint from fine, warm-coloured brickwork, re-decoration and new shopfronts, have considerably enhanced the townscape and appearance in a neglected commercial area in the shadow of the mill complex. In association with improvements to other nearby frontage buildings, it is expected that the regeneration of this area will increase in pace.

It is anticipated that three buildings will benefit from repair grants under this financial year's allocation: The reinstatement of unusual centre-pivoted sash windows to the Belper Cottage project, the reinstatement of traditional windows including its prominent bay window at the George and Dragon public house and the completion of repair work to the former Strutt estate office, at 122 Bridge Street. This will expend the available funding.

Belper and Milford THI: Two restoration projects completed

The restoration of the Black Swan pub on Belper's Market Place is now complete following a scheme to restore the building to its former glory, removing unsympathetic alterations, and repairing original architectural detail. The owners of the Black Swan, Mr and Mrs McCready, have invested heavily in the property. They have also received a grant of £104,607 to assist them in the completion of the project from the Belper and Milford Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

The Belper and Milford Townscape Heritage Initiative is a partnership scheme with funding from several organisations. The Heritage Lottery Fund has committed up to £1 million to the scheme, as part of its UK-wide Townscape Heritage Initiative, which aims to conserve and regenerate historic urban areas. The Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership has committed up to £466,646. Derbyshire County Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Belper Town Council and owners of properties also contribute to the scheme.

The pub has undergone an eight month programme of restoration including complete reroofing, reinstatement of chimney pots, new cast iron rainwater goods, the removal of paint from the exterior, repair and replacement of traditional windows and doors, and a replacement shop front for the new restaurant 'Vanilla'.

Francesca Machin, Amber Valley Borough Council's THI Project Officer, said: "The Black Swan restoration is a flagship scheme for the THI. This project is an excellent example of revealing the potential of an old building, when a sympathetic approach to building materials and techniques is used. I hope that this project acts as a catalyst to further regeneration on the Market Place."

The restoration has been a local project, managed by local building firm Laven Bros. The work was completed to Heritage Lottery Fund conditions, and the end result is the sympathetic restoration using traditional lime mortar mix, natural Welsh slate, and sliding sash single glazed timber windows.

The restoration of The Black Swan was planned and designed by architects Bakewell and Partners. The architects will soon be relocating to their new offices on neighbouring Queen Street, following the restoration project of The Studio.

The project manager and property owner of The Studio, Claremont Construction, has invested a great deal of time and money in the project. The project was the recipient of a grant of £35,000 towards the total cost of the scheme, from the Belper and Milford Townscape Heritage Initiative.

The Studio, a former derelict outbuilding on the junction of Queen Street and Market Place Belper, reopens this week as the Head Office of the architect's firm Bakewell and Partners. The architects are responsible for the design and planning of the nine month restoration of The Studio. The building has required extensive structural repairs to ensure its long term stability, complete reroofing, replacement traditional style windows and doors, and internal renovation.

Francesca Machin said: "The completion of The Studio and the neighbouring Black Swan, have a visual impact on the entrance to Belper's Market Place, a key site for regeneration by the THI. The two properties were highlighted as priority schemes for the THI, and their completion is an important achievement for the partnership."

The Black Swan and The Studio are the first THI projects to be completed on the Market Place. Other local projects currently underway through the Initiative include the Ritz Cinema, the Public Hall Restoration Project, Fresh Ground Coffee Bar, and Colledge's Furniture Shop.

Biodiversity report

The 2005/6 Annual Report from the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership – which covers the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site – is now available to download from the Derbyshire Biodiversity website at www.derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk

Management Plan Revision

The Management Plan for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is undergoing a significant revision this year, to acknowledge the achievements made since the Derwent Valley Mills were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and set out new challenges for the future. A first draft is expected to be completed in time for 13 December 2006, the fifth anniversary of inscription.

Interpretation boards and leaflets unveiled

Five new interpretation boards at the southern end of the World Heritage Site were officially unveiled in July. The three boards at Darley Abbey and two more by the River Derwent in Derby are supported by two walks leaflets which incorporate the boards in heritage trails.

Funding for the boards came from a Local Heritage Initiative grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Nationwide Building Society and The Countryside Agency, with support from The National Heritage Corridor[®] and Derby City Council. The project was progressed by the Darley Abbey Society with help from the Little Chester History Group and Groundwork Erewash.

The two Derby boards focus on the history of the Handyside Bridge, built in 1877, and St Mary's Bridge, where a chapel has existed since medieval times. They stand on the western side of both bridges.

The boards at Darley Abbey were installed at Dean's Field, the Park Gates at Mile Ash Lane and by the riverside, looking across at the Boar's Head Mill.

Public transport update

Community Rail Development

A number of meetings with the Department for Transport and a local stakeholder event have been held to discuss the designation of the Derwent Valley Line as a Community Rail route. The Community Rail Service designation was agreed on 12 July 2006.

East Midlands Rail Franchise

The Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership (DVRTP) submitted a detailed response to the Department for Transport Consultation on the new East Midlands Rail Franchise. Numerous letters of support from local stakeholders including Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnerships and the World Heritage Site supported the proposals, which are summarised below.

Summary of Derwent Valley Line Proposals

Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership anticipates that the Service Level Commitment for the new franchise will meet the needs of the Derwent Valley and its communities. In summary the local stakeholders' key aspirations are:

- Three morning commuter trains should operate from Matlock to meet the needs of Derby and longer distance commuters
- The third train between Derby and Nottingham should be extended to Matlock, providing an hourly Nottingham to Matlock service
- Some through Matlock-London trains should be restored
- London-Sheffield main line train calls at Belper should be restored.

East Midlands Tourism Public Realm Project

Significant time has been allocated to setting up a Project Management Group and developing project schemes for delivery by March 2008. The first East Midlands Tourism funded project has just been completed at Matlock station with the installation of four new murals welcoming visitors to the town. These have been created by local school children during summer holiday activities held in Hall Leys Park in association with Matlock Town Council.

New Promotional Leaflets and Marketing Initiatives

A new 'Guide to what you can see along the scenic Derwent Valley Line' leaflet was produced by the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership and the DVRTP in June 2006. This handy fold-out guide follows the line from Derby Station to Matlock, through the full 15-mile length of the World Heritage Site. It picks out all the key landmarks and gives a brief description of their history. Copies are available from Derby Station, Tourist Information Centres and the Derwent Valley mills.

A new 'Great Days Out on the Derwent Valley Line' Visitor Guide and Train Timetable was produced in partnership with Central Trains in May 2006.

Public Transport Information Projects

- New public transport information maps installed in Duffield, Belper, Ambergate, Whatstandwell and Matlock
- Existing public transport information maps updated
- New Train Timetable displays installed in villages and towns along the route

Community Rail Day

A Clown Carriage was organised for 20th May 2006 as part of the Derwent Valley's second annual Community Rail Day.

Termination of Derwent Valley Bus and Rail Inter available Ticketing

From 31 August, 2006 the existing ticketing agreement between bus and rail services ceased. This followed operational problems with the scheme, which the bus and train operators were unable to resolve. Both DVRTP and Derbyshire County Council also tried to resolve the situation between the companies.

River Gardens Centenary

Belper's River Gardens were created in 1906, and gifted to the town by George Herbert Strutt, whose pioneering family had built the town's cotton spinning mills. They are now listed on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. To celebrate the centenary a host of activities were planned for 2006, concluding with the main event on September 10, as part of the national Open Heritage Weekend. A Centenary Working Group was formed to co-ordinate the activities, and on September 10 they were rewarded with hot sunny weather which attracted about 2,000 people through the day.

The day had an Edwardian theme and featured brass band concerts, choirs, dancing demonstrations, performances, guided walks, stalls, children's model boat-making workshop and paint-your-friend activities.

The day ended with a Last Night of the Proms concert and fireworks display.

This huge show of public support for the gardens will help to show the degree of public interest in the River Gardens when an anticipated application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is made for their restoration by owners Amber Valley Borough Council.