



WORLD HERITAGE NEWS

from the Derwent Valley

ISSUE THREE – Winter 2003

Dramatic “eleventh hour” move



(left-right): The Duke of Devonshire, Carole Souter – Director of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Margaret Becket MP and Cllr Maurice Burgess – Leader of Derby City Council, at a reception held on the 8th July at Tate Britain to launch the national appeal.

The remaining £147,000 has come from several personal donations and other group and community sources, including Rolls Royce, who donated £10,000.

To help reinforce support during the fund-raising exercise, the painting was hung in London’s Tate Britain Gallery.

In a dramatic ‘eleventh hour’ move, a spectacular painting by renowned artist Joseph Wright of Derby has been saved from export to the USA following a Derwent Valley Mills Partnership fund raising campaign.

Following the successful drive to raise more than £1.2 million within seven months, the 1790 portrait of Richard Arkwright junior, his wife and children is now on public display in the Wright gallery at Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

Just a week before the 30 September deadline, the partnership campaign spearheaded by the Duke of Devonshire had managed to secure £1,146,500 – a tantalising £71,000 short of the total needed to save the painting for the nation. The financial gap was finally filled through a £66,000 grant from Waste Recycling Environmental through the Government’s landfill tax credit scheme and a further £5,000 grant from the National Art Collections Fund which added to its previous £50,000 donation.

The Heritage Lottery Fund was a key contributor to the campaign, providing an initial grant of £777,000 and a second of £222,500 – the £999,500 total being the maximum it could award.

Derwent Valley Mills Partnership Chairman Councillor Joyce Sanders said: “This successful campaign is a powerful demonstration of the Partnership’s ability to ‘deliver’ on behalf of this historically important area.”

“It’s success has brought together residents, the Heritage Lottery Fund and a host of other organisations in what has been an amazing fund-raising effort. We are indebted to them for their generosity and I want to thank them all.”

This acquisition makes this gallery an ever greater ‘must visit’ tourist destination – do go and see it.



Derby Museum and Art Gallery is open: Monday 11am-5pm; Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm; Sunday 2-5pm.

New Co-ordinator

Isla Macneal took up the post of World Heritage Site Co-ordinator on the 10th November 2003, in succession to David Farrington. Isla’s last position was with Westminster City Council’s Conservation and Design Team and her previous employers also include English Heritage. Contact details below:

£300,000 Funding Package

The area’s newly-established major economic delivery organisation has agreed an allocation of £303,000 over three years to fund key elements of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership programme.

The package of activities agreed by the influential Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP) is aimed at raising the World Heritage Site’s profile to ensure it becomes significant in the East Midlands as a first class cultural tourism destination.

The DDEP-endorsed work includes

- Creating a World Heritage Site website
- Producing and distributing a revised visitor guide
- Organising a World Heritage Site Community Arts Project
- Production of learning resource material.

The cash grant links with the recent launch of the East Midlands Development Agency (emda) tourism strategy “Destination East Midlands” in which the region’s tourist destinations, such as Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site are identified as having great potential in attracting visitors.

The Derwent Valley Mills Partnership is committed to realise opportunities for local businesses within the 15-mile long site.

The recruitment of a successful locally-based entrepreneur in partnership with emda as a “business champion” to seek out those advantages is expected to add greatly to the longer-term benefits that World Heritage inscription would bring.

With the Derwent Valley home to many thousands of Derbyshire people, the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership sees World Heritage inscription as a major stimulus for community involvement through village and town groups. Involving local schools and colleges in educational opportunities is also a high priority.



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NEWS from the Mills



Left: Masson Mill. **Middle:** Cromford Mill as featured in the BBC 'Restoration'.
Right: The Boars Head Mills complex at Darley Abbey.

Masson Mills

Analysis of original Arkwright machinery at Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills has enhanced understanding of the industrialist's famous waterframes.

Documents have come to light that show that a waterframe still existed at the Matlock Bath mills into the 1890s. New archaeological evidence has also revealed information about the transmission system, which powered the waterframes.

Utilising the engineering craftsmanship of the Masson workforce, waterframes will be constructed and displayed in their original position and powered by the River Derwent. All the necessary ingredients for the development are now in place and the waterframes will be the first to be built and installed in Britain for more than 150 years.

The working waterframes will be a wonderful attraction for students and visitors who will enjoy an overview of the process involved in cotton manufacture in this fine example of a surviving Arkwright mill.

Cromford 'Restoration'

Cromford Mill hit the national headlines during the summer when it was one of 30 heritage sites across the UK to compete for a £3 million cash prize on the BBC2 "Restoration" series. Although the Arkwright Society team at Cromford launched a huge publicity campaign, promoting the site's involvement with posters, leaflets and media interviews, the mill failed to make the 10-site competition final.

Consolation came for the team when they learned that Cromford Mill had received the second highest vote count of the popular series, netting a massive 47,951 votes. Another lasting benefit has been the boost to visitor numbers and increased shop sales following intensive local and national publicity for the TV series.

Belper North Mill

The preparation of a condition survey of Belper's North Mill discussed in the adopted World Heritage Site Management Plan has now been completed by Adam Bench Architects.

The building is listed grade I and is a key mill building within the World Heritage Site. It is on both the English Heritage and Derbyshire County Council's Buildings at Risk list.

Jointly funded by the County Council, Amber Valley Borough Council and English Heritage,

Adam Bench Architects have now completed the survey and the findings are being used to plan the second phase of the Belper Mills and Milford Mill sites study.

In consultation with Brittanica Business Parks, the new owners of the Belper Mill site, the study will involve preparing a conservation strategy and management plan for the Belper North Mill site. This will include a future programme for repairs and alterations to the North Mill.

Darley Abbey

Following the success of *The Derwent Valley Mills and their Communities* the partnership's research and publications panel is working towards publication of a series of guides to the World Heritage Site's specific locations and features.

The first will focus on Darley Abbey and an advance draft is currently the subject of review and comment.

The aim of the series is to produce a set of illustrated A5 guide books that will give residents and visitors accurate information about their locations in the context of their individual significance and their contribution to the World Heritage Site.

The Darley Abbey summary will include outlines of the settlement's development and of the role played by Thomas Evans and his family. It will also provide a guide to what can be seen today in the Boar's Head Mills complex and the historic village.

Silk Mill

Repairs to the roof of Derby's historic Silk Mill following a fire in 2002 are now complete.

However, the riverside walkway remains temporarily closed while work is planned to enclose the old redundant fire escape, parts of which are among the site's oldest surviving features.

A £70,000 package to improve the appearance and interpretation of the building's history has been boosted by emda's announcement of a £35,000 match funded grant. The work includes riverside interpretation work, upgraded signs and the proposed World Heritage interpretation room within the museum.

THE ARKWRIGHT SOCIETY ANNUAL LECTURE

Building on the tremendous successes of previous events and particularly the fantastic performance by Loyd Grossman last year, The Arkwright Society is pleased to announce that once again the annual lecture will be given by a speaker of the highest calibre.

This year, the evening of 20th February 2004 sees Liz Forgan, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund considering heritage issues. The Heritage Lottery Fund has been extremely active in this area recently, most notably with a grant of £999,000 towards the campaign to save the portrait of Richard Arkwright Junior and his children by Joseph Wright of Derby. The Arkwright Society itself is currently benefiting from a grant of £1.7 million towards the conservation and regeneration of Cromford Mills.

The lecture will be held at the University of Derby's Kedleston Road site. Tickets are free but booking is essential for what always proves to be a sell out occasion.



Please contact Angela Drinkwater on 01332 591046 or email a.drinkwater@derby.ac.uk for further information and tickets.

Revised Management Plan

Following detailed consultation and refinement, the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership has adopted a revised management plan for the World Heritage Site.

The revised plan, which now forms the basis of supplementary planning guidance, builds on the draft presented to UNESCO in 2000. Its adoption is a significant milestone in establishing an agreed partnership approach to the future management of the site's unique cultural landscape.

As part of the new emphasis within the plan, a complete re-listing survey at Darley Abbey Mills has led to much of the mills complex being upgraded to Grade I in recognition of new evidence of its importance. Reviews of conservation area boundaries have resulted in the merger of Belper and Milford Conservation Areas and the extension of that at Darley Abbey.

As work progresses, the plan will be continually monitored, reviewed and updated to take account of new challenges and opportunities.



To obtain a copy of the plan, please contact the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator, telephone: 01629 585693.

New Business Champion Appointed

The East Midlands Development Agency (emda) recently nominated local businessman Brian Ashby as the World Heritage Site's new 'Business Champion'.

With many years experience in the development of land and property, Brian, of Norseman Holdings at Turnditch, decided his first job was to get up close and personal with the World Heritage site to fully understand its needs – and what better way of doing so than on foot? Here, he gives his initial impressions.....

"The only way to get a real feel for property is to 'walk the site'. My first action as emda business champion was to plan an inspection of the 22 miles of the Derwent Valley between its southern end at Derby Silk Mill and the northern end at Matlock Bath."

"Tanya Spilsbury with a PhD focused on the sustainable use of listed buildings, agreed to accompany me. The inspection has been done in stages and, at the time of writing, we have covered Derby to Whatstandwell. We will complete the small remaining section at the northern end before Christmas."

"There are several things I would like to see happen to lift the site in ways which support its World Heritage status. Firstly, I would like to see all derelict listed buildings

within the site refurbished and occupied in sustainable uses."

"Secondly, I believe good husbandry should be applied to some of the trees on both banks of the river. There are sections where the river's beauty is completely screened by undergrowth, shrubbery and trees that have seen no tree management for decades."

"And thirdly, I think we should make the most of the navigability of the river within the Heritage Site. We are due to have a meeting with a group who have successfully contributed to the navigability of the River Severn to take their advice on the best way forward. The Derwent is the spine of the World Heritage Site and these discussions will aim to keep to a minimum, the impact of tourist traffic."

"These are just my first thoughts from an incomplete inspection. If any local business people, farmers or residents would like to offer comments, I would be pleased to hear from them."



"My address is Brian Ashby, The Old Vicarage, 226 Ashbourne Road, Turnditch, Derbyshire DE56 2LH."

"Beacon Town"

Belper has been named as one of nine 'Beacon Towns' chosen by the Countryside Agency as test beds for a new initiative aimed at revitalising England's market towns.

The nine market towns were selected from more than 200 towns as being best placed to test solutions to the top challenges they face.

In Belper, work is focused on making better use of under-used upper floor space. A recent investigation by emda revealed that in the town centre 37 per cent of this was either vacant, in marginal use or underused in some way.

The town features a strong, active town partnership that will now tackle the challenge of finding ways to re-use this valuable but difficult-to-utilise asset, so that Belper becomes more vibrant and viable.

Completion of new research work to identify relevant issues is expected by the end of the year and from March 2004, the partnership will start work on projects showing how re-use works. Lessons learned will be shared with England's other market towns.

Master Plan for the Future

Specialist architects have been appointed to assist Amber Valley Borough Council draw up a master plan aimed at guiding the future development of sensitive areas of the World Heritage Site in Belper.

As part of work jointly funded by Amber Valley Borough Council and the East Midlands Development Agency, Latham Architects will help prepare the plan to guide the future development of two areas of land in the town. The work is being carried out in consultation with English Heritage and Derbyshire County Council and a draft of the master plan will be produced shortly for public consultation.

Land north and south of the town's Derwent Street is identified in the Borough Council's Local Plan as having mixed use redevelopment potential while that between the existing built up area and the River Derwent, including Belper Meadows, could accommodate additional recreational and sports facilities.

Also under investigation will be ways of improving the access to these sites and reducing traffic congestion on Bridge Street.

The river meadows at Belper.



Traffic Congestion Solution

A major transportation study on behalf of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership was completed during the summer.

Analysis of the information gathered found that most visits to the mill sites were made by car with the journey taking in one or more stops at other places. The study also revealed a wide range of reasons for visiting or living within the World Heritage Site and, as a result, there were no straightforward answers to solving traffic congestion.

Based on the study a number of intervention measures have been recommended including:

- Clearer directional signing to sites
- Enhanced pedestrian and cyclist access facilities
- Improved bus services
- Better parking management within the World Heritage Site
- Traffic calming in sensitive areas
- Park and Ride sites as a long term solution.

The partnership's transportation panel is now working towards developing some of these ideas in partnership with Mill owners and other organisations including the Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership and local authorities.

Initially pilot projects are planned including parking studies in Cromford and Belper to see how residents and visitor parking can be better managed. The possibilities for better access to Darley Abbey from Derby city centre are also to be examined.

Aggregates Levy Benefit for Cromford

A new source of funding to benefit communities where aggregates are quarried is paying for consultants to carry out a number of studies in Cromford.

Derbyshire County Council has been successful in getting a grant of £29,000 from English Heritage to enable the studies to be carried out. They will provide design proposals to:

- make Mill Lane/Mill Road more pedestrian friendly
- reinstate lost historic paving, particularly for North Street
- restore historic street lighting and produce proposals for general improvements to lighting in the village centre
- rationalise traffic signs and other 'street furniture'.

Cromford Parish Council and North Street residents are being consulted on the proposals.

In this case, English Heritage is administering the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) money. If English Heritage continue in this role in the next financial year, it is hoped to bid for cash to put the design studies into practice.

Global Well Dressings

Milford and Makeney residents gave World Heritage a high profile promotion this summer when they adopted it as the theme of the communities' well dressings.

Five wells were decorated for the annual festival with the main dressing, created by Milford Community and Milford Primary School depicting some of the UK's World Heritage sites including Dorset's fossil coast, Stonehenge, Ironbridge, Welsh castles and, of course, the Derwent Valley Mills.

Milford Pre-School Group featured the Great Barrier reef on their well and Makeney village residents chose the Taj Mahal. The Great Wall of China was the subject of the dressing produced by Milford and Makeney WI while Chevin Road Chapel took the theme of Notre Dame cathedral.

World Heritage celebrated by residents of Milford and Makeney in well dressings.



HERS Grant Scheme Helps Belper, Cromford & Darley Abbey

Two historic Belper chapels are among buildings to benefit from cash help for essential work under the Derwent Valley Heritage Economic Regeneration grant scheme.

Strutt's Unitarian Chapel has been completely re-roofed with the help of grants from English Heritage and the partnership authorities while all of the 200 year old sash windows have been restored at the Methodist Church.

In anticipation of a wider Townscape Heritage Initiative grant Scheme covering the conservation areas of Belper and Milford, properties facing onto Bridge Street and Chapel Street have been targeted, to concentrate available resources.

As well as providing more attractive street level frontages, it is expected the HERS scheme will complement the town's recently acquired 'Beacon Town' status by encouraging the re-use or continued use of upper floors. Elsewhere, local councils have worked with English Heritage and local people to focus on the repair and restoration of commercially-used historic properties.

The Boat Inn at Cromford is just one business that has taken up the grants on offer with a new roof complementing other improvements to deliver expanded food and entertainment activities. More Cromford businesses are set to use traditional building methods to improve their appearance.

In Derby, a package of repairs to the Darley Abbey mills complex will help the revival and re-use of key buildings. It is hoped that continued grant support will help provide an ever-improving visitor experience by careful conservation and restoration of the World Heritage Site's culturally significant building stock.



For further information, please contact the HERS Project Officer Paul Warren, telephone: 01 629 580000 extension 7183, e-mail: paul.warren@derbyshire.gov.uk

Heritage Way

Developed by the Derwent Valley Trust, a new 55 mile-long walking route, the Derwent Valley Heritage Way was launched earlier this year.

The route follows the River Derwent from Ladybower Reservoir to Derwent Mouth near Shardlow where it joins the River Trent. Passing through the whole length of the World Heritage Site, the route follows paths, tracks, and some sections of road through the valley's beautiful and heritage rich landscapes.

The route is well way-marked and a leaflet and route description are available from local Tourist Information Centres. Details of visitor attractions, maps and walking information are all contained in a new guidebook, recently produced by Jarrod Publishing.

The Heritage Way project was developed by the Trust as part of its work to ensure the Derwent Valley is promoted in a sustainable way.

To find out more, visit the Derwent Valley Trust website on at



www.nationalheritagecorridor.org.uk or contact your local Tourist Information Centre.

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