

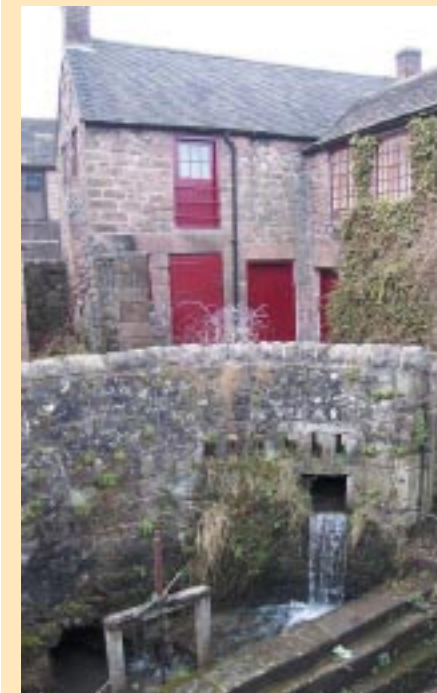
CONSERVATION news

Bear Pit

CROMFORD Parish Council has been successful in securing a grant towards the maintenance and repair of the structure related to the water courses constructed to serve the Cromford Mills, and known locally as the 'Bear Pit'.

Derbyshire Aggregates Levy Fund has offered £2,417 toward the cost of the works.

The structure, which was constructed by Richard Arkwright, involving the adaptation of the existing water course, or 'sough' created to drain water from the lead mines.



GRANT AID: The Bear Pit at Cromford.

The control devices associated with the structure still have a significant role to play in balancing the water flows between the mill pond and the watercourses to the mill, and alleviating the risk of flooding.

Though the structure has no formal owner, the parish council has agreed to co-ordinate the current work in order to take advantage of available funding for its maintenance and repair.

Works have in the past been undertaken by the Arkwright Society, but a necessary routine cycle of maintenance is frustrated by the lack of any organisation to take on the responsibility for the structure and its upkeep.

Belper Cemetery

EARLIER this year, Belper Cemetery joined the other designed landscapes in the World Heritage Site – Belper River Gardens and Willersley Castle – on the English Heritage

Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

Opened in 1859, the need for additional burial space was prompted by the industrialisation of the lower Derwent Valley in the late 18th century.

The elegant and practical layout of the cemetery was a result of the collaboration of the former head gardener at Elvaston Castle, William Barron and Edward Holmes, a Birmingham architect.

Weir inspection

A LONG overdue inspection of the historic Belper Horseshoe Weir was undertaken

earlier this year with the assistance of a £975 award from Derbyshire County Council's Treasure Chest Fund and £500 from Amber Valley's Historic Building Repair budget.

The work was carried out as part of a commitment embodied in the Management Plan accepted by UNESCO, to audit the condition of the principal historic structures within the Site.

An underwater inspection team from BridgeWay Consulting Ltd of Nottingham braved the January temperatures in order to report on the condition of the impressive grade II* listed structure, while colleagues produced a topographical survey of the structure above water level.

The findings of the survey, which showed the masonry to be standing-up admirably to the natural elements and forces of the River Derwent, will be presented to the various interested parties concerned with the weir's maintenance, to ensure its continued conservation.

Surveys commissioned

DERBYSHIRE County Council has commissioned Mel Morris Conservation to carry out a comprehensive photographic survey of all the structures in the World Heritage Site.

This survey is looking in particular at the rural areas and transport networks between the settlements (which have generally been well researched).

The main themes are the railway (from Derby to Cromford), Cromford Canal, the River, turnpike roads and farms but the assessment will also include other industries such as iron foundries, where there are associated surviving structures.

If you have any information about these areas of interest, email Mel Morris on whs@melmorris.co.uk

Monitoring success

THE FIRST annual report shows that the hard work of many partners, volunteers, local community organisations and individuals has enabled the fulfilment of many of the preset targets and objectives of the Management Plan for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

The achievements include:

- * Securing funding from Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership to enable delivery of key elements of the partnership programme
- * Opening of Heritage Way walking route
- * The listing of 20, 23, and 24 Derby Road, Belper a toll house built by Jedediah Strutt.
- * The Prince of Wales made a return visit to Cromford Mill.
- * Repairs on two Buildings at Risk are close to completion thus bringing them back into reuse.
- * The Silk Mill was awarded a Gold Award in the National Green Apple Civic Pride Awards.
- * Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills featured on the Discovery Channel.

The report covers the period April 2003 to March 2004 and not only identifies the achievements of the past year it also monitors the condition of the site, the effectiveness of management and helps set priorities for the coming year.

Copies are available from the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator, Isla Macneal.

View from the River

In the last Derwent Valley Mills newsletter Brian Ashby, the World Heritage Site Business Champion, suggested that "we should make the most of the navigability of the river within the Site".

In order to work towards the realisation of this vision Atkins were commissioned to establish the feasibility of reintroducing a river bus service between Derby city centre and Darley Abbey Mills.

The report concludes the venture would provide an exciting opportunity to connect The Silk Mill and Darley Abbey as well as providing a pleasant tourist attraction in itself. This could benefit both the local economy and the community.

The project would however require major investment estimated at around £300,000 in order to build two landing stages and purchasing a suitable craft. But there will be tangible long term benefits and could provide more focus on the role of the river.

Of course these ideas are in the early stages and further consultations with the local community would be required if the funding can be secured for the project.

EVENTS Calendar

2004

Saturday 30 Oct – Hallowe'en Event in Strutt's North Mill, Belper from 7pm, to celebrate the town's ten-year link with Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Tuesday 9 Nov – The Matlock Civic Society at Work lecture by David Smith and Ken Parker at the University of Derby Suite, Cromford Mill, from 7.30pm.

Sunday 14 Nov – The LARA Road Race: Platypus High Peak Relay will be at Cromford Mill throughout the day from 8.30am.

Tuesday 14 Dec – Sir Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mills: The Vision, a lecture by Dr Christopher Charlton OBE, Director of the Cromford Mills Project, at the University of Derby Suite, Cromford Mill, from 7.30pm.

Sunday 26 Dec – Boxing Day walk around Belper's industrial housing, followed by a hot drink and tour of Strutt's North Mill. Starting at the mill, 2pm.

Sunday 26 Dec – The Annual Cromford to Matlock Boxing Day Raft Race

2005

Tuesday 18 Jan – The Cromford Canal: its significance and contribution to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, a lecture by George Jones at the University of Derby Suite, Cromford Mill, from 7.30pm.

Tuesday 15 Feb – Every Little Helps lecture by Gordon Farr on building havens for wildlife species at the University of Derby Suite, Cromford Mill, from 7.30pm

Saturday 5 Mar – First in a monthly series of history walks around Belper, starting from Strutt's North Mill at 2pm.

Thursday 10 Mar – A Bright and Shining Light lecture by Bob Faithorn, Chairman of The Arkwright Society on the survival of dissent in Derbyshire in the 17th century at the University of Derby Suite, Cromford Mill, from 7.30pm.

June – Celebration for the 10th anniversary of the Derwent Valley Visitor Centre at Strutt's North Mill, Belper. Ring the mill for details or watch for updates in the local press.

For details of events at Cromford Mill ring 01629 823256. For events at Strutt's North Mill, Belper ring 01773 880474.



New image for transport

HISTORIC mills from the Derwent Valley have taken to road and rail this year to spread the word about the county's only World Heritage Site.

Images – including Masson Mills at Matlock Bath, Cromford Mill, Belper's North Mill and the Silk Mill in Derby – are now featuring on the back of Trent Barton buses and on the sides of a 170 Turbostar train.

The train project has been funded by the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership with grant money from Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership and Central Trains, with additional funding from the Countryside Agency via the Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership.

There are now nine buses featuring images and slogans for different towns, villages and tourist attractions that are served by Trent Barton's bus services between Derby and Bakewell.

Councillor Joyce Sanders, chair of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership and the Derwent Valley Rural Transport Partnership, said: "I'm delighted both partnerships can support and encourage sustainable transport for the site."

New timetables

A NEW train timetable guide is now available detailing all the train times for the Derwent Valley Line between Matlock, Belper and Derby.

The guide also includes information about a variety of great value ticket options such as Groupsave, which allows 3 or 4 adults to travel together for the price of 2, with up to 4 accompanying children travelling for just £1 each.

Details of the walking route and bus connections to Derby city centre from Derby railway station are also featured.

It has been distributed to 20,000 households in the Derwent Valley and is also available from local outlets including libraries, tourist information centres and Derby railway station.

IT'S A WRAP: Councillor Sanders and Derbyshire's Cabinet Member for Regeneration Councillor Geoff Carlile join children from Milford School at the launch of the newly wrapped train.



* MILLS ON VIEW: Robert Aram of Masson Mills and Brian Reaney from Trent Barton join Councillor Sanders for the launch of the Masson bus.

Repairs

DERBY City Council has made an application for listed building consent for the restoration of the old fire escape that stands on the back of the Silk Mill adjacent to the River Derwent.

The condition of the old cast iron fire escape has deteriorated to such an extent that the riverside path that passes alongside has had to remain closed to the public after closing whilst the roof of the Silk Mill was repaired.

The fire escape is one of the few parts of the pre-1910 structure that survived a tremendous fire that swept through the original Silk Mill, reputed to be the first factory in the world.

Although being totally redundant as a modern means of fire escape from the building, the old fire escape is to be restored as part of the grade II listed historic structure purely on the basis of its heritage value.

The repairs are expected to cost up to £100,000 and are to attract substantial grant aid from English Heritage.

WORLD HERITAGE NEWS ISSUE FOUR – 2004/2005

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WORLD HERITAGE NEWS

from the Derwent Valley

ISSUE FOUR – 2004/2005

Children perform in mills



THESE children descended on Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills in the summer, to recreate the lives of those who once worked in the Derwent Valley Mills.

Their performances at Masson, Cromford Mill and Willersley were part of the latest arts initiatives for the World Heritage Site.

More details on page two. Photograph by Chris Webb.

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS
World Heritage Site

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FUNDING SECURED

HERITAGE lottery funding has been secured for further arts events in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

Two more projects for the World Heritage Site arts team will now run during 2005.

The first is a moving sculpture, powered by water, to illustrate the history of water power. Fleet Arts at Belper will be involving a variety of community groups in the design and construction.

The second will be a presentation of projected images, looking at the history of technology and innovation in the mills, delivered by Q Arts of Derby.

Councillor Joyce Sanders, the chair of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership, said: "These are exciting times for the Derwent Valley Mills, with a number of arts projects now completed and more to come.

"I hope the public will continue to turn out to support these projects, and be inspired to better appreciate the World Heritage Site's potential as a cultural centre."

DVM Train

AS it serves the Central Region from Cardiff to Liverpool to Stansted, this train is spreading the word about the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. More details on the back page.



Children relive history

CHILDREN from six Derbyshire primary schools went to work in the Derwent Valley's cotton mills as part of an arts performance supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The 212 children from Milford, Pottery in Belper, Wirksworth, Lea, Bonsall and Matlock Bath gave a grand 'promenade' performance at three venues in the World Heritage Site.

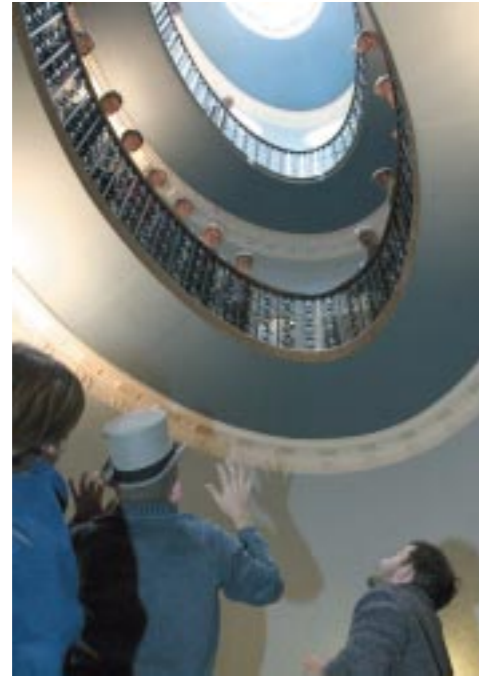
The audience was invited to walk between Willersley Castle, Cromford Mill and Masson Mills to enjoy a spectacle of dance, drama, music, film and storytelling, with some magical performances from the talented young cast members

Before the event, workshops were held with dramatist Andy Barrett, musician and song writer Pete Castle, video technician Julian Hanby and choreographer Debi Hedderwick.

The children, aged 7 to 10, explored the history of children's lives in the mills as workers and as members of the families employed in the mills.

One of the parents at the event was Kim Johnson, who said of the performances: "The whole day was exciting for both participants and audiences.

"The Willersley part was really delightful – both funny and informative. I was very moved by the Masson part of the show – it was a very powerful interpretation of the story of the Mill and so sensitively delivered by the children.



LOOKING UP: Children in rehearsal at Willersley Castle.

"The finale brought everything to a positive and lighthearted end – very celebratory and uplifting."

The project was put together by arts organisations, Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Partnership, which provided funding through the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership. Photography by Chris Webb.

Text and textile workshops

THE Derwent Valley Mills and their history were taken as the central subject of a literature and textile-based project co-ordinated by Fleet Arts of Belper over the summer.

Artists Tan Draig and Lucy Banwell ran workshops with a wide range of local groups throughout the valley and temporary art installations by Tan Draig later appeared in a number of venues throughout the site. Year-long installations are to follow at Masson Mills and the Silk Mill.

The workshops, part of the Heritage Lottery funded Derwent Valley Arts Project, saw Tan and Lucy in schools in Amber Valley and Derby City as well as with writers' groups, day centres and community groups.

Sarah Laman, Fleet Arts' director, said: "In the workshops Tan did, participants produced some wonderfully colourful structures and net-like textiles".

Tan's workshops produced a series of hollow globes with giant 'threads' of words wound round wire and wadding, to form globes of sizes varying from 30cm to up to 2m across.

The concept behind these very contemporary pieces was to explore and bind textiles, looking at the linkages of the site to the world and to water, offering a unique sensory and creative experience to a wide range of people in the Derwent Valley.

In all, 15 groups were involved in the project – these included Herbert Strutt School, Belper; Beaufort School, Derby; Derwent Zambezi group; Poetry People; Belper Writer's group; i am amber group; Belper open children's



WRAPPING UP: Artist Tan Draig helps children from Belper's Herbert Strutt School create a textile globe.

Walk this way

A NEW leaflet produced by the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership is encouraging people of all ages to pull on their walking boots.

Ambergate is the focus of the leaflet, which encourages people to leave their car in the village or at home and use the Derwent Valley train line or the Transpeak bus service at the end of their walk to return to their starting point.

The Cromford Canal offers walkers an opportunity to appreciate the wildlife in the Derwent Valley, away from the busy A6 road, and using the bus or train at the end of the journey helps to avoid the traffic congestion around Cromford and Matlock Bath.

The leaflet takes people along the Cromford Canal, through Whatstandwell to Cromford and Masson Mills. The walk can be broken up in to smaller chunks for those who don't want to cover the whole stretch, with alternative points to catch public transport home.

Places of interest with opening times and admission prices are provided, as well as a selection of places to break up the journey with a meal and a drink.

The leaflet proved to be a big success in the summer, and has now been reprinted with up-to-date timetables – look for the leaflet at most local information points.

workshops; Step in Centre craft group, Derby; the Whitemoor Centre, Belper; Duffield Summer Holiday scheme; Derwent Stepping Stones Nursery, Derby; and Derbyshire Social Services Disabled Support Group. Over 470 people had hands-on arts experience through the workshops.

NEWS from the Mills



A GOOD VIEW: His Royal Highness Prince Charles has the second mill wheelpit explained by Dr Christopher Charlton OBE from the new viewing platform.

Prince Charles visit

PRINCE Charles returned to Cromford Mill in January to see the latest developments to the restoration work, including the new viewing platform over the second mill wheelpit.

His Royal Highness started his visit in the top yard of the mill with a briefing on the work completed on the site since his last visit in 1996. Origination prepared Powerpoint material providing the royal guest with a kaleidoscope of facts, figures and visual impressions – including 6,000 tonnes of waste removed from the site; 3,600 tonnes of it contaminated; over 300 windows made and fitted; and £2m spent so far.

In Building 18 Arkwright Society archaeologist Dr Patrick Strange described the 18 months he and his team had spent, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, unlocking the secrets of this, the earliest building on the site. Three of the stone masonry team – Barry Hill, Tom Webster and Joe Parker – explained their work.

Then came a visit in the rain to the viewing platform and second mill wheelpit where a party of EMDA board members, led by the Chair, Derek Mapp, and the Vice Chair, Jane Bradford, braved the wet and cold to meet Prince Charles.

His Royal Highness ended his trip with a speech on the Society's work, paying tribute to the many partners and their loyal support and offering to return for a third visit once the restoration of the site had been completed.

Before departing to visit the Crescent in Buxton, he unveiled a new Regeneration Through Heritage plaque for the mill site.

North Mill bi-centenary

IT'S BEEN a very special year for Belper's North Mill in 2004 – it is 200 years since it was built.

The North Mill was grandfather to the modern-day skyscraper, and it was thanks to the innovations tried out at North Mill by William Strutt that modern metal-framed buildings were developed.

The North Mill Trust which runs the mill's visitor centre and museum celebrated on July 20 – the birthday of the mill's creator, William Strutt.



HATS OFF TO WILLIAM: North mill volunteers Roy Hartle and John Lloyd with mill manager Mary Smedley and their celebratory mill cake.

The mill volunteers dressed in period costume and raised a glass to William and his innovative building.

Said mill manager Mary Smedley: "The North Mill is a remarkable building, built by a remarkable man – we felt such an important landmark in its history shouldn't go by without a celebration."

Other events for the bi-centenary included an exhibition on life in 1804, guided walks around the town and the unveiling of William Strutt's portrait, on loan from Derby Museums and Art Gallery, as part of the stronger links made through the Derwent Valley Mills partnership.



STRUTT ON SHOW: The portrait of William Strutt is unveiled by Joyce Sanders, chair of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership. Geoff Carlile, chair of Belper North Mill Trust, and the mayor and mayoress of Amber Valley Borough Council, Allen and Jean King.

The Silk Mill

WORK is now advanced on planning the new World Heritage Site interpretation room at the Silk Mill – Derby's Museum of Industry and History.

This will create for the first time a permanent display looking in depth at the reasons for the Mill's original location, and its importance as an early factory site.

As well as learning more about the Lombe mill of the 1720s, visitors who enter this southern 'gateway' to the site will be encouraged to visit the other key locations along the corridor.

The opening is scheduled for spring 2005.

Banknote saved

A RARE five pound note issued by the 'Wirksworth and Ashbourn Bank' in 1829 has been saved from disappearing overseas by the owner of Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills.

Robert Aram had read about plans to auction the banknote and decided to attend and try to save the note for Derbyshire.

"I did not start to bid until near the end of the auction, as there were a few other potential buyers at the beginning," said Mr Aram, "but as the bidding went higher only I and a millionaire collector from Jersey were left in.

"Eventually I bought it for over £3,400 and I feel that it was worth every penny to save this very important piece of Derbyshire's local history from disappearing from the area, possibly for ever. I would have paid more, as the chance of acquiring something like this might only come up once in a lifetime."

The banknote, serial number 3420, was issued on August 24, 1829 and is signed by Charles Arkwright, son of Richard Arkwright Junior.

The bank was the forerunner of the present Lloyds Bank in Wirksworth and was founded in 1780.

Richard Arkwright Junior became a partner in 1804, and took over ownership in 1829 with his sons Peter and Charles. The bank was known locally as Richard Arkwright and Co. At that time, merchants and businessmen would found their own banks and issue their own banknotes, which were a form of IOU.

The banknote fortunately now has a permanent, secure home at Masson Mills, where it will join an extensive archive collection on the British Textile Industry and a copy of it will be put on display in the Working Textile Museum. Each visiting school group will soon be presented with an exact copy of the note free of charge as a lasting memento of its visit, along with an explanatory leaflet detailing the banknote's historical significance.

Mr. Aram added: "As an ex-teacher I recognise the value of encouraging children to imagine how life really was in the past and I am sure that this will help to enhance their understanding of the socio-economic history of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries".



Cuban visitors

The industrial village of Darley Abbey captivated the interest of leaders from the Cuban City of Camaguey in September as part of their week-long visit to Derby.

Snr Luis Alvarez Roldan, President of the City of Camaguey, and Snr Arsenio Morfa Mestril, International Relations Director of the Camaguey Region, had been invited to Derby by the mayoralty on a trip organised by the Derbyshire Cuban Network.

Cuba has several World Heritage Sites including the old town of Havanah but the City of Camaguey is anxious to promote further heritage designation of other key historic sites and areas.

The Cuban visitors were given a conducted tour around the village by the city council's Harry Hopkinson who explained the historic importance of the mill settlement through an interpreter.

The visitors were impressed with the standards of recent conservation work in the village and paid particular interest in the reinstatement of sash windows.

Adrian joins the team

THE LATEST addition to the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership's team is Communication and Outreach Officer Adrian Farmer.

Adrian was editor of the Belper News for nearly 14 years before joining the team. The last five also saw him editing the Ripley and Heanor News. He has just written a second book on Belper, and is a regular volunteer tour guide at Strutt's North Mill, one of the key sites in the World Heritage Site.

To contact Adrian telephone him on **01629 585166** or e-mail him on **adrian.farmer@derbyshire.gov.uk**



Mayfayre's Day

BELPER was one of only 14 towns selected this year to take part in the UK's first ever Market Towns Week in May. In Belper the events were coordinated and organised by a working group of the Belper Derwent Project Partnership.

A series of workshops were held before the week, with local groups and artists.

These covered dance, organised by Derby Dance with young women from the Drop Inn centre; music, organised by Fleet Arts with two new Belper bands, The Voids and Purple Phoenix, and solo artist Lucy Day; and visual arts, organised by Fleet Arts to make thrones, crowns, table decorations, models, large fruits and banners.

A Belper Millcake was created for the event, with the aid of a food technologist attached to Thornton's, which included fudge and chocolate pieces.

On Mayfayres Day the May King and Queen invited children in the audience to join a banquet in the main street before a maypole dancing demonstration by the Heage Windmillers, two performances by a samba band, a performance from those who attended the dance workshops, and juggling and beds of nails stunts by What a Palaver.

Other events in the week included a concert by Coope, Boyes and Simpson, the internationally acclaimed acapella group; the opening of the 'Lost Garden', the newly renovated Cottage Hospital garden at Bridgefoot; a computer game challenge at the Leisure Centre; more heritage guided walks; and a workshop for new business ideas.

The week ended with Building a Mill Town, an exhibition with talks and videos on what it took to build Belper, run by the town's historical society.



MERRY DANCE: Children around the maypole in the shadow of Belper's mills.

Showcase Events

FOR the annual national Heritage Open Days weekend in September, the Arkwright Society and Strutt's North Mill at Belper held a number of special one-off free events to showcase the World Heritage Site.

In a programme funded and supported by English Heritage, the Arkwright Society hosted 13 activities, including a behind-

ON TOUR: Heather Eaton (left) explains the history of Milford's river bridges during one of the events.

the-scenes tour of Richard Arkwright's first water-powered cotton mill at Cromford, as well as the nearby industrial village and the Scarthin area.

Other tours along the Derwent Valley focused on Arkwright's Willersley Castle, the magistrate courts at Derby, the North Midland Railway's 1839 carriage shop and roundhouse at Pride Park in the city, and the non-conformist chapels of Belper.

Strutt's North Mill hosted tours around the industrial communities of Belper and Milford.