

World Heritage news

Issue 17 - 2018

www.derwentvalleymills.org



THOUSANDS of people flocked to Derby's Silk Mill last summer, to see an impressive cascade of ceramic poppies on the historic mill's bell-tower. Weeping Window comprised of several thousand handmade ceramic poppies, originally seen pouring from a high window at the Tower of London. The installation has toured the UK since leaving London, and made a striking impression in Derby.

Funding boost for our *Great Place*

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13th year of success for festival

DERBYSHIRE's biggest annual heritage festival is *Discovery Days* – a nine-day celebration of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

The latest festival, in October, lasted a record-breaking 16 days, with visitors from all corners of the country turning out to enjoy over 140 activities.

Discovery Days is delivered by scores of Derwent Valley Mills volunteers, providing a host of walks, talks and workshops.

The 2017 activities were well attended – and received great feedback from visitors.

One of the highlights of the festival was the running of the Tantiy Stagecoach between Belper and Cromford, for the first time in 120 years. This was held to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Act of Parliament which allowed a turnpike road to be built through Derby, Belper and Cromford (now better known as the A6).

The White Peak Distillery at Ambergate also got involved, opening its door for the very first time to the public.

There were many more activities, spread across the key communities of Derby, Darley Abbey, Milford, Belper and Cromford.

Chair of the World Heritage Site Steering Group Councillor Barry Lewis said: "We had a fantastic fortnight of events, well supported by locals and visitors from across the UK and beyond."

The Discovery Days Festival returns in October 2018, and will run from Saturday 27 October to Sunday 4 November.

CELEBRATING THE TURNPIKE: The Tantiy coach heads out along the A6 in Belper.

DISTILLING INFORMATION: Visitors to White Peak Distillery find out more about the process at the first public opening for this new business.



Something to celebrate

OVER a thousand people descended on the Strutts Centre in Belper last March, for a special celebration.

The event marked the 15th anniversary of the Derwent Valley Mills becoming a World Heritage Site and saw 40 organisations coming together to take part.

They had a host of activities for all ages to try, mostly led by volunteers from across the DVMWHS, some in costume.

There was a series of taster talks through the day and two short walks led by guides from the

Strutt's North Mill Museum.

There was some time for the stall holders to explore the rooms and find out what other organisations were focusing on, before the event opened up fully to the public.

The success of the event led to numerous calls for a repeat event, which is being considered for a future date.

LOTS TO FIND OUT: A great turnout for both the guided walks (above, left) and the taster talks (left) during the anniversary event at the Strutts Centre.

Big year, big challenges - help us to make the right commitments

2018 is a big year for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS).

Not only will we be seeing the first impacts of the new Great Places funding (see pages 4 and 5), but we'll also be preparing our vision for the future five years – an essential part of our commitment to UNESCO, the international body which inscribed the Derwent Valley Mills on the World Heritage List in 2001.

Every World Heritage Site in the world – and there are now 1,073 – has an obligation to regularly produce a management plan which commits the owners and managers to a clear programme of work for protecting, conserving and presenting their site, and ensuring future generations appreciate its global significance.

For the Derwent Valley Mills, there is a partnership of over 40 organisations committed to this work, including councils, statutory bodies and local interest groups. This year, that partnership will be looking at the previous management plan and deciding how it can be improved, what objectives can be made for the next five years and who is needed to help ensure those objectives are met.

UNESCO's World Heritage designation is international recognition for a site's outstanding value to global history – often given when local

or even national designations would not be enough to protect what are often complex sites, with multiple ownerships, and facing a spectrum of threats and challenges.

That's certainly the case for the Derwent Valley Mills, which is why this year's 2018 management plan review is so important for the site – so it's equally important that we get that review right.

Chair of the DVMWHS Partnership's Steering Group is Cllr Barry Lewis, the leader of Derbyshire County Council. He said: "For a strong management plan, well supported by local communities, we need those communities to participate in the review, and help us to identify our key objectives, and what we can reasonably achieve in the coming five years.

"We're hoping that a wide range of people with interests in the Derwent Valley Mills, from councillors to business leaders, volunteers to individual residents, will step forward and help us set a course for the best possible future.

"It's an exciting challenge, and the more people who get involved, the better our response will be."

If you'd like to get involved with the consultation workshops for stakeholders over the summer of 2018, contact Gwen Wilson in the DVMWHS office at gwen.wilson@derbyshire.gov.uk or ring 01629 536831.



Respecting boundaries

WHEN UNESCO last looked at the work of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership, in a Periodic Review of all European World Heritage Sites, overall management of the DVMWHS was felt to be appropriate and working well.

One area needing more work centres on boundaries - of the World Heritage Site, but more particularly of its Buffer Zone, the protective area of its immediate setting. It was felt these were not sufficiently understood by local people.

In response to this, some work on the boundaries will be carried out as part of the Vital Valley Project (see pages 4 and 5), and it will be highlighted as part of the consultation process in the management plan review workshops.

The WHS Steering Group is hoping that by the end of the Vital Valley Project, and the completion of the new Management Plan implementation period, local people and visitors, planners and developers, will understand and appreciate the World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone boundaries, why they exist and what they mean, both historically and in planning terms today.

IMPORTANT SETTING: The green landscape of the Buffer Zone, unchanged since before the mills were built from the 18th century.

New chairman for steering group



LEADER of Derbyshire County Council Cllr Barry Lewis is the new chairman of the steering group for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership. From left, they are: Louise Brennan (Planning Director for Historic England in the East Midlands); Ian Jackson (representing the Belper Cluster); Jo Dille (Managing Director at Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire; Adam Lathbury (Head of Conservation, Heritage and Design at Derbyshire County Council); Allison Thomas (Service Director - Transport and Environment at Derbyshire County Council); Cllr Kevin

Buttery (Leader of Amber Valley Borough Council); Chairman Cllr Lewis; Phil Cooper (representing the Derby Cluster); Ian Hooker (representing the WHS Partnership); Dr Ian Whitehead (Deputy Head of the Department of Humanities, University of Derby); Jonathan Platt (Head of Heritage Lottery Fund East Midlands); Barry Joyce (Deputy Chair of the ICOMOS-UK World Heritage Committee). Other members are Sir Richard Fitzherbert (Derbyshire Dales District Council); Cllr Ranjit Banwait (Derby City Council); John Walker (Learning and Research) and Hugh James (Arts Council).

Funding for a creative future

THE DERWENT Valley Mills World Heritage Site has secured funding to deliver a range of exciting new projects until December 2020.

The World Heritage Site is one of 16 places across the UK to have been awarded funding through the Great Place Scheme, designed to ensure that investment in arts, culture and heritage has the widest possible impact on local economies, jobs, education, community

cohesion and health and wellbeing.

This is a pilot scheme and partnership between Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England.

Barry Lewis, Chair of the World Heritage Steering Group and Leader of Derbyshire County Council, said: "We are delighted to have secured the Great Place Scheme Funding. As the birth place of the modern factory system, the Derwent Valley Mills were

inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2001. Great strides have been made in managing, conserving, supporting and promoting the 15-mile long Site in that time.

"The Great Places Scheme now gives us an opportunity, through heritage and the arts, to enrich our offer, and help people locally, and from across the region, to identify with the Site, take pride in it and actively get involved with the next stage of its development."

Overview: The Vital Valley projects

THERE are specific objectives for the Vital Valley project to achieve in the next three years - here are the key themes:

Talking to people



- Finding out what the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site means to people living in, working in and visiting the valley.
- Skills and training support for businesses in the World Heritage Site, helping them understand how heritage, arts and culture in the Derwent Valley can help them, their customers and employees.
- Encouraging businesses to take part in Ambassador Schemes to learn more about their communities and the World Heritage Site, so they can welcome visitors and answer informal queries.
- Finding out about who visits the DVMWHS, what interests them and how this may change in the future.
- Showcasing learning opportunities in the World Heritage Site for teachers, university lecturers and those interested in learning about the Derwent Valley.
- Understanding the boundary of the World Heritage Site and the historic impact of industry in the valley by digitising archive maps for greater access.

Inspiring new ideas

- Pioneering work around factory production and making inspired the world. We will share this story to bring new inspiration to the valley and create ideas for the future.

- Areas of the World Heritage Site not open to the public or not accessible will be brought to life through virtual reality, building on digitising work to re-create parts of the Derwent Valley.
- Enterprise teams of young entrepreneurs (between 11 and 18 years old) will develop new ideas for products inspired by the DVMWHS.
- A new mobile Museum of Making will travel throughout the county to bring the story of making in the Derwent Valley to life, via events and workshops.

World Class



- Looking at exploring the DVMWHS in ways that give local people a sense of pride in the Derwent Valley Mills.
- Helping volunteer teams in the Derwent Valley learn more and share experiences across the whole of the World Heritage Site.
- Helping people from nearby towns and cities find out about the DVMWHS and the connections to their stories and lives.
- Developing new ideas about under-used heritage buildings in Belper.
- Information, travel planning and signs to link parts of the DVMWHS together making it easier for visitors to find their way around.

- Looking at how accessibility to the area can be improved for people with physical and hidden accessibility needs, their families, friends and companions.
- Marketing activities to promote and raise awareness of the DVMWHS.

Creative future



- Looking to the future of the DVMWHS and how we can pass it on to the next generation. These projects will research information to help organisations work better together to understand challenges within the whole 15-mile site – and what is needed to face them.
- Working with local and regional policy makers to increase awareness of the World Heritage Site and how it benefits our local economy and communities.
- Recognising the positive benefits of arts, culture and heritage within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and how this can be included in policies.
- Building new and stronger relationships to help the DVMWHS thrive, so that it is protected to hand on to the next generation.
- Young people will have work placements to introduce them to careers within the heritage, arts and culture sector.
- Investigating how heritage, arts and cultural organisations within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site can find new secure futures to continue their work.

Vital Valley - building pride in our World Heritage Site

THE NEW Great Place Scheme funding for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site has been developed into a programme entitled Vital Valley, designed to build pride in the special heritage of the Derwent Valley Mills.

It will use its history of innovation and making as inspiration for all who live, work and visit here.

It is an opportunity to strengthen existing and foster new connections and relationships with businesses, education, creative and other organisations and work together for the benefit of all, now and into the future. It also seeks to protect our heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Vital Valley projects will include volunteer training, digital projects, improving accessibility, learning programmes, marketing, engaging with new audiences, expanding the award-winning Belper Ambassador Scheme to other areas, and public realm works in Darley Abbey, Milford and Belper. Sustainability studies, skills programmes and creative engagement activities will provide resources for the future of the valley.

The activities will take in the whole of the



Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, from Derby's Silk Mill in the south to Masson Mills at Matlock Bath in the north.

The programme builds on the work already achieved by the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Partnership since inscription in 2001. Working in partnership will be central to the direction and delivery of these projects and the co-ordination team will be working closely with a range of key Derbyshire-based organisations to ensure success.

ALL MAPPED OUT: Some of the volunteers now working on one of the Vital Valley projects - assessing historic maps in the Derbyshire Record Office for digitisation. Once digitised, the maps will be more readily available to the public and be part of a mobile exhibition about how the DVMWHS has been mapped since the 18th century.



How to get involved with Vital Valley

THERE will be opportunities to get involved for the World Heritage Site's volunteers, local businesses, residents, teaching staff, schools, artists and policy makers.

Keep an eye on the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site at www.derwentvalleymills.org or contact the two newest members of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site team who will be

managing the scheme, Project Officer Beki Howey and Assistant Project Officer Alison Vasey.

Beki Howey - 01629 539778;
rebekah.howey@derbyshire.gov.uk

Alison Vasey - 01629 539771;
alison.vasey@derbyshire.gov.uk



Delivery team

Rebekah Howey, Project Officer

Beki (above, right) has lived and worked in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire since 2011.

She has managed several large partnership projects, including landscape, heritage and engaging people in their local stories and history.

"The industrial heritage of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is fascinating – there are so many layers and connections that reach into our lives today. It is rewarding to encourage people to find their own connection and place in the valley".

Beki worked previously in environmental protection and licensing, followed by managing volunteers in conservation projects and working closely with non-profit organisations.

Beki is a qualified project manager – which is proving indispensable at home to reveal a 100 year old house from underneath its 1960s and 1980s layers.

Getting outdoors means cycling or walking – and discovering where to stop for tea and cake in Derbyshire.

Alison Vasey, Assistant Project Officer

Alison's professional background is in marketing communications, event management and administration.

She is passionate about heritage, arts and culture and is excited to start this role as assistant project officer for the Vital Valley scheme.

"I feel privileged to be involved in this important project within the World Heritage Site and am looking forward to working with many people and organisations to make the project a success."

Alison (top, left) has lived in Derbyshire for three years. She is a keen walker, and has spent many happy hours exploring the treasures that the Peak District and Derbyshire has to offer.

Wheels keep turning to progress cycleway

THE DERWENT Valley Trust continues its efforts to get the Derwent Valley Cycleway in place.

During 2017, the Trust has concentrated on the selection of preferred consultants to deliver a feasibility study, detailed costing and planning permission.

This selection is complete and the focus is now on obtaining the funding to engage the selected consultants.

The scope of the cycleway project has extended north of Matlock so the proposed route is now from Derby to Matlock and onwards through the Chatsworth estate to Baslow following the course of the River Derwent as closely as possible.

Creating the cycleway relies on ensuring that the cycleway is a high priority in Derbyshire County Council's planned strategic cycle network.

Whilst there are existing parts of the National Cycle Network (NCN) across Derbyshire, there are no NCN routes within the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site.

Cyclists wishing to travel between the WHS attractions are obliged to use unsuitable and heavily trafficked routes such as the A6.

As well as providing a tourist attraction in its own right, the cycleway would also help alleviate the current traffic congestion and air quality issues in the Derwent Valley, particularly near Derby.

More information on the cycleway project at derwentvalleycycleway.org.uk.



Boards installed

SIX new Interpretation Boards have been installed at the entrances to Darley Park by Friends of Darley Open Spaces (FODOS), explaining its features, history and development, funded by a grant from DerwentWISE.

The text and pictures were compiled by FODOS, Darley Abbey Historical Group and Derwentwise.

ON DISPLAY: One of the new interpretation boards.

Award for project

THE ARKWRIGHT Society's Building 17 Project has received a Europa Nostra award.

The EU Prize for Cultural Heritage/ Europa Nostra Awards celebrate and promote best practice related to heritage conservation, management, research, education and communication.

It honours up to 30 remarkable heritage achievements from all parts of Europe at the annual European Heritage Awards Ceremony, the latest held in Finland.

The jury said the Project "represents a good adaptive reuse of a notable site of industrial heritage and is a key component of an important ensemble of buildings. Had it been demolished or left to further deteriorate, it would have been a scar on the World Heritage Site".

The jury recognised the complexity of the conservation work due to the extensive contamination of the site from its previous use as a colour pigment



works. "The result is a building with a social function that offers the perfect gateway to the World Heritage site of the Derwent Valley Mills".

The jury noted the quality of the visitor centre: "The interpretative activities and materials for children are a great addition and its educational function is significant for the World Heritage Site".

GREAT ACHIEVEMENT: Sarah McLeod accepting the award for the Arkwright Society, with judge Fani Mallouchou-Tufano.

Saying goodbye to Sarah



IN August the Arkwright Society held a farewell evening for Chief Executive Sarah McLeod, to say thank you for her 15 years of service to the Society.

Staff, colleagues and friends from the heritage world joined Sarah to celebrate her time at Cromford, and recognise all she has achieved.

The evening was attended by the Duke of Devonshire who presented Sarah with a canvas print by artist Sue Prince titled *Sir Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mill* on behalf of all at the Arkwright Society.

Sarah joined the Arkwright Society in 2002 in an administration role and became Chief Executive Officer in 2008. Through her determination, drive and boundless energy she took the organisation forward and overcame some huge challenges.

Sarah's crowning glory was the

completion of the Building 17 project which saw the renovation of the most contaminated building on the site and transformation into a state of the art office facility and visitor centre.

Sarah left Cromford to take on the restoration of the country's largest stately home, Wentworth Woodhouse in South Yorkshire.

She said: "Only a project of such scale and opportunity could have prised me away from Cromford Mills. I have been at Cromford over 15 years and though it has been the hardest thing I have ever done, I loved every minute of it.

"It has been an honour to be CEO here, to see such change and to make so many friends. Cromford will always feel like home. I shan't be a stranger."

FOND FAREWELL: Sarah (front, centre) with all the well-wishers who turned out to say goodbye after 15 years.



Volunteers enjoy a day in Saltaire

EACH winter, after the Discovery Days Festival, the DVMWHS team organises a trip out for the hard-working volunteers - to say thank you, and give them chance to see how their counterparts work at similar heritage sites.

In November, the volunteers visited the Saltaire World Heritage Site in Shipley, to see how another industrial world heritage site interprets its offer to the public.

There was time to look around Salt's Mill which is a mix of retail and small businesses with a café and restaurant, all in a huge five-storey building.

The local history group took them on guided tours of the village, explaining how Saltaire was developed and how all the different buildings are in use today.

A GRAND DAY OUT: The DVMWHS volunteers at Saltaire.

Bobbin awards recognise hard work of volunteers

FOR the seventh year, the World Heritage Site team have thanked a few of their amazing volunteers for all their hard work, particularly in Discovery Days, by presenting them with special awards.

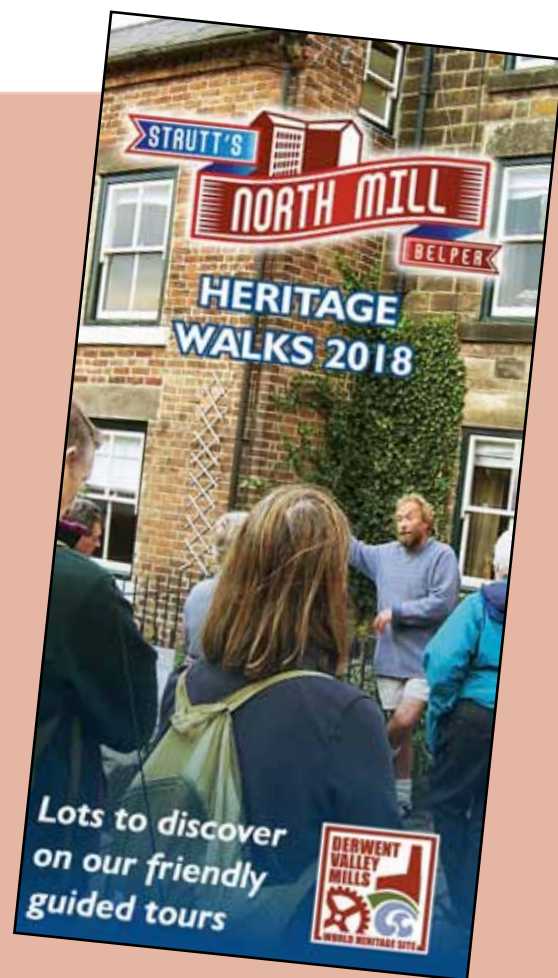
Every year, some of those volunteers receive a mounted bobbin, given for 'Services to Volunteering in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site'.

This time, four recipients were given

awards, for all their hard work supporting the World Heritage Site over many years.

It is hoped the award scheme will continue for some time yet, as there are many more DVMWHS volunteers deserving of this recognition.

THIS YEAR'S AWARDS: A bobbin award was given to the following volunteers (left to right): Christine Smith, Kevin Morrell, Betty Sheldermine and John Gabb.



More walks within the Derwent Valley

FOR the second year running, Strutt's North Mill at Belper has increased the number and range of their guided walks in and near to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

In 2018, there will be a walk every Sunday at 2pm from the beginning of April until the end of October.

New walks include a look at the villages of Hazelwood and Denby, the quarries that have supplied stone for the Belper parish over the past three centuries, and a stroll around the iron-producing landscape of Morley Park. One walk will provide only the second ever public viewing of the remains of the old Strutt Observatory on Bridge Hill, Belper.

For outside the seven-month walks season, Strutt's North Mill has for the first time introduced a series of winter talks, on the second Sunday of the month, from November to March. All of these are fully booked up, but bookings will open in September for the winter of 2018/19 - details will be available on the Strutt's North Mill website www.belpernorthmill.org.

Look out for the leaflet with information about all the walks, at libraries and information centres across the valley.

For more information on all of the walks planned for 2018 in the World Heritage Site locality, visit the www.derwentvalleymills.org website or contact Gwen Wilson on 01629 536831 or at gwen.wilson@derbyshire.gov.uk and ask to be put on the distribution list for walks information.

Pocket Wonders

THE DVMWHS has been working with Buxton Museum on a Heritage Lottery Fund project, **Pocket Wonders**.

This is a web-based digital trail linking collections with the landscape, using a mobile phone whilst you are outside.

A series of images and text provide you with additional information about your location whilst you are walking.

You can plan a route that covers a small or larger area depending upon the amount of time you have, or focus on a specific theme. Pocket Wonders has content from all around Derbyshire.

Volunteers from across the DVMWHS attended workshops to learn what kind of information can be used and how it can be added to the website.

Once there was agreement on the content it was uploaded onto the website in time for the formal launch last September.

As it is a web based trail it is easy to update and more content is being added regularly. There are trails across all parts of the DVMWHS - to find out more go to www.pocketwonders.co.uk.



John is appointed

BELPER North Mill Trust now has a new Chair. He is John Layton, who moved to the Derwent Valley in 2007, first living in Milford and now Nether Heage.

John is a chartered accountant and a chartered public finance accountant and has been involved in advising both private and public-sector organisations in the Midlands and throughout the UK for over 35 years.

During his career he has been the National Director for public sector services of PricewaterhouseCoopers which is a large multi-national firm of chartered accountants. He was senior executive of a government task force with a brief to examine strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors.

John is an experienced board member with a reputation for developing partnerships and enhancement of public sector finance particularly for local authorities.

He has worked with charities and not for profit organisations throughout his career. He is Treasurer and Vice Chairman of Derbyshire County Angling Club.



Channel clearance moves restoration work forward

WORK by Belper Clusters Heritage Group (BCHG) has seen the cleaning out of rain drainage channels on one of the historic streets outside their homes - another step closer to their conservation and restoration.

BCHG is a voluntary group of five residents who all live in the Clusters, an area created by the mill-owning Strutt family to provide homes for their workers.

With the help of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund they have formed a charity to reinstate the historic surfaces on William, George and Joseph Streets and Cluster Road.

Before further progress could be made, it was agreed to investigate the rain drainage channels. The channels, an integral part of the roads' rain drainage

system, have run down the sides of the roads for some 200 years ago.

The last time this level of work was undertaken was 35 years ago, by the then residents group. Debris collected down the years had caused drainage grates to be completely covered or blocked.

The group decided it would be practical to work on one road at a time and the work on the first of the roads, Joseph Street, took place last autumn.

There was no shortage of residents who volunteered to be involved. BCHG also enlisted the help of a local gardening business, JAS Gardening Services, who gave some of their time for free. The next part of the street clean will start early in 2018.

CLEANED OUT: Volunteers reveal the old drainage channel on Belper's Joseph Street.

Group continues to improve accessibility in town centre

ACCESSIBLE Belper is continuing its work to improve accessibility in the town.

Belper achieved a first in 2017 when the town's food festival was opened early for 'slow shopping'.

This initiative, supported by Belper Town Council, helped people with mobility difficulties explore the festival during a quieter time.

Free transport was also provided to help people get to the event.

Through the year they have focused on working with many different groups in the community, from Belper School to the University of the Third Age, to raise

awareness of how different disabling conditions impact on people's experience of the town.

This has helped participants to increase their understanding and the support they can provide to people and steps that can be taken to help.

There is a wealth of information available on website www.accessiblebelper.org with a section about the accessibility of the retailers in the town.

This helps make it easier for people to plan a visit into Belper if they have any difficulties and is being updated as more businesses take part in the access audit.



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Achieving great things

The DerwentWISE Landscape Partnership is now coming to the end of its fourth year and advancing quickly into the final year. This Heritage Lottery funded scheme, hosted by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, aims to inspire people about the landscape of the Lower Derwent Valley. Here the scheme office team take you through a few of the highlights.

Achievements for Yrs 1-3 include:

- 22 small grants awarded.
- 88 community groups engaged.
- 68 schools worked with on art, conservation and wildlife projects.
- 13,693 people engaged in a range of activities including training, habitat restoration, surveying, participatory arts and walks.
- 691 hours of learning.
- 198 people trained in surveying techniques.
- 1,163 people engaged in participatory arts workshops.
- 95.23 ha's of land restored including 6.56 ha of woodland and 56.49 ha of meadow/grassland.
- 779 m of dry stone walling repaired.
- £230,775 of volunteer time and 2,115 volunteer days given to scheme.

Slinger Mill

SELF-SET trees that were undermining the historic dams, weirs and water channels have been cleared, revealing additional features missing from the original survey.

A community clearance day was held in November 2017 to help with the upkeep of the site.



CLEARING OUT: Volunteers take a look at the Slinger Mill sluices.



Opening up Iconic Views



IN YEARS one to three the scheme opened up 22 iconic views throughout the Valley.

This includes vistas within Darley Park, views of historic features in Matlock Bath and built structures such as Milford Weir.

These activities have been made possible with the support of a skilled volunteer team.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: The team at Milford (above).

NOW YOU SEE IT: A view restored on the Derwent, near Willersley Castle.

Weir Watchers

THE weir watchers, aided by our consultant Jeremy Benn carried out a new survey - at the Duckbill Weir, Milford.

Although in generally good condition, an eagle eyed volunteer spotted a makeshift repair to keep the weir crest to its proper level. One to watch for the future.

Heritage at Risk

STERLING work from our volunteers meant we hit our target for undertaking 1,000 surveys for the Historic Environment Record when the project closed at Christmas.

A findings report will be available by spring.

Field Barns

WE'RE awaiting bat survey season to make sure we don't disturb any roosts before starting works to restore our chosen barn in Middleton.

Volunteering

If you would like to find out more about DerwentWISE, volunteering, training, or events then more information can be found on the www.derwentwise.com shared website with Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

For current news and updates follow us on twitter @derwentwise or see the facebook page facebook.com/DerwentWISE. Alternatively, email the team at derwentwise@derbyshirewt.co.uk.

New exhibitions at Pickford's House

IN December, Pickford's House at Derby launched two new exhibitions; 'Energetic' and 'Pictures of Power'.

Both explored aspects of our relationship with energy. 'Energetic' included photography, artworks and objects from Derby Museums' collection to consider the energy stories hidden inside everyday objects and actions.

The exhibition showcased work from the Stories of Change Project, stimulating lively conversations about energy by looking at its past, present and future.

'Pictures of Power' took objects from the museums' collection, considered what they're made of and examined what it takes to make them. Many materials and practices used to create exhibitions are single-use and non-recyclable, creating lots of waste, both in production and after the exhibition finishes.

These two exhibitions will have a long lasting impact at Derby Museums and help to inform the future exhibitions at all Derby's museum sites, in particular the development of the new Museum of Making, scheduled to open in 2020.



'Energetic' and 'Pictures of Power' ran at Pickford's House until February 10.

ON SHOW: One of the new exhibitions at Pickford's House.

Simon appointed

TRUSTEES at the Arkwright Society have appointed Commercial Director, Simon Wallwork as the new Chief Executive Officer for the Society.



Simon joined the Arkwright Society in March 2016 as Commercial Director having previously worked in the retail industry. He started De Bradelei Mill stores in the late nineties and built the business from an initial concept to a £15 million turnover business with six outlets around the country.

The first store in Belper, was the former Brettles' Hosiery factory, which was a grade 2* listed building.

The template for the business was to take undeveloped or underutilised buildings and bring them back in use as retail outlets. This was done with mills in Melton Mowbray, Kidderminster and Nottingham. In Dover, former historic boat sheds were converted into Kent's first factory outlet.

During this time Simon started to take an interest in Derbyshire's industrial history and understand how important the Derwent Valley, its textile industry and its technology were in influencing the world we live in today.

The senior management team at Cromford has been re-organised and the team supporting Simon is:

Simon Gill – Operations Director
Debbie Jones – Chief Financial Officer
Hannah Stegges – Head of Heritage

The new team looks forward to continuing the success achieved with the Building 17 project, working to complete the Arkwright Society's restoration of the Cromford Mills site.

Dig discovers game-larder

A COMMUNITY archaeological dig took place in September at Darley Abbey, organised by the Darley Abbey Historical Group.

Funded by Heritage Lottery Funding and managed by Trent and Peak Archaeology, the dig explored the shrubbery of Darley Hall for an ice house marked on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map, but since lost.

Darley Primary School children and local scouts helped a team of adult volunteers to dig five trenches and sort the finds.

The team unearthed the red-brick foundations of an octagonal building on the spot indicated by the map.

It is believed to be an above ground game-larder, not a buried ice house, similar to other game-larders at Kedleston Hall, Calke Abbey and Chatsworth House.

NEW DISCOVERY: The game-larder foundations, photographed by R. Kinsley-Marpole.



Steering group for framework

The DVMWHS Research Framework, commissioned by Historic England and the DVMWHS Partnership and launched in 2016, was one of the first frameworks to be developed for any of the eight industrial World Heritage Sites in the UK.

It pioneered an innovative stakeholder-led approach that could be applied to other sites on the World Heritage List. In addition, by its focus upon research questions identified during stakeholder workshops, it provided a rare example of a framework that has been developed by rather than for the local community.

The Framework comprises two key elements: a synthesis of views on the priorities for research and a discussion of strategies for advancing understanding.

It embraces an enormous variety of subjects and

data sources, including evidence derived from archaeology, historic buildings, maps, documents, literature and painting, and together these sources provide powerful tools for studying the unique heritage, environment and landscape of the Valley.

The agenda and strategy will be updated regularly as research priorities change and as investigations shed light upon key research questions.

For that purpose, a steering group has been established to monitor and encourage work by independent researchers, community groups, universities and other organisations.

Much work is now in progress, as demonstrated by the Vital Valley, DerwentWISE and other projects reported in this Newsletter, and this work will advance significantly our knowledge and understanding of the World Heritage Site.



Popular Birdwood

Over the four seasons during which the Friends of Cromford Canal have operated the trip boat Birdwood, a grand total of 26,936 passengers has been carried.

This is an amazing achievement for a boat

largely staffed by volunteers. This traditional boat is electrically powered due to the sensitivity of the nature reserve through which it passes. Usually, on the first weekend of each month during the season, Birdwood is hauled by horse, provided by Arraslea Shires.

WELL-SUPPORTED: Birdwood offers regular 2-hour round trips from Cromford Wharf on weekends, Wednesdays and Thursdays.



Better banks

THANKS to grant assistance from DerwentWISE, Friends of Cromford Canal have been busy installing coir rolls along the edge of the canal to prevent erosion caused by dog owners allowing their pets to go in the water, despite signs requesting them not to.

When the dogs scabble out they tear away the soft banking, causing damage that could one day create a breach in the canal, causing huge damage to wildlife.

The coir rolls offer a natural form of bank protection into which indigenous vegetation can be replanted. During 2017, 150 metres of bank were protected and further work is to be carried out in 2018.

ON THE WATER: After fitting, rolls are backfilled to allow indigenous plants to grow.

A good sign!

THANKS to volunteers from Friends of Cromford Canal and local sponsorship, in November a replacement sign was erected over the door of the Weighbridge office at Cromford Wharf, now the Canal Shop, from where Birdwood tickets are sold.

The previous sign was unsightly and unsafe, so planning permission was obtained for the replacement, as the Gothic Warehouse is a listed building. It was sign-written free of charge by Steve Kemp and erected at no cost by Beighton Construction who were working on the sluice in Arkwright's yard, where repair work has now been completed.

IN PLACE: The new sign on the Gothic warehouse.



University links

IN 2017 (and again this year) Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service co-ordinated visits from students at the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage (IIICH) based within the University of Birmingham and studying the International Heritage Management Studies and World Heritage Studies MA courses.

The students toured along the DVMWHS, visiting key sites and listening to a number of speakers as part of the work for one of their key units.

Georgina Greaves from Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service also went to Ironbridge, to speak at a Communicating World Heritage Conference in October.

She said: "We're starting to explore new ways and projects that will help people of all ages understand what is special about this World Heritage Site and to understand it's special designation as being of 'outstanding universal value' to humanity."

Chance to learn

ACROSS the DVMWHS, there is a huge range of learning opportunities available.

From art to engineering, history to science and technology there's something for everyone.

You can use your smart phone to enhance a tour around Masson Mills, book a costumed educational visit at Cromford Mills, explore the natural heritage of the landscape at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Whistlestop Centre or book a day visit for your class with Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service or Strutt's North Mill to explore Belper and its important people.

To find out more, or if you have a group that would like to visit the DVMWHS visit www.derwentvalleymills.org/learn/ or www.services.derbyshire.gov.uk/EnvStudies

Free admission

VISITORS can now take a look at the High Peak Junction railway workshops on the Cromford Canal without being charged admission.

In the workshops visitors can discover the story of one of the world's first long distance railways, developed before Stephenson's rocket, with wagons pulled by horses. Linking two canals, the railway had nine steep inclines.

Admission numbers to the workshops had decreased over the years, despite an increase in visitors to the site. Now people will be allowed in for free, paying just £1 if they want an audio tour.

Silver for Cromford as work pays off



CROMFORD Station Group won the Silver Level in the It's Your Station category at the 2017 Community Rail Awards, held in Derby.

This accolade reflects the great progress made improving the station environment with mainly native plants and bulbs to recolonise the station, whilst managing invasive vegetation.

Key to the success has been Cromford Parish Council who adopted the station and are working with local volunteers and the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership to provide a sustainable future for the station.

The Parish Council have also worked with Cromford C of E Primary School to produce pieces of artwork which are displayed at the station, a project that was shortlisted in the Community Art Schemes category at the 2017 awards.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Some of the Cromford volunteers.

Duffield transformed

DUFFIELD station platform has a new garden feature comprising hundreds of colourful shrubs and herbs set around sections of decking.

The work was carried out by Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership working with Duffield Parish Council, East Midlands Trains, Ecclesbourne Valley Railway, Friends of the Derwent Valley Line and Network Rail. Over 20 staff and volunteers took part in a community day when over 150 bags of compost and woodchip, and over 300 shrubs, were carried across the footbridge to fill new planters.

Grant funding came from the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) which also enabled the surfacing of the footpath linking the East Midlands Trains and Ecclesbourne Valley Railway platforms.

PLANTED: The new look station.



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Tel 01629 536831

Contact for editorial and
sponsorship enquiries:
Adrian Farmer
E-mail:
adrian.farmer@derbyshire.gov.uk

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from the weir.

Contributing to this issue were:
Adrian Farmer BEM, Sukie Khaira, Beki
Howey, Alison Vasey, Georgina Greaves,
Tania Pells, Alastair Morley, Hugh Potter, Alan
Bradwell, Eilish Clohessy, the Belper Clusters
Heritage Group, Ian Dent, Roy Hartle, Simon
Wallwork, Rick Jillings.



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Derwent Valley Mills
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001