

# *The Derwent Valley*

The Valley that changed the World



Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

**Annual Report 2014 – 2015**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organisation

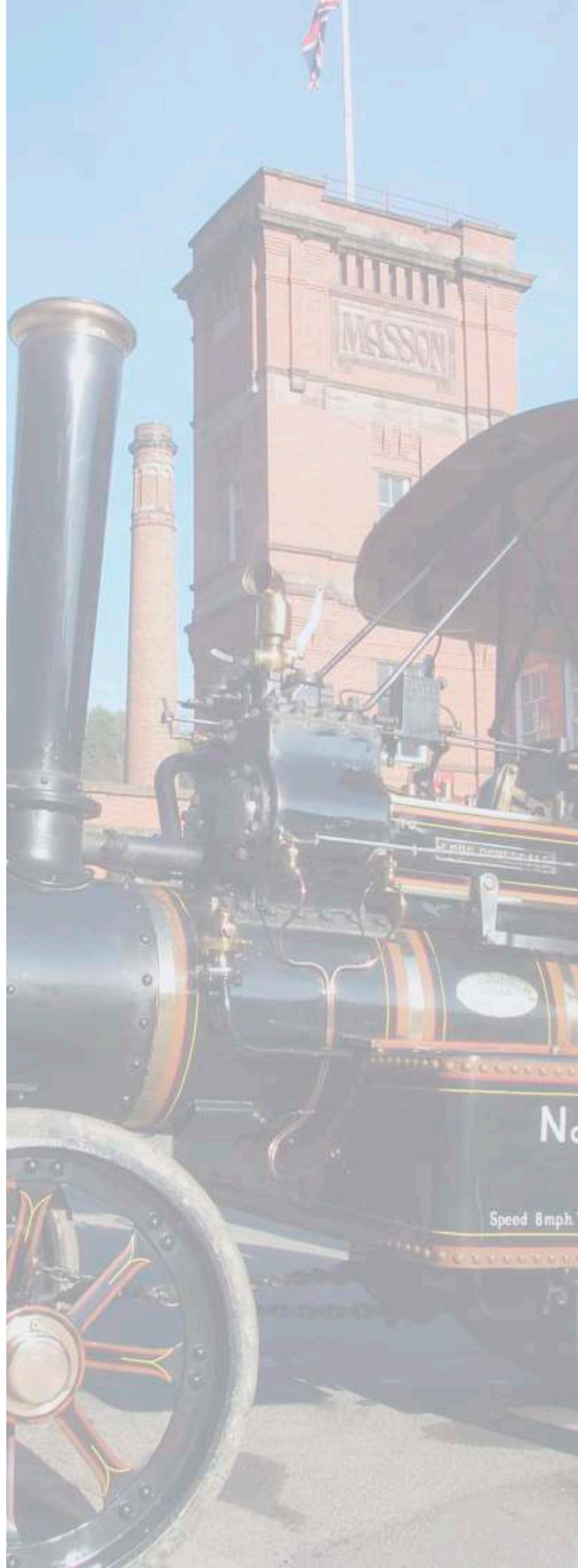


Derwent Valley Mills  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2001

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## CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The year 2014/15 was one of opportunities, challenges and changes for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) partnership and also for the team that supports it.

Despite operating in what still remains a very difficult financial climate the partners retained their sense of ambition to develop and deliver large projects. The Arkwright Society progressed with the first phase of its major development plan and Derby Museums Trust kept working on its bid to re-vision the Silk Mill. Belper North Mill Trust looked to the Arts Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund programmes to develop change within the organisation. Darley Abbey Mills continued to invest, especially with the development of their wedding suite.

The small team which supports the Partnership continued to work with the partners on these schemes, as well with the large number of volunteers who support both the attractions and projects such as Discovery Days. This report gives me the chance to thank those volunteers for all their expertise, creativity and hard work. Without them much of what is reported here would not happen.

The DVMWHS team has contended with the loss of one member of staff, an internal re-organisation which led to a move to a new department within Derbyshire County Council and a re-location to new offices. In addition it has seen reductions in funding from some of the partner local authorities and this is likely to continue into 2015/16. As a result the DVMWHS Board will need to review both its finances and governance in 2015/16.

Nevertheless, the Team was able to deliver both the Discovery Days events, and thanks to external funding the *Derwent Pulse* and *Technology Then, Technology Now* projects and also to develop a new website in association with the DerwentWISE Landscape Heritage Initiative.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their support over the year and their commitment to what is a mutually supportive partnership.

**Cllr Ellie Wilcox**

Chair  
Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site



# 1.0 VISION, MISSION AND KEY AIMS

## 1.1 Vision

**The Derwent Valley Mills will...**

**Celebrate the Outstanding Universal Value of DVMWHS, enabling the global community to enjoy, engage with and be inspired by their legacy.**

**Be renowned for best practice in WHS management and for its contribution to the local and regional economy.**

**Be a popular, quality tourist destination, shaping a creative future and become a symbol of regional and national pride.**

## The site will be

Understood as essentially a **CULTURAL LANDSCAPE** – where the historic mills and workers communities are experienced in the beautiful setting of the Derwent Valley, which although altered by human activity has remained largely unchanged since the Industrial Revolution. This is the **SPIRIT OF PLACE** and it this above all which needs to be protected.

Experienced as a **WORKING LANDSCAPE** where structures and land which have lost their original function find new uses which respect their historic appearance and character and where new development is appropriate and designed to high standards.

Managed by a strong and trusted partnership where the people living and working within it **ENGAGE IN THE PROCESS OF MANAGEMENT**. A place where the role of the individual property owner is recognised within a collaborative framework.

An **ESTABLISHED DESTINATION** for Day and Short Stay visitors which has **ATTRACTIONS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY** with a reputation for excellent **CUSTOMER CARE**.

A cultural landscape which can be **ENJOYED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS**, ranging from a simple stroll along the canal or a site visit to a long-term exploration of history, technology, archaeology or ecology.

A **LIVING SPACE** which is an **INSPIRATION** for artists and a home for **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**.

A place which **INSPIRES** people to visit it and support its preservation and enhancement at different levels, ranging from investment in local shops and services to sponsorship and philanthropy.

## 1.2 Mission

To maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS by protecting, conserving, presenting, enhancing and transmitting its unique culture, heritage, economy and landscape in a sustainable manner.

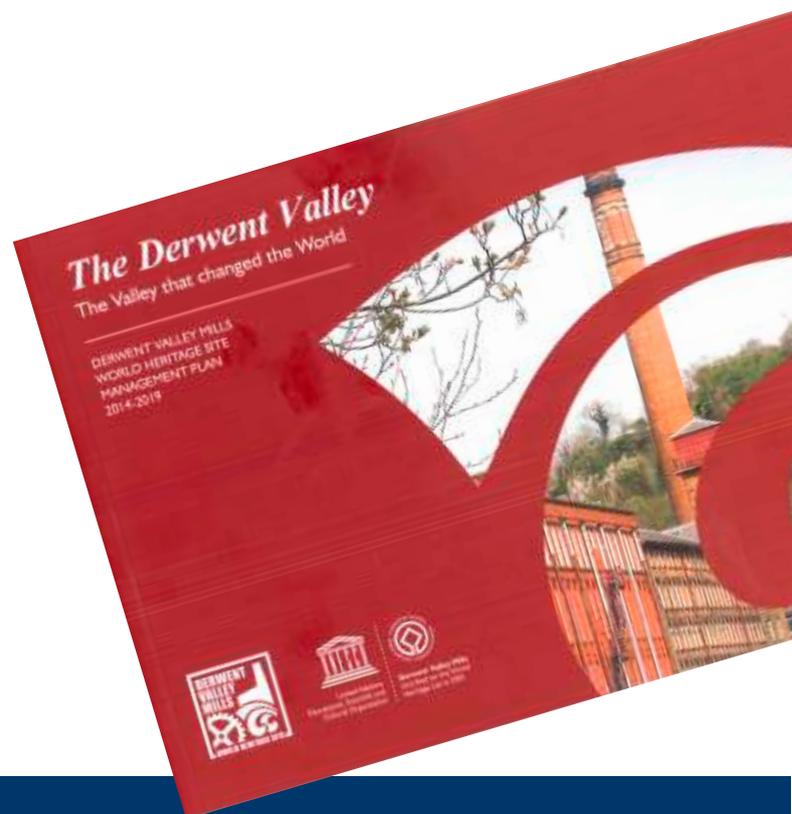
## 1.3 Key Aims

1. To protect, conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS.
2. To promote public awareness of and access to the DVMWHS.
3. To promote the development of sustainable tourism within the DVMWHS.
4. To enhance the economic and social wellbeing of the DVMWHS and its communities.
5. To promote public understanding of the DVMWHS by facilitating research.
6. To promote educational use of the DVMWHS for formal and informal learning.
7. To build strong partnerships with volunteers and local, regional and national stakeholders.
8. To work with partners to access funding and deliver projects.
9. To manage the Partnership in an efficient and sustainable manner.

## 2.0 THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2.1 The vision for the DVMWHS is set out within the Plan, which was developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders and the public. It presents an analysis of the current issues and opportunities facing the Site and an implementation and action plan which aims to address them.
- 2.2 **Aim 1 is to protect, conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS.** Here, policies focus on the statutory and policy framework that will protect the Site against development that will impact on its Outstanding Universal Value and the monitoring and conservation activities that need to be undertaken to ensure that it is effective.
- 2.3 **Aim 2 is to promote public awareness of and access to the DVMWHS** through a range of social media, publications and activities, including the successful Discovery Days festival. It also examines transport issues within the Site and ways to encourage the use of public transport and encouraging new users.
- 2.4 **Aim 3 is to promote the development of sustainable tourism within the DVMWHS.** The development of the Site as a sustainable tourist destination is an important one. This aim covers marketing activities, arts projects and the actions required by the partnership members to improve the infrastructure and offer of the attractions within the site.
- 2.5 **Aim 4 is to enhance the economic and social wellbeing of the DVMWHS and its communities** so that local people and businesses feel engaged with the Site and can gain benefits from it. Data collected on its economic and social impact will assist future funding opportunities.
- 2.6 **Aim 5 is to promote public understanding of the DVMWHS by facilitating research.** It builds upon an existing body of research and publication into the history of the Site and aims to strengthen partnerships with neighbouring Universities. A key objective is the production of a Research Framework.
- 2.7 **Aim 6 is to promote educational use of the DVMWHS for formal and informal learning.** The Site is a destination for local and regional schools. This section aims to further develop partnerships and projects within the Site and also with schools, colleges and universities to enable it to become both a subject for study but also an inspiration for other areas of creativity and informal learning.

- 2.8 **Aim 7 is to build strong partnerships with volunteers and local, regional national and international stakeholders.** Strong partnerships are essential to the future of the Site in terms of credibility, visibility, delivery of projects and future funding. The role of working with and supporting the many volunteer organisations which aid the Site will continue to be essential.
- 2.9 **Aim 8 is to work with partners to access funding and deliver projects** and follows logically from the previous aim. Partners within the Site benefit from advice on funding bids and need to co-ordinate bids to maximise success.
- 2.10 Finally, **Aim 9 is to manage the Partnership in an efficient and sustainable manner** through robust internal systems and the securing of adequate long-term revenue resources to support the Partnership. This section also considers the long-term capital projects which, although currently un-funded could have a considerable and positive impact on the Site.
- 2.11 **A Continuing Conversation:** This Management Plan sets out an ambitious but realistic programme which reflects the ambitions of the partners to protect, enhance and promote their own properties and also the World Heritage Site. The Plan is not intended to be an inflexible document and it is recognised that the landscape in which the Site operates will always be wind-blown by new issues, challenges and opportunities not known at the time of writing. As a result the DVMWHS Partnership will continue to welcome a dialogue between itself and the people who live, work and relax in this exceptional cultural landscape.



## 3.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: 2014 – 2015

### 1 To protect, conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the DVMWHS.

- Management Plan adopted by UNESCO.
- Responses made to key planning applications within the DVMWHS.
- Monitoring of the DVMWHS in accordance with UNESCO requirements.
- Improved maintenance of Darley Abbey Mills

### 2 To promote public awareness of and access to the DVMWHS

- Newsletter 2014 published with support from Network Rail.
- Visitor Guide updated and reprinted for 2015.
- Discovery Days and Discovery Walks delivered with positive feedback.
- New website developed in association with DerwentWISE.
- Social Media further developed as promotional tools.
- World War One commemorations within the DVMWHS delivered.

### 3 To promote the development of sustainable tourism within the DVMWHS.

- Narrow boat *Birdswood* on the Cromford Canal attracted over 5,500 visitors
- Worked with the Arkwright Society to develop the Cromford master plan.
- Worked with Derby Museums and Galleries to develop the Silk Mill project.
- Accreditation secured for Belper North Mill Trust.

### 4 To enhance the economic and social wellbeing of the DVMWHS and its communities

- Mills buildings brought back into use as part of the Darley Abbey Regeneration Strategy.
- Wedding Suite for Darley Abbey gained planning permission.
- Positive proposals for Derwent Street site in Belper.

### 5 To promote public understanding of the DVMWHS by facilitating research.

- Developed the Research Framework throughout 2014/15. Recent objectives written and book planned for launch in 2015/16.
- Arkwright Society hosts ERIH Conference.
- Arkwright Society holds academic conference on the Industrial Revolution.
- Cromford Revisited book sold well through the year.
- DVMWHS Educational Trust publications promoted and sold.

### 6 To promote educational use of the DVMWHS for formal and informal learning.

- *Me, My Past, My Future* multi-disciplinary project delivered with partners.
- School visits to key WHS buildings continued.
- All Our Stories Volunteer Project completed.
- *Technology Then, Technology Now* project launched to improve students' knowledge of the WHS.
- Workshops for *Derwent Pulse* delivered.
- Learning and Engagement Strategy refreshed for the DVMWHS.

## 7 To build strong partnerships with volunteers and local, regional national and international stakeholders.

- All Our Stories Volunteer Project completed.
- Volunteer awards presented for fourth year.
- Familiarisation training tours of the WHS held for volunteers and staff working at the key sites.
- Three trips arranged for volunteers from across the DVMWHS to increase their understanding of other parts of the WHS.
- Links established with Level in Rowsley, New Art Exchange, Nottingham.

## 8 To work with partners to access funding and deliver projects

- Continuing to support and liaise with *DerwentWISE*.
- Supported Derbyshire Community Foundation to deliver the Vickers Fine Art Award 2014/2015.
- Funding secured for building restoration with PSiCA grants in Cromford and Belper.
- Funding secured from HLF Transition Fund to carry out a review of the governance of Belper North Mill Trust.
- Funding secured from the Arts Council Museum Resilience Fund for a fixed term Volunteer and Fundraising Coordinator for Belper North Mill Trust.
- Funding secured from Foundation Derbyshire for Darley Abbey Historical Group to update and reprint the Darley Abbey Walks leaflet.

## 9 To manage the Partnership in an efficient and sustainable manner

- Adoption of Management Plan.
- Local authority support reduced but maintained.
- Sponsorship secured for Newsletter and some Discovery Walks and Discovery Days activities.



## 4.0 PROTECTING THE SITE

### 4.1 Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.1 The Chair of the Conservation and Planning Panel, supported by the Heritage Coordinator, began a series of training sessions for conservation and planning officers across the World Heritage Site. This will enable them to better evaluate planning applications and their impact on Outstanding Universal Value.

### 4.2 Planning Applications

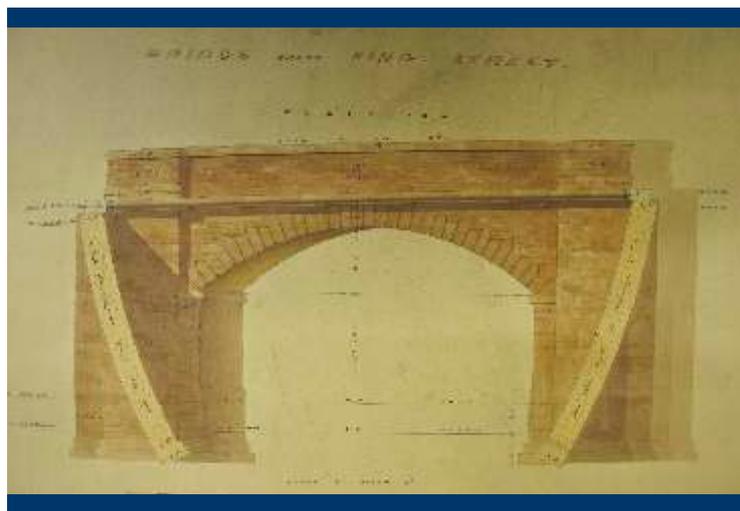
4.2.1 With thanks to advice provided by Derbyshire County Council's Conservation and Design Section, responses relating to impact on Outstanding Universal Value were given to planning applications submitted to Amber Valley Borough Council (31); Derbyshire Dales District Council (8); Derby City Council (9) and on the Core Strategies being developed by these councils.

### 4.3 Midland Mainline Electrification

4.3.1 The design of the planned electrification of the Midland Mainline from Bedford to Sheffield continued during 2014/15. The line from Derby to Chesterfield is one of the most important survivors of the pioneering phase of England's railway development, being designed by George and Robert Stephenson, the leading railway engineers of the day. The line opened in 1840 and the majority of the structures survive unaltered. Following a recent survey by English Heritage there are 22 listed railway bridges, viaducts and tunnel portals in the World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone.

4.3.2 The line from Derby to Ambergate is within the World Heritage Site and presents a significant design challenge to install the overhead cabling and at the same time preserve the historic bridges. Network Rail appointed Alan Baxter and Associates as heritage advisors who produced a report on the history and significance of the route. The results of this were highlighted in the newsletter of 2014.

4.3.3 Network Rail is committed to working with local stakeholders and consultations were held with the World Heritage Site and the Belper Civic Forum. It is planned for works to commence in 2016/17. Preliminary survey work in the Derwent Valley has been undertaken to inform the work of Atkins, the lead engineers. In addition Network Rail has voluntarily committed to a Heritage Impact Assessment within the World Heritage Site.



## 5.0 PARTNER'S PROJECTS

### 5.1 The Arkwright Society

5.1.1 The year has seen the Society monitor the building work on the first phase of the project and to secure the final element of match funding. This will enable the creative workspace areas to be fitted out and the visitor centre to be designed and constructed. In doing this it continued to receive support from the members and officers of Derbyshire County Council. The HLF were able to support the final element of the funding which will enable this work to begin in 2015/16. Work also continued on developing and training volunteers and improving the interpretational and educational offer of the site.



5.1.2 The Society also hosted the ERIH (European Route of Industrial Heritage) Conference in October 2014. This attracted delegates from across Europe who were able to see the whole of the DVMWHS and also enjoy a reception at County Hall in Matlock. The Society also ran a very successful day conference on the Industrial Revolution, featuring a range of lecturers from British universities. Recent work on the John Smedley company was presented by Stanley Chapman and Jane Middleton-Smith.

5.1.3 The Cromford site also hosted a wide range of events throughout the year.

## **5.2 Belper Cluster Roads Preservation Group**

5.2.1 This group developed from residents living within the Clusters housing in Belper and their shared desire to conserve and restore the historic road surfaces outside their properties. Following extensive consultation with all the property owners and discussions with the DVMWHS Team they are currently investigating how to access funding and establishing a body which is able to apply for it.

## **5.3 Belper North Mill Trust**

5.3.1 Accreditation within this national Arts Council England scheme was again achieved by the North Mill Trust. Accreditation is an important national standard which allows museums to access a range of grants. It also inspires confidence in donors that any gifts to the museum will be properly documented and cared for. Nicky Crewe was appointed as the Museum Manager.

5.3.2 The Trust successfully applied for two grants during the year. A revised bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund Transition Fund was awarded £41,400 and will support the Trust to carry out a governance review and also consider the longer term options for the site.

5.3.3 The second was to the Arts Council Museum Resilience Fund which awarded £59,316 and will allow the Trust to employ a Volunteer and Fundraising Co-ordinator for 30 hours per week until March 2017.

## **5.4 Darley Abbey Mills**

5.4.1 Following the purchase of the North Mill by Pattern's Properties the site is now under single ownership. The company unveiled an ambitious plan to develop two floors of this building into a wedding suite. Planning permission was granted by Derby City Council and work began in 2014. The venue is expected to open in the summer of 2015 and initial marketing has already secured bookings.

5.4.2 The other areas of the site continue to develop, with the majority of the units being let. This has led to improvements to the fabric and visual impact of the site. It has benefitted from the continuing support of Historic England and Derby City Council which also supports the Darley Abbey Forum.

5.4.3 The Trent Rivers Trust successfully gained DEFRA funding to install a fish passage alongside the weir at Darley Abbey, supported by the Environment Agency and Derby City Council. The Heritage Co-ordinator advised on the design and they were able to build a structure that had no impact on this important weir. The works demanded an archaeological watching brief which discovered that a 15th – 16th century mill operated on the artificial island. It was probably managed by the monastery and fell into disuse after its dissolution in 1536. Later in the year the weir was assessed by English Heritage and listed as Grade II. This was aided by Roy Hartle from the Darley Abbey Historical Group.

## **5.5 Derby Museums Trust**

5.5.1 The Trust appointed Tony Butler as the new Director in 2013/14 and he has continued to lead the development of the RE:Make project at the Silk Mill throughout the year. Mark Suggitt was appointed to the Project Board and helped shape the revised HLF application which was submitted on the 1 December 2014. The proposal makes clear links with, and acknowledges the mill's situation with the DVMWHS. If successful this project will offer a major regional attraction and a quality southern gateway to the Site. It has attracted considerable attention within the sector and members of the staff have lectured on it and an article appeared in the Museums Journal. A decision on the bid will be known in 2015/16.

5.5.2 The Silk Mill has continued to open as a venue for a range of pop-up projects and exhibitions which have continued to test the ideas which will shape the larger project. Against this background the Trust faced potential cuts in its core funding from the City Council which could have led to reduced opening hours, staffing and the possible closure of Pickford's House. Following a large petition from local people a decision has been deferred for 12 months.

## 5.6 Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership

5.6.1 Improvements to stations continued throughout the year, with passenger numbers increasing to 645,595 in 2014/15, an increase of 8%. Cromford, Matlock and Belper saw rises of 14%, 11% and 9% increase respectively.

5.6.2 The stations continue to work with local volunteers and their efforts received the following awards in 2014/15.

### Belper

Highly Commended Community Partnership Award – East Midlands Trains Best Station Awards 2014

Highly Commended Most Improved Station – East Midlands Trains Best Station Awards 2014

Highly Commended Best Small Station – East Midlands Trains Best Station Awards 2014

Belper Passenger Improvements – 3rd place in Passengers Matter at Community Rail Awards 2014

### Matlock Bath

Runner Up Most Improved Station – East Midlands Trains Best Station Awards 2014

### Matlock

Winner Best Small Station – East Midlands Trains Best Station Awards 2014

### Whatstandwell

Runner Up Community Partnership Award – East Midlands Trains Best Station Awards 2014  
Highly Commended Most Improved Station – East Midlands Trains Best Station Awards 2014

5.6.3 The Community Rail Partnership also worked with schools and community groups, resulting in an art project at Whatstandwell and a mosaic at Belper.

## 5.7 Derwent Valley Trust

5.7.1 The Trust worked with DerwentWISE and jointly produced a new version of the book that accompanies the Heritage Way from Ladybower Reservoir to Trent-mouth.

5.8.2 The Cycleway working party, chaired by Derek Latham continued its work on testing the feasibility of an off-road cycleway from Matlock Bath to Derby.

## 5.9 Derwent Valley Mills WHS Educational Trust

5.9.1 The DVMWHS Team continued to support the work of the Trust during 2014/15. Since the publication of *Cromford Revisited* in 2013 there have been no further publications produced by the Trust.

## 5.10 DerwentWISE

5.10.1 The scheme became fully staffed and projects within the first year of the project have been delivered. Tania Pells, the Project Manager gave an update at the DVMWHS Partnership Forum in October 2014. She and the DerwentWISE team were provided with familiarisation tours of the DVMWHS by the Heritage Coordinator. The DVMWHS/ DerwentWISE website was a first year project and will be ready in April 2015.

5.10.2 The following projects which relate to the DVMWHS were developed during 2014/15.



## Programme A: Conserving or Restoring

**Willersley Castle Landscape Conservation Management Plan:** This has now been completed and consultation will take place next year.

**Milford Plantation:** The tree survey and archaeological survey have been completed and a management plan has been produced. 50 trees have been planted.

**Opening up Iconic Views:** Work completed at Scarthin Rock, Cromford, with two interpretation panels installed.

**Duffield Castle:** A £10,000 cash contribution from National Trust (NT) funding was secured for the first three years of this five year project. The NT is keen for community engagement and community activities to take place on the site. An appraisal report has been completed by Jessops Consultancy.

**Aqueduct (Lengthman's) Cottage:** DerwentWISE will investigate three options:

- 1) Holiday let with open days for the public.
- 2) Walkers' shelter with interpretation.
- 3) Secured ruin.

**Slinter Mill Pond Survey:** The budget was allocated primarily for a historical survey of the remnant features, and recommendations on restoration options.

**Darley Park Landscape Conservation Management Plan:** Landscape architects Chris Burnett Associates completed the plan which assisted the Park gaining Green Flag status.

## Programme B: Increasing Community participation

DerwentWISE/DVMWHS website: shared website produced, Facebook and twitter accounts created

**Heritage at Risk:** The Heritage at Risk project team (DerwentWISE, DCC, DVMWHS and EH) agreed the methodology for the project. ArcHeritage (in partnership Locus Consulting) have been awarded the contract for the surveying training for volunteers. This work will begin in late 2015/16.

**Underwater and Water Life and the Understory Story:** 18 art workshops engaged with 314 people including two children's centres, two community groups and five schools.

**Film and Photography:** Two films have been produced to date: Filming of the Lost Stories Exhibition which catalogued university student's experience of working with Jane Middleton-Smith (John Smedley Archivist) and DWT Youth Rangers working on a meadow creation project at Allestree Park. The University of Derby are looking to work with Long Row School in Belper and produce a range of landscape and historic building photographs. The activities will be documented on film and there will be exhibition of the works.

**Lost Stories:** Nineteen students from the BA (Hons) Illustration, Animation and Graphic Design programmes at UOD were selected from Stage 2 by the John Smedley Archivist, together with members of the staff team, to exhibit at the Gallery in Cromford Mill. During the exhibition 524 people visited – some returning and bringing friends and colleagues with them.

**LIDAR Survey:** Initial discussion held with DCC/HE to discuss the priorities for the project. The project will target the analysis of the original data held and postpone the additional flight for new data until Year 2 /Year 3.

## Programme C: Increasing Access and Learning

**Improving Access to Cromford Canal:** 1.94km of towpath at Cromford canal resurfaced.

Learning my Landscape: 12 new habitats have been created with schools including two woodlands areas, one hedge, three wild flower meadows, three deadwood habitats, one wet meadow, one fruit orchard and one wildlife garden.

**Derwent Explorers:** one overnight woodland residential trip at Shining Cliff Woods with special educational needs children from two schools.

**Derwent Valley Way Heritage Trail:** A revised version of this book was produced in 2015 in partnership with the Derwent Valley Trust.

**Delving into Quarry Heritage:** four leaning workshops held with Ian Thomas (local geologist)

## Programme D: Training

**Get Skilled for DerwentWISE:** 85 people enrolled on 12 training/learning activities and three family learning events held with 74 adults and 124 children at the Eco Centre in Middleton-by-Wirksworth.

### 5.11 Friends of the Cromford Canal

5.11.1 Passenger trips on the narrow boat *Birdswood* commenced in March 2014. The boat operated throughout the year. It is electrically powered but a number of horse-drawn trips were available.



### 5.12 Masson Mills

5.12.1 The site continued to operate as a shopping village and the museum remained open. It continued its 'Smartphone Mondays' campaign from May to September which offered a discount to visitors booking by phone.

5.12.2 The museum's reserve collections were used as props in the acclaimed Channel 4 series *The Mill*, which was set in Quarry Bank Mill, Styal. Masson Mills was also filmed for the BBC series *Bargain Hunt*.

### 5.13 John Smedley

5.13.1 The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visited the factory on 10 July 2014. The visit came a year after the granting of a Royal Warrant of Appointment to the company for supply of knitwear to the Royal household. The royal visitors were conducted on a tour of the factory by Ian Maclean, Managing Director and Charles Marsden-Smedley, Chairman. They also learnt more about the history of the company from archivist Jane Middleton-Smith and enjoyed a fashion show of the latest John Smedley collections.

5.13.2 Work on the cataloguing and storage of the archives and collections held by the company continued throughout the year. Recent research work on the company was presented by Professor Stanley Chapman at the Arkwright Society conference. His paper, *Peter Nightingale, Richard Arkwright and the Derwent Valley Cotton Mills 1771-1818* was published in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal Volume 133 (2103) and as an offprint in 2014. The company also published *Dear Mr Marsden-Smedley*, a detailed record of the men of Lea Mills, the Smedley family and the family estate who served in the First World War. From the autumn of 1916 onwards J.B. Marsden-Smedley sent parcels of clothing and groceries to each of his employees serving in the forces. The book records their lives and also the letters they sent back to him.



## 6.0 DVMWHS Projects

### 6.1 Ambassador/Cluster programmes

6.1.1 **Great British High Street Awards 2014:** Belper was chosen as winner in the 'Best Market Town' category and 'Winner of Winners' in the Department for Communities and Local Government sponsored Great British High Street Awards. The Belper bid was co-ordinated by Amber Valley Borough Council and the DVMWHS, working with our cluster group of local businesses. Over 135 entries were received and 21 shortlisted in 7 categories. The judges were impressed by the scale of local involvement and drew particular attention to the DVMWHS ambassador scheme which provides information on the

town through the staff of local shops and promotes co-operation between them. This scheme was developed by Adrian Farmer and Sukie Khaira with Mary Smedley of the Belper North Mill Trust. The award has provided considerable marketing benefits and also a small sum to kick-start future initiatives. Adrian Farmer represented the DVMWHS Belper Cluster Group at a presentation ceremony in Westminster on 11 December 2014 to receive the awards. Penny Mordaunt MP, the Minister for High Streets visited the town on 15 January 2015. Adrian Farmer and Sukie Khaira formed part of the team who gave her a presentation on the project.



6.1.2 As a result of the Great British High Street win, a DCLG-sponsored Winners Conference was held in Belper, to which other local towns were also invited, leading to requests for help in setting up ambassador schemes in neighbouring communities. The Heritage Coordinator has provided start-up support. More Belper Ambassadors received training during the year, bringing the number to 88, and a refresher evening was held for those already trained.

6.1.3 The Great British High Street win encouraged the Belper Cluster Group to re-name itself the Belper Vision Group. New activities for the group included the development of an events calendar, printed in the quarterly Belper Town Council Newsletter, highlighting a more coordinated events programme for the town.

6.1.4 Belper Cluster Group members joined with representatives from the town council, Royal British Legion and the town's churches to deliver an extensive programme of activities to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, including the recreation of the town's first temporary war memorial in the Market Place, a drama production, poppy field spelling out 'WWI', exhibition, talks and walks, receiving extensive media coverage.

## 6.2 Climate Change Research

6.2.1 Planners and policy-makers are now starting to develop strategies to deal with the effects upon the historic environment of extreme rainfall and flooding. This project was one of several pilot studies, funded by English Heritage, aimed at identifying environmental threats to historic environment resources and measures for enhancing the resilience of these. Work commenced in June 2014 and was completed in March 2015. The project aimed to understand how the natural environment of the Derwent Valley responded to climate change over the last millennium and to use this information as an aid to predicting future environmental developments.

6.2.2 The project involved partners from the Universities of Hull and London (Birkbeck College) and drew together a variety of geomorphological, archaeological, historical and environmental datasets for the Core and Buffer Zones of the DVMWHS. This data was supplemented by computer modelling of river evolution to identify areas that are particularly vulnerable to future environmental change. The results from both empirical research and computer modelling were assessed by reference to the spatial distribution of Medieval (1066-1539), Post-Medieval (1540-1900) and Modern historic environment assets recorded in the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record. The outputs from this project will inform the developing research and management frameworks of the World Heritage Site and will provide wider lessons for assessing the threats to historic assets in the light of climate change.

## 6.3 Global Cotton Connections

6.3.1 The DVMWHS was a partner in this Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded project which sought to examine the global histories and legacies of cotton in the Derbyshire Peak District, including Slavery. Led by Dr Susanne Seymour of Nottingham University (with partners from the universities of Leicester and Sheffield) it examined these themes through active engagement with local groups, including those of Black and Minority Ethnic heritage. The project worked with both Cromford Mills and Belper North Mill Trust.

6.3.2 The Group was able to become a valuable sounding board for the Cromford gateway interpretation. It also conducted research into the sourcing of cotton from the records of the Strutt mills in Belper and the initial findings were presented by Dr Seymour at the Arkwright Society Conference in October. While the Strutts were not plantation owners, in the early years of operation their mills relied heavily on raw cotton produced by enslaved Africans in the Americas. From 1794 to 1817 their main sources of raw cotton came from Brazil, the West Indies, Guyana and Suriname, with smaller amounts from the United States and India.

## 6.4 Derwent Pulse

6.4.1 Derwent Pulse was the largest art project commissioned by the DVMWHS and certainly the longest. It was developed in response to the idea presented by the Derbyshire based artist Charles Monkhouse and it has helped fulfil a considerable element of the aspirations set out in the DVMWHS's Public Art Strategy, which was produced with funding from the Arts Council in 2009/10.

6.4.2 Derwent Pulse was a celebration of the Derwent Valley Mills and the River Derwent consisting of:

 A Light Flow of four hundred pulsating spheres in 17 passages along the river. Over 1,000 spheres were seen over the 17 passages.

 The Shepherding of the Light Flow by riverside schools and communities.

 Derwent Chart, a 6m long map of old and new cartography.

 Charting the Future, a range of new maps by riverside schools and communities.

 A Legacy Screen combining images of the Light Flow.

 A web site to be archived as a record of Derwent Pulse.

 A touring exhibition about the project available throughout 2015/16.

6.4.3 The project had a strong community engagement programme, working with schools, colleges and the local communities along the river. Most of the passages worked well and provided a contemplative spectacle that invited people to look at their river in different ways. It attracted 4,476 people and was seen by an additional 10,000 at the Matlock Illuminations. In addition it attracted 16,000 individual website visits and over 35,000 on Facebook and Twitter.



## 6.5 Discovery Days

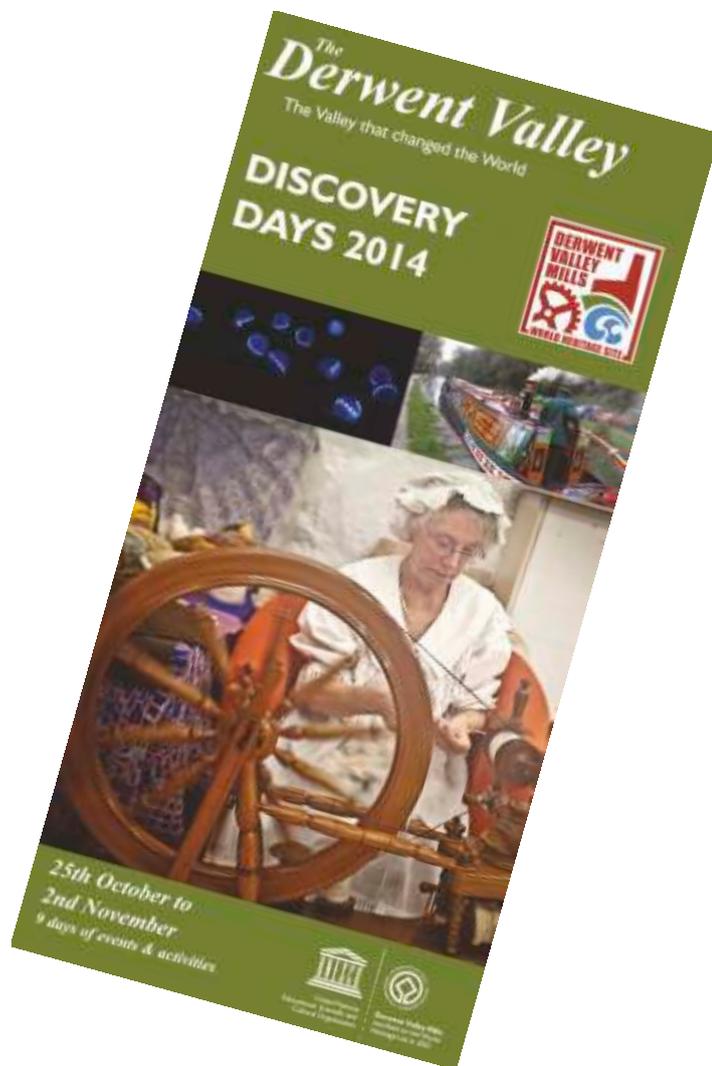
- 6.5.1 Discovery Days took a different format during 2014 with a range of events taking place at Derby, Belper and Cromford from May to November. In addition the Walking Festival was renamed Discovery Walks and there was a separate event of *Discovery Talks* held in October half term.
- 6.5.2 Overall the event attracted 13,911 visits, which was a decrease from the 14,866 in 2013. In all, 132 activities took place, compared to 220 in 2013. Seven were cancelled due to low/no bookings. Visitor feedback, collected through evaluation forms, was very positive.
- 6.5.3 Although this approach worked, the changes to the delivery schedule were agreed before the departure of the Learning Co-ordinator in May 2014. This led to additional pressure on the rest of the Team. Consultation with the volunteers who deliver much of the programme also revealed that they would prefer to return to a single concentrated *Discovery Days* in the autumn of 2015, with the *Discovery Walks* taking place in May.

## 6.6 Research Framework

- 6.6.1 Work on developing the Research Framework for the DVMWHS continued throughout the year. Workshops to produce research objectives were held in April and May. This resulted in a set of 55 objectives, each of which required a short introduction written by the steering group and others. The majority of these had been written by the end of the year. The Management Group and the Steering Group continued to meet and plan the publication of the document and an associated conference which will take place in 2015/16.

## 6.7 Technology Then, Technology Now

- 6.7.1 This Heritage Lottery Fund Young Roots project successfully concluded in 2014/15. Developed in association with Derbyshire County Council Environmental Studies Service, Trent Peak Archaeology and the University of Nottingham it was designed to engage young people and help them understand more about the World Heritage Site.
- 6.7.2 The participating students from Highfield School in Matlock and Belper School learnt new skills such as laser scanning, photogrammetry, 3D modelling, 3D printing, animation and video editing. The results included a fly-through of Leawood pumphouse and a 3D printed model of the building and laser scans of workers housing in Long Row, Belper. At Belper North Mill the basement was digitally recorded using a gaming programme to create an explorable environment complete with moving waterwheel and machines. The results can be seen on the DVMWHS website at [www.derwentvalleymills.org/current-projects/the-technology-then-technology-now](http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/current-projects/the-technology-then-technology-now)



## 6.8 Website

6.8.1 The DVMWHS joined forces with the DerwentWISE project to produce a joint website. This will allow us to share information and also to redesign the site in a more user friendly manner on an up to date content management system. The design was developed over the year and the site is planned to go live in 2015/16.

## 6.9 Volunteering

6.9.1 Volunteers from across the DVMWHS were invited to find out more about Derby Museum and Art Gallery, Willersley Castle and Birdswood. Around 30 volunteers attended each trip to help increase their knowledge of these parts of the site and also to encourage the opportunity to work together.

## 7.0 PROMOTING THE SITE

### 7.1 Marketing

7.1.1 The leaflets promoting the *Discovery Walks* and *Discovery Days* were produced. The feedback collected from these events illustrated that this traditional method of publicity is the most effective. The Visitor Guide for the DVMWHS continued to be distributed throughout the year.

7.1.2 There is limited funding for advertising although key adverts were placed in the Visit Peak District Destination Guide and the Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service's Events Guide.

### 7.2 Media Coverage 2014 – 2015

7.2.1 A regular column for the Heritage Co-ordinator ran throughout 2014/15 in the Belper News, highlighting World Heritage Site activities, particularly in the Belper area. The team also contributed to the Arkwright Society's monthly column in Derbyshire Life.

7.2.2 In January 2015, the DVMWHS hosted a visit from Chinese blogger Yibo Fan, resulting in a positive blog article read by over one million people across Asia.



## 7.3 Staff Lectures and Publications

### 7.3.1 Lectures

Staff member	Title	Venue	Date
Mark Suggitt	The DVMWHS	Grosvenor Museum, Chester	28 April 2014
	The DVMWHS	Chesterfield Library	29 October 2014
Adrian Farmer	Belper in WWI	No28, Belper	06 April 2014
	The DVMWHS	No28, Belper	18 April 2014
	Belper in WWI	No28, Belper	13 August 2014
	The DVMWHS	Winding Wheel, Chesterfield	12 November 2014
	The Strutts	Cromford Mill	12 March 2015

### 7.3.2 Publications

Staff member	Title	Publisher	Date
Mark Suggitt	Siberia at the Manchester Museum - Review	Museums Journal	March 201
Adrian Farmer	Viewpoint - Regular Column	Belper News	April 2014 – March 2015

### 7.4 Positions held on associated bodies:

Staff member	Position	Organisation
Mark Suggitt	Board member	Vickers Fine Art Award, Derbyshire Foundation
	Vice-Chair	DerwentWISE Board
	Committee member	World Heritage UK
	Member	Arts Derbyshire, Festivity, Culture Derbyshire
	Member	Cromford Canal Partnership
	Member	Darley Abbey Partnership
	Board Member	Derby Silk Mill Project Board

Adrian Farmer	Committee Member	Belper Civic Forum
	Member	Belper River Gardens Tea Rooms Working Group
	Chair	Belper World War One Working Group
	Member	Belper in Bloom Working Group
	Member	World Heritage UK
	Advisor	Belper North Mill Trust
	Chair	Belper Vision Group
	Vice-chairman (until October 2014)	Belper Historical Society
	Member (until October 2014)	Arkwright Society Advisory Council

## 8.0 STAFF

**Mark Suggitt**  
**Adrian Farmer**  
**Sukie Khaira**  
**Gwen Wilson**

(Director)  
(Heritage Co-ordinator)  
(Development Co-ordinator)  
(Business Support Assistant)

## 9.0 BOARD MEMBERS 2014-2015

**Councillor Ellie Wilcox**  
**Councillor Ranjit Banwait**  
**Dianne Jeffrey**  
**Barry Joyce**  
**Councillor Paul Jones**  
**Patrick Morriss**  
**John Rivers**  
**Councillor Geoff Stevens**  
**Jacqui Sutton**

(Chair)  
(Derby City Council)  
(Vice-chair) (up-to January 2015)  
(Amber Valley Borough Council)  
(Derbyshire Dales District Council)  
(up-to March 2015)

