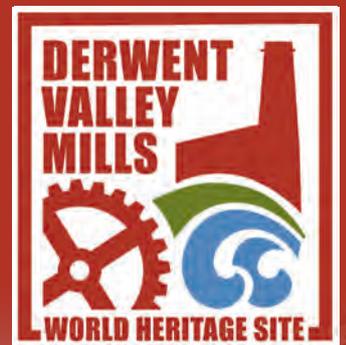


World Heritage news

Issue 19 - 2020

www.derwentvalleymills.org



Helping children understand our story

- full story page 3



World Heritage Advocate Mary has died - Page 2



Great work for Great Place Scheme - Pages 4&5



Floods cause further damage for mills - Page 7



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Derwent Valley Mills inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2001

Plan completed

The new 2020-25 Management Plan for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage is now complete, and work has already begun on delivering some of the many actions identified within the document.

A dedicated area for the new plan has been established on the World Heritage Site website, at www.derwentvalleymills.org/managementplan/

Mary Smedley

The Derwent Valley Mills and Belper lost one of their finest advocates and champions in April, with the death of historian Mary Smedley (nee Millward).

After a meeting in the winter of 1994/5, looking for support for a museum in the town's North Mill, Mary became involved in the setting up of the Derwent Valley Visitor Centre (later known as Strutt's North Mill).

Before long, Mary was appointed manager, and immersed herself fully in making it the best possible visitor attraction. Working with an enthusiastic group of volunteers, she made an outstanding success of the North Mill, with growing numbers of visitors, including school groups. She also set up the first heritage walks in the town.

Mary stepped down as manager in November 2008 and became more involved in the management structure of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, where she was an active member of the Technical Panel. She later became a member of the Belper North Mill Trust, which holds responsibility for the running of the museum.

Mary was unique in the town for the depth of her understanding of the town's history, and passed her knowledge on in a way that engaged and helped people to grasp it. She inspired others to expand on her work, and helped instil self-confidence in the many people she persuaded to become guides at the mill. The World Heritage Site will miss her greatly.

Joan d'Arcy

The World Heritage Site Partnership lost another friend this year – Joan d'Arcy. An impeccable and thorough Derby researcher, Joan's knowledge of both Derby and research techniques was a great benefit to the Partnership, helping in the production of interpretation and providing advice and support. She too will be greatly missed.



Sensitive approach to providing homes

Once a hive of activity, the now dormant buildings on the east side of Lea Road within the John Smedley Mills site at Lea Bridge are set to welcome a new sense of community in the form of a variety of new dwellings.

For a site steeped in industrial heritage, Amber Valley Borough Council and Historic England were unequivocal that a sensitive approach to redevelopment was essential, that takes threads from local distinctiveness and context.

Incorporating contextual cues and making careful reference, both internally and

externally, to the traditional form of mill workers cottages across the Derwent Valley region, the new dwellings seek to follow the rhythmic terraced layout that communicate a simple internal configuration of habitable spaces.

It is these characteristics that informed the design concept for Evans Vettori Architects (Matlock) in their sensitive approach for the new houses; to reinterpret the historic mill workers cottage marrying elements of tradition character and materials with the essence of contemporary design.

RESPECTING TRADITION: New houses (right) alongside other familiar mill workers housing from across the Derwent Valley.

Research proves value of World Heritage status

New research published this summer by the UK National Commission for UNESCO has shown that the UK's UNESCO projects – including World Heritage Sites – help build a greener, more equal and more peaceful world, while also creating financial value.

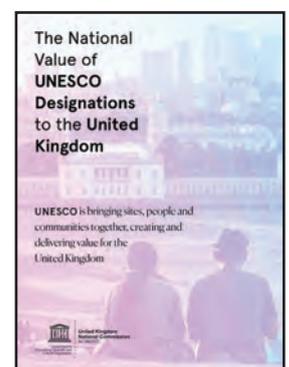
The report is the first to examine the cultural, environmental and financial benefits to UK life from diverse UNESCO projects, which also include Creative Cities, Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserves alongside their active contribution to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It estimates that UNESCO projects in the UK generate

£151 million of financial benefit each year and help bring communities together to protect and conserve some of the most important places in the country.

From expansive mountain ranges in the Highlands of Scotland to densely populated urban areas such as Belfast, Bradford and Manchester, UNESCO projects span 12% of the UK's land area and comprise of partnerships between 1,300 organisations, charities, and businesses.

These partnerships are made mainly on a local level, between hundreds of groups all working together to support efforts in conservation, research,



education, capacity building and tourism.

The research shows that continued investment in UNESCO projects is critical in helping the UK and devolved governments meet the United Nation's SDGs.

PROVEN VALUE: The new report.

Mixed message on Buffer Zone

Two planning appeal decisions concerning the Buffer Zone of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) have been announced by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Planning appeal hearings had been held for large-scale housing developments within the relict landscape setting of the DVMWHS at Crich Lane, Belper (February 2019) and Belper Lane, Belper (July 2018), both of which had been called in by the Secretary of State.

The latter scheme also proposed

the demolition of White House Farm, formerly owned by the Strutt family who built the Belper Mills.

Whilst the appeal for the Crich Lane houses was dismissed, the appeal for Belper Lane, and the demolition of the farm, was upheld.

This was despite concerns raised by ICOMOS International (on behalf of UNESCO) who had stated permission for the scheme “presents a challenge to the maintenance of the OUV (Outstanding Universal Value) of the property”.

The DVMWHS Partnership, in

both hearings, expressed concerns that the cumulative effect of development in the relict landscape of the Buffer Zone is “the greatest identified threat to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its Outstanding Universal Value.”

- The appeal decisions came only days after news that Derby City Council planning committee had green-lit the building of ‘The Landmark’, a 17-storey building on Phoenix Street, Derby, in the face of concerns raised by ICOMOS International, the World Heritage Site Partnership, Historic England and the council’s own officers.

From the Chair

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen huge impacts across the world, to families, communities and businesses.



All the visitor sites within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site have been closed, and staff furloughed during a very difficult and different period from March 2020.

In line with government guidance, some of the sites such as Cromford Mills and High Peak Junction have thankfully now re-opened and others are now moving towards re-opening.

We want to help the sites and attractions in the WHS as much as possible and thanks to The Great Place Scheme (funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England), a number of initiatives have been launched to support recovery over the months ahead.

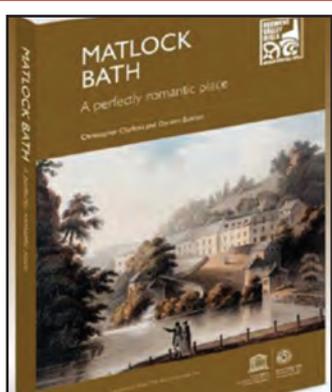
This includes:

- Help in the short term to welcome back visitors - putting new measures and hygiene solutions on-site for safe visits, support with risk assessments and “walk rounds” to give another pair of eyes on measures already brilliantly put in place by sites;
- Working together to help visitors find out information more easily before they come;
- As some areas of our heritage make social distancing difficult, we’re working on our digital offer so that people can enjoy places where access is still limited;
- Creativity packs including activities to do at home inspired by the World Heritage Site story and aimed at members of the community who don’t have access to the internet.

We are looking forward to a time when we can welcome you back to all of the sites and attractions in the World Heritage Site. For updates please keep an eye on our website and social media.

Barry Lewis

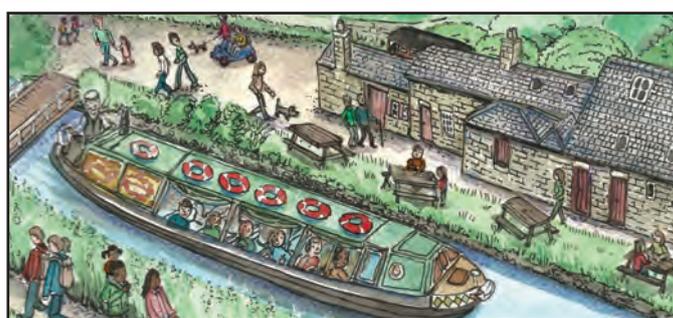
Chair, DVMWHS Partnership



New book

‘*Matlock Bath: a perfectly romantic place*’ is now available at local book shops in Cromford, Matlock Bath and Wirksworth, as well as the Cromford Mills and Strutt’s North Mills’ shops.

The new book from the Derwent Valley Mills Educational Trust tells the story of this Derbyshire village from the late 18th century to the present day.



Children’s guide

A new guide for children and families, telling the story of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, will be launched this autumn.

The guide has been illustrated by local artist Rebecca Morledge, bringing key themes of the World Heritage Site story to life for a family audience.

Georgina Greaves of Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service

chairs the World Heritage Site’s Education Group and was part of the team that developed the book. She said: “We’ve been waiting for an opportunity to produce a guide for children and families for a long time.

“It has been a delight working with Rebecca to produce what we hope will be a very popular publication.”

The guide has been funded by the Great Place Scheme.

STORY TELLING: Artwork from the new guide.

Discovery Days festival goes on-line

Before the Covid-19 outbreak, it had already been decided to change the format for the 2020 World Heritage Site Discovery Days festival.

It was felt it needed a revamp and with so many significant anniversaries taking place in 2021 (300 years of Derby Silk Mill, 250 years of Cromford Mill, 20 years since we became a World Heritage Site), we were going to reduce the festival to three days with an eye to something larger the following year.

We had also already agreed on a theme for this year and it was ‘Celebrating Women of the Derwent Valley’. There has been a lot of enthusiasm and exciting ideas for events as part of this theme,

including a new commission from writer Emma Pass, thanks to the Arts Council England funded ‘Derbyshire Commissions’ project.

With all the uncertainty over Covid-19 it was decided to move the festival entirely on line. It will still take place on 9 to 11 October, the first day focusing on the southern part, the second day on the central part and the final day on the northern part of the DVMWHS.

Look out for further Discovery Days details on our website www.derwentvalleymills.org where we will include a programme of on-line events taking place.

Extension for Great Place Scheme

We're pleased to announce The Great Place Scheme has received an extension until June 2021.

This will allow the World Heritage Site team to complete the events and activities involving the public and volunteer teams at sites and attractions later this year or next year.

The focus during lockdown has been on progressing projects which are designed to raise wider awareness of the World Heritage Site.

Some projects such as Great

Works and Derwent Delights have been able to continue with online learning and making under social distancing guidelines.

Here is a quick overview of what we'd been up to before Covid-19.



Young Entrepreneurs

The Young Entrepreneurs project run by Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service focussed on employability skills and creativity, working with students aged 11 to 18. Three more groups have completed the project with fantastic results. Students from St John Houghton School, Alfreton Park Special School and Chesterfield College Graphic Design course took on the challenges with great enthusiasm.

The project provided young people with a chance to be creative and develop artistic skills and their employability, team work, advertising and sales skills. Each group finished their project with a sales event – pitching their products 'dragons den' style or selling their creations on stalls and in shops.

FOR SALE: Some of the items produced.

Great Works

The Great Works project has two main focus areas - to provide employability skills, and help people discover what opportunities might be available in heritage and tourism.

Courses have taken place: **Y.E.S Programme, Your Employment Success** saw participants achieve their level one employability qualification and go on to work placements within the Derwent Valley.

Students on the travel and tourism level one course have been learning all about the World Heritage Site and how important it is for Tourism and for our local economy.

The second area for Great Works is creative workshops using the Derwent Valley Mills and landscape as inspiration. Since lockdown, many courses have continued to be delivered online. Learners have upholstered their own footstools with unique designs printed onto fabric. Another group has been learning the art of printmaking.

Pedal powered 'Mr Arkwright'

The first of the major Great Place arts commissions 'Mr Arkwright' was installed at Cromford Mills for the second half of 2019.

Visitors were able to experience the installation first hand as they pedalled a tandem, which activated an innovative drawing machine. The machine drew a heart onto a bespoke postcard for the visitor to take home.

The commission by Jo Fairfax was inspired by Sir Richard Arkwright. Jo said, "I found Richard Arkwright's achievements really inspiring.



His mind combined engineering, architecture, mechanics, nature, housing, entrepreneurship, business and invention.

"The artwork, 'Mr Arkwright', paid tribute to his multifaceted mind in a contemporary way. I was not making a moral comment on

social welfare or capitalism, but making a comment on a brilliantly inventive mind that worked in a way like most modern minds need to, crossing boundaries and multi-tasking with ease."

UNVEILED: The 'Mr Arkwright' installation at Cromford Mill.



Threading through time and community

Last October saw the launch of an ambitious arts commission for Japanese textiles artist Seiko Kinoshita.

Entitled **Thread**, the commission drew attention to the rich heritage of Belper, in the heart of the World Heritage Site.

Seiko brought together two concepts for this work. The first, **Threading through Time**, was an installation combining hundreds of bobbins from the North Mill, cotton thread and a soundscape installed into the historic basement area of the Strutt's North Mill museum in Belper.

For the soundscape, Seiko researched and recorded sounds from inside different textile mills, including the Tomioka Silk Mill World Heritage Site in Japan.

She spoke to people who worked in textile

mills. Their voices were included in the soundscape.

The second concept, **Threading through Communities**, was a community lantern event inspired by the Japanese tradition of illuminating paths with lanterns. Seiko created a lantern design influenced by the shape of the cotton bobbin which then combined cotton thread, paper and other natural materials to create beautiful effects.

She worked with local community groups, schools, church and craft groups to make over 500 lanterns which were then installed in St Peter's Church, Belper. Actors from Captive Audience Theatre Company performed poetry written by local poet Janette Burton inspired by the story of the Strutt family.

ALL LIT UP: St Peter's Church, filled with the lanterns made during the project.

New portal to the past

A new Derbyshire Heritage Mapping Portal has been created allowing you to see how the Derwent Valley from Derby to Matlock has changed over the last 200 years.

Featuring selected maps from the collections at the record office, the portal enables free access to digital copies of the maps and an “overlay” feature so you can see the present and the past at the same time:

The portal was made possible thanks to the Great Place Scheme, which funded high resolution scanning of the maps, and hard work from Derbyshire County Council’s GIS Officer, the World Heritage Site team and several volunteers who helped to identify the maps for digitisation, and provided additional descriptive information for the online catalogue.



Thanks also go to the creators and benefactors of the original maps, not only for their existence in the first place, but also for the detail and accuracy with which they surveyed the land and produced the maps – the success of the overlaid images is entirely credit to their incredible skills.

A digital exhibition about the

maps can be seen on the Derbyshire County Council website, in the Derbyshire Record Office section.

FOR ALL TO SEE: One of the digitised Strutt Estate maps can now be seen on the LocalStudies wall in the new Belper Library. Image courtesy of Derbyshire Record Office.

Pop Up Art in Unusual Spaces

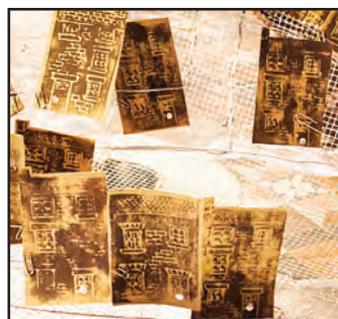
A “Pop Up” art programme has seen the creation and performance of an evocative sound collage by local musician Jay Dean at High Peak Junction Railway Workshops.

An atmospheric art installation and soundscape on Cromford Canal’s trip boat Birdwood was installed by local artist Tracey Meek and Cromford based musicians Haiku Salut.

In the last Discovery Days festival, creative activities such as



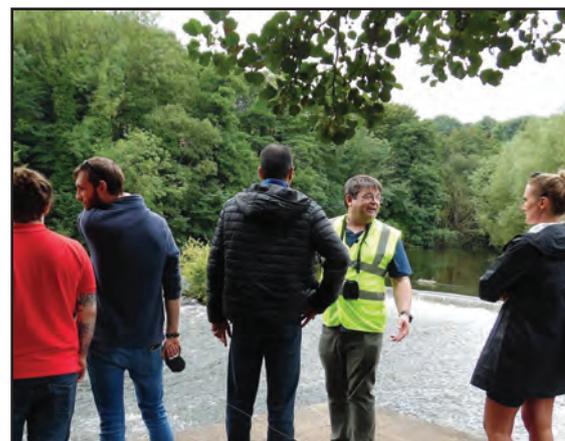
letterpress print making, printing using natural dyes, and the creation of a small village of worker’s housing took place at Holy Trinity Church in Milford. Artists have used their own personal response to the heritage story of each place to create



these new temporary works and activities to engage new audiences.

COLLAGE: Tracey Meek’s work on Birdwood (above left).

HOUSING: Printwork in Milford Church (above right).



New ambassadors

A new Milford Business Ambassador Scheme has been created to help visitor-facing businesses learn more about their part of the World Heritage Site, with a view to keeping visitors in the area for longer.

The first session (left) was held with staff from Soi Kitchens, and there will be more in 2021.

This builds on the success of the Belper Business Ambassador programme which has contributed to the town winning Great British High Street once again in 2019.



Willersley: The London Mothers

Artist Heidi Luker has been commissioned by the Derwent Valley Mills Heritage Site Partnership and BEAM to produce a performance and video documentation to explore the heritage of Willersley Castle in Cromford, funded by the Great Place Scheme.

Said Heidi: “I was told when I moved here from Tottenham, London, that the Castle became a maternity hospital, run by the Hackney Mothers Hospital, during the Second World War. It was set up by the Salvation Army to allow thousands of expectant mothers from North London to escape the constant air raids in order to give birth safely.”

Heidi has researched their stories, to explore their experience of leaving home to give birth in Willersley Castle and spoken to some of those involved. “I was also keen to find out how the rural communities of Cromford and Wirksworth reacted to so many London women and nurses being billeted with families in the area and how the two different communities communicated and adapted,” she said.

Due to the closure of Willersley Castle as a Christian Guild hotel, in the wake of the Covid-19 lockdown, the completed commission ‘The London Mothers’ can no longer be staged at Willersley, so an alternative venue is being investigated for 2021.

OFF TO WILLERSLEY: Expectant mothers leave London for Derbyshire. Image courtesy of the Salvation Army International Heritage Centre

Sunflowers for support scheme

In October 2019 the Sunflower Scheme was launched in Belper, a collaborative initiative with Accessible Belper, the University of Derby and the Love Belper group.

The Sunflower Scheme is a national initiative to highlight hidden disabilities and enable people to have the support they need when they are out. In Belper the scheme was adapted so that instead of wearing a lanyard, residents wear sunflower badges.

Many of the retailers in the town have taken part in the scheme, with posters up in their premises to explain the scheme and they have badges available for anyone who wishes to take one.

The residents who wear a badge do not have to identify their disability, it is so that there is awareness in a shop that they may need more time, support or some adjustments and the staff can then help them.

It has more recently been used to indicate when people are unable to wear facemasks in shops for medical reasons.

Mill lottery

The Belper North Mill Trust launched its Strutt's North Mill Community Lottery late in 2019 to support the museum and visitor centre in the North Mill in Belper and the first draw took place on 12 January before one of the winter talks given by Adrian Farmer at the No.28 Community Hall in Belper Market Place.

By chance the first winner to be drawn was the Trust's Chair John Layton, who spearheaded the initiative, but there have been many other winners since.

A share costs £2 a month and there is no limit to how many you can hold, so the more you buy, the greater your chance of winning. Draws take place every month with three winning numbers and there will also be a bumper annual Christmas draw.

Download a leaflet and application form on www.belpernorthmill.org.uk and help to support the Trust and Strutt's North Mill museum.



Beyond the mill walls

The informal learning offer for Cromford Mills has received a boost with cash from the Postcode Local Trust.

The grant allowed staff and volunteers to develop the area between the mill, river and church in a project entitled 'Beyond the Mill Walls: Rejuvenating Smelting Mill Green'.

New sculptures interpret both the wildlife of the local area and the history of the lead smelting and calamine mills, which predated Arkwright's mills but were knocked down to improve the view from Willersley Castle. Local children from Cromford Primary School helped weave a living willow cottage, and there are also new picnic benches and a den building area.

More development is planned, including dogwood play tunnels and a Scavenger's Scramble trail, to reflect the industrial heritage of the area and encourage families to explore further.



A wide range of adult craft workshops were being offered before lockdown, allowing visitors to learn new creative skills such as nuno felting and glass blowing.

December 2019 saw their most successful Christmas tree festival yet, with community groups from all over the valley decorating trees in ways that reflected their special interests.

REJUVENATION: New sculptures to explore at Cromford.

Thanks to our fantastic volunteers



At the end of 2019 we were once again able to thank some of our very hard working volunteers.

Each year we celebrate the volunteers from across the DVMWHS who work tirelessly to deliver events, inform the public about the significance of the area, help to keep the

attractions open and in good working order, all with a huge amount of enthusiasm and love for the work involved.

This year we took the opportunity to publicly recognise the commitment of Barry Dawber from Strutt's North Mill, David Romaine from the Arkwright Society, Gill

Hurst from Bullbridge and Sawmills Association, Neil Wayne from The Cedars B&B at Belper, Nick Mcleod from the Strutts Centre in Belper and the Middleton Top Engine and Leewood Pump Group volunteers.

TOP NOTCH: Some of our award winners.

Condition survey for Belper's mills

A condition survey of the entire Belper Mills complex has been progressed by Stephen Levrant Heritage Architecture Ltd for FI Real Estate Management Ltd.

The work is being done as part of FI's planning application for the redevelopment of the Belper mills site, which includes the conversion of the

seven-storey East Mill into apartments.

The mill water-courses have been drained down and inspected as a part of this work and flood and drainage specialists commissioned to try and determine if there are causes other than heavy rainfall which are causing the North Mill to flood and how this might be mitigated.



Mill swamped in flood event

Low-level flooding is not uncommon in the basement of William Strutt's innovative iron-framed, fire resistant North Mill in Belper.

Since March 2019 it has been exceptional, with seven individual flood events of varying severity.

Last October the art installation 'Thread' by Seiko Kinoshita, a Great Place project and part of the Discovery Days celebration, was flooded to a depth of about 80cm (see page 5).

But the most devastating inundation occurred in the early hours of Friday 8 November when the horseshoe weir almost disappeared and the basement flooded to a depth of 1.65m.

The owner's and Belper North Mill Trust's insurers moved swiftly to assess the damage and the work, cleaning the building and contents, was completed early in 2020, only to be lost in two

further incidents on 23 and 24 February.

A decision has been made to vastly reduce the contents of the basement as flooding continues to be problematic.

FLOODED: The Belper Mills car park (above).

DEVASTATION: A view of the basement seen from above, during the flood event (below).



World Heritage Day

Lots of people along the Derwent Valley helped to celebrate this year's World Heritage Site Day in April by making waterwheel inspired creations, despite being in lockdown.

There were crocheted mats & wall hangings, mandalas, and some wonderful examples were shared on social media, of children and adults building their own working waterwheels at home – including lots from Belper Brownies.

This was all thanks to local artist and North Mill volunteer Kim Kerry, who created a group on Facebook for people to share their craft and art projects during lockdown. She helped bring everyone together for a Derwent Valley Mills inspired celebration in the lead up to World Heritage Site Day on April 18.

WHEELY GOOD: Very large crochet water wheel by North Mill Volunteers Alan Wilmot and Kim Kerry



New info on display



Birdswood Boat Trip Volunteer Keith Bailey turned his hand to design work in producing a new information board for display inside Leawood Pumping Station.

Because of the damp atmosphere beside the steam engine, the image was printed on a special aluminium-bonded board, funded by the Friends of Cromford Canal.

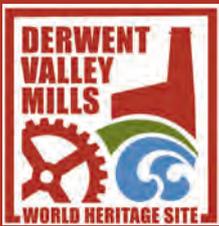


Celebration for 25th anniversary

Last year was the 25th anniversary of the twinning between Amber Valley and the Blackstone Valley in Rhode Island, USA, and between Belper and Pawtucket, where Strutt apprentice Samuel Slater took the secrets of mass cotton production in 1789.

To celebrate the links between the two towns, a delegation came over from Rhode Island in July, to re-affirm the twinning declaration. They attended a reception at Strutt's North Mill, where they were re-united with old friends, including Reg Whitworth who was integral to the twinning process in 1994.

BACK IN BELPER: The Rhode Island contingent were given a warm welcome by friends from Belper, Amber Valley and the World Heritage Site at Strutt's North Mill. *Photograph by Jim Bell.*



World Heritage News

Issue 19 - 2020 www.derwentvalleymills.org

Don't miss out!

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of **World Heritage News** and found the contents interesting and helpful. This year, owing to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, it has not been possible to print the newsletter, so only a digital version is available. To ensure you receive future digital editions, please email the WHS team at info@derwentvalleymills.org.



Robin Hood excavations

An enthusiastic team including Friends of Cromford Canal volunteers has been working on historical excavations beside the canal at Robin Hood, just north of Whatstandwell.

This was an area where gritstone from Duke's Quarries was loaded initially onto boats and later onto railway wagons (via Sims Bridge) for use in prestigious buildings all over the country. Excavations to date have revealed the base of a crane for loading boats and the floor of a stable and blacksmith's shop.

TOUCHING BASE: The newly excavated crane base stone beside the Cromford Canal at Robin Hood.

Popular Birdswood awaits canal return

The Friends of Cromford Canal's passenger boat Birdswood continued to attract visitors from all over the world in 2019.

A total of 8,536 visitors and locals took the two-hour return trip between Cromford Wharf and Leawood, bringing the total carried since operations began in 2013 to 44,598.

Most were propelled by the quiet and environmentally friendly electric motor, but those visiting on special weekends when Leawood Pump was in steam were treated to the rare opportunity of being pulled by horse in the traditional manner.

Birdswood has not been running during lockdown, but for details of when services will be running again, keep an eye on www.birdswood.org.

CHECK UP: Birdswood's biennial check by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency offered the chance for an unusual view of the boat last November.



Cycleway making progress

The Derwent Valley Cycleway Project aims to create an off-road cycleway between Derby and Baslow, passing through the full length of the World Heritage Site.

The route is planned to have good connections to the national cycle network, in a bid to energise people to move around the heritage site in a family-friendly way. It will also encourage improved commuting, for example between Belper, Duffield and Derby.

A proposed route has been identified and a working group is busy adding detail to this, as well as fund-raising, lobbying, and building a support base. They seek, and continue to gain support from, many different stakeholders and influencers, including landowners.

They also share interest and mutual support with similar groups – for example canoeists and horseriders.

Whilst continuing to seek the "big win" of a

major grant, the group saw good progress in 2019 on various sub-sections of the cycleway, and a raised pathway was completed across Darley Park early in 2020. This, with funding for a further section to link Darley Abbey (Haslams Lane) with Ford Lane, under the A38, means all sections of the cycleway within Derby will effectively be complete. They have also raised funds towards improvements for Wyver Lane, north of Belper.

In May 2019 the Group organised a high-visibility Campaign Ride up the Derwent Valley. Starting at Derby University, the main group followed the A6 up to Matlock. Star participant was Richard Thoday from Matlock on his penny-farthing.

More information can be found at www.derwentvalleytrust.org.uk/cycle/.

PENNY FOR THEM: Richard Thoday on his Penny-Farthing leads cyclists past Masson Mills.

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Derwent Valley Mills
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001