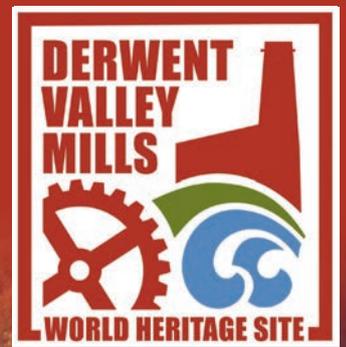


World Heritage news

Issue 20 - 2022

www.derwentvalleymills.org



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unesco

Derwent Valley Mills
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001

UNESCO requests report on site impacts

This year UNESCO raised concerns about planning permissions being granted for two developments close to the World Heritage Site, which impacted on its Outstanding Universal Value.

A formal request was made to the UK Government for a 'State of Conservation Report'. This compiles background information on the areas of concern and sets out the Government's response as to what processes will be put in place or changed to ensure these issues are not repeated.

The report was compiled by the Derwent Valley Mills Coordination Team and submitted in the autumn for scrutiny by Historic England before submission was made to UNESCO in December.

One commitment within this report was for training sessions to help planning authority officers and councillors to better understand how World Heritage fits within the UK planning system and the UK government's commitments to UNESCO.

Over 100 people have since received this important training, and it is planned to update it regularly.

This is the first time the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership has been asked to meet a request of this type from UNESCO, but it's not unusual across the wider UK 'family' of World Heritage Sites.

It is normal procedure for UNESCO when concerns are raised about inappropriate development, to ensure sites are more appropriately protected in the future.

The two planning decisions in the Derwent Valley which concerned UNESCO were for sites at Phoenix Street, Derby and Belper Lane, Belper.

The first was for development of The Landmark, a new multi-storey building providing 202 residential apartments, and the second for the demolition of Whitehouse Farm and building of 118 houses in the relict rural landscape setting which UNESCO believes is a vital part of the Derwent Valley's Outstanding Universal Value.

The report will be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at their annual meeting next summer.



Museum of Making's anniversary opening

2021 was an important year for Derby Silk Mill, the southern gateway to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

It is now 300 years since the mill was first built in 1721 and this year it opened as the new Museum of Making, providing a civic focal point to celebrate the area's rich heritage of making and manufacturing and to inspire future generations of makers.

The Museum opened to the public in May under the government restrictions and started to welcome visitors to the new site but a proper celebration at this time was not possible.

In September the official opening ceremony was performed by the Duke of Devonshire, a great supporter of the Museum of Making throughout its development. The opening was part of the 300 programme, a partnership programme of activities and events that have been taking place throughout 2021 to celebrate this important anniversary.

The ceremony was marked by a performance of Chorus by award-winning artist and British composer Ray Lee as part of Derby Feste. It consisted of giant kinetic sculptures with movement and music combining to create a hypnotic and harmonious experience for the audience.

Since it opened in May, the Museum of Making has welcomed over 52,000 visitors through its doors and the museum team have been delighted by feedback from visitors. The Museum has already been recognised for its achievements in the Constructing Excellence Awards (East Midlands) where it scooped five awards – Building Project of the Year, Conservation and Regeneration Award,

Innovation Award, People Development Award and Winner of Winners Award – and will now go onto the National Awards.

Since then, the Museum of Making has also won accolades as the Project of the Year (under £20m) in the Construction News Awards and at the National Building Awards as Refurbishment Project of the Year (non-office).

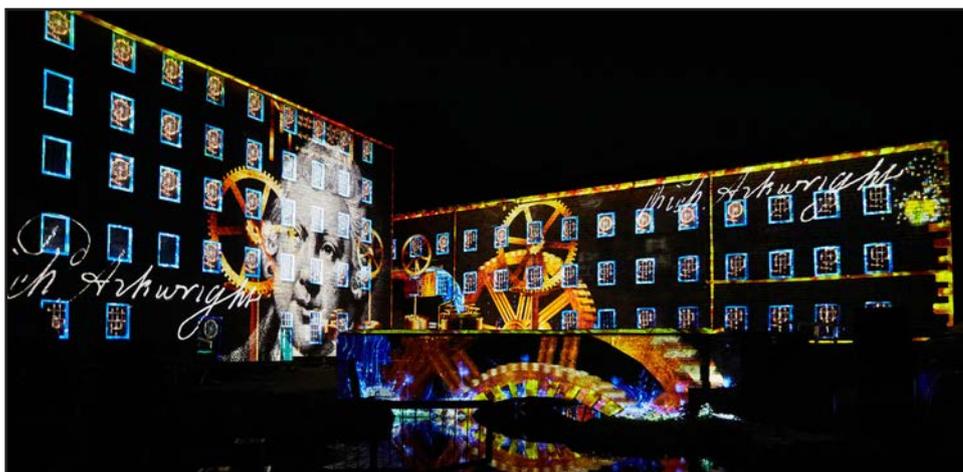
The popular River Kitchen café at the museum was a finalist in the Marketing Derby Food and Drink Awards as Best Cafe 2021.

Derby Museums would like to thank all the funders, supporters, staff and volunteers who have made the Museum of Making possible and look forward to welcoming more visitors to an exciting programme of events and activities in 2022 and beyond.

MAKING HISTORY: The Duke of Devonshire opens the Museum of Making with Hannah Fox, Director of Projects and Programmes, Derby Museums. Image: Derby Museums

BIG ATTRACTION: The Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill (below).





Shining a light on celebratory year

Cromford Mills have also been celebrating in 2021, as it was 250 years since they were founded by Sir Richard Arkwright.

It also marked the 50th anniversary of the Arkwright Society and the 20th anniversary since the inscription of the Derwent Valley Mills as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, so there was a lot to celebrate.

Celebratory events included artisan markets, antiques fairs and online talks, and a series of weekends highlighting some of the key themes of the history of the site.

These included a conservation and restoration event, a Georgian re-enactments weekend, and a celebration of arts and culture with outdoor theatre and art and photography contests.

The year of celebrations culminated with the Shine a

Light on Derbyshire event; a celebration of Derbyshire's heritage and history in breath-taking night-time shows projected onto Chatsworth House and Cromford Mills. These were the creation of lightshow specialists Illuminos.

Cromford Mills drew nearly 1,000 people each evening; it was a spectacular event that left visitors eager for more.

PIONEER IN LIGHTS: Sir Richard Arkwright was part of the Shine a Light show.

Support brings chance to repair

Cromford Mills has been fortunate to receive Covid-19 funding support from the National Lottery, Historic England and Derbyshire Dales District Council since the first lockdown.

This enabled owners the Arkwright Society to turn a potentially devastating year into something positive. They carried out essential repairs to some of the buildings, made the kitchens better and faster places to work, renewed ancient IT equipment and created a website fit for the 2020s.

A digital project provided the skills to create an exciting visitor experience during the pandemic; better visitor wi-fi enabled more interactive experiences, and online zoom talks reached an international audience.

It has created a sustainable legacy that can be developed further, and they are already working on augmented reality experiences to enhance the lost history of the mill yard.

LOFTY REPAIRS: A crane on the mill site during improvement work.



From the Chair

As is traditional at this time of year, this newsletter gives us an opportunity to look back at a hectic and challenging year – but one which has seen much achieved, as you will see.



Now is also the time for looking forward – already there is much planned for 2022 in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

On 11 and 12 April, the much-delayed 'Learning to Read' workshops for researchers will be taking place – whether on-line or in-person – with a series of speakers providing advice and suggestions on how to better 'read' buildings, maps, landscapes, photography and much more. This will be a free event, and more information, including details on how to book, will be available in February on the www.derwentvalleymills.org website.

On Saturday 21 May, at Cromford Mills, we will be hosting a celebration of the World Heritage Site – it will be a little later than what we had planned for celebrating the 20th anniversary of inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, but will, we hope, be all the better for the wait. There will be 'taster' stalls and sessions through the day to help people better understand our incredible heritage site and all it has to offer.

And for September, we're already in discussions with Buxton Heritage Trust for delivering a 'Georgian Derbyshire' Festival, celebrating a time in which our beautiful county made a real impact on the history of Britain, and humankind. More on that will be available on the website nearer the time.

It's also planned to re-launch the Business Ambassadors Scheme next year, a free support programme which provides local shops and businesses with enough information so they feel confident to help and encourage visitors – whether at Belper, Cromford, Milford or Darley Abbey.

I can't end without first saying thank you to all the funding bodies that have supported the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, not just during the pandemic, but with other on-going projects as well. The Great Place Scheme, in particular, was completed in 2021, and you will find on these pages a host of stories explaining what has been achieved thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England.

They have made a real difference to how we present and develop the site – we're ideally placed now for taking the Derwent Valley Mills forward in the next 20 years.

Barry Lewis

Chair, DVMWHS Partnership



Nightwatchmen's reports return

An invaluable nightwatchmen's logbook detailing nightly goings-on in Belper during the 1830s has recently been re-discovered, and thanks to a Crowdfunding campaign, returned to the Derwent valley.

The book, lost for decades, was secured in a fundraiser by Derbyshire Record Office working in partnership with Belper Historical Society. It took just three days for donations to bring these missing nightwatchmen's records home.

By 1833, the cotton spinning company of W G & J Strutt employed 2,000 people in its Belper mills. With so much invested in the town, it also ran its own mini police force in the shape of half a dozen nightwatchmen. As well as checking the water levels and the new-fangled gas lighting, the nightwatchmen also silently patrolled the town to apprehend any ne'er-do-wells.

This original book of night watchmen reports from 1833-1836 gives a revealing glimpse into what went on in Belper after dark, and how these men tackled many a confrontation armed with just a trusty truncheon.

The book will now be kept safe at Derbyshire Record Office, where it will be available for everyone to study it. The hand-written content has been transcribed by Heather Eaton of Belper Historical Society and is also available to researchers. It has already been used to create a learning resource for secondary schools, developed by the Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service.

"A big thank you goes to everyone who supported the campaign and donated towards it," said Adrian Farmer, the World Heritage Site's Heritage Coordinator, who helped deliver the crowd-funder. "Also to Sarah Chubb, Lien Gyles and Clare Mosley at the Derbyshire Record Office for suggesting and putting together the campaign, and Heather for that all-important transcription which will help the nightwatchmen's reports become such a valuable resource for researchers."

Adapting museum offer with virtual activities

Strutt's North Mill in Belper has been adapting its museum offer over the past year, providing a greater on-line offer.

A virtual tour of the museum was commissioned and is now available to view on the website (www.belpernorthmill.org.uk).

This was successfully followed by mill guide Trevor Griffin's virtual HeyGo Tours, which enable a live, global audience to enjoy a mill tour. With staggered starting times to suit different time zones, these brought in hundreds of pounds of extra income, just when the museum needed it most.

The museum also hosted an on-line talk for the volunteers of Ditherington Flax Mill, and created a ream of online activities so children could learn at home during lockdown – all these were

National Curriculum and museum linked.

"Since reopening, we have hosted summer holiday and Halloween activities in the River Gardens, which were well attended by families, and restarted our heritage walks, including community tours of the Strutt housing and a River Gardens tour," said manager Kat Tonks.

"We have also put a ream of children's activities on our online learning section of the website, all downloadable for parents and children to do at home during lockdown learning." These can be found at <https://www.belpernorthmill.org.uk/learning/strutts-north-mill-educational-resources/>

"We have had two large schools visit during the autumn term, and two Brownie/Rainbows groups, and 11 new volunteers joined us this year, doing guiding, reception, education and walks," said Kat.

'The Machinery' steps up for an immersive mill experience



There was a rare chance to see the earliest known machine dance, originally performed by millworkers, as part of an immersive sound and video installation at the Belper and Cromford mills in October.

'The Machinery' projected a dance performance by Caroline Radcliffe, captured by filmmaker Jon Harrison, and augmented with the sounds and movements from the Industrial Revolution's textile industries by composer and digital artist Sarah Angliss and Caroline Radcliffe. It mixed dance steps with music and video to reflect the conditions of the women

millworkers' repetitive labour and the human/automaton relationship created by the Industrial Revolution.

'The Machinery' is a 'heel-and-toe' clog dance passed on to Caroline Radcliffe by clog dancer, Pat Tracey. Mill workers tapped their feet in time to the rhythms of the cotton machinery while they operated the machines with their hands. They developed these rhythmic patterns and steps into dances which they shared with their families and communities. 'The Machinery' copies the mechanical components and actions of the cotton machines

through the dance's steps.

It was free entry to the installation at both sites, thanks to support funding from Arts Council England.

To celebrate The Machinery's arrival in Cromford during the half-term break, Caroline led a free workshop where she introduced attendees to the costume and working conditions of a nineteenth century textile mill worker and taught some of the clog dance steps from 'The Machinery'.

CLEVER CLOGS: Caroline Radcliffe's clog dance projected in the North Mill wheelpit.

Interactive research framework goes on-line

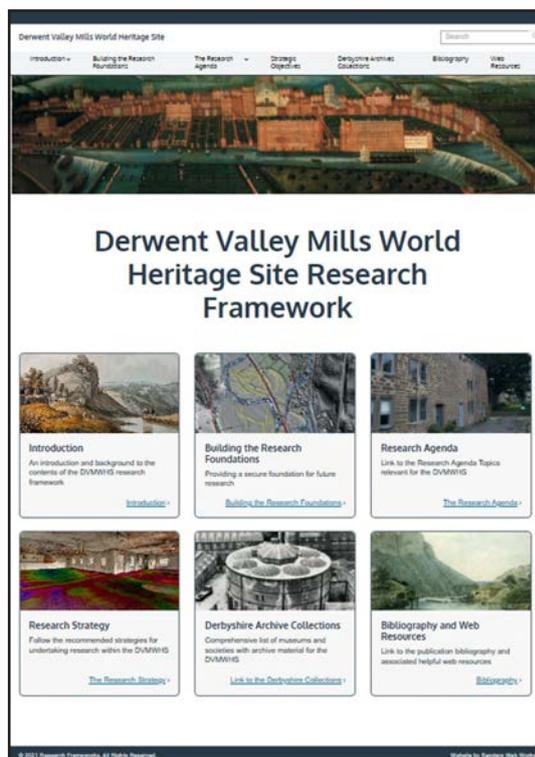
There's now a new way to engage and interact with the Research Framework for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

The research agenda and strategy for the World Heritage Site was developed between 2013 and 2016 with funding from Historic England – the published document can be downloaded from the DVMWHS website (www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/derwent-valley-mills-research/derwent-valley-mills-research-framework/).

It is aimed at inspiring and facilitating research by anyone with an interest in the World Heritage Site and since its publication has served as a springboard for a wide variety of research.

The published research framework is being transformed with Historic England support to an interactive digital resource which may be updated as research questions are addressed and as research priorities change.

The latest version of this interactive resource may be consulted by visiting the Historic England Research Frameworks Network (<https://researchframeworks.org/dvmwhs/>). Researchers are encouraged to explore this resource and use its commenting facility to inform us of recent research. Conversion to this digital format will make the research framework available across the world and



will help to ensure that it remains an up to date resource for research into the Derwent Valley.

DIGITAL RESOURCE: The home page for the new web version of the research framework



Working in partnership

In a year that moved along to the rhythm of changing Covid restrictions, gradual re-openings and constant updates to their visitor offer, it was also a crucial year for partnership working at Cromford Mills.

They worked alongside:

- Accessible Derbyshire, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and Derbyshire County Council to improve accessibility for all visitors.
- Belper North Mill Trust to trial guided minibus tours up and down the valley (see Derwent Valley Tours article on page 6).
- The Vaillant Group and the European Regional Development Fund to improve the mills' carbon footprint by installing new heating systems and LED lighting.
- The Arts & Heritage Meeting Point initiative: leading British Artist Hetain Patel has begun his project to "commemorate the forgotten people responsible for the success of Cromford Mills and the cotton industry, locally and globally."

Simon Wallwork, Arkwright Society CEO, said: "We would like to thank our amazing volunteers, without whom we could not have kept the visitor offer exciting despite everything that the international pandemic threw at them.

"From tour guides, through to the events team, the conservation volunteers, and the Lumsdale Valley Team, everyone worked together – and occasionally even in Georgian costume – to bring the Arkwright Society through a challenging time."

IMPROVING ACCESS: One of the new tramper scooters available to book at the mills for easier access to the Cromford Canal.

Bringing cotton pioneers to life



The Arkwright Society has been able to fund a new film show inside the earliest Cromford Mill, thanks to an Association of Independent Museums (AIM) Biffa Award and their History Makers programme.

Featuring key industrial pioneers Richard Arkwright and Jedidiah Strutt, plus two new mill worker characters from Cromford and Belper, the narrative of the show

draws together stories about these two History Makers and their impact on the Derwent Valley and beyond.

Through discussions about their individual innovations, social changes, and their success in growing the British cotton industry, and using graphics and digital imagery based on historical paintings and photographs, these stories have been brought to life

in an immersive experience. Not to be missed, the show is due to open to the public early in 2022.

History Makers is funded by an Association of Independent Museums Biffa Award, as part of the Landfill Communities Fund.

ON SHOW: Richard Arkwright and Jedidiah Strutt seen discussing their legacy in the new presentation.

Delivering the Great Place Scheme

In recent years, the Derwent Valley Mills Coordination Team has been delivering the Great Place Scheme, jointly funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council and Historic England.

The team would like to thank the funders for investing this funding in a range of projects from learning about the DVMWHS, training for volunteers, businesses and school pupils, new art installations, events, and work

placements. These projects have enabled a range of partners to come together to support and raise the profile of the DVMWHS.

Due to the pandemic lots of changes needed to be made as to

how projects were delivered – some finished earlier than planned but an extension was given to the end of June 2021 to finish off most of the remaining projects which meant that many achieved their original aims.



Improving accessibility for visitors

One Great Place project looked at how the World Heritage Site could improve accessibility so that people with different needs could come to the DVMWHS and have a more enjoyable experience.

The coordination team worked with Accessible Derbyshire to see where we could make changes using the Great Place Scheme funds. The focus was on supporting businesses that were part of the community and also some of the attractions within the DVMWHS.

New countertop hearing loops and sheet magnifiers to assist people with visual impairments are available to use at the Village Store and Terrace Café in Darley Abbey, Just-Ice in Milford, Cromford Mills and High Peak Junction visitor centre. At Just-Ice and the Terrace Café in Darley Park, they also have some large handled cutlery and beakers to use.

Leawood Pumphouse has a portable hearing loop and you can now hire a trumper scooter at Cromford Mills for power-assisted moving around.

Just-Ice in Milford also have a sensory corner that will help people with autism who want to be able to go out and spend time in the café. Cromford Community Centre in the Market Place now has an accessible toilet on the ground floor.

ACCESS FOR ALL: The new hearing loop at Just Ice in Milford.

Training goes on-line

Due to the pandemic, over the last year all training planned for the World Heritage Site volunteers has taken place online.

This is not ideal but in some cases it has been beneficial because many more people have been able to attend sessions as we have not had to restrict numbers due to room sizes, which has sometimes been the case in the past.

Some of the training sessions have also been recorded and

this has meant that people have been able to watch the training if they were unable to make the original date.

Over a number of years the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership has worked with the University of Nottingham and Bright Ideas to better understand the mills' links to enslavement and where the cotton came from.

Over the summer an online workshop was arranged for all members of the partnership to learn more so that this can

in turn be shared with our visitors, either on websites, exhibitions or as part of the guided tours.

In early December an online talk was given by Dr Stephen Walker on the research carried out during the pandemic on the migration of mill workers to Darley Abbey.

This research will be shared with Derbyshire Record Office and digitally so that more people can learn about the individuals who moved to the area to work in the mills.



High flying opportunity

One of the Great Place projects was to market and raise the visitor recognition and engagement with the World Heritage Site, and this will be continuing into early 2022.

There has been a focus of marketing using social media to encourage visitors to the area.

Through this project the opportunity of aerial photography was taken up.

The photography by Commission Air resulted

from a visit to the World Heritage Site on a clear day towards the end of October. The series of photos showcase the mill sites, valley and river from a new perspective.

There has also been some printed advertisements including in National Geographic and other magazines, with support material in their expanded website editions.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT: One of the new images, of Belper.

Wayfinding on the way

The outstanding Great Place project yet to be finished is a wayfinding scheme for Belper, Darley Abbey and Milford – interlinking information boards, supported by discrete waterwheel-shaped wall plaques which will provide interpretation information via a web-link.

Content for the boards has been written, and designs are coming together, with each board centred on a map to help visitors orientate themselves.

Depending on where the boards are located, some will be in hand-crafted installations created by a Derbyshire blacksmith,

picking up on the valley's historic mass use of waterpower.

Website content for the waterwheel plaques will provide an extra layer of information across the three mill communities. The first boards and plaques should be in place for Easter 2022.



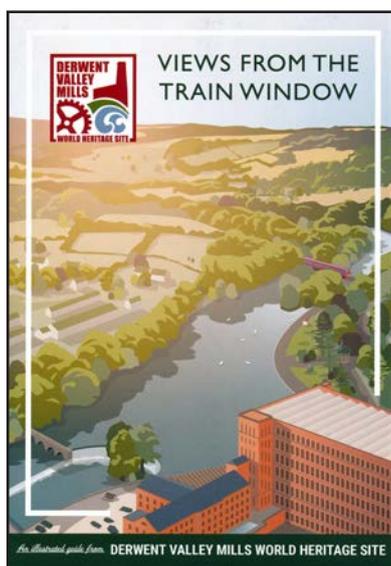
New guides and leaflets

A host of new publications have been produced thanks to funding from the Great Place Scheme, to help visitors understand and enjoy the site more fully.

As a companion to last year's Children's Guide, the View from the Train Window Guide for the Derwent Valley Line has been revamped to include new images and information on what to see as you travel between Derby and Matlock.

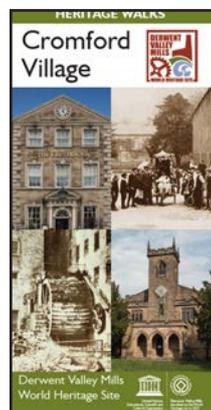
Walk leaflets for Derby and Belper have also been refreshed and one created for Cromford, to encourage visitors to explore these historic communities.

A new look Visitor Guide is being prepared for 2022 to complete this new suite of guides and leaflets. It will draw on 'Spirit of Place' work carried out by consultants Lucy Godfrey and Jim Oribine, who spoke to the communities in the World Heritage Site to help them encapsulate what makes the area special in the eyes of local people.



All these publications are free and will be available from next spring at the key mill sites and other tourist destinations and information points across the county.

NEW COMPANIONS: Views from the train window on the Derwent Valley Line (above) and two of the new walk leaflets - Belper (above right) and Cromford Village (right).



London Mothers

Local artist Heidi Luker was commissioned by the Derwent Valley Mills Heritage Site and Beam as part of the Great Place Scheme creative programme, to produce a performance and video exploring the heritage of Willersley Castle in Cromford, and in particular its role as a maternity hospital during the Second World War.

Heidi said: "When I moved to Derbyshire from Tottenham, London, I was told that the castle became a maternity hospital during the Second World War. The hospital was set up by the Salvation Army and run by the Hackney Mothers' Hospital to allow thousands of expectant mothers from North London, to escape the constant air raids and give birth safely.

"I wanted to research the stories of these mothers, to explore their experience of leaving home to give birth in Willersley Castle and hopefully locate or tape interviews with surviving babies and their families."

Heidi put out a call to the 'Princes and Princesses of Willersley' to ask if they were willing to share any personal accounts and photos of their experiences, and those of their mother about their time in Derbyshire.

Heidi's overall aim was to create a fictitious drama and digital documentation based on these joint memories to highlight how these two distinct communities came together and what it was like to grow up with the castle as your place of birth as recorded on your birth certificate.

'The London Mothers' follows the experiences of Mary, Doreen and Gladys as they prepare to give birth 150 miles away from home, in Willersley Castle, against the backdrop of the Second World War. It can still be seen on the Derwent Valley Mills YouTube Channel.

WARTIME REFUGEES: Members of the cast in 'The London Mothers'.

3D modelling recreates mills

Thanks to surviving photographs we have a good idea of what the Belper and Milford mill sites were like – but it's hard to appreciate them fully in one go.

One of the Great Place funded schemes was to take those photographs and re-create the sites with 3D modelling technology.

Matlock-based Evans Vettori were appointed to carry out the work and they successfully modelled the Belper site, both before 1898 and c.1921, and the Milford site in the early 20th century. Six short videos were created, using the final model, allowing the watcher to move around the sites and appreciate them more fully.



The videos can be seen on the Derwent Valley Mills YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/DerwentValleyMills/videos as can many other new videos about the World Heritage Site which have been created in recent months.

LOST VIEW: A recreation of part of the Belper Mills site before 1898.

Refresh for website to improve visits

Some of the Great Place scheme funding was used to make improvements to the www.derwentvalleymills.org website.

Working with Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire, the aim was to make the website easier for the visitor to navigate, with a section devoted to those visiting the area.

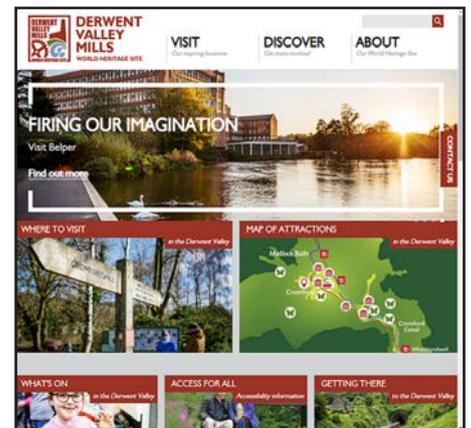
There is much more information about Access for All, Food and Drink, Accommodation, Attractions and Mill Sites, and Hidden Heritage in the communities to help visitors plan their trips to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

In the Discover section, information can be

found for those who want to get a little more involved with the World Heritage Site, whether it be volunteering, reading more about its history, researching, or even doing some art and craft activities linked to the Site. For teachers there is lots of information about educational visits on offer along the Site and about resources either to download or for loan.

Many of the new resources on the website were produced during the pandemic, as they had to be available on-line. These were funded by the Great Place Scheme and enabled us to have a legacy for the scheme projects which people all around the world can access.

FRESH LOOK: The website's new Visit page.



Derwent Delights

The Great Place funded 'Derwent Delights' project had to be re-shaped as a result of the pandemic, and eventually resulted in an exhibition at Cromford Mills over the Spring Bank Weekend in May.

Derwent Delights is a collection of hand-crafted sculptures containing textile characters, and poetry inspired by and celebrating the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

Sculptor Miles Halpin created five metal sculpted vessels inspired by the Site's 'attributes and elements' which encapsulate the reasons for the Derwent Valley Mills' inscription on the World Heritage List.

Artist Tan Draig MBE created a group of textile sculptures he calls 'Meki Meki', each informed by themes relating to the Derwent Valley: Work/Force, Build, Weir, Machine and Wealth. He also performed a live art event during the exhibition.

The project was managed by Fleet Arts. More details at www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/derwent-valley-mills-projects/current-projects/vital-valley-about/a-creative-future/derwent-delights/

DELIGHTFUL: One of the sculptures with its Meki Meki inside.

Spinning tales in Darley Abbey

Darley Abbey's heritage was brought to life in May, with an innovative online festival of newly commissioned dance, music and drama, including the premiere of Darley Abbey's own song, created in collaboration with local residents.

In partnership with Darley Abbey Day 2021 and funded through the Great Place Scheme, internationally renowned artists from Constella OperaBallet created 'Spin A Tale'. Seven short films were made in collaboration with Darley Abbey residents and performed by professional singers, dancers and actors with participation from local choirs, the Derby-based Déda Youth Company, the University of Derby, and local primary schools.

The films included a performance of 'Introit' from Fauré's Requiem with over 30 voices from Derbyshire and beyond, mixed with an organ accompaniment, 'Water Hymn', an opera-ballet performance celebrating the



power of water, 'Tangled', a contemporary dance featuring a solo dancer entwined in thread, and 'Brick Row', a music-drama showcasing a snapshot of 18th and 19th century life in Darley Abbey.

CELEBRATION: Dancing on the banks of the Derwent.

Introducing Derwent Valley Tours

A new project has been launched, focused on introducing minibus tours to the Derwent Valley similar to those found in tourist areas throughout the world.

Derwent Valley Tours was funded by the Great Place Scheme's 'Experiment Fund', part of a project to test out new ideas to help promote the World Heritage Site.

A new on-going partnership between the Arkwright Society and the Belper North Mill Trust was created to manage the Derwent Valley Tours company, led by a team

from both partners. It involved volunteers who were specially trained as tour managers. The target market was primarily visitors staying in the area.

The project team worked hard to design and deliver an excellent service and all was set to go in March 2020, but then Covid struck. With delivery deadlines for the project being tight, the project had to be run in the 2021 summer period with keenly priced tours.

Delivering a successful project during the immediate post-

lockdown period proved a major obstacle to securing take-up, due to client caution.

Getting the message across to visitors who came mainly on day trips by car also proved difficult.

The project partners remain convinced that the concept has substantial merit but the recipe for success in difficult trading conditions was not found. Tours covering multiple DVMWHS sites by minibus could work and the public who did book a tour found them to be excellent in every respect.

Off-screen resources

Why not learn step by step how to draw a mill building? Build your own model of a water wheel? Or create a simple natural weaving loom?

In Summer 2020 most 'in person' planned events and activities were cancelled.

Although we had lots of things available for people to do and see at home, these were online and some of the people and groups we wanted to reach couldn't access them on-line and didn't always have the resources they needed to take part.

As part of the DVMWHS Great Place Scheme a project led by Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service provided sets of 'off-line' packs of activities, inspiration and instructions. These went out to a wide range of participants and included the art and craft materials people needed to keep busy at home and feel good through creativity.

The activities were so popular the instructions and ideas are now available free to download. All the activities are available at www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/learning-for-all/learning-families/derwent-valley-mills-creative-activities/



Resource boxes

A range of resource loan boxes are now available, for free, to local organisations, schools and groups interested in finding out more about the World Heritage Site.

Funded by the Great Place Scheme and created as part of a project led by Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service, the boxes contain a wide range of resources, equipment and instructions to inspire, be creative and investigate this amazing site.

Boxes are aimed at different ages and audiences but feel free to borrow any of the boxes and resources for your group and pick and mix your activities.

Activity Boxes Available:

- Informal Learning, Early Years Foundation Stage: Suitable for nurseries, playgroups and families with younger children with toys, stories and play activities.
- Key Stage 2 Creative Outreach Boxes: Five different creative activity boxes with crafts, art and construction challenges with themes linked to the Derwent Valley Mills; Buildings, Landscape, People, Waterpower and Transport.
- DVMWHS Adult Loan Box: Suitable for adults, including older teenagers, with creative and artistic activities linked to the mills including screen printing and painting.
- DVMWHS Memories of the Mills: Suitable for older adults including for use in day centres or care homes.

To find out more and request a loan box visit: www.derwentvalleymills.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/DVMWHS-ACTIVITY-LOAN-BOXES.pdf

Available soon will be the 'Belper at War' loan boxes available to groups, developed by Fleet Arts as part of the Re:Connaissance project. Keep an eye on www.derwentvalleymills.org.uk/discover for more details.

FREE TO USE: The Early Years loan box.

Visit days developed

There are two new school visit days available from High Peak Junction on the Cromford Canal.

Infant pupils can try a 'Fantastic Transport' day with a ride on a train, bus and a cruise on a canal boat and exploration of the oldest remaining railway workshops in the world.

Junior pupils can take part in 'The Wonders of Steam', exploring science, history, engineering and science behind the world's first long distance horse drawn railway and the surrounding engineering feats including bridges, aqueducts and pumphouses.

Instructions and activity resources for teachers and group leaders to self-lead their visit are available free to download and resource boxes of equipment are available to borrow from High Peak Junction.

These 'pick and mix' days can also include a trip on Birdwood trip boat, visiting Leawood Pumphouse, Aqueduct Cottage and exploring the Cromford Canal. Details are available at: www.derwentvalleymills.org/



[discover/learning-for-all/learning-schools/visits-and-trips/high-peak-junction/](http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/learning-for-all/learning-schools/visits-and-trips/high-peak-junction/)

These activities were developed by Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service as part of the Great Place Scheme. You can supplement your visit with the downloadable sketch book to encourage creativity on a visit: www.derwentvalleymills.org/

[discover/learning-for-all/learning-families/cromford-canal-sketch-book/](http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/learning-for-all/learning-families/cromford-canal-sketch-book/)

Or take a virtual tour of the canal at www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/learning-for-all/learning-families/cromford-canal-heritage-and-wildlife/

DISCOVERY TIME: Children trialling the new school visit day.

Introductory texts for Derwent Valley Mills

Ever struggle to understand why the Derwent Valley Mills was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in a simple accessible way? Do you need to explain what a world heritage site is?

Our new set of 'introductory' texts and images for different audiences and age ranges might help you. Created as part of the DVMWHS Great Place Scheme these short passages are an easy way for

sites, schools or organisations to provide a coherent, accurate and simple way to briefly introduce the DVMWHS to your groups.

Visit: www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/learning-for-all/learning-schools/teaching-resources/introducing-the-derwent-valley-mills-world-heritage-site/ to download the texts and supporting images.

New look puts focus on workshops

Fresh interpretation has been introduced to the historic railway workshops at High Peak Junction over the past 18 months, to update the offer for visitors.

The work was done as part of a Visitor Experience Action Plan with support from the Great Place Scheme's Experiment Fund. It was designed to make the connections to the World Heritage Site more accessible and engaging, and bring the railway workshops to life.

New themed interpretation and hands on interactive experiences are targeted at families and non-specialist audiences.

A new welcome sign was created to encourage people into the workshops and let them know

what else is available in the area.

An interactive donation box was created – when coins are put in, they move cogs and pulleys to simulate waggons being pulled up and down the inclines.

Room cards allow visitors to understand and engage with the various exhibits and some of the artifacts have been displayed more prominently with better interpretation. Banners displaying pictures have been erected, telling the story of the workshops.

The project has given the workshops a real 'lift' and helps people to understand their importance within the World Heritage Site.

NEW WELCOME: One of the signs that has been erected at the workshops.



Open air showcase for Great Place work

For World Heritage Day in April, artwork produced by participants in the Great Place Scheme activities was showcased in an open-air temporary exhibition along the Cromford Canal and in Cromford Mill yard. It was well attended over a weekend which included opportunities for visitors to do a little sketching as they explored the mile-long exhibition area.

ON SHOW: Some of the artwork enjoyed by visitors to Cromford Mill (above) and High Peak Junction (below).



Young Entrepreneurs impress



Students from secondary schools and colleges have been inspired by the heritage of the Derwent Valley Mills to develop enterprise, employability and creativity skills.

The 'Young Entrepreneurs' project was delivered by Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service as part of the National Lottery Heritage Funded Great Place Scheme. The project worked with five different groups to visit sites, develop and manufacture products inspired by the site that could be sold, work with site staff, local creative businesses and finished with a sales event or 'dragons den' style pitch.

The project provided a great new way to approach working along the sites and the framework and approach has been developed into a set of online resources and accompanying training film so other sites, schools and colleges can continue the approach. To download the free resources and training to deliver your own heritage inspired 'young entrepreneurs project' visit www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/learning-for-all/learning-schools/teaching-resources/young-entrepreneurs-project/

CELEBRATION: Some of the Young Entrepreneurs at Cromford Mills.



Expanding the learning offer

Thanks to a Cultural Recovery grant from the government, the Cromford Mills Learning Team worked with Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service (DESS) to revitalise and expand the learning offer.

At a time when all on-site visits had to be cancelled, they picked up their bonnets and moved online, creating 'Meet the Mill Worker' videos and a loan box that could be sent out to local schools.

Mill-workers Mrs Froggott and Mrs Henstock were also available for live Question and Answer sessions on zoom! Questions ranged from 'how much do you get paid?' to 'do you know what a dinosaur is?'

The increase in digital confidence of staff, combined with a Historic England digital project, also led to the delivery of virtual tours for

international audiences, with Swiss teenagers enjoying the chance to see around the mill yard via Zoom.

DESS also developed a range of new school visit options for the mill, showcasing the Outstanding Universal Values of the World Heritage Site.

'Wonderful Waterwheels' focuses on the waterpower that drove the mill, and challenges pupils to create their own working waterwheels out of toy bricks.

Another session for secondary schools explores renewable energy and how to create sustainable communities, with Cromford as its inspiration.

There are also days that explore the mill's history and architectural significance using art, film making, and poetry.

MEETING A MILL-WORKER: Children ask Mrs Froggott some questions.

Charging project energised by funding grant

Belper Clusters Heritage Group has secured a second award from the Rural Community Energy Fund for community energy projects.

The award of £90,000 is for the development phase of an electric vehicle charging project, and will bring the scheme to investment readiness, covering areas including planning permissions, legal agreements, grid connection, energy supply contracts, procurement and financial plans and investment strategies.

This new award from the Midlands Energy Hub at Nottingham City Council follows directly on from an award of £29,000 for a feasibility study completed by Cenex, a low emissions vehicle consultancy, at the beginning of this year.

The study concluded that a scheme was viable and broadly welcomed if historic surroundings are respected and treated with sensitivity.

Michael Gallagher, Regional Energy Project Manager of Midlands Energy Hub said: "We received numerous requests during our current grant cycle.

"This project stood out as being both innovative and having substantial social and community benefit."

Cenex again submitted the successful tender and work on the project is underway.

It is hoped that, on successful completion of this phase, the Belper Clusters Heritage Group will be in a position to source funding to proceed with the final installation. For more information contact info@belperclusters.org.uk.

Exploring town links

Wirksworth Civic Society has produced a new publication to encourage visitors to explore their town and discover its links with the World Heritage Site.

Chair of the World Heritage Site Partnership Councillor Barry Lewis launched the new town trail guide, which is available from Wirksworth Heritage Centre, price £1.

Grant support for the publication came via the Great Place Scheme and from Derbyshire Dales District Council's Local Projects Fund.



LINKS EXPLAINED: Author Barry Joyce (centre) shows the guide to Councillor Lewis and Derbyshire Dales Councillor Dermot Murphy at the launch event.

Lectures on-line

Cromford Mills' annual series of evening lectures moved on-line in 2021, and welcomed audiences to a range of talks inspired by the mill's 250th anniversary. From Georgian libraries to shell-encrusted homes, musical Arkwrights to the movement of waterwheels, the speakers shared their expertise.

In November, the annual Industrial Revolution Conference also took place on-line and attracted speakers and audience members from all over the world to discuss the question of innovation. What produced the conditions that lead to the changes that took place right here in the Derwent Valley?

Professor Joel Mokyr spoke on the broad economic and political scene, mentioning patent laws, the poor law and more, while Dr Gillian Cookson spoke about the importance of grassroot networks and individual innovators. Dr Karolina Hutková gave an insight into the technology transfer that happened between Italy and the Bengal silk industry, and Professor John Styles argued for the importance of style and fashion in driving forwards industry changes. Professor Simon Mosey brought everyone into the present day with a look at current entrepreneurial businesses and the marks of successful innovation.

Cycleway progress

The Derwent Valley Trust continued to progress the planned Derwent Valley Cycleway during 2021.

The cycleway will link Derby to Chatsworth, through the World Heritage Site. As part of the route, Wyver Lane – just north of Belper – has been resurfaced; planning work is now progressing to the west of Belper. Further south, work continues with National Highways (formerly Highways England) and Network Rail to develop a route north of Darley Abbey.

Derbyshire County Council has launched a cycleway feasibility study, reflecting an ambition to establish Derbyshire as a 'connected' cycling county. A council spokesperson said: "This route has potential to connect Derby to the Peak District cycle network, the start of the Monsal Trail and an extensive and developing network of routes for cycle tourism." The Derwent Valley Trust will be working with the council on this study, sharing information and draft plans which have already been made.

The cycleway will pass all the great mills in the World Heritage Site, from Derby's Silk Mill, through Darley Abbey, Milford and Belper, to Cromford and beyond. It will provide easy and environmentally-friendly access, and be a distinct asset to the region.



Outstanding projects in World Heritage Site receive awards

Buildings and other architectural projects in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site received praise and commendations at the 2021 Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust (DHBT) Architecture Awards.

The DHBT makes awards to promote the best in Derbyshire's architectural heritage and the ceremony is a high point in the heritage calendar for the county.

The 2021 judging committee included journalist and writer Matthew Parris, Oliver Gerrish (awards coordinator), journalist and writer Julian Glover, architectural critic and writer Hugh Pearman MBE and DHBT trustees Ian Webster and Barry Joyce MBE.

The DHBT had given people all over the county the chance to enter their architectural projects for the Awards under various categories following the postponed 2020 event. The awards bring deserved public recognition to those who work tirelessly to safeguard Derbyshire's built heritage.

Oliver Gerrish hosted the ceremony at Elvaston Castle and Dr John Goodall, the Architectural Editor of Country Life magazine, presented the awards.

Projects in the World Heritage Site were winners in the following categories:

- New Building in an Historic Setting - John Smedley East Site Redevelopment at Lea Mills, designed by Evans Vettori Architects for Oasis Holding.
- Reuse of an Historic Building – joint winners were the Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill, designed by Bauman Lyons

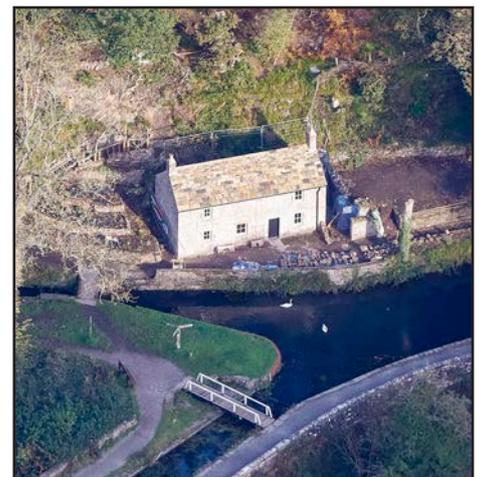
for Derby Museums Trust, and the Ada Belfield Centre and Belper Library designed by Glancy Nicholls Architects for Derbyshire County Council.

Ron Common was named Conservation Champion for his outstanding voluntary contribution to the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust project to restore Aqueduct Cottage on the Cromford Canal.

Details of each of the projects to receive an award can be found on the DHBT's website www.derbyshirehistoricbuildingstrust.org.uk.

AWARD WINNERS: Dr John Goodall presents the New Building in an Historic Setting award to Evan Vettori's Dan Greenway and Robert Evans. Paul Hutt of Glancy Nicholls Architects receives the Reuse of an Historic Building award from Dr John Goodall.

OUTSTANDING WORK: The transformed Aqueduct Cottage (below).



Rail ram at city station

Over the summer a **Community Rail Ram** was installed at Derby station as part of the **Derby Ram Trail**, which featured a flock of 30 colourful and unique 5ft ram installations on a trail around Derby.

The ram outside Derby Station captured, in a bright and colourful manner, the scenic countryside and some of the destinations along the Derwent Valley Line, including Strutt's North Mill at Belper.

The railway ram was designed and painted by local artist Holly Aspinall and was a joint project with North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership and East Midlands Railway.



DERBY RAM: The installation outside the railway station.

Old library, new edition for Hollies

Local conservation developer Tanya Spilsbury has taken on the old Belper library on Bridge Street, converting it into a two-bedroomed house with six studios and small business units at the rear.

Duffield-based Tanya, of The Building Sanctuary, has restored the building's original name, The Hollies, and retained some of the bookcases to furnish the new units, maintaining a link with its former library use. She donated the rest of the library fittings and furniture to local community groups and charities.

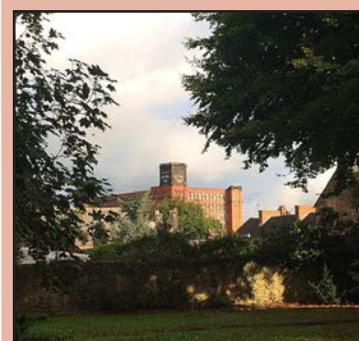
Originally, the house was built by the Strutt family and extended to offer suitable accommodation to attract a new doctor as the town continued to expand.

Access over the driveway through to the community hall and sports ground at the rear will continue and will pass new holly trees that Tanya plans to plant along the rear boundary to link back to the building's original name. She looks forward to the building once again becoming a vibrant element of the Belper built landscape and community.

Subject to planning permission and the scheduling of the works, Tanya hopes space will be available to let by spring 2022.

Tanya has experience of sensitive historic conversions in the World Heritage Site, having previously converted Belper's Old Registry to offices and the former stables at Darley Abbey to an award-winning small business hub.

FINE VIEW: The back garden of The Hollies looks across to the mill complex.



Remembering trip from 50 years ago



A newspaper cutting in the Arkwright Society archive, rediscovered in early 2021, set the society's archivist Rosemary Annable on a task to rediscover an American visitor to the Arkwright Festival, 50 years earlier.

Said Rosemary: "I was interested to come across an article from the Belper News in July 1971 about the impending visit of a 17-year old high school student from Cumberland, Rhode Island, Elaine Boulay, who was to be the guest of Belper Rotary Club. The idea for the visit had originated with the Rotary Club of Pawtucket and Elaine had won an essay competition on the life of Samuel Slater, open to higher grade students at schools in the Blackstone Valley, to choose the

winner of what proved to be a memorable visit."

With some sleuthing support from the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council – who have links with the Derwent Valley thanks to a twinning accord with Amber Valley Borough Council – Rosemary was able to track down Elaine and ask her about the 1971 visit.

It included a tour of the English Sewing Ltd mill at Belper (they helped sponsor the visit and training officer Jackie James was one of Elaine's hosts). She was also able to see the Arkwright Festival in full swing, marking the 200th anniversary of Richard Arkwright's move to Cromford.

Said Elaine: "I still can't believe how well I was treated. Families

gave me a going away party the night before I left.

"Mr Meacon, president of the Rotary Club of Belper, presented me with a Royal Crown Derby plate, which I still have displayed in a bookcase. There were lots of tears while we said goodbye."

Elaine subsequently graduated in experimental psychology, undertook graduate studies in cognitive psychology, and later worked on educational software design with the Disney company.

She later started her own company creating continuing education software for physicians.

MEMORABLE TRIP: Elaine (centre) with one of the Belper families she stayed with in 1971, and (above) Elaine today.



Working to plan

Work is progressing on delivering the 2020-2025 Management Plan for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

A dedicated website for the plan has been established, linked to the World Heritage Site website, which includes a short history of the mills and their communities, and details of all the objectives and actions which the World Heritage Site Partnership hopes to achieve in the coming years.

It can be found at <https://managementplan.derwentvalleymills.org/>

New owner for Willersley

New life is expected to soon come to Willersley Castle at Cromford, after 18 months of uncertainty following its closure as a hotel at the start of the 2020 lockdown.

Willersley was built as a mansion house for Sir Richard Arkwright. Commissioned in 1786, it was still unfinished when Arkwright died in 1792, and became home to his son and descendants.

After some 130 years, like much of the Arkwright estate, it was sold off in the 1920s and became a hotel for the Wesleyan – later Christian – Guild until March 2020.

The new owners are Manor Adventure, who are planning to provide school residential activities, with outdoor pursuits in the grounds. They expect to open in 2022.

Funding for archive with World Heritage links

Medical artefacts – some with links to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site - can now be properly catalogued, conserved and rehoused, thanks to a grant to the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton (UHDB).

The £98,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund will enable the public to engage with the hospitals' medical archive, including items relating to Florence Nightingale, and to the Strutt family, who built the mills at Belper and Milford, and part-funded Richard Arkwright's first water-powered cotton mill at Cromford. William Strutt designed the original Derby Infirmary in 1819.

The World Heritage Site Partnership hopes the project will ultimately help researchers to better understand the work of the Strutt family in transforming medical provision in Derby, as they had transformed factories and farms further up the Derwent Valley.

The project is being managed by Air Arts, UHDB's arts charity.

History of canal sites told in booklets

Lockdown gave Friends of Cromford Canal archivist Hugh Potter the opportunity to write two short booklets on the history of the canal.

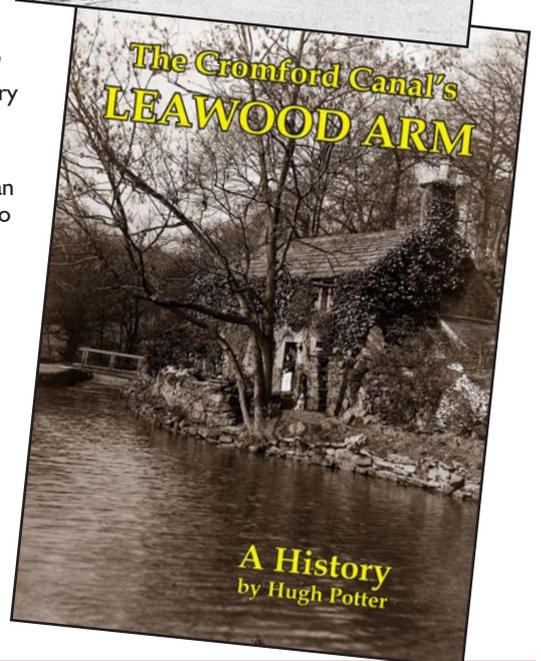
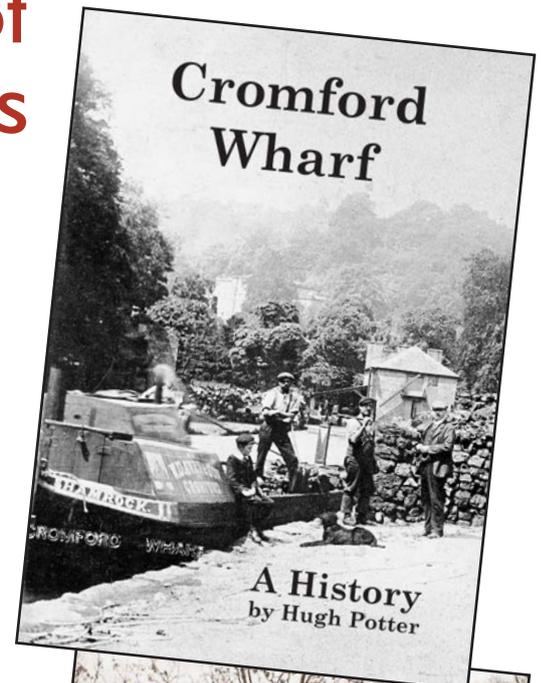
Cromford Wharf - A History is the story of the wharf with its two warehouses, the Feeder Arm, the weir and sluices in Cromford mill yard.

The Cromford Canal's Leewood Arm summarises the complex story of this short arm.

Opened in 1802 it was originally only 400 yards long, yet in less than 20 years it was cut in half thanks to acrimonious disputes over water rights between Peter Nightingale (Florence Nightingale's great uncle), the Cromford Canal Company and mill owners lower down the Derwent valley.

Both booklets are fully illustrated with historic maps and photographs and are available from www.cromfordcanal.org.

NEW PUBLICATIONS: The two booklets produced by the Friends of Cromford Canal.



New skills inspired by Derwent Valley Mills

Students from Chesterfield College have been working alongside Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service on developing client and employability skills relating to the DVMWHS.

Digital and graphic students were provided with a range of working briefs to develop animations, gifs and graphic designs inspired by the site which would be appealing to a younger audience.

Inspiring work covered everything from an animated talking Strutt welcoming you to

the mills, a time travelling professor, animated mill workers rushing to get to work on time, transport changes through time on packhorses, canals and steam railway, modelling of waterwheels to show how they operated machinery and even a cat and mouse chasing around the mill machinery.

To see the work visit www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/learning-for-all/learning-adults/chesterfield-college-projects-with-dvmwhs/



Swing bridge repaired in time for TV visitor

The Friends of Cromford Canal's historic 1938 trip boat Birdswood passes through Brown's Swing Bridge at High Peak Junction twice on every 2-hour cruise.

Unfortunately, the 200-year-old bridge bearings had begun to seize up, and it became impossible to operate safely.

The Friends group drew up plans for the bearing to be supplemented by a modern, larger slewing ring but the cost was prohibitive for the charity.

They were delighted when Derbyshire County Council (which own the bridge) offered to cover the rebuild costs. The work was carried out

during October and the bridge now operates perfectly.

At the start of the new season in March 2022 Birdswood will now be able to offer the full Cromford Canal experience again, passing through the bridge to turn round in the winding-hole adjacent to Leawood Pumphouse.

The first boat through the bridge carried TV presenter Richard Hammond who was filming a 4-part series for More4 to be broadcast early in 2022 called 'Britain's Great Rivers'.

ALL SORTED: The newly repaired bridge; Richard Hammond on Birdswood; the TV crew who recorded the visit.



Birdswood passes latest inspection

Every two years Friends of Cromford Canal's historic trip boat Birdswood has to undergo rigorous inspection out of the water by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

This applies to all boats carrying more than 12 passengers. She was craned out in November onto Cromford Wharf and FCC were delighted to hear that she had 'passed'.

LIFTED UP: A crane is used to lift Birdswood out of the canal.

Canal joins in special event

At the end of October, Birdswood took part in the 'Shine a Light' event at Cromford Mills which also featured illuminated canoes on the canal and an audio-visual display screened onto the buildings in Arkwright's mill yard.

LIT UP: Birdswood during 'Shine a Light'.





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Don't miss out!

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of **World Heritage News** and found the contents interesting and helpful. This year 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.

Website encourages use of rail line to explore Derwent Valley

A new Derwent Valley Line website www.derwentvalleyline.org.uk was launched in July to promote the summer return to rail travel.

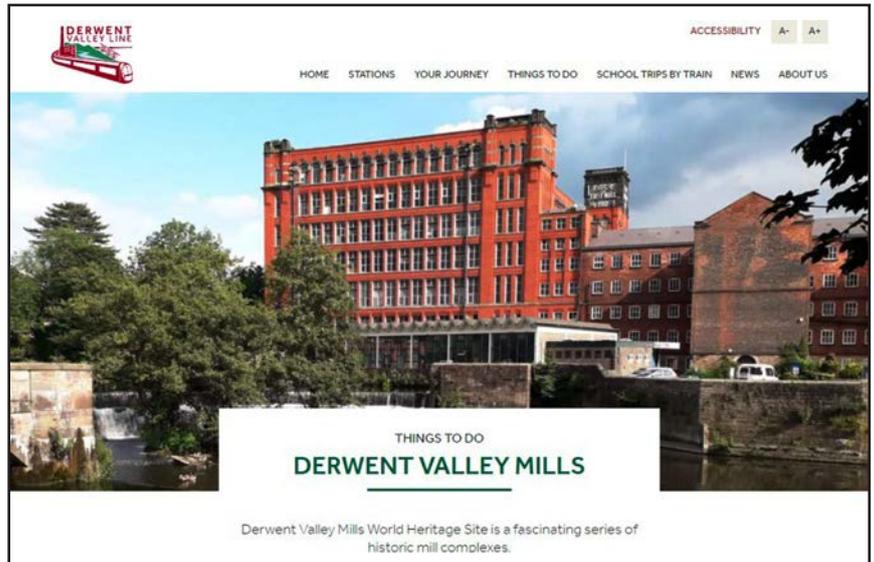
The new website features over 100 'things to do' along the route, most of which are within a short walk of the nearest station.

A wide variety of both indoor and outdoor visitor experiences are featured including Cromford Mills, Belper River Gardens and Derby's Museum of Making.

All the 'Things to do' can be searched for by station or from a selection of tourism and leisure categories - Culture and Entertainment, Heritage and Museums, Nature and Parks, Shopping, Sport and Adventure and Themed Attractions.

The website includes over 50 walks suiting all ages and abilities including family activity walks, linear station to station walks, canal-side strolls, nature reserve walks and long-distance walks. The walks are categorised by difficulty and they can also be selected by nearest station.

There are details about all 13 stations on the route including passenger information, local events, onward travel, station history and station adoption activities, as well as interesting facts about each place.



The Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership received funding from Community Rail Network, CrossCountry Trains and East Midlands Railway towards the website.

ON TRACK: The homepage of the new website.



Friendly planters are the bees' knees

At Cromford and Whatstandwell, the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership has worked with Station Adopters, East Midlands Railway and Bee Friendly Trust to install six large Bee Friendly planters, helping increase biodiversity at these stations.

A set of three planters were installed at both stations and planted up with shrubs to

provide nectar throughout the year. They were part of a larger Derbyshire stations project funded by the Community Rail Network, with similar planters installed at Chesterfield, Ilkeston and Tutbury and Hatton. They will be maintained by the Station Adopters.

BEE READY: One of the new planters

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unesco

Derwent Valley Mills
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001