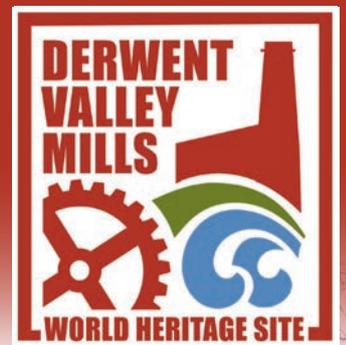


World Heritage news

Issue 21 - 2023

www.derwentvalleymills.org



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End of an
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museum
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unesco

Derwent Valley Mills
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001



From the Chair

Another year has passed, and there have been some challenges but successes as well for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, including the re-opening of Masson Mills and restoring the bridge link across the Derwent, next to the Darley Abbey Mills.

Work continues on progressing the delivery of the 2020-2025 Management Plan for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

This sets out our commitment to maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site by protecting, conserving, presenting, enhancing and transmitting its culture, economy, unique heritage and landscape in a sustainable manner.

The management plan is there for everyone, as we all work to make the most of this amazing cultural asset for Derbyshire – and the world.

So do please take a look at our dedicated website for the plan, 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/>

One of the actions within that plan is to establish a festival for the county which celebrates the heritage links between the Derwent Valley Mills and other historic sites in Derbyshire.

The pilot weekend for the Georgian Derbyshire Festival was very successful in September; so much so that it is being expanded in 2023, beginning with two weekends centred around Buxton Crescent and Pumproom in September, then continuing into October with activities across the World Heritage Site.

Look out for updates and a programme of events for Georgian Derbyshire in the new year. There's sure to be something for everyone.

Barry Lewis

Chair,

DVMWHS Partnership



Life returns to mills under new owners

There's a new lease of life coming to one of the Derwent Valley Mills in 2023.

The Masson Mills museum and shopping outlet closed in March 2020 at the start of the first lockdown.

Edinburgh Woollen Mill, who ran the shopping outlet, decided to end their lease and vacated the mills some months later. The mill owner of the time never fully re-opened the museum.

Now, new owners have taken on the mill complex, including the hydroelectric turbines; the historic machinery; artefacts and steam

engine. They intend to re-open Masson's Working Textile Museum and the conference centre above it.

The family involved have a longstanding connection to the mill turbines, so have a significant knowledge of Masson and waterpower generation in the Derwent Valley more widely, particularly at Milford and Belper.

Already, work is taking place to prepare the site for visitors and re-awaken this popular mill attraction.

RE-OPENING: Masson Mills.

Tearooms open for business

Belper's Edwardian River Gardens have – after several decades – a tearooms building to welcome visitors.

The original tearooms of 1906 fell into disrepair in the late 20th century, and owners Amber Valley Borough Council had been looking at building a replacement since 2010.

Work on the tearooms was completed in 2021 but flooding in early 2022 delayed preparations for the public opening, which took place in April.

The Friends of the River Gardens group, which has supported the improvements to the gardens over the past 15 years, has now dissolved.



The group's remaining funds and assets have been donated to other Belper community groups. All funds raised specifically for the Gardens and the tearooms project are being transferred to a restricted fund to be spent on improvements to the Belper River Gardens.

These are likely to include a new circular seat for the play

area (already paid for), more picnic tables and restoration work on the bandstand.

Some former members of the Group will assist Park Life, the operators who run the tearooms, to maintain flower planters and respond to other requests that they may have for community support.

OPEN IN THE GARDENS: The new tearooms.



Waterpower returns to pioneering mill site

A major part of the Arkwright Society's sustainability planning is the Cromford Water Project, which will reinstate a six-metre waterwheel and install a 15-kilowatt hydro-turbine.

These and new water source heat pumps will provide renewable energy for the site. The scheme will also refurbish the hydro-turbine located at the Corn Mill in Cromford village, and over time, the intention is to generate funds to support community projects as well as pilot renewable schemes.

The project team is being led by Simon Gill, Operations Director of the Arkwright

Society with Derwent Hydro and James Boon Architects.

Said Simon: "Thanks go to the Rural Community Energy Fund, Severn Trent Community Fund, the Wolfson Foundation, Derbyshire County Council's Green Entrepreneurs Fund and Vaillant UK for their financial support for this fantastic project."

The project is complex and enabling works are starting over the winter period with full construction in the spring to summer 2023.

After 28 years of silt build up, the water course has now been desilted. This was an essential part of the enabling works and uncovered several useful lessons as well as the need to replace the middle

weir penstock (sluice); with so many leaks it no longer functions as it should.

The detailed design is now being finalised and the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation written.

This will set out a watching brief to be followed when the turbine housing is dug out in an area where the second mill foundations are.

The Arkwright Society is keen to develop interpretation and educational outreach around this project so that learning can be shared.

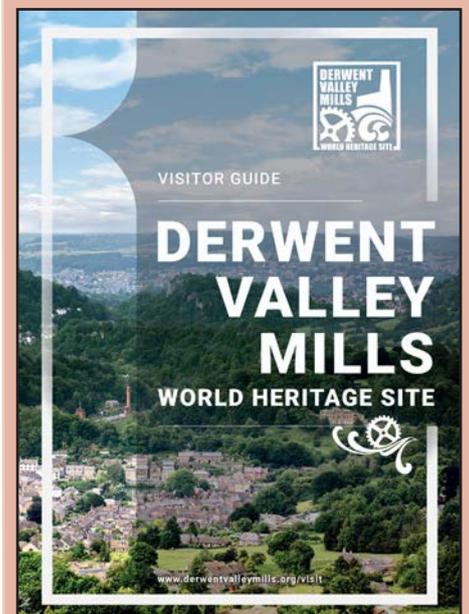
DESILTING WORK: Valley View Landscapes removes 28 years of silt from the water channels.

Report decision put back to 2023

In 2021, UNESCO raised concerns about planning permissions being granted for two developments close to the World Heritage Site, which impacted on its Outstanding Universal Value, and 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. It was put together by the Derwent Valley Mills Coordination Team and submitted in the autumn for scrutiny by Historic England before submission to UNESCO in December 2021.

The report was due to be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at their annual meeting in the summer of 2022, but the meeting was cancelled because of the war in Ukraine – Russia had been due to host and chair the meeting. As a result, no World Heritage Committee meeting was held in 2022, and the State of Conservation Report – and the next steps to be taken – will be agreed by the Committee in 2023.



Belper book in progress

The latest publication project for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Educational Trust is progressing well.

This charitable trust, which publishes books and guides about the World Heritage Site and its surroundings has over the last year been busy working on a new book about Belper, for publication in 2023.

The book will cover elements of Belper's history in the 19th century and sit alongside other recent publications, Matlock Bath – A Perfectly Romantic Place and Cromford Revisited.

These and other publications are available to purchase from the trust's website <https://derwentvalleymillseducationaltrust.org.uk/>

New guide

A new visitor guide has been designed for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, bringing together all the basic information people need when they come to explore the area. The 20-page booklet is an attractive expansion of the leaflet which was produced every year before the Covid lockdowns. Copies are available along the valley as well as local attractions and visitor information points.



Shine a Light's illuminating projections on county history

Derbyshire's history was told through large scale projections in Cromford's mill yard in October, with the return of Shine a Light.

This light installation – which first

came to Cromford in 2021 – transformed the historic mills with dazzling special effects and music.

New for 2022 was an interactive

glow room – a glowing, interactive experience for all ages – and live music during the show.

The installation was created by lightshow specialists Illuminos.

More Shine a Light installations are being proposed for the World Heritage Site in 2023.

ILLUMINATING: Projections on the Cromford Mill buildings.



Restoration will soon be complete

The restoration of the historic Aqueeduct Cottage on the Cromford Canal is nearing completion thanks to an amazing community effort over the past three years, led by a team of dedicated volunteers from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Under the guidance of the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust, the team has dedicated over 7000 hours to the project. Other contributors include The Pilgrims Trust, Tarmac Community Landfill Trust plus other corporate and public donors, and a variety of businesses and individuals who provided free materials.

Owned by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, the cottage will be used as an information and activity centre to highlight the rich diversity of the local wildlife and help promote greater bio-diversity in the Lower Derwent Valley. Interpretation will also contain information about the cottage's history plus an insight into life at the cottage over the past 200 years.

The official opening of the cottage is expected in spring 2023.

LOOKING ITS BEST: Aqueeduct Cottage.

Outstanding educational offer recognised by award



The Arkwright Society's educational offer has been recognised as outstanding, receiving the Sandford Award for Heritage Education.

It is the second time the team has won the award, and the first since it expanded its offer in 2021 to include a broader range of national curriculum-linked programmes.

The Sandford Award, administered by Bishop Grosseteste University and the Heritage Education Trust,

recognises sites that deliver school trips unlike anything that could be delivered in a classroom. It is a nationally-recognised mark of quality and assures teachers of the excellent day out their class will have when visiting Cromford Mills.

The assessor, Louise West, said: "Modern children visiting Cromford Mills can have little idea of the life of young people 200 years ago. By the conclusion of their visit, they will have experienced for themselves the working lives,

albeit in an engaging way, of primary age children forced to earn their daily bread to help feed their families.

"The outstanding work performed by the Education team at Cromford Mills enlightens young minds in the realities of the production of cotton at this, the cradle of the Industrial Revolution. The great skill of the staff ensures that while learning they have a fun-filled experience."

OUTSTANDING WORK
Eleanor Gunn leads a class around the Cromford Mill yard.

Hundreds turn out as museum closes

The Strutt's North Mill museum in Belper sadly closed its doors to the public on 30 September. For the final day, hundreds of people came through the doors for a last look around.

Despite torrential rain, nearly 40 people came on the final guided walk from the museum.

Said manager Kat Tonks: "We had a record number of people through the doors on the last day, so thank you to everyone who came to say farewell to the old building."

The visitor figures for the whole year have been 18% up on the three-year pre-covid average, but most noticeably had increased since the announcement of closure. In all, there were 2,968 visitors in 2022, compared to the

2,521 average pre-covid. "665 of these visitors came in September!" said Kat.

The Belper North Mill Trust, which managed the museum, was unable to come to an agreement over leasing the museum space from the mill site owners after grant funding cuts. Instead they are to rent a space within the Belper Mills complex, retaining a foothold to allow access for tours of the North Mill basement.

At the end of November, the larger museum objects moved to Cromford, where a new exhibition space is to be created. This will allow some of the collection to be accessed. The smaller items are in storage, and loaned items, such as the Brettles collection, have been handed back to the owners.



Said Kat: "The collaboration with Cromford is proving successful – we have secured some small level grant funding to help facilitate the creation of the new exhibition and help merge the two sets of volunteers. This is a fantastic opportunity for the two sites to further their relationship and provide some stability after the closure of the North Mill museum."



FINAL DAYS: The last external tour to leave the museum, in pouring rain (above); a workshop for volunteers to look at ways of telling the cotton story at Cromford (far left); and dismantling some of the mill machinery (left).

Concerns over mill complex

The condition of the buildings within the Belper Mill complex continues to be a concern for the DVMWHS Partnership.

FIREM, for the owners, submitted listed building and planning applications to AVBC in 2018. This scheme has recently been amended by the applicant, and a re-consultation took place this summer.

The Partnership's response to the application, and the amendments, can be found on AVBC's planning application web pages.

In addition to this, the Partnership is working with other agencies towards developing robust alternative proposals for the North and East Mills site if the owner's applications do not receive consent, or if upon approval the proposals are not implemented in a timely manner.

The Partnership is aware that Belper residents have set up a group called Save Our Mills that are compiling ideas for the mill buildings' repurposing. They can be contacted via their website <https://ourbelpermills.co.uk>.

City Council steps in to restore essential bridge link for village



In May the only bridge linking the Darley Abbey Mills to the village was condemned and closed, even to pedestrians, creating a mile or more detour.

The bridge has no clear ownership, following the bankruptcy of the previous owner, but Derby City Council stepped in and approved

£300,000 for a temporary footbridge to the mills, which arrived and was put in place in the week commencing September 18.

A long-term solution still needs to be found, and funding secured. Footage of the installation of the footbridge can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/3iDYtP8cUWg>

It is expected to be £5m for a long-term solution. In November and December a series of 'drop-in' events were hosted by Derby City Council for local businesses and residents to formulate a way forward for installing a permanent replacement for the bridge.

WELL CONNECTED: The new temporary footbridge in use.

Projects help develop valley in creating a 'Great Place'

The World Heritage Site has completed its National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council and Historic England jointly funded Great Place Scheme projects.

A wide range of projects and activities have taken place since 2017, that have encouraged partnership working, engaging with new audiences and raising awareness of the DVMWHS through a range of activities.

More research has been carried out on the valley's global cotton connections, particularly looking at the Arkwrights' links to slavery – the latest findings are available at <http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/derwent-valley-mills-research/recent-research/global-cotton-connections/>

One of the final projects to be delivered was the Valley Tours. This project took visitors on a guided tour of the valley on a minibus starting either at Matlock or Derby and visited key attractions along the valley. Due to the pandemic this became a series of walking tours at key locations in Cromford, Belper, Milford and Derby telling lesser-known stories and taking in some of the hidden gems in the valley.

Ambassador Scheme is all set for return

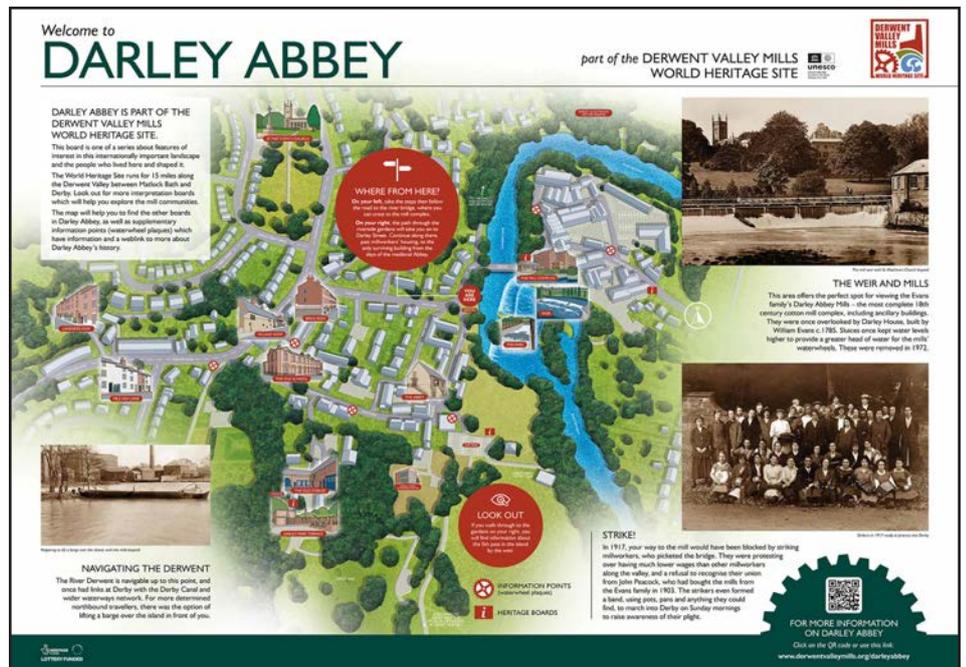
One of the great successes for the World Heritage Site coordination team over the past decade has been the Ambassador Schemes – short familiarisation tours of the key communities for local business workers, so they have a better understanding of how to help visitors to the area.

Hundreds of people have been on the tours and received the support packs which are full of information to help people understand the World Heritage Site, and what's on offer in their area.

The longest running scheme, for Belper Ambassadors, was highlighted by judges and helped win for Belper the first Great British High Street Award in 2014, and Best High Street in England five years later.

With support from the Great Place funding, other schemes have run in Darley Abbey and Milford, and it is hoped the new Cromford Scheme will launch in 2023.

Dates for the 2023 Ambassador Schemes will be announced in the new year.



Helping visitors to understand

The long-awaited World Heritage wayfinding scheme for Belper, Darley Abbey and Milford should be installed before Easter 2023.

This project of interlinking information boards, supported by discrete waterwheel-shaped wall plaques which will provide interpretation information via a web-link, has been funded through the Great Place Scheme.

All the design work and website support work has been completed, as have hand-crafted board holders, created by Derbyshire blacksmith David Tucker, picking up on the valley's historic mass use of waterpower.

ALL ON BOARD: One of the information panels ready for installation in Darley Abbey early in 2023.

Promoting the Derwent Valley Mills

In spring 2022, funding was available for marketing the DVMWHS and we have been working with Marketing Peak District and Derbyshire to deliver this element of the Great Place Scheme.

This was done using social media and has meant that we have been able to promote the DVMWHS to new audiences to raise awareness of the Derwent Valley and encourage new visitors.

One of the final projects for the marketing project has been to create a new short promotional video which you can watch at <https://youtu.be/6g19BkVluIU>.

The focus has been on widening the way we showcase the DVMWHS, to reach new audiences. So over the summer there was a promotion of the DVMWHS in National



Geographic Traveller and this was published in the magazine and online at www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/travel/2021/12/how-to-spend-a-weekend-in-the-derwent-valley-mills-derbyshire.

INSPIRING: A screen-grab from the new promotional video.

Raising the profile of archive collection at John Smedley

The archive project at John Smedley continues to develop and, in the past year, effort has been made to raise the profile of the collection.

Working with the company's Marketing Manager, a new quarterly shareholder online newsletter is being produced. This is in addition to the now annual shareholder publication, on an aspect of the company history. Last year's subject covered the story of the brass band, which also explored the wider social history of the valley, as a number of other local mills and pits held competitions and concerts from the last quarter of the 19th century to the First World War.

A recital of a number of pieces that featured in the band's repertoire were performed in the mill by a brass quintet from Sinfonia Viva, Derby's Award-Winning classical orchestra.

Publication of this year's book has been pushed back until the spring of 2023, and relates to the opening of the London Showroom in Brook Street, Mayfair in September 1932. Copies of these publications are deposited in the Local Studies Library at the Derbyshire Record Office.

In addition, the John Smedley Archivist has given papers at conferences for the Society of Dyers and Colourists, at the Museum of

Science and Industry, and at an online transatlantic conference to launch the International Craft and Research Network. Other academic papers are in the pipeline, and these are also seen as an important way of highlighting the archive at John Smedley.

The archive has also supported the drive to highlight the craftsmanship involved in manufacturing the world's finest knitwear, and a joint NHLF funded project with Ruddington Framework Knitter's Museum was undertaken, to highlight the links between craftspeople and the tools or machines that they use. Derbyshire-based photographer Clive Booth won the commission and took photographs at both Ruddington and Lea Mills. An exhibition is planned for the summer of 2023 at Ruddington, followed by a month at Lea Mills.

The company has supported a stone carver, Zoe Wilson, and held an exhibition of her work in the Jermyn Street Store as part of London Craft Week. Two original woodcuts were commissioned to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee and other projects with artists and craftspeople are planned.

All of these efforts to raise the profile of the archive are resulting in increased demands for factory tours and outreach which will keep the archivist and tour guides busy. It has also increased the numbers of descendants of



former employees who are contacting the archive to provide information and to visit the archive, and encouraging people to donate garments and other material to the collection.

Several garments have been sent in by members of the public this year, including a ladies' short 'body' from the 1950s. These new additions have already joined the recently accessioned 'specials', which the company donated to the archive and which mean that the collection now numbers almost 10,000 pieces of knitwear.

WELL READ: The John Smedley research publications (above).

BOXING CLEVER: Part of the John Smedley archive (below).



Cycleway en route to success

Work continues on planning and implementing the Derwent Valley Cycleway, which will run alongside the river, including the length of the World Heritage Site.

Derbyshire County Council has expressed an ambition in its cycle plan to be the most connected county for cycling in England, and has commissioned a feasibility study, undertaken by Aecom.

The cycleway working group have worked with Aecom at all stages of the study, with an outcome expected some time in 2023.

Some sections of the cycleway are however already complete, including through

Derby, Wyver Lane, and Matlock to Rowsley. Others are in active progress, for example the section west of Belper, running north of Milford to Bridgefoot in Belper.

The development and

planning work has been a fascinating but painstaking process of discussion with landowners, and numerous partners and stakeholders.

ON TRACK: Cyclists and a dog enjoying the resurfaced Wyver Lane in Belper.



New content

The DVMWHS Coordination Team continues to upload video content to the World Heritage Site YouTube Channel. New videos include:

- Tales of the Strutt Nightwatchmen 1833-36: A look at the recently returned nightwatchmen's reports book, written by the men who patrolled Belper during the 1830s on behalf of the mill-owners. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmp_M-yxdtM
- Heritage and Climate: Produced for World Heritage Day in April, this short video explores the theme of Heritage and Climate in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=OsG-rqfxsGg>
- An Aerial View of the DVMWHS: a short aerial video of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (no sound). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNyzAdnRkN4>

Willersley re-opens as adventure centre

Willersley Castle, the mansion house built for Sir Richard Arkwright in the late 18th century, has re-opened as a residential adventure centre for schools.

The building, run as a hotel since the 1920s, closed during the first lockdown in 2020. It was sold to Manor Adventure, who have said that whilst safeguarding of children is their main priority, public access to the site will be widened when school groups are not on the site.

Winter repairs for High Peak Junction

This winter will see repair work for High Peak Junction, on the Cromford Canal. The Derbyshire County Council run site will see repairs to the roof over the old railway workshops, as well as guttering repairs.

The brake vans which sit outside the workshops have been repaired and painted, and the High Peak Trail resurfaced from the catch pit to the wheel pit. Browns Bridge, across the canal, was also repaired last summer.



WHS team says goodbye to Gwen

The Derwent Valley Mills Coordination Team said goodbye to business support officer Gwen Wilson in April 2022, after over 11 years in post.

Gwen had done sterling work for the World Heritage Site over those years, on many aspects of management plan delivery, way beyond her designated role.

Her contribution to the team's output has been and still is much missed. We wish her well in her retirement.

100,000 visitors for Museum of Making

During 2022, Derby's newest museum welcomed nearly 100,000 visitors.

The Museum of Making in Derby's Silk Mill, on the site of what is widely regarded as the world's first integrated factory, plays a key role as the Southern Gateway to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site.

The Museum has been recognised with a slew of awards in 2022. It won the national Construction Excellence Best Project Under £20m and also Kids in Museums' Best Medium Sized Family Friendly Museum. Most notably it was a finalist in the 2022 Art Fund Museum of the Year, narrowly losing out to the Horniman Museum in London.

The Museum of Making has quickly grown an excellent reputation for corporate venue hire and conferencing. Diverse clients include Rolls Royce, East Midlands Trains, the group for Education in Museums (GEM) and the national YMCA.

Materiality is central to the Museum of Making. In the 2nd floor Assemblage over 30,000 objects are displayed in taxonomical sections; wood, metal, synthetics, stone, textiles, glass, ceramics. In the ground floor workshop makers can use a kiln to fire ceramics, a

furnace to cast metal, jewelry bench to work in glass, and lathes, drills and hand tools to work in wood.

Differing processes of making have been explored in the museums' temporary exhibition programme. The latest exhibition (until 15 January 2023) is of work by Henry Moore on loan from the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich and takes as its starting point his sketches as he turned his ideas into sculptural forms using stone and bronze.

Building community through making has been a key tenet of the project; over 1,500 community members were involved in the making of the museum.

The principle of participation remains at the heart of the museum and is manifest in the many skilled volunteers taking part in a range of activities from guided tours, working in the model railway, leading on family activities and collections research.

Recently the museum has reverted to first principles as space to preserve and sustain all forms of making but in particular 'endangered crafts'. In September, working with the Heritage Crafts Association, the museum held a tin smithing course led by traditional tinsmith Karl Schmidt from South Dakota.

Keeping route in good shape



The Derwent Valley Heritage Way is a well-established and picturesque walking route running from Ladybower Reservoir in the north, through the World Heritage Site, and finishing at Shardlow.

The Way celebrated its twentieth year of successful operation in 2022.

To keep it in good shape, a team of rangers has been established, with two allocated

to each section. These keep their section in order, for example by litter picking, cutting undergrowth and checking the signage.

They are also collecting updates for a new edition of the Heritage Way guidebook. The rangers are actively supported by the Hazelwood-based Lubrizol company.

Beyond maintaining the Way for regular users, they also

aim to attract new walkers. On a very hot weekend in July 2022 they ran the "Nail Trail" event, targeting part of the Way, just north of Belper.

There was a treasure trail, and rangers were out in force to offer encouragement, guidance and information.

POWER RANGERS: At a training day last spring, rangers pose on the canal bridge at High Peak Junction.

Helping researchers support framework

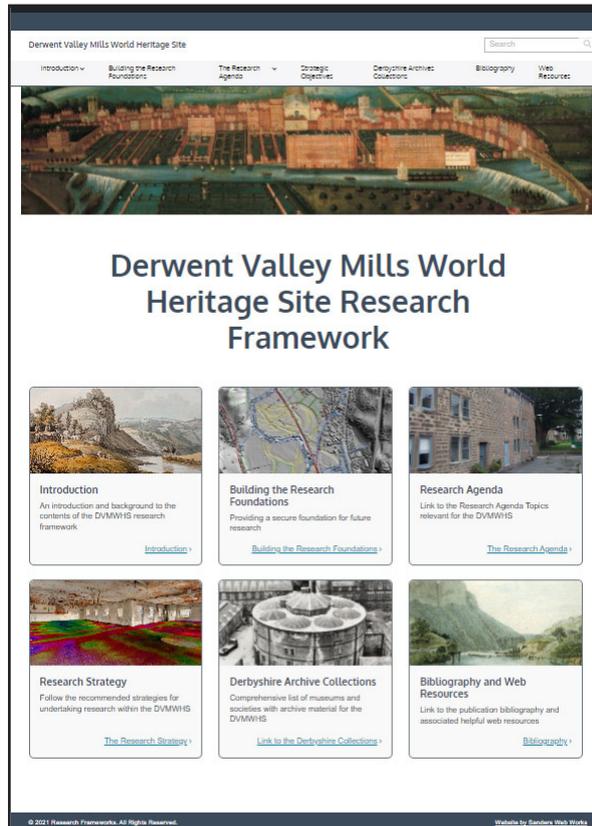
Work continues, with Historic England support, on transforming the World Heritage Site's published research framework (<http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/derwent-valley-mills-research/derwent-valley-mills-research-framework/>) into an interactive digital resource ('wiki') which can be updated as research questions are addressed, research priorities change and investigative methods evolve.

Significant work has been conducted on this digital resource since the last issue of the newsletter and the updated version on the Historic England Research Frameworks Network (<https://researchframeworks.org/dvmwhs/>) is due for further enhancements over the next few months.

Everyone interested in the cultural heritage of the Derwent Valley is encouraged to use the comments facility of the wiki to suggest ways in which the resource might be enhanced further. It can also be used to inform the WHS Coordination Team of on-

going or proposed research relating to the research questions, and suggest new questions that should be taken on board in future revisions.

TRANSFORMED: The digital version of the World Heritage Site Research Framework.



Éilis is new CEO for Cromford Mills

A new CEO has been appointed for the Arkwright Society, responsible for the Cromford Mills complex and its development as a key destination within the World Heritage Site.

Prior to joining the Arkwright Society, Éilis Scott had enjoyed a career of 27 years dedicated to the conservation and regeneration of Historic Buildings, particularly those with industrial heritage. The last 13 years were with Historic England, most recently as Head of Midlands Region.

She took a lead role in heritage at risk and grant giving; and for many years was the Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas for Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. Prior to Historic England, she provided specialist conservation and urban design advice for a number of local authorities.

Says Éilis: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few months in position. It is the people who work, volunteer and visit Cromford Mills, Lumsdale and our wider estate, who make these places special.

"I continue to be amazed by the dedication and support we receive from all those who work with us including our volunteers and members, and the partnership opportunities we share across the Derwent Valley.

"Next year the Arkwright Society will continue to develop our exciting regeneration plans for Cromford Mills and in particular the regeneration of the First Mill and Building One. We will have a better understanding of the condition of the buildings and hope to refresh our masterplan and business planning to take us forward.

"We would like this to be a collective process, ensuring that we consult and discuss and bring our creative and entrepreneurial ideas together. As we do this, there will be plenty more exciting events and learning opportunities throughout 2023; celebrating the wonderful heritage of Cromford Mills and the village with more people."

THUMBS UP: Éilis (far left) with Cromford Mills staff celebrating Crossed Finger Selfie Day in November 2022 – a chance to say thank you to National Lottery players for funding amazing heritage projects across the UK, including at Cromford Mills, on the anniversary of the first National Lottery draw 28 years ago in 1994.

Hybrid workshops for researchers

Two days of free workshops were run in April for researchers with an interest in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, to better help them understand and get more out of the resources available.

The workshops looked at archives, landscapes and the environment, photographs, maps, buildings, the Historic Environment Record, old

handwriting and other resources, as well as giving people chance to hear about people's experiences of finding and using the materials available.

Aimed at people just starting out, as well as the more experienced, it was a chance to discover new avenues for research and reassure people that they are not alone in finding out

about local history.

The days featured both on-line and hybrid live sessions hosted by the University of Derby.

Some of the sessions are available to watch on the DVMWHS YouTube Channel.

Planning is now underway for more workshops to take place in 2023.

City link revived

Train services have been re-introduced between Derwent Valley Line stations and Nottingham, providing significantly improved journey times for commuters, students and other passengers.

On weekdays, three morning and three evening train services between Matlock and Derby have now been extended to and from Nottingham in each direction. In the morning peak, the first three trains from Matlock now operate through to Nottingham providing arrival times at 0722, 0815 and 0922. Through services return from Nottingham at 1554, 1654 and 1754.

For these journeys, times to Nottingham are reduced by over 20 minutes, to 43 minutes from Belper and 65 minutes from Matlock.

The direct services will also return for Sundays.

The re-instatement of these key services by East Midlands Railway followed a wide-ranging campaign to highlight the importance of direct services to Nottingham, after their withdrawal in June 2021.

This included extensive media coverage, such as the interview with Councillor Barry Lewis leader of Derbyshire County Council on the BBC's Politics East Midlands programme, a petition signed by over 10,000 people, two public meetings hosted by Belper Town Council and the support of local MPs including Mid Derbyshire MP Pauline Latham.

The re-introduction of these weekday morning and evening train services through to Nottingham follows the withdrawal of all weekday and Saturday services between Matlock and Nottingham in June 2021, due to shortages of rolling stock, high levels of covid-related staff absences and operational issues at Nottingham station and Eastcroft train depot.

Learning skills

A project run by Engineered Learning, developed in conjunction with Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership and East Midlands Railway, which helped young people learn engineering skills has won a national award.

The project, entitled 'Turning around vulnerable young lives through engineering', won the top prize in the Involving Children and Young People category at the 2022 Community Rail Network's Community Rail Awards.

The UK-wide awards recognise the hard work of everybody involved in community rail – including volunteers, train operators and community groups.

Engineered Learning – an organisation that specialises in educating vulnerable young people – provided participants with the opportunity to take part in a range of activities.

As well as creating a new arch for Duffield station and learning welding and fabricating skills, they also took part in team building exercises, a rail safety talk, a tour of Derby station and undertook a personal development and careers advice session – giving the students an insight into potential future industry opportunities.



Rail pilot helps students build skills for travelling

In the Spring of 2022, Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service worked with pupils from Alderwasley Hall Special School on a Derwent Valley Rail Pilot Project.

The project was funded by the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership and East Midlands Railway, in partnership with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

The pupils taking part in the project all have autism or specific learning needs and the project was carefully planned and resourced to test out whether the following could be achieved:

- Build skills for the pupils in preparing, planning and using local rail transport confidently and safely.
- Travel as a group on the Derwent Valley Line sustainably, safely and enjoyably.
- Develop and practice a variety of life skills: navigation, working towards independent travel, social skills, local knowledge, confidence in working and speaking with new people.
- An understanding of their local area, particularly the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and why it is special.
- Take part in a visit to Cromford within the DVMWHS and experience some of the heritage and leisure activities available.

The school staff were provided with lesson plans, activities, presentations, videos and activity resources for two introductory sessions. These helped the pupils explore rail travel skills, rail safety messages, map skills and information about the location they would be travelling to – Cromford within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. It helped to prepare them to know what to expect at the train station, on the train and at the location to be visited.

Pupils were provided with booklets to find out why the place they would be

visiting is special and were challenged to record their learning in a creative and interactive way developing photography skills.

The third session was a familiarisation trip to Whatstandwell Railway Station where the pupils would be starting their journey. This was chance to get used to the new sights, sounds and safety requirements at the station. They explored common features around train stations, did some sketching and learned how to purchase and print tickets on the machine.

The fourth session was a full morning visit to Cromford Mills. Pupils had to remember how to stay safe at the station, board safely, find their seats and speak with the ticket staff.

At Cromford Mills, the pupils found out about the world's first factories, explored the mill yard, visitor gateway and even met Sir Richard in the Arkwright Experience projection. Pupils were encouraged to document their experience capturing what caught their attention using photography.

In the final session, the pupils were challenged to use some of their photographs, learning and resources to create posters of their learning experience.

A larger scale project is hoped for in the future to encourage the use of the Derwent Valley Line by school and community groups to explore their local heritage.

BIG WORDS: Students discover World Heritage at Cromford Mills (above).

GETTING TRAINED: Pupils practise their sketching skills at Whatstandwell Station (below).





Funding ensures medical archive is in good health

MEDICAL artefacts – some with links to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site – are being catalogued, conserved and rehoused, thanks to a grant to the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton (UHDB).

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

The £98,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund was granted in 2021, and now over 701 items have been catalogued with about another 400 left to go.

Medical Museum Curator Beth Rawson said: "We've been taking the collection out to the wards with our "Museum in a Box" object handling sessions, and these have proved popular with the patients.

"In order to meet our engagement targets, we're about to embark on a series of short films for broadcast on TV

screens throughout the Hospital.

"Joseph Woffinden, Senior Library Assistant at the UHDB Library and member of Belper Musical Theatre, will be appearing as William Strutt in a series of short 'talking heads' films that we'll be doing to highlight aspects of the collection. We also have a Florence Nightingale and a Queen Victoria. Costumes and scripts are currently in the making.

"Adrian from the WHS team has assisted us with some aspects of Strutt, answering questions such as 'how would he have spoken' and 'would he have worn a wig.' Once he's mastered the vernacular, Joseph will be reading the Strutt letters from the DVMWHS collection, further linking our project with the DVMWHS."

MUSEUM IN A BOX: Two examples of artefacts ready to be taken out to the hospital wards (above).

OUR WILLIAM: Joseph Woffinden, who will play William Strutt in the planned films. William designed Derby's first infirmary (below).



Birdswood and canal shop back to full strength

The Birdswood trip boat and the canal shop at Cromford Wharf are the trading arm of the Friends of the Cromford Canal (www.cromfordcanal.org), operated to generate funds to further the charity's aims.

Trading operations were closed down during the Covid lockdowns in 2020 and only partially opened again through 2021, but 2022 saw a return close to maximum capacity.

The Friends group has strong relationships with most of the 30-odd owners of the canal, including the stretch that runs through the DVMWHS, and various new strategic relationships are being formed.

The Chair of Derbyshire County Council has recently started joining the monthly trustee meetings, and a delegation from the Friends group recently met with the new Chief Executive of the Arkwright Society to discuss all areas of mutual interest and foster greater future collaboration.

This year, the Friends faced some challenges which impacted on operations for Birdswood, including high weed growth in the canal, silting up (in part due to fewer cruises over the last two years), low water levels due to summer drought conditions, and more recently, several leaks along the stretch of canal where Birdswood operates.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the Friends group has had its most successful trading year yet, and is currently working with the county council on mitigations to allow Birdswood to operate in 2023.

CLEARING OUT: Members of the Friends of Cromford Canal group removing weeds in the canal to ensure Birdswood can continue the popular canal tours.

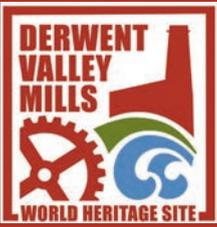
20th anniversary celebration

To belatedly mark the 20th anniversary of the Derwent Valley Mills' inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, an event to celebrate world heritage was held at Cromford Mills in July.

On the warmest weekend of the year, stalls and an exhibition were supported by two performances of 'Matlock Voices' – a reading of authentic accounts telling the history of Matlock

Bath, compiled by the Derwent Valley Mills Educational Trust.

The celebration coincided with artist Hetain Patel's latest exhibition 'Cotton Labour' in the mill yard, funded by Arts Council England. The artwork commemorated the forgotten workers from the mill's history – both the local and the global.



World Heritage News

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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 dvmwhs@derbyshire.gov.uk.

First Georgian Derbyshire Festival is a great success

Despite being held in a time of national mourning for our late Queen, the county's first Georgian Derbyshire Festival was successful, with over 1,000 attendances across three days of events within the World Heritage Site.

Held in partnership with the Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust, this was the first large-scale face-to-face activity for the World Heritage Site since 2019. It included a mix of walks and talks, exhibitions, craft workshops and open days for historic buildings.

Events at Buxton included a Georgian Ball at the Crescent and an exhibition of Georgian memorabilia produced for visitors to the spa town in the 18th century, displayed in Buxton Museum and Art Gallery.

Such was the success of 2022's three-day pilot, the festival is being expanded across four weekends in the autumn of 2023, beginning on Saturday 16 September and ending on Sunday 8 October. More details



will be available after Easter, at www.derwentvalleymills.org.

Cllr Barry Lewis, who chairs the World Heritage Site Partnership, said: "The county-wide Georgian theme provides endless potential for an expansion of the festival over time. Derbyshire was a vibrant and picturesque destination for visitors, but also a world-changing industrial powerhouse in the 18th and early 19th century, and that's something we should all be celebrating."

ALL SMILES: Volunteers at Strutt's North Mill welcome visitors to their last special event before the museum's closure (above).

ON FOOT: The Georgian Belper guided tour

gets under way (below left).

GOING TO PLAN: A historic maps exhibition 'Charted Territory' at Cromford Mills (below centre).

OPEN TO ALL: The Unitarian Chapel at Belper had an open day and exhibition.



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Derwent Valley Mills
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001