

World Heritage news

Issue 22 - 2024

www.derwentvalleymills.org



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Derwent Valley Mills
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001



From the Chair

It has been another busy year for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, with the installation of a wayfinding and interpretation scheme for three of our key communities – Belper, Milford and Darley Abbey.

These panels, supported by a QR-code heritage trail on bespoke waterwheel-themed plaques, will help visitors to appreciate and enjoy their time in these historic places, but are attractive additions that are sure to interest local people as well.

Looking to the future, 2024 will be a big year for the Derwent Valley Mills. In January, a UNESCO Mission will be visiting to offer advice and support on how we protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the site. They feel that more needs to be done to prevent inappropriate development in the historic rural (or 'relict') landscape setting of the Derwent Valley Mills, including tall buildings close to Derby's Silk Mill.

In turn, they will be finding out what we do to ensure hundreds of appropriate decisions are made every year, across the site, and how we look after our beautiful, historic valley so that we can pass it on, in good order, to future generations.

2024 is also the final full year of the current management plan for the Derwent Valley Mills. We'll be pulling together and collating all the many achievements of the past four years, to show UNESCO our progress and commitment. Despite a pandemic and despite difficult financial times, many of our objectives have been achieved, some of which you'll read more about in these pages. By 2025 we'll be ready to embrace new opportunities and face any new challenges to ensure the best future for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

Barry Lewis

Chair, DVMWHS Partnership



Waterwheel returns to help power mills

The Arkwright Society has forged ahead with its plan to return water-power to the Cromford Mills Site.

The site has its origins harnessing water power for cotton spinning and this exciting project sees the site go full circle, returning to its sustainable energy roots.

The project is reinstating a six-metre waterwheel and 15-kilowatt hydro turbine with water source heat pumps to provide renewable energy for the site. The scheme is also refurbishing a hydro-turbine at the Corn Mill in Cromford Village to generate funds to support community projects.

A wide range of funders and partners have been secured to deliver the project including Severn Trent Water, Derbyshire County Council's Green Entrepreneurs Fund, The Wolfson Foundation, Vaillant, Rural Community Energy Fund, Derwent Hydro and James Boon Architects.

As project costs increased crowd funding support flowed into the project alongside match funding from Gilkes who have supplied the turbine. The project is now in its commissioning phase and the energy savings for Cromford Mills site are estimated to be around 20 to 25% per year.

As this newsletter went to press the water source heat system was being installed with the aim of powering the whole of the large adjacent building with renewable energy.

Not just providing energy, the project has powered up education and innovation on site with opportunities for schools, families and college students to learn about water-power past and present and how these communities were designed to be sustainable 250 years ago and hope to continue this way into the future.

POWER TO THE MILLS: The new waterwheel in situ at Cromford.

Planning for long-term solution to Darley Abbey bridge issue

The temporary bridge called Walter's Walkway linking Darley Abbey village and mills was installed in September 2022 under a hire agreement.

It is taking more time than originally thought to find a long-term solution so Derby City Council agreed to buy the temporary structure as that would be a more cost-effective solution in the longer term.

Derby City Council are still looking into issues around ownership as well as how to fund the long-term replacement



bridge and it is likely to be a number of years before a long-term solution can be delivered.

Derby City have not taken on ownership of the bridge – that

will be looked at as part of the solutions they are working on.

ESSENTIAL LINK: The temporary footbridge to the Darley Abbey Mills site.



Major flooding hits Museum of Making

During the evening of 19 and early hours of 20 October the lower end of the Derwent Valley rose to unprecedented levels for recent times and enveloped the centre of Derby, flooding Cathedral Green and part of the ground floor of the Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill.

In recent years significant flood prevention works have been carried out by The Environment Agency and Derby City Council; these did a sterling job of protecting residential property, but in doing so made the immediate catchment of the river more liable to flooding.

A flooding event was not unanticipated and during the construction of the Museum of Making, floor levels were raised, the electrical network were placed 150 cm above floor level and the bulk of the collections were situated on the first and second floor.

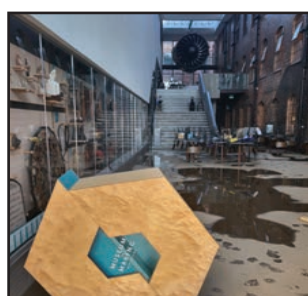
Notwithstanding this, over 70 cm of river water inundated the building for around 14 hours. As of mid-December

the Museum of Making remains closed, although there is hope of a re-opening early in the New Year.

Although the building performed well, extensive damage was caused to kitchen and workshop equipment.

The museum is working with its insurers to repair and replace kit so that its restaurant and public facing workshop can get back up and running quickly. Once the lifts are repaired the museum should return to full operation.

Derby Museums have been overwhelmed by the generous response and offers of support from the community. Currently in conversation with their insurers they are hopeful they will cover the majority of the remaining losses, however it is too early to know if all remaining losses will be met.



As it is a charity that relies on the support of visitors, donors, supporters and funders, if you'd like to make a donation there's an appeal available to help support recovery costs that aren't covered, to mitigate future flood damage or support the museum to continue to be fantastic and free. Use this link for more information: <https://derbymuseums.org/news/derby-museums-flood-damage-appeal>

Executive Director of Derby Museums Trust Tony Butler said: "It is not lost on me that what is believed to be the site of the world's first factory, the place where industrial society was born, should bear witness to the effects of man-made climate change, spurred by unabated consumption and the use of fossil fuel.

"As we review our mitigation plans should the (likely) event recur, we will also consider being more explicit in our display narratives around the legacy of industry and the climate emergency."

BADLY HIT: Derby's Museum of Making during and after the flood. Images © Derby Museums

DVT continues improvements to valley access

The Derwent Valley Trust (DVT) continues to deliver on its mission to promote the Derwent Valley, and to improve environmentally friendly access along its 55 miles, which includes the full 15-mile length of the World Heritage Site.

The Trust cares for the Heritage Way, a walking route from Ladybower Reservoir to Shardlow, supported by a team of voluntary rangers. In partnership with the company Lubrizol, based in Hazelwood, they have supported both the rangers, published a revised guidebook, and funded new signage along the route. They are now developing a multi-use cycleway to run in parallel to the pathway.

Derbyshire County Council's feasibility study for the cycleway has made good progress. The Trust has worked with the council and their consultants AECOM, to ensure the study is as complete and accurate as possible. Once AECOM delivers the report, the council will decide on what further action to take.

After a review by the rangers, the new, third edition of the Heritage Way guidebook was prepared and printed. Visit www.derwentvalleytrust.org.uk/ to find out where it's currently available.

The rangers periodically check their sections of the Way, undertaking minor repairs or clearance, reporting serious issues, and adding waymarks where needed.

In early Autumn all was well; then Storm Babet struck. The Derwent broke its banks at multiple places and there was serious flooding. When the floods had receded, the rangers re-inspected their sections and reported, remarkably, that there was little visible damage – a lucky escape from floods which caused so much damage elsewhere.

TESTING IT OUT: An autumn walker studies the new guidebook in front of Aqueduct Cottage, near High Peak Junction.





OFF THE WALL: The new interpretation and wayfinding wall at the entrance to the Ada Belfield Care Home and Belper Library was installed in December.

Scheme helps visitors and locals explore our key communities

The much-anticipated World Heritage Site wayfinding and interpretation schemes for Belper, Darley Abbey and Milford have been installed during 2023, providing comprehensive support for visitors to some of our key historic communities.

This complex project of interlinking information boards, supported by a heritage trail of bespoke waterwheel-shaped wall plaques provide interpretation information via a web-link, have been funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund's and Arts Council England's Great Place Scheme.

Several of the boards have hand-crafted waterwheel-shaped board holders, created by Derbyshire blacksmith David Tucker, picking up on the valley's historic mass use of waterpower.

Each board features an easy-to-use map, with illustrations of significant buildings, and the

locations of all the other boards and heritage trail plaques in each community, providing an activity for visitors, and locals if they want to find out more about their home town or village.

The Darley Abbey Scheme was completed first, and launched on International Sites and Monuments Day (better known as World Heritage Day), 18 April.

The first board to be unveiled was about the mills and included context on their Global Cotton Connections, particularly the use of cotton from plantations which used enslaved workers, researched by the Legacy Makers group, as part of a project also funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Legacy Makers were able to attend the unveiling and after a walk through the village to see other boards and wayfinding markers, gave a presentation at the St Matthew's Church Fellowship Rooms. Watch the video www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5ssGhTQIso to find out more about the launch of the

scheme and how to use the boards and plaques to discover more about this historic mill community.

The Milford Scheme was launched on 1 July as part of a community heritage day at Milford Primary School, organised by the school and Belper Historical Society. The school has a new panel attached to the wall, explaining its history as one of the oldest in the county.

The Belper Scheme was installed in late summer, with the final piece, filling a wall at the shared entrance to the Ada Belfield Care Centre and Belper Library, put in place on December 11. A formal launch for the Belper Scheme is planned for early 2024, bringing a successful conclusion to the most complex and visible Great Place Scheme project.

UP FOR INTERPRETATION: (from left to right) Unveiling one of the new boards in the Darley Abbey Mills complex; one of the heritage trail waterwheel plaques, designed by David Tucker, at Milford; another unveiling outside Milford School.



Masson Mills come back to life

Masson Mills has enjoyed an exciting year since new owners, Derwent Hydroelectric Power Ltd, purchased the site in September 2022.

The textile museum, conference facility and car park have all re-opened and there's a brand-new addition of a visitor centre with a café and gift shop.

The textile museum re-opened to the public in July following three years of closure. The re-opening of the mill attracted a positive reaction from both the local media and members of the community who were thrilled to see life return to the mills.

A new visitor centre has been created where customers can enjoy barista coffee, light refreshments and browse a textile-themed gift shop.

The old conference centre has been transformed into a welcoming meeting and events space. The newly refurbished River Suite on the 4th floor of the historic 1783 mill overlooks the River Derwent.

The suite features a partition of loom healds, a mural of Masson's own doubling machines and various textile artifacts creating a truly unique space.

The multi-storey car park is now open to the public with a phone and app payment system, offering parking for visitors to both the mills and the surrounding area.

Masson Mills is continuing to develop the meeting and events spaces and is looking forward to hosting exhibitions and markets in the new year. The team at Masson are eager to hear from anyone with ideas to fulfil the



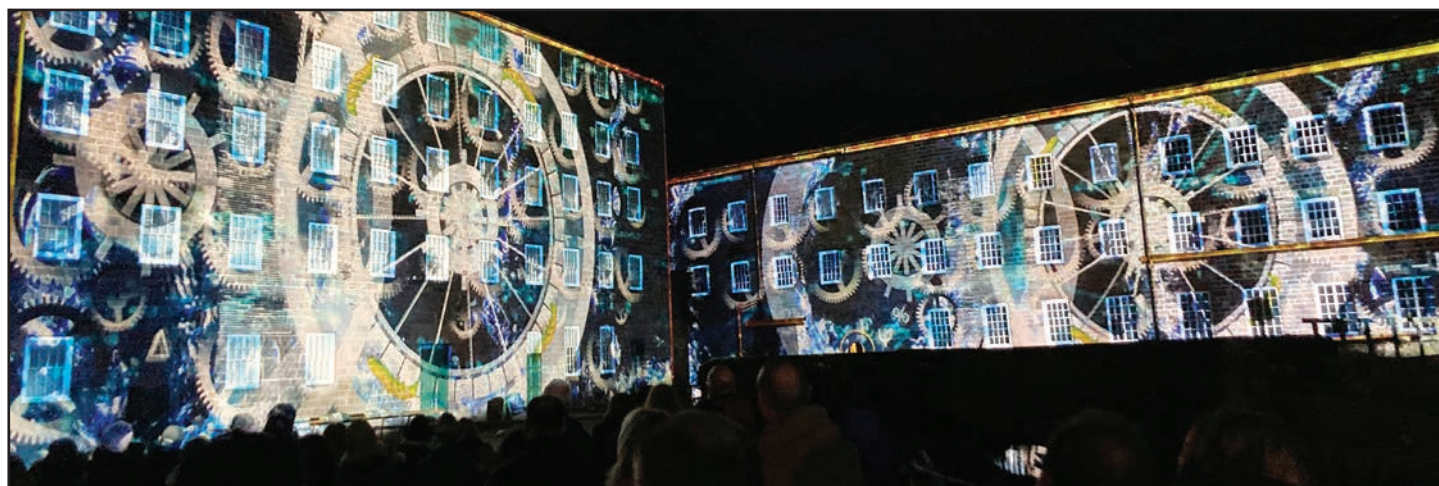
potential of the site.

For any museum, events or commercial space enquiries please call 01629 581001 or email info@massonmills.co.uk.

TRANSFORMED: The visitor centre (above); and (from left to right below) the visitor centre shop, River Suite and lounge.



Mills are lit up again for celebration



The latest after-dark experience captivated the whole family at Cromford Mills in October.

'Shine A Light' returned with new awe-inspiring animations, projections and music, telling the story of the mill's transformation since Arkwright's time.

From life as a cotton spinning mill, through

fires, time as a paint works, brewery, laundry, poisoning of the building and into the rebirth and renovation in more recent times.

Shine A Light this year celebrated the return of waterpower to the mill site with the new hydro-electric scheme and highlighted the importance of the communities that support the mill and the wider landscape and wildlife

around the World Heritage Site.

Special UV installations to explore, with stalls, live music, food and a chance to tour the varied independent shops on site, made it an enjoyable experience for all.

TAKING A SHINE TO CROMFORD: Part of the latest Shine a Light display.



Workshop looks at using research as a resource

Over 40 people from across the region came together in November to discover more about researching in the Derwent Valley Mills.

Presentations and case studies were incredibly varied ranging from exploring the Duffield Fee Manorial Records held at the Derbyshire Record Office, putting a face to history with the Belper Mill workers photographs and records from the 1800s, and exploring the Evans family from Darley Abbey.

Using collections and artefacts as a research

resource was explored with talks from Derby Local Studies, Derby Archaeological Society, the Midland Railway and Derby Museums.

How to use research findings as a resource for engagement was also shared, with textiles-led creativity inspired by historical research, and Rachel Carter's 'Standing in this Place' sculpture development. Presentations showed how new research can be integrated into school visits, new talks, walks, exhibitions and arts projects for all ages and abilities.

The event was held thanks to Arkwright

Society and University of Derby sponsorship which allowed it to be free for participants.

If you're researching part of the Derwent Valley Mills stories and would like to share your findings, the DVMWHS coordination team would like to hear from you - fill in a form at www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/derwent-valley-mills-research/.

DIFFERENT APPROACHES: Kim Kerry (left) and Dr Susanne Seymour and Rachel Carter (right) provided case studies for how to use research as a resource for other work.

Volunteers keep heritage offer alive in Belper

Following the closure of Belper's North Mill Museum in September 2022, the commitment to sustaining the town's heritage experience motivated the Belper North Mill Volunteers to establish and deliver a range of new heritage walks and talks, and site tours for 2023.

The core offer focussed on a new 'Strutt Around the Mills' tour starting from their base – Archway House in the mill yard.

Guides take visitors through Belper's industrial revolution as they walk around the site.

Visitors this year have come from as far as Canada, USA, Germany, the Netherlands and Australia. In 2023 there were four Strutt tours a week from Easter through to October.

In 2024, the 'Strutt Around the Mills' tours will continue four times a week and a Heritage walks programme is planned to offer a walk almost every weekend between May and September. Keep an eye on the www.belpernorthmill.org.uk website and Facebook page for the 2024 programme which will be available early next year. New research has been pivotal in developing the walks.



For the winter months, as the tours wind down, the volunteers are delivering a series of evening talks to local groups.

2022 was a difficult year in Belper but the mill volunteers delivered a well-received heritage offer in 2023, achieving the Trip Advisor

Travellers Choice award for 2023 putting Strutts North Mill in the top 10% of Trip Advisor listings, thanks to some extremely positive reviews.

SPREADING THE WORD: Christine Smith leads a walk from Belper Market Place.

Looking at alternatives to secure a future for Belper's historic mills

A project to produce an alternative plan for the future of North and East Mills at Belper has been funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England and Derbyshire County Council.

The remit of the project is to develop an alternative, 'ready to go', viable scheme that delivers the conservation and repurposing required for the historic mill complex and will be completed by March 2024.

The DVMWHS Partnership secured the funding, and contributed towards the project, which has seen work on the plan led by Amion Consulting, in partnership with Mosedale

Gillatt Architects and Aspinall Verdi Property Development Consultants.

Over the last few months, the team have been working on options for potential uses resulting in a shortlist of five options, focusing on residential, multi-generational living, commercial, hotel and live/work alternatives. These are broad uses with other complementary uses taking place around the complex. All of the options include a visitor centre within the complex.

Alongside the work of the consultants, there has been a detailed consultation process taking place. The first stage involved in-depth consultation workshops and site visits with 97



people representing diverse local communities. These participants were invited to help narrow down the long list of potential uses to those most needed for Belper. It also helped to highlight the desire for solutions which are environmentally sustainable, accessible for all and inclusive.

The five 'shortlisted' scenarios have been open for public consultation via an online survey on the Derwent Valley Mills website, which closes on 17 December 2023. The results will feed into the final 'viable scheme' to be completed by March 2024.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: A consultation event for the Our Belper Mills group.

Rare early view of Cromford Mill is acquired

Earlier this year Buxton Museum and Art Gallery bought a rare Derby Porcelain coffee can and saucer dating to around 1790.

Both pieces are decorated with hand painted scenes of Derbyshire attributed to Derby Porcelain's leading landscape painter, Zachariah Boreman (1738-1810).

The saucer shows a view of the River Derwent with Chatsworth in the background, but it is the view on the coffee can that is



particularly exciting. On it is painted an unusual view of Arkwright's Cromford Mill, looking down towards the mill from the Market Place area.

The porcelain was bought at auction with funding from the Art Fund.

ADDED TO THE COLLECTION: The coffee can and saucer (above).

RARE VIEW: The Cromford Mill scene (below).



Georgina joins the WHS team

In April 2023 Georgina Greaves joined the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Coordination Team as Assistant Coordinator.

A familiar face to many in the DVMWHS Partnership, George has been working with DVMWHS partners for many years in her previous role as Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service Manager where she delivered engagement, consultation, education, heritage projects, events and Forest School across Derbyshire.

A qualified teacher, George has been working in learning and engagement in schools, outdoors and on heritage sites with people of all ages and abilities for over 25 years.

She's enjoying getting to know partners, volunteers and visitors across the site and is on hand to help support the coordination team in the delivery of the management plan.

Learning plays important role in World Heritage engagement

It's been another busy year for learning and engagement in the Derwent Valley Mills.

Masson Mills is now open for tours of this working textile museum and are happy to take enquiries for school visits to this fascinating site. The coordinating team have been out and about giving presentations to local schools, sharing with them the World Heritage that they live and learn in every day.

Cromford Mills have a new learning and engagement staff team in place to continue to offer their award-winning schools programme and are developing joint visits so visitors and school groups will be able to visit Cromford Mills and Belper Mills or Masson Mills within a day visit in the future.

The Belper North Mill Education team of volunteers have delivered heritage education to a number of local schools in 2023, including a secondary school for the first time. Seasonal craft activities for adults and children have been well attended and community

engagement has been furthered by free children's activities in the River Gardens during school holidays. An expanded education programme is being prepared for 2024, including family-friendly walks.

Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service offered a series of school holiday events at High Peak Junction with hands on activities exploring everything from clay modelling inspired by the landscape, exploring what lives in the canal habitat or working out how the engineering worked on the railway incline. It's been great to see the Birdwood trip boat operating as well.

Manor Adventure, who offer residential and adventurous visits to schools, now operate from Willersley Castle, the home that Sir Richard Arkwright built but never lived in. What an experience for young people visiting the area!

Derby Museums and Cromford Mills have been working with YMCA learners, exploring the site and learning new skills so there's



something for everyone on this hugely diverse site. If you'd like to find out more or bring your group whatever their age, interests and ability visit: www.derwentvalleymills.org/discover/learning-for-all/

MILL WORK: A teaching session run by the Belper North Mill volunteers.

Repairs on target

Repairs to the workshop roof at High Peak Junction are on target to be completed before Christmas 2023.

Restoration Projects, the contractor doing the works, have worked well in stripping the roof, replacing rotten timbers and skylights, and re-installing the slates.

They have taken down the guttering and repainted it, as well as the internal walls of the workshop itself.

Given it's a Scheduled Ancient Monument, they have had to work within the guidelines of Historic England, to ensure the building, after the works, structurally remains the same as it was.

The works have also been done with bats in mind, that are known to use the workshops as a roost, and gaps have been left/created to accommodate them.

There will be two events at High Peak Junction over the Christmas period, the first being the elves workshop on Saturday 23rd December, a chance to make a bat or bird box, and the second is a forge day on Wednesday 27th, when you can make a poker.

See www.derbyshire.gov.uk/highpeakjunction for more details.

Aqueduct Cottage project is complete and open to public

At the end of March 2023, one of the most eagerly awaited historic building projects in the Lower Derwent Valley reached an exciting conclusion.

After a four-year restoration, the beautiful Aqueduct Cottage was completed and opened to the public.

The project stands as a testament to the power of community collaboration, historical preservation, and environmental stewardship.

A neglected relic has been transformed into a vibrant information and activity centre for the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

The dedication of the community volunteers and support from local businesses, private and corporate donors, plus guidance from Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust (DHBT) have underpinned the success of the project.



The significance of the project was recognised at the DHBT annual architecture awards in November 2023, where the cottage won several awards plus the "Craftsmanship" award for the project's restoration builder, Andrew Churchman.

Since opening, the cottage has become a popular attraction along the Cromford Canal, receiving thousands of visitors from the local area and further afield.

During the Autumn, the cottage

held a variety of arts and crafts events and there will be a new programme for 2024.

Further developments planned for 2024 include the installation of a lock gate at the entrance to the Lea Wood arm. This would replicate the original stop-lock installed when the dwelling was constructed as a lock-keeper's cottage in 1802 by Peter Nightingale.

COMPLETED: Aqueduct Cottage, photographed by Claire Ellen Taylor.

Belper Voices shines a light on new research

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Educational Trust has launched its latest book of research to help people better understand the valley and its history.

Belper Voices – Life in Belper in the Nineteenth Century (Volume One) joins Cromford Revisited and Matlock Bath – A Perfectly Romantic Place in the series of books looking at key communities in the Derwent Valley Mills WHS.

This first volume, by Christopher Charlton, Bernard Holden, David Hool and Adrian Farmer provides a series of studies of life in Belper in the nineteenth Century.

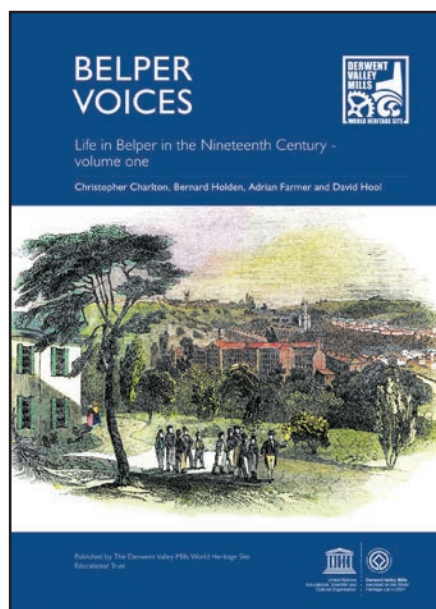
It extends the biography of the town begun years ago in The Strutts and the Arkwrights by R.S. Fitton and A.P. Wadsworth, first published in the 1960s.

Volume one describes the town's first transport links by road and by rail.

Contemporary drawings by Samuel Russell punctuate an account of how the railway was brought through Belper, joining the town to the local and the national networks.

This was the century that saw the Belper horse nail makers enjoy their greatest prosperity and then its loss as it was snatched away by the imported and machine made nails that extinguished their trade.

The book describes the nailers' union's fight to stem this loss of work which extended even to paying men to blow up non-union workshops; but by 1900 the industry had died. For many, the Workhouse beckoned.



For the Strutts also, the second half of the century found them confronting grim realities. Their mills were no longer competitive, and by 1897 it was with some relief they sold out to the English Sewing Cotton Company.

The book is a worthy new member of the Trust's portfolio; like its predecessors it is carefully researched, generously illustrated and written in accessible English.

Belper Voices – Life in Belper in the Nineteenth Century, Volume One is available to purchase from the Educational Trust at DVMWHSEducationTrust@gmail.com or by ringing 07784 875 333. The book costs £18 (plus £4 P&P). ISBN 978-1-9161609-1-0.

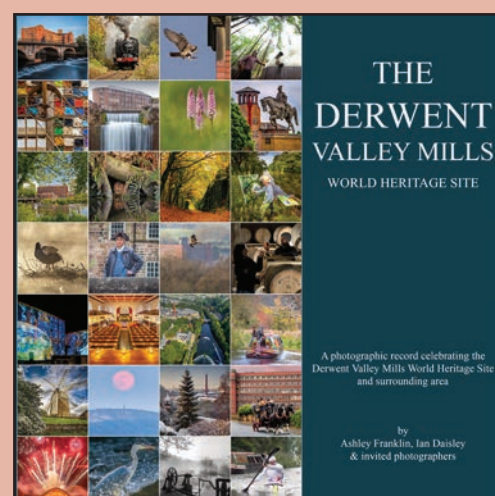


Photo book celebrates World Heritage Site

The first photo book to celebrate the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site has been produced by Ashley Franklin, Ian Daisley and 50 other photographers.

The 228-page hardback publication marks the culmination of a nine-year aspiration for Ashley.

Initially commissioned in 2014 by the Arkwright Society when he was their official photographer, Ashley's project took flight in 2019 when Ian joined him, inviting additional photographers to participate.

With 1,000 submissions, the book features nearly 500 images, with Ashley's extensive collection as the centrepiece.

Curated into three thematic sections—Industrial Heritage, People & Places, and Wildlife—the book encapsulates the valley's historical significance, its communities, and its rich biodiversity.

'This is a perfect way of celebrating this World Heritage Site,' says Ashley. 'A photographic record of this site is well overdue, and I'm proud and thrilled that Ian and I and all the invited photographers have been able to highlight the valley's significant industrial heritage, its diverse people and places and its bountiful wildlife.'

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site - A Photographic Record is published by The Arkwright Society, and available for £30 with calendars for £10. They can be purchased at Cromford Mills, Scarthin Books in Cromford, Hall of Frames in Belper, and online at derwentvalleyimages.co.uk/purchase-book.

Proceeds from the calendar go to the charities Family Connect and The Arkwright Society.

A free exhibition of the photography is on display in the Visitor Centre at Cromford Mills until the end of December, and will then tour the Derwent Valley throughout 2024.

Reflecting on museum's achievements



April 18 is 'International Day for Monuments and Sites', or World Heritage Day.

This year as well as launching the wayfinding scheme in Darley Abbey (see page 4) the DVMWHS Team joined with volunteers from Belper's North Mill past and present to thank them and celebrate their work for the now-closed mill museum.

This was a chance to look back at pictures from the history of the Belper North Mill Museum and remember fondly some of the wonderful volunteers from the past 30 years. There was also a chance to discuss how to keep the stories alive for future generations.

BACK TOGETHER: The Belper North Mill volunteers.



MOT for Birdswood

The Friends of the Cromford Canal have had trip boat Birdswood for ten years now – it's their main source of income generation for conservation and restoration aims.

Since the charity chooses to operate Birdswood with more than twelve passengers, regulations specify that the boat needs inspections annually, in and out of the water, and show their operational policies and procedures are fit for purpose.

The boat was lifted out of the water for inspection in October. The in-water inspection and Domestic Safety Management examination are both planned for the spring but the Friends are confident they will be able to cruise through 2024.

OUT OF WATER: The Birdswood boat, ready for inspection.

Trips enhanced

If you've recently taken a trip on Birdswood you will have noticed a few changes that have enhanced the visitor experience.

The on-board live commentary was variable in both content and length. One of the Friends of Cromford Canal volunteers undertook a Covid lock-down project to create a scripted pre-recorded commentary to be played over the vessel's PA system, triggered by GPS location. This means that exactly at the same spots on the cruise, the same commentary is delivered to passengers.

The vast majority of Birdswood bookings are made online, and when a booking is made confirmation is automatically sent.

When people arrive late for a trip, it means other passengers can be left sitting around on the boat waiting and there are knock on implications for follow-on cruises and crew welfare.

So now when a booking is made, both an email and a text asking people to turn up early (or at least on-time) are sent out. When there are known travel hold-ups, water supply issues and the like, advice and guidance is offered to passengers through such messages.

Volunteers needed to support the DVMWHS

Volunteering is a great way to make new friends, practise existing skills, gain new ones, and to have a positive impact on the Derwent Valley and your own wellbeing.

The organisations within the World Heritage Site Partnership are looking for people who want to get involved in all aspects of heritage, from conservation and restoration to arts and crafts, events and many more opportunities. If you can spare a couple of hours a month or a couple of days a week then there is volunteering opportunity for you!

Whether you love the outdoors or heritage, a student who wants some hands-on experience, retired or on a career break, or simply want to learn something new, check out the opportunities below.

High Peak Junction

This is a transport hub on the Cromford Canal from around 1830 with some of the world's oldest railway workshops and a haven of heritage and wildlife. The workshops are a scheduled ancient monument and maintained by Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Service.

They're looking for volunteers to welcome people to the workshop museum, explain its history and the social history of the area. Training is available. To discuss the role further please contact Middleton Top on 01629 533298.

Friends of Cromford Canal

The Friends work to actively promote the Cromford Canal and its restoration. Volunteers are their life blood and the charity couldn't exist without them. Volunteering opportunities include:

- Tactical Working parties
- Crew for the trip boat
- Specialist to assist and advise with specific projects.

To find out more visit:
www.cromfordcanal.org/volunteers/

Belper North Mill Trust

This friendly and welcoming group works hard to make a contribution to keeping the story of Belper's Heritage alive. Although they no longer host a museum, they remain active and offer a number of volunteer roles.

These include reception, volunteer guide, learning, events, walk guide, costumed character, collections, research, fundraising, marketing, special projects and more.

Follow the volunteering link on their website

for details - www.belpernorthmill.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/ or contact admin@belpernorthmill.org.uk

DVMWHS Research Group

Encouraging new research into the history and culture of the area is important for the World Heritage Site. A research framework is available as a wiki to use as a tool to facilitate research on topics to be of particular interest - visit researchframeworks.org/dvmwhs/

Volunteers are needed for updating and enhancing the Research Framework wiki to ensure that it remains a useful and up to date research resource. Roles include:

- Contributing information on new research that advances our understanding of the DVMWHS
- Adding details of new research resources (e.g. new digital archives)
- Helping with updating of the thematic bibliography
- Assisting maintenance and enhancement of the list of key websites

To find out more and sign up email:
dvmwhs@derbyshire.gov.uk

Derby Museums

Derby Museums offer volunteering opportunities to excite, challenge and intrigue.

Meaningful co-production is at the heart of all they do, and working alongside their brilliant team of volunteers, they create inspiring museums built with the people of Derby. Find out more at bit.ly/DMVolunteerWithUs

Cromford Mills

Cromford Mills are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join their team to help share the amazing story of Cromford Mills.

There's no experience required, just a willingness to learn and interact with visitors.

They provide full training and have a handful of benefits for the volunteer team including social events, training and talks, a discount in the shop and cafes, lunch vouchers, mileage allowance and free parking.

Most of the volunteer opportunities take place at Cromford Mills. Some activities can be supported from home and outdoor and conservation volunteering takes place across their green estate, which also includes Slinter Woods, Dunsley Meadows and the Lumsdale Valley.

Find out more at: www.cromfordmills.org.uk/support-us/volunteer/ or email volunteering@arkwrightsociety.org.uk

Celebrating Georgian Derbyshire



Over four weekends in September and October, visitors enjoyed the heritage, beauty and innovations of Georgian Derbyshire.

Bringing together the Georgian stories from Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust, Bakewell Old House Museum and across the Derwent Valley Mills there was a wide mix of demonstrations, tours, talks, workshops, crafts, walks and open buildings.

Visitors explored the themes of 'people' and 'landscapes'. Children had a chance to dress up as Georgians in Buxton and Belper and take part in craft activities.

Talks covered everything from farming and industry, performers and musicians to Georgian love stories. There was chance to practice quill writing with a 'locking letters' workshop for adults with the Derbyshire Record Office and poetry writing workshop inspired by the wonderful 'Burn Bright' poem by Emma Pass.

Exhibitions included photography and art, looking at the landscape past and present and 'Charted Territory' featuring



old maps of the Derwent Valley Mills held by the Derbyshire Record Office.

A packed programme of walks and tours provided a chance to explore Belper, Derby Cathedral, Masson Mills, St Mary's Churches in Cromford and Derby, the Birdwood boat on Cromford Canal and the Unitarian Chapel and St Peter's Church in Belper.

Whether you associated with the mill workers stories, the gentry, farmers or children there was something new for everyone to discover and enjoy.

And there were many positive comments made in the visitors survey: "Brilliant – so interesting", "What an amazing tour of a hidden gem. So

informative and friendly", "Fabulous afternoon, great fun. Learned a lot and ignited my interest in the Georgian era. Success!"

The festival rounded off with a grand Regency Ball at Buxton Crescent with everyone dancing the night away in their breeches and gowns.

Over 2000 people enjoyed exploring what's on offer across the festival.

ALL THING GEORGIAN: Dressed appropriately at Pickford's House Museum, Derby (top left); part of the Masson Mills tour (above); the Georgian Militia at Cromford Mills (below); and Kim Kery and Rachel Hodgkinson discuss their latest research (bottom).



Standing in this Place

Did you know that less than 5% of statues in the UK portray non-royal women?

"Standing In This Place" is an arts and heritage project by sculptor Rachel Carter in collaboration with the Legacy Makers group formed in 2014 by Bright Ideas Nottingham and the collaborative community-academic Global Cotton Connections project.

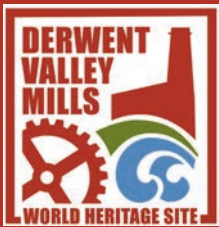
It looks to highlight the contributions and connections between white mill workers and black enslaved women uprooted to the Americas, showing how their stories and histories are connected by cotton, sorrow, strength and resilience.

Funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund has helped to deliver an installation exhibition in the Museum of Making, highlighting the amazing participatory work behind this co-created arts and heritage project.

This will be extended into 2024 due to the flooding in the museum and it is hoped will later tour to another location in the Derwent Valley Mills.

Ultimately the project will see a life-size bronze statue representing a white mill worker/lace maker, and a black enslaved woman uprooted to the Americas, installed in the heart of the rejuvenated Broadmarsh area in Nottingham City Centre. To find out more visit www.standinginthisplace.co.uk/

STANDING OUT: Rachel Carter at the recent Research as a Resource workshop, talking about the Standing in the Place project.



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. It is no longer 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.

Hourly trains re-instated

Trains have been reinstated every hour between Nottingham and Matlock, reconnecting communities in Nottinghamshire with the Derwent Valley.

The full reintroduction of the service provides hourly trains Monday to Saturday between Nottingham and Matlock.

Leader of Derbyshire County Council and Chair of the DVMWHS Partnership Cllr Barry Lewis said: "I am delighted to see that this vital service has been reinstated. Along with many others I campaigned to get the trains running from Matlock right through to Nottingham and am grateful that East Midlands Railways have been able to provide this service once again."

East Midlands Railway's reinstatement of the service will make it easier for people to access some of the key communities in the World Heritage Site, including Belper and Cromford.

The reinstatement of services follows a wide-ranging campaign to highlight the importance of direct services between Matlock and Nottingham, after their withdrawal in June 2021. This included a petition signed by over 10,000 people and public meetings.

Will Rogers, Managing Director for East Midlands Railway, said: "The recent timetable change saw the reintroduction of 53 direct services between Matlock and Nottingham on weekdays and Saturdays. A lot of work has taken place over the last year to



ensure services can be reintroduced reliably and we hope our customers, as well as the businesses along the route, will benefit from their return."

In June, the return of hourly trains between Matlock, Derby and Nottingham was celebrated on the route. The group included Cllr Lewis, Cllr John Ogle, chair of Nottinghamshire County Council – and most distinctively dressed, Mrs Brassington,

Victorian ambassador for the Heights of Abraham!

BETTER CONNECTED: Adrian Farmer, DVMWHS Heritage Co-ordinator; Mrs Brassington from the Heights of Abraham; Jo Dille, Managing Director, Visit Peak District & Derbyshire; Cllr Ogle; Cllr Lewis; and Alastair Morley, Partnership Officer, Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership celebrate at Matlock Station.

Belper Mosaic revamp

The newly revamped Belper Railway Station mosaic was installed in September. The updated mosaic replaces the award-winning mosaic from 2015, which had deteriorated in recent years.

Transition Belper's Richard Bett has been leading on this with support from Kate Pudney, Terry Conn and other adopters.

Eight community participation workshops were held, with over 50 attendees creating the new design (based on the original mosaic). The new mosaic uses more durable materials comprising anodised aluminium base and sustainable thermoplastic used for road markings.

Several sessions were spent on site with Kev Knight, EMR Station Service Technician working with Richard and station volunteers to remove the old

mosaic, carefully measure for the new aluminium base, carry out a test fitting of the new base prior to fitting the new mosaic in September, when many of those who helped make the mosaic attended to see it in situ.

A funders logo and updated information panel will be installed prior to an unveiling event in the spring. The Partnership has obtained grants from Community Rail Network and EMR towards this project to provide match funding to those obtained by Transition Belper from Belper Town Council and Cllr John Nelson's Derbyshire County Council Community Leadership Fund.

PIECING IT TOGETHER: Richard and his team work on the mosaic.

REFRESHED: The new mosaic in position.



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Derwent Valley Mills
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2001