

PRESS RELEASE

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250 years of Industrial Revolution at Cromford Mills

Cromford Mills celebrates 250 years of Industrial Revolution by welcoming visitors back with a fantastic line up of summer events!

Nestled in the picturesque Derwent Valley, Cromford Mills was founded in 1771 by Sir Richard Arkwright in Cromford, Derbyshire. Arkwright and his mill rose to fame as it became the birthplace of the modern factory system and the first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill in the country.

Join us in this year of celebration as we also mark the 50th anniversary of the Arkwright Society and 20th anniversary of the Derwent Valley UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Celebrations kick off with a summer of exciting events! Enjoy artisan markets, antiques fairs, special weekend events, online talks and outdoor theatre. Stay up to date with the latest developments by visiting cromfordmills.org.uk

Some of the special weekend highlights include:

May 22 – 23, Conservation & Restoration Event

Come celebrate the Arkwright Society's achievements over the last 50 years as we reflect on their remarkable effort in restoring the site and surrounding area. Discover the skills that helped rebuild Cromford Mills from a derelict industrial site into a beautiful tourist attraction, small business hub and world heritage site. Watch expert demonstrations and try out a new skill with hands-on activities. Learn about lime plastering, watch spinning demonstrations, and have a go at pond dipping. Explore the power of Cromford water and find out how we will be harnessing it again one day soon!

June 26 – 27, Georgian Weekend

The Georgians have taken over the mill! Step back in time and experience Georgian life within the 250-year-old mill site. Enjoy delicious Georgian treats, say hello to the Georgian re-enactors, and complete the exciting family trail around the yard. Don't miss this exciting and historic weekend!

June & July, Outdoor Theatre at the Mill

Outdoor theatre in a fabulous historic setting? Summer nights don't get much better than this. Snap up your tickets before they sell out and join us for four outstanding performances this June and July:

19 June – *The Merry Wives of Windsor* performed by Three-Inch Fools

23 July – *Heroes* performed by Chatsworth Players

25 July – *Macbeth* performed by The Handlebards

27 July – *Robin Hood* performed by Three-Inch Fools

In addition to this, on the 24th and 25th of July, Notice this Notice will be entertaining visitors around the site with their amusing and cheeky Georgian mill workers.

August 21-22, Celebrating the Arts

Reflect on the beauty of the Derwent Valley and delight in this hands-on celebration of the arts this August. See local artists compete in an outdoor painting competition and enter the Cromford Mills photo competition. Don't miss Medley's skilled crafting demonstrations and their art and craft show. A great day of celebrating local makers and artists who feature around the site and in our independent shops.

Plan your visit today and check cromfordmills.org.uk for more details about events, walks, tours and cafes. Cromford Mills is 'Good to Go' which mean you can rest assured that Covid-safe measures have been put into place for visitors and staff. Free entry and on-site parking.

Come discover how Cromford Mills shaped the world 250 years ago!

END OF RELEASE

For more information please visit cromfordmills.org.uk/learning or email Tricia Trice, Marketing Coordinator at ttrice@arkwrightsociety.org.uk.

Notes for editors.

About Cromford Mills

Built in 1771 to house the first water-powered cotton spinning mill, the site became the birthplace of the modern factory system. Cromford Mills is internationally recognised as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, due to the ground-breaking ingenuity that was quickly replicated in mills across the world, transforming the global textile industry.

About the Arkwright Society

The Arkwright Society owns and manages Cromford Mills. It is an educational charity devoted to the rescue of industrial heritage buildings and helping to preserve the precious built and natural landscape in and around Cromford. www.cromfordmills.org.uk @CromfordMills