INTRODUCTION

This has been another amazing year for Derby Museums. Visitor numbers have continued to grow and we had one of the best years for attendance ever at Pickford’s House. Many local schools and colleges participated in our specialist programmes and our increasingly varied exhibition programme is attracting a broader spectrum of individual visitors.

The Weeping Window First World War Poppies installation at the Silk Mill during the summer of 2017 attracted many thousands of visitors from the city and surrounding area.

The reputation of our organisation has grown within the city and far beyond. Our senior staff are frequently asked to speak at national and international meetings and conferences.

Membership of the Board of Trustees has remained stable, although we are constantly looking for ways to make it even more representative of the population of the city. Our growing army of volunteers help to offset deficiencies in the diversity of the Board and our staff, but we are not complacent and know this is an issue we need to address with vigour.

In the middle of 2018 building work began on Derby Silk Mill as it is redeveloped to become the Museum of Making. When it reopens in 2020 it will be one of the city’s main visitor attractions.

We are grateful for the financial support we receive from Derby City Council, the Arts Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund, a number of charitable trusts and foundations and increasing donations from local individuals and visitors.

This report is written to proudly promote the extensive impact we have within our communities, and to introduce you to our exciting ambitions for the future.

Since Derby Museums became an independent organisation, change and growth have been constant. From the major development of the Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill to the new operations of the former central library, we seek to maximise the city’s cultural assets for public benefit.

We pursue opportunities, we form unusual partnerships, we have palpable impact on local people and we promote our city to the outside world.

Through this report I invite you to learn more and engage with Derby Museums’ mission and vision for the future.

TONY BUTLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ICONIC LOCATIONS, STIRRING ENCOUNTERS

In summer 2017 Derby Silk Mill provided an iconic backdrop for the Weeping Window installation by Paul Cummins (artist) and Tom Piper (designer). This formed part of the 14-18 Now Poppies Tour, with several thousand handmade ceramic poppies pouring from the Silk Mill’s campanile. The event was a fantastic showcase event for the city and the installation had a profound and moving effect on visitors, staff and volunteers.

IMPACT

Over 200,000 people came to visit the Weeping Window over the seven-week display with over a million people passing by the site during that time.
A new Gallery, Objects of Love, Hope and Fear – A World Collection, opened in 2018. Over 1400 objects, from six continents, are a visceral connection to emotions and feelings across the globe. In our apparently polarised world it is more important than ever to understand what connects us as human beings.

Over 18 months we took collections to places where people meet in our diverse city. Our team ‘walked’ objects around, visiting barbers’ shops, florists, recording studios, nail bars and community centres.

We have made lasting friendships with organisations such as Derby Jamia Mosque, Chinese Welfare Association, Rethink mental health group and young people in Mackworth. Over 3500 people have been involved in the co-production of the new gallery. We have been welcomed, challenged and given cause to think deeply about how a museum tells contested stories.

The gallery has been a venue for English language lessons and people newly arriving in the city have said they feel at their safest in the Museum. We have worked with a wide range of community organisations, including refugee support groups with the aim of becoming a Museum of Sanctuary.

Impact

“I’m a Derby man. I love Derby and really enjoy engaging with my community and sharing stories about Derby and Derby folk. I’ve gained a lot of good contacts, who either work at the Museum or volunteer there. I am now able to share my thoughts and ideas with them knowing that they will always listen and consider what I have to say.”

Kalwinder Singh Dhindsa, This is Normanton Research Volunteer

“What have I gained through volunteering? It’s the camaraderie whilst working and being part of something bigger than yourself. Apart from making friends, I’d say volunteering has improved my confidence in some areas and affirmed what I can achieve if given the opportunity.”

Steve Haynes, Museum of Making Workshop Volunteer

“Each time I arrive at the Museum, the welcome I get as a volunteer makes me feel wanted and appreciated and part of something. I’ve had such a good experience volunteering with the Silk Mill that I also now volunteer with other local charities.”

Andrew Martyn Sugars, Figment Derby and This is Normanton Volunteer

Volunteering benefits everyone

Our co-production activities are crafted with, not for our volunteers, and have a huge impact both on the work of Derby Museums and on the participating volunteers. Our volunteers tell us that working with Derby Museums increases their well-being and the positive impact they have in the community.

This year we have increased the range and flexibility of co-production roles which means a more diverse range of people can offer their time and skills, including those juggling busy lives, childcare, work and education.

This year over 18,000 hours of support have been given by our volunteers.

Volunteering benefits everyone
This year we have worked with Derby College to create an Employer Academy to help the next generation to work in both the Creative and Tourism Industries.

Tourism Students took part in 70 hours of enrichment activity, giving an invaluable insight into the heritage sector and creative activities happening in the city. This included three site visits and guided tours, five classroom sessions exploring the visitor experience, and two weeks of work placements at the Museum and Art Gallery. Finally, all students were given mock interviews to help prepare them for the next stage of their careers.

Make Works Derby and Derbyshire is an online open access directory for artists, designers and makers. Through a series of short films it enables people to see and understand more about the breadth of manufacturing across our region. This open-source resource of manufacturing and material taxonomy highlights the work of local artists and makers and aims to initiate collaborations. During the creation of Make Works, links have been developed with film and photography students at Derby College and the University of Derby to provide practical opportunities to enable student learning of new technical and post-production skills.

To follow the journey visit: www.make.works/derbyandderbyshire #MakeWorksDerby

Conservation is an activity in which the public can actively participate through specialist cleaning, researching, documenting, digitising and packing our museum objects. The creation of the new Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill is one of the most ambitious curatorial projects happening anywhere in the country. It will increase accessibility of collections at the Silk Mill from 4% to 100%; an achievement realised through the extraordinary efforts of our curatorial team and dedicated co-production volunteers over two years of careful planning and preparation.

The process of decanting our entire collection of over 50,000 objects from the Silk Mill to our temporary stores in three months was no less ambitious.

The World Collections programme hosted weekly public object conservation sessions. It provided a great opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and take part in a mindful activity.

18 students have participated across both programmes this year and many have gone on to successfully obtain industry internships and freelance opportunities.

“I feel the technical skills I have learned will be majorly beneficial when producing films in the future. Increasing my palette of tools from which to work has allowed me to be more creative and flexible when searching for how to realise my ideas.”

ASHLEY GAMBRILL, VOLUNTEER MAKE WORKS FILMMAKER

“I have learned lots of skills concerned with collections care. I have re-learned computer skills I used to have and also gained new ones. The things I have learned have enabled me to talk to friends about the things I have done. Volunteering has made a big difference to my self confidence and self esteem, both at the Museum and at home.”

PAULINE ARNOLD, COLLECTIONS DECANT AND ADMIN VOLUNTEER
A major conservation opportunity presented itself this year through our partnership with the team behind the popular BBC television series Britain’s Lost Masterpieces. Research by Art Historian Bendor Grosvenor led to the re-identification of a painting in the Museums’ collection as being a work by Joseph Wright. The artwork lost its attribution after it was almost entirely repainted by a local restorer in the 1950s. The painting was sent to the restoration studio of Simon Gillespie in London, who successfully removed the overpaint, enabling Bendor to identify the bridge as the Ponte Nomentano just outside Rome.

Derby Museums is recognised by the Sandford Award for Excellence in Museum Learning. Across our three unique sites and with our emerging peripatetic programme, Derby Museums helps increase childrens’ and young peoples’ cultural capital, providing a rich and meaningful context for creative learning and skills development.

During 2017/18 we have engaged with nearly 12,000 school children who have taken part in 160 facilitated sessions and 117 self-guided visits. Each year we expand topic areas working with teachers to make our offer more relevant, and building upon classroom learning.

As we build the new Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill we are developing a STEAM Powered Curriculum with Derby educationalists. The value of integrating STEM subjects with the arts and humanities not only brings a creative and empathetic influence, but also enables students to become active and informed citizens in what is an increasingly challenging future.

IMPACT

“Each class had a first rate experience and we want to thank you for helping us to get our topic on the Ancient Egyptians off to such a good start! Special thanks to Ron and to both our Azizas!”

SUZANNE DENT, TEACHER
ST. WERBURGH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DERBY
The Your Business - Your Museum initiative highlights that every time a business has hired one of our beautiful spaces they have also supported our valuable work in the community. This year we are proud to have built on existing relationships to create repeat bookings, as well as encouraging new relationships with a range of corporates.

In addition we have worked with businesses to create exciting sponsorship opportunities through our exhibitions and events such as Maker Faire. We are also pleased that from 2018 we will be working in partnership with IMI plc who are funding the Midlands Maker Challenge.

In 2019 we are excited that two wonderful new venues will be available for hire; our World Collections Gallery and the Library on The Wardwick.

Since 2014 public funding for Derby Museums has dropped by nearly 40%. Whilst funding from Derby City Council and our status as an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation accounts for three quarters of our turnover, we have made huge efforts to diversify our income to become more financially resilient.

Grant funding from major trusts and foundations underpins much of our activity. Arts Council England, Esmée Fairbairn and DCMS Wolfson have funded our new World Collections Gallery, and our participation in the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site Great Places partnership has elicited project funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England and the Ernest Cook Foundation to create a new mobile museum, The Makory.

In addition we continue to grow our corporate and individual support. Our individual regular giving schemes, Buy and Bird and Adopt an Object, continue to be popular with our supporters and provide us with valuable funding to deliver our family activity programmes.

In 2017 income from our corporate entertainment offering increased by 20%, contributing to Derby Museums’ financial resilience.

This year our onsite donations per visitor have increased by 28%, helping Derby Museums remain free for everyone.
VISITORS SHARING THEIR ‘OBJECTS OF LOVE’
In 2017 we were awarded a Heritage Lottery Endowment grant. This means that every pound we raise, up to £1m, will be doubled by the Heritage Lottery Fund over the next four years; a challenging but achievable goal. The Endowment will be invested to provide an income that helps secure the future of Derby Museums.

Our flagship fundraising event of 2017, the Alchemist Ball, launched the Endowment appeal and raised a fantastic £11,500, which was then doubled by the Heritage Lottery Fund to create £23,000. We have since received several five-figure donations as well as smaller gifts.

This year the Friends of Derby Museums moved from an independent charity and merged with Derby Museums. The new group, Derby Museums’ Friends, will build on the foundations of the previous scheme to provide activities and events to enable the Friends to continue to be an important part of Derby Museums story. The Friends of Derby Museums have raised vital funds for Derby Museums since 1969, including an incredibly generous final donation of over £15,000 to the Endowment Fund.

Every gift to the Endowment is doubled by the Heritage Lottery Fund in order to reach our £2m target, which will help us to sustain our work in the community for generations to come.
**BEING BETTER**

18,395 Hours donated by volunteers

10,285 Visits made by schoolchildren

18,395 Hours donated by volunteers

£131,300 Commercial income from venues

£102,137 Profit made by DME

46p Donation per visitor

172,797 Visitors to our Museums

CREATING AN INCLUSIVE, CIVIC MUSEUM IN A DIVIDED WORLD

Derby Museums’ collections were amassed at a time when Britain was an imperial power. Man-made objects and natural history specimens were acquired from all over the world to promote edification and learning and to project imperial and civic pride.

Museums are essentially social spaces, where people of all sorts can congregate. But they are not neutral spaces, nor can they absolve themselves from complicity in colonialism or embedding privilege.

Museums enjoy high levels of public trust. Through our collections and programmes we can take the long view of history, exploring the complex identities of local, national and global citizenship. Museums can be the bridge between opposing value systems; exploring difference but promoting those qualities humans have in common.

Our business planning objectives reflect our desire to be an inclusive Civic Museum for the 21st Century.

AMBITION

By 2022 we will reach more people by diversifying our activities and making them more relevant to attract new audiences. Visitor numbers will increase by 100%.

Museums are essentially social spaces, where people of all sorts can congregate. But they are not neutral spaces, nor can they absolve themselves from complicity in colonialism or embedding privilege.
Derby Museums has the largest and most comprehensive collection of work by Joseph Wright of Derby anywhere in the world. We have ambitions to become recognised globally as a premier institution for the study and understanding of the life and work of the artist by 2022. We aim to do so by making 100% of the collection available digitally, as well as raising awareness of Wright amongst Derby people through trails, significant exhibitions and programmes during 2018-22.

We continue to build on our relationships with the national and international organisations that hold collections of Joseph Wright’s work and, during 2019, we will be working with partners to explore the feasibility of an international touring exhibition and expanding loans.

KNOW YOUR WRIGHTS

The entire building has been decanted, supported by co-production volunteers contributing thousands of hours in prepping and packing collections. Over the next two years, the capital project will refurbish the entire building and create a new Civic Hall. The exhibitions, display and furniture fit-out will be built in our on-site workshop with the support of our co-production volunteers.

From autumn 2018, The Makory, a re-purposed mobile library, will provide a taste of activities that will flourish in the Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill.

The Makory will travel throughout the city and county, reaching areas of social disadvantage and geographical isolation from November 2018. It will enable people to discover our collections and connect with the stories of making in our region.

BEING RELEVANT TO OUR CITIZENS – THE MUSEUM OF MAKING AT DERBY SILK MILL

The Alchymist, in Search of the Philosopher’s Stone, discovers Phosphorus, and prays for the successful conclusion of his operation, as was the custom of the ancient chymical astrologers, by Joseph Wright, 1771, reworked and dated 1795, oil on canvas. © Derby Museums
The Midlands Maker Challenge will be an exceptional project that will empower a new generation of young people across the Midlands to become creators, makers and innovators. The programme is powered by STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths – and will pose design challenges to solve local issues that can be applied globally.

Derby Museums is a charity and a social enterprise; business-like, opportunity-seeking, but with a profound sense of social purpose. Whilst we cannot survive without some form of public investment, we can diversify our income streams to reduce financial risk.

We will do this by continuing the great progress we have made financially in using our intellectual, cultural, social and physical assets, as well as our commercial activity such as hires and functions, catering, retail and consultancy. We will continue to deepen our partnerships with existing industry partners such as Rolls-Royce, IMI plc and Toyota, and seek new relationships with local SMEs and start-up businesses. In addition we will ensure a fundraising culture is embedded within our organisation from the board to frontline staff and will continue to invest in fundraising capacity and capability.

**AMBITION**

Establish a ratio of 45:55 of earned income to public investment in Derby Museums’ turnover by 2022.

**AMBITION**

Launch a programme in 2020 to foster the skills needed to develop the makers of tomorrow.
Derby is one of 12 Opportunity Areas in England, identified by the Department for Education as having poor levels of social mobility. There are large discrepancies in outcomes between children living in poor parts of city compared to their counterparts in wealthier areas.

Through a partnership of culture and leisure providers across the city, an Essential Life Skills project, ‘This is Derby’, will support children and young people to develop non-cognitive abilities through participation in a range of extra-curricular activities.

Derby Museums will use the city’s remarkable heritage to create immersive experiences in ten hubs within priority wards across the city. The collective ambition is to broaden young peoples’ horizons and contribute significantly to closing the attainment gap.

EVERY CHILD A MAKER – OPPORTUNITY AREA FUNDING GIVING ALL CHILDREN THE ADVANTAGES OF CULTURAL EDUCATION

AMBITION
Every schoolchild in the city will engage with Derby Museums by 2023.

OUR DONORS
All of our Endowment, Buy a Bird, Adopt an Object supporters and all those that donated in memoriam.

All the corporates and individuals that bought tables, donated prizes and supported our Alchemist Ball.

Everyone who generously made a gift in our Museum donation boxes.

OUR SPONSORS
The Smith Partnership

OUR PARTNERS

ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS