*Welcome to*

# BELPER

*part of the* DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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Derwent Valley Mills Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2001

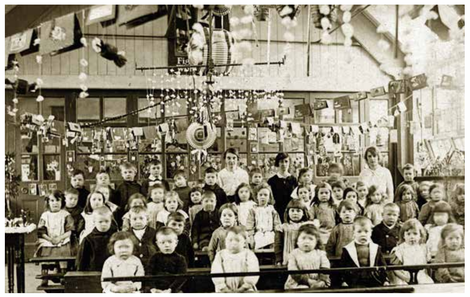
DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE

## BELPER IS PART OF THE DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

This board is one of a series about features of interest in this internationally important landscape and the people who lived here and shaped it.

The World Heritage Site runs for 15 miles along the Derwent Valley between Matlock Bath and Derby. Look out for more interpretation boards which will help you explore the mill communities.

The map will help you to find the other boards in Belper, as well as supplementary information points (waterwheel plaques) which have information and a weblink to more about Belper's history.



*Long Row School 1914*

## LONG ROW SCHOOL

Belper's first schoolroom was in the attic space of the North Mill, providing a basic eduction for young mill-workers. By 1818, there was an opportunity to move the school to this site on Long Row, a former woodyard and drillroom for volunteer soldiers. During the late 19th century, the Strutt family (who owned the mills) would come and teach occasionally. Agnes Strutt (left) and her eldest daughter Susan (right) would bring clothes for the children on Christmas Eve each year. The school has since been extended and still operates today.



*Agnes Strutt with her daughters Lucy and Susan in August 1862*



*Long Row at the beginning of the 20th century*

## HOUSING FOR THE MILL-WORKERS

The Strutt family built and bought housing for their workers in Belper and neighbouring Milford. Here, in the 1790s, they began an estate of four parallel streets, the finest of which was Long Row, with a three-storey stone terrace on the north side and two-storey brick cottages on the south side. Long gardens were provided for each house to encourage families to grow their own produce and keep small livestock. Extra garden space was available to each house, beyond their own garden, for the truly industrious.




## WHERE FROM HERE?

**Walk further up Long Row** to see the fine-quality housing provided for the mill-workers. At the top, turn right to head into the town centre, along Green Lane.

Use the crossing at the main junction on your left to reach The Triangle, and a fine view of the mill complex.

INFORMATION POINTS (waterwheel plaques)

HERITAGE BOARDS

## LONG ROW IN WARTIME

Throughout the Second World War, a First Aid Post operated at this corner. It was also a decontamination centre in case of gas attack. On the opposite corner, before war began, an attempt was made to fill the cellar of Tunnard's Drapery Shop with children from Long Row School, to see if it was big enough to be their official air raid shelter. It wasn't, so they never returned.






*Above: The St John Ambulance Brigade members who staffed Belper's First Aid Post in Long Row, 1939*

*Left: Tunnard's Drapery at the bottom of Long Row c.1940*

## LOOK OUT

As you reach the railway bridge, on the right you'll see a break in the wall with grit and litter bins. This was the old 'dirt hole' where people would bring the ashes from their old fires each day, before laying a fresh fire to warm their homes and cook meals.



*Long Row coronation 1937*

## LONG ROW CELEBRATES

For royal occasions, Long Row has been dressing up since at least George IV's coronation in 1821. Two terraces were ideal for bunting, as can be seen for George VI's coronation in 1937. In 1953, for being Belper's best-dressed street for Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation, Long Row was presented with a celebratory plaque. It was originally on this wall, but is now on the bridge, halfway up.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BELPER

*Click on the QR code or use this link:*

**www.derwentvalleymills.org/belper**


Belper Historical Society

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