

Restoration update – August 2006

The mosaic in Vines Park unveiled!

A mosaic, which marks Droitwich Spa's saltmaking heritage, was unveiled in Vines Park in July.

Created by artist Alison Ogle, from Worcester, the mosaic depicts figures through the ages of salt making history such as St Richard, a 19th century salt maker and local historical buildings including the Chateau Impney and the Raven hotel. It took more than 500 hours to produce and is made up of 70,000 glass pieces called tesserae.

The borders of the art work were inspired by the mosaics at Sacred Heart Church and made under guidance from Alison, by pupils from Droitwich town schools including year four at Westlands and Chawson First Schools and year six at Witton Middle School.

The £9,000 bill has been sponsored by Fountains (maintenance contractor), Liveability, Joanies Trust and Elmley Foundation.

Kids on the canal

300 children from Droitwich Schools visited the canal in June, trying their hands at canoeing, building bridges and finding out what is living in the canals. The project gained very positive responses from both teachers and pupils alike with great enthusiasm for future trips. The project was funded by Liveability funding with input from all the partners.

Schools' resources

Have a look at www.wow4water.net for general education resources to do with the canals and http://www.wow4water.net/grownups/site_search.php?text=droitwich for the resources on the Droitwich Canals.

Droitwich Spa Water Festival and guided walks

Over 250 people visited the canal as part of the Water Festival (linked to the Music Festival) which was organised by DCT with input from all the partners. DCT raised £500 through the event.

DCT ran a guided walk, linked to a boat trip on Pamela May, that attracted 53 people. The walk ran from Vines Park to Salwarpe and back.

Volunteer co-ordinator

Lucy Bowles will be starting as Volunteer and Community Involvement Coordinator for the Droitwich Canals in early September. In the past, Lucy has worked for BTCV and now works for Sandwell Borough Council specifically promoting the canals around Smethick (Birmingham), working with volunteers and events and education projects.

Lucy will be working with local volunteering organisations to create more volunteering opportunities throughout the restoration. These will range from assisting and leading guided walks to rebuilding canal banks. If you're interested, contact us on [**<active email link>**](#).