



## **Welcome to Derrington Village Trail!**

We hope you enjoy the village trail. Please let us have any thoughts and comments.

If you have any additional information, photos or anecdotes it's not too late to include these in the project, as we can add them to the Village Trail website!

Thanks!

### **Number 1: The Square**

You'll find this interpretation panel on the corner of Crossing Lane and the main road through the village, opposite the Red Lion pub. You might be surprised how this part of the village has changed. There are many tales of Lorries not quite making it round the bend as they descend the bridge a little too fast! Did you know there used to be a forge where there is a modern garage today?

### **Number 2: From Railway to Greenway**

Turn down Crossing Lane and after a few hundred meters you will get to the second panel. This one tells us a little about the railway line in its heyday and the Crossing Keepers' Cottage too.

### **Number 3: Get Fit, Have Fun, Go Green!**

Today the disused railway line has become important for leisure use – locally it is very well used and well loved by people living in the village. It has become an important route for cyclists, walkers, runners and horse-riders and is also well used by people with wheelchairs and scooters. Rustic benches made by the local community have been placed along the track to enable people to take a break. And although the old railway line is well used, it still provides a valuable 'green corridor' for wildlife, with rich hedgerows and verges, supplemented by numerous nest boxes, many put up earlier in the year as part of this project.

### **Number 4: The Derrington W.I. Herb Garden**

From panel 3 walk up the track back towards the village, in the direction of Stafford. If you go west you may end up in Newport! Go along the track for about half a mile or so and turn into the Millennium Green, either through a metal kissing gate into The Dell (an attractive wooded entrance), or a little further along, through the more open main entrance. Follow the clear track to the other side of the Millennium Green to reach the WI Herb Garden. Here you can find out about this fabulous practical example of creativity, team work, care for the environment and growing food locally!

### **Number 5: Life's Rich Tapestry**

A little further around the meadow you will find the fifth panel, which focuses on Derrington's very special Millennium Green. The Green offers an amazing range of habitats - from woodland to meadow, from pond to hedgerow - and is a haven for wildlife as well as people.





### **Number 6: Food and Farming**

From the Millennium Green you can choose your route back onto the railway track and head eastwards towards Stafford. On your right you will see the wooded area of Duddas Wood, another community venture. You will reach panel six after a few minutes (around a quarter of a mile) which is situated by a picnic table. Very apt! You can read here about how farming and food production in the Derrington area has changed considerably within living memory, though it remains an important part of the local economy and community.

### **Number 7: Water, Water Everywhere?**

You may wish to walk across Duddas Wood towards the next panel. The route goes across grassy glades between the trees and depending on which way you choose to go, you may cross a footbridge back into the village or return through the kissing gate near the brook. The way is quite easy to find. However, if you prefer, retrace your route back along the track and go down the tarmac slope on the left of the track, adjacent to the brook and the water treatment works!

Which leads to the focus of the next panel – water! Water is our most important resource and our most undervalued one too. Read a whistle-stop history of Britain's water supply, public health and sanitation here – and find out what happens to the dirty water we generate in Derrington!

### **Number 8: St Matthew's Church**

From panel 7 go up the road towards the village, passing the grassy play area and football pitch on your right, to reach St Matthew's Church. The panel located here gives a little history of the church and also explains how the church community has become involved in several environmental initiatives.

### **Number 9: The Changing Face of Derrington**

From the Church head left along Church Lane and then go straight across at the crossroads into Mount Pleasant. Walk along here and round the bend and then up a steady incline, towards the top of Mount Pleasant. You'll find panel 9 on the left, near the bus shelter.

Derrington's origins go far back in time and on this panel you can read about Derrington's mention in the Doomsday Book – right up to the introduction of fibre optic communications in 2012!

### **Number 10: Derrington Village Hall - Warm, cosy, super efficient and solar powered!**

The Village Hall is a very important part of village life and provides a focal point for the community. It provides a post office facility, hosts the WI Coffee Mornings and offers many other facilities and activities. Read all about its origins, wartime dances and how it has led the way in green technology here!

We hope you have enjoyed your walk. To find out more about the Village Trail Project please visit: <http://www.derringtonvillagetrail.org> (or simply Google it!) or visit Derrington Way Ahead, <http://www.derringtonvillage.co.uk/wayahead.html>

