

# Darley Abbey Community Association

Village Hall, Abbey Yard, off New Road, Darley Abbey, Derby DE22 1DS

**Registered Charity No: 700315**

*Hello Everyone*

*First of all I hope you and yours are all Safe and Well.*

*Our last Darley Abbey Day was in 2017, remember the fun we all had-the children singing The Darley Abbey Song, cream teas at St Matthew's and the WI Vintage Tea Rooms at the hall, the Mayor bowling the first ball of the cricket match and having a go at using a Defibrillator, and much much more. We raised enough funds to maintain the church, the hall and buy the five village defibrillators. We all did remarkably.*

*We didn't hold one in 2019, as it was St Matthew's Church Bicentenary, so we planned for 2020. And then.....For some reason that didn't happen!!!*

*Over the last year we have been working with the **Derwent Mills World Heritage Site (DMWHS)** and internationally renowned artists, **Constella OperaBallet** to produce a virtual and participatory, Covid Safe programme. So we present this year:*

***Spin a Tale of Darley Abbey, Past, Present & Future.***

***2021 Darley Abbey Day***

***on Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>, (extending until Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May).***

*Constella OperaBallet will take you on an inspirational, virtual journey of enchanting performances, spinning tales through music, dance, song, theatre and design to explore and celebrate Darley Abbey's place in history and the wider Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS).*

*Our community is also invited to get into the spirit of 'Making' by creating bunting featuring design inspired by the history of Darley Abbey, which will be displayed throughout the village over a two week period. There'll be a chance for budding songsters to help write and perform a brand new song, "Darley Abbey and Me". These are Covid-secure activities for us to be a part of which will contribute to the main on line event and on the Saturday. Starting at 11am, you can watch the film premieres and meet the artists behind the project. You will be able to ask questions and find out more about the trail of 'bobbin' installations and colourful bunting that will have popped up throughout the village for two weeks only!*

*Some of you have already taken part in activities; both schools are about to work with their pupils to contribute to the Souvenir Programme, making Bunting and a community music event. The 'Making Bunting' activity will be available on the DVMWHS website, will be on the Darley Abbey Website soon, and we will be sending this out to all the Darley Abbey Groups, hoping that each group will make at least one bunting flag. We will also be encouraging everyone to use our own (previously or newly produced) bunting to decorate the village for this time. Louise Collinson at Body in Mind Pilates Studio in Abbey Yard is already working with Constella and Deda on the 'Tangled' Moment at the studio, to be filmed by Derby University when Constella visit in April. Derby University dance and graphic, film and animation students are working on other 'Moments' with Constella.*

*The 'Spin a Tale Moments' will be at particular points around our historic village, will have interpretation boards with QR codes to direct people to the next nearest Spin a Tale Moment, forming a trail around our lovely village. The Souvenir Programme will further enhance the historical background of these points and our village, giving an historical trail around Darley Abbey and linking people to more detailed trails and research, because of the Darley Abbey Historical Group.*

*All of these activities, entertainments, things to do are FREE, but you will need to book your tickets for the on line event.*

*We have other ideas, some still just an idea and others already with a Champion or Ambassador-such as this time to have 'Open Front Gardens' trying to get as many people as possible to plant, decorate their front gardens, to enhance everyone's walks and journeys around the village. We can't have an opening in the church but how about a Darley Abbey Moo (like the Belper Moo) at the start, along with other Derwent Valley villages? It would also celebrate the Evans family giving each family a milking cow. And how about getting that tea and cake---how about a virtual tea and cake at 3-30pm?*

*We are hoping that the Souvenir Programme, both hard copy and on line, will enable the Mills & Village businesses to show you what they do, and possibly inside their historic offices.*

*And of course we want to raise as much money as we possibly can, for our village church, St Matthew's, our village hall and we need to raise money to pay back DACA for the replacement Defibrillator batteries, pads etc. Normally the raffle raises quite a lot of funds—any ideas, willing volunteers to organise a Covid Safe raffle or similar idea—we had an idea of the 'Win a Wheelbarrow' last time?*

*We are investigating some kind of donation facility when people get their tickets and encouraged to donate at the end of the event, but we really need to pool ideas about getting people to donate as they go round?*

*So we hope you want to be a part of 2021 Darley Abbey Day, we need people to be Ambassadors, Champions for the Moments, help put up bunting, join bunting flags together, donate materials, help make a song, sing! To facilitate others to join in, spread the word, put up notices, put into newsletters, tell others about it, help us with Facebook & websites to get the message out, work with Radio Derby, take photographs and share---lots of activities are all Covid Safe, can all be done from your home, you don't have to actually meet anyone if you don't want to, while still contributing to the future of our wonderful community here in Darley Abbey. The Covid pandemic and restrictions have cemented our community links and built more, made connections, which makes us a strong community into this different future.*

*Will send you all further details of the moments and involvement very soon. You will also see posters starting to spring up around the village and the park, keeping everyone up to date and we hope all Village groups will also be in touch.*

*Please get in touch with us, with others, even if there is only a little spark of an idea, we can chat and develop it, that spirit of innovation, the spirit of the Derwent Valley Mills, of Darley Abbey. You will notice, that I haven't shown all the email addresses, so you won't know who I have sent this to...please send this on to as many people as possible, better that they get duplicates than nothing at all. Or could you print off and pop into neighbours?*

*Kind regards and hoping to hear from you.*

*Janet Dean  
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