



Friends of the Cromford Canal e-Newsletter

FCC primary aim is "The restoration, reconstruction, preservation & maintenance of the Cromford Canal, its associated buildings, towing path, structures & craft & the conservation of its natural character as a navigable inland waterway system for the benefit of the public."

Issue 8: March 2021



THE SEVENTH COVID EDITION:

Definitely light at the end of the tunnel!!...vaccines being rolled out in anger, the Government has published a road-map out of the Covid mire...so FCC can start to plan to recommence our field based activities for later in 2021. Volunteers are our life blood and as we come out of lock-down we will continue to need those that we've got and also need lots of new ones. If you're not already a volunteer and are interested please get in touch.

FCC core & general updates: Trustees are planning to hold the AGM on 19th April "virtually" again. We continue to work with key partner organisations: we have started to meet with a new technical group formed by Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS) to implement the recently published 5 year management plan: additionally the DVMWHS's "Great Places" scheme has provided free social media training to a number of FCC Trustees and volunteers. Volunteer John Guyler has recently produced his annual summary of volunteer hours worked for 2020: a total of 2000 hours were devoted to local work parties, and 6000 hours on all other activities - in a "normal" year a further 7000 hours would also be spent on crewing Birdswood but that didn't happen in 2020 because the boat didn't run. Most of FCC's key documents are now securely stored "in the cloud", as are those from the Restoration and Boat sub-committees enhancing the resilience of our charity. Trustee David Ratner is curating the document storage for the Boat and FCC Trustee material.

FCC Conservation and Restoration:

Local work parties have been mainly suspended due to Covid, but on 16th February a small Covid-safe team from FCC undertook some join working with a team from the Canal & River Trust at Ironville.

Steve Parish continues to provide fantastic support to FCC to monitor and mitigate threats of all developments that might restrict restoration of the route of the canal - specifically around the ex-Stevenson's site at Bullbridge / Sawmills where there are at least three battles that are being waged!

FCC's Strategic Restoration Committee is actively planning for the construction phase of the new Beggarlee: to aid this a new Construction Committee is being set up: many planning conditions are being worked through. The Browns Bridge project team had a disappointing response to the Invitations to Tender (ITT) for the renovation of the bridge: the ITT response deadline has had to be extended and additional interested parties sought, and therefore Trustees have not yet received an acceptable proposal to consider. A key component (called a slewing ring) has been purchased and although dispatched from the Spanish manufacturer, the delivery to us has been held up. DCC have requested that any renovation work should be undertaken outside of any school holidays.

FCC's Birdswood & Shop: Derbyshire County Council's Health & Safety Officer who was responsible for giving us a "Covid pass" for the Birdswood Covid mitigation plan we did last summer, has advised us that we should assume Road Map Step 4 - i.e. they hope to be able to approve us cruising again after 21st June. FCC's Boat Committee's focus is now entirely on planning for the re-commencement of cruising, and the pre-work of crew training, channel clearing, Masters licensing and Medicals as well as other boat maintenance that is needed. The primary integrated motor / pump assembly for Birdswood has been repaired and will be fully re-installed into the boat in the next couple of weeks. Laminated notices have been placed on the Gothic warehouse shop door and on the noticeboards at Cromford, High Peak Junction, Codnor Park reservoir and Langley Mill, which attempt to provide a positive update to the public on Birdswood operations. All volunteer crew have been sent an update by email. We continue to exploit our on-line presence: more than £1300 of sales of merchandise has been achieved in 4 months from the Birdswood website: merchandise has been flying off the shelves - now including the new Cromford Wharf booklet produced by Hugh Potter. A new button has been added to the Birdswood website which allows auto-signup to [this](#) e-Newsletter, which is now sent out to over 700 recipients, and posted to our social media channels.



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PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK We've had lots of "likes", "shares" & extra followers :**FCC:** [click here](#): has grown from 886 members (Nov19) to 1529 members, +73% in 14 months!