



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 3 : May 2020

THE COVID EDITION: Here's a brief update whilst in your current state of social distancing to relieve the boredom! You never know this edition might go viral!

Volunteers – General: Peggy Cope & Alan Oakley both volunteers on Birdswood, have agreed to become our new Volunteer recruitment team to help with the many and varied jobs to do with this fifteen miles of canal and its trip boat! **Work Party;** John Barker 07860 632837 **Birdswood;** Vix Wilding 07552-055455

FCC Membership: Since 2002, we have grown our UK and overseas membership to 959: welcome to the five new Members who have joined us since the last newsletter. To all who have renewed their Membership so promptly this month – thankyou: it may take a bit longer than usual to bank cheques etc but we still need your support so please bear with Yvonne at membership@cromfordcanal.org



FCC general updates: Although the AGM planned for April has been postponed due to the Corona disruption, audited accounts have been published and are posted on the FCC website. Portal #72 has been published and distributed. Our Boat Operations Manager has agreed to move from part-time to full-time employment.

FCC Strategic Restoration Committee: FCC work parties are planning (post lock-down) work at various locations along the canal including Brown's Bridge, Lower Hartshay sluice and Pinxton weir. J.C. Balls have already cut back lots of self-set trees work around Hartshay, Sawmills, & Bullbridge. DCC has also been busy dredging in the Ambergate area from Poyser's Bridge through to the end of the canal and resurfacing the towpath .

Beggarlee Planning Application: our project team has responded to questions from Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts and we have agreed an extension of the determination date to 31st May.

Browns Bridge: following granting of Scheduled Monument Consent, DCC have approved the Approval in Principal document. This lays out the technical details of the design and allows us to move into detailed design through to construction. Previous timescales were to look at bearing replacement this autumn, however that date may slip. A project team is being formed to undertake the works, so if you have relevant Civil Engineering experience and would like to assist please get in contact (Doug Readle is the lead on this).

FCC eNewsletter #2: Posted to social media & distributed by email via "Mailchimp" and statistics show that it was sent to 466 recipients, and 35% of views were on Mobile devices: with one recipient viewing it 33 times!! It's also automatically posted to our new Twitter page as well, where there are literally thousands of views.

Aqueduct Cottage: Is on the junction of the canal with the Nightingale branch: FCC (in conjunction with DCC) has been able to support the restoration of the cottage to the tune of £6,000 which means that work has been able to commence, and is progressing at pace – nearly as fast as the build of the new NHS Nightingales!

Birdswood: In eNewsletter#2 we explained most of the electro-hydraulic drive system on Birdwood was replaced: the only bit that wasn't has now become a problem. Our hydraulics engineer recommended replacement of the hydraulic motor in the rudder, so on 14th February a work team removed the rudder which is now being fitted with a new motor – ready for whenever the new season starts!. The Birdswood crew community continues in this crisis and people are staying in contact and reaching out to support those close to them

Cromford end Dredging update: Although we have consent from Natural England, the Environment Agency has thrown a significant spanner into the works which could have wider implications for ourselves and DCC.

Canal walks: Look out for a series of walks to be published as soon as the lock-down has been lifted.



Our very first Tweet on our new Twitter account has been read by 13,000 times and in total our Tweets have been viewed more than 20,000 times!! **PLEASE FOLLOW US @FriendCromCanal**



We've had lots of "likes", "shares" & extra followers :FCC: [click here](#): has grown from 886 members (Nov19) to 1082 members, +22% in 5 months! **PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**

Cromford Canal Boat Trips; Book Birdswood online: www.birdswood.org

Birdswood is not currently running due to government instructions and that those who have pre-paid will be allocated another trip once we are up and running again. The Weighbridge Office Shop will also remain closed.