



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 12: November 2021

PROGRESS REPORT 2021 – ALMOST COVID FREE!

Browns Bridge repaired
Birdswood steered into profit
Many work party projects completed
FCC social activities restarted



Now, time to start thinking about your Xmas cards from our on-line shop!

FCC core & general updates:

Dates for your diary: Trustees recommenced our social events at the Church Hall, Ironville, on September 20th with an update of FCC progress, and then on October 18th with a Bennerley viaduct presentation: the next social event is November 22nd with a presentation on Codnor Castle. Trustees are now starting to plan for the next AGM of the charity in April 2022. Our new Direct Debit facility for membership fees is proving to be extremely successful: over 100 existing FCC members have agreed to migrate as well as 20 new members being signed up via the FCC website. If you are an existing FCC member and wish to migrate to Direct Debit payment for your FCC annual subs please email fccfees@cromfordcanal.org.uk with your agreement and renewal month.

Willersley Castle: (Richard Arkwright's custom built residence in Cromford) - it was thought that it had been purchased by a hotel chain but it seems it is to become an outdoor residential centre due to open in Easter 2022. More information is available here <https://www.manoradventure.com/willersley-castle.php>. Hopefully this will bring further visitors into the area and be able to link in with the DVMWHS and our canal!

FCC Conservation and Restoration:

FCC work parties under the direction of John Barker have had another very busy month or so: **Lower Hartshay:** repaired & replaced hedge row with new fencing, cut back dead wood and made beetle stacks. Interpretation Boards are on-going. **Ironville / Codnor Park Reservoir:** fencing from the car park to the steel bridge is nearing completion (expected end of October). **HPJ & Browns Bridge:** removed counter weights and stored ready for the bridge lift, then replaced same, painted new steel plates, cut back vegetation and weed pulling. **Pinxton:** vegetation cut back & removed two tractor tyres. Finishing off lime mortar on Pinxton Arm Bridge **Browns Bridge:** The swing bridge at High Peak Junction is now back in full operation after a 5 week project – managed by FCC, jointly funded by DCC & FCC and delivered by our contractor Beighton (from Chesterfield). The bridge can now be easily operated by one man- see here [Browns Bridge facebook video](#) ; we've even done a trial run with Birdswood up to the Leawood Pump House / winding hole! (Weeds are a major problem though).

FCC's Birdswood & Shop:

In conjunction with DCC and the Arkwright Society, we dressed up Birdswood in lights for the evenings of 29th & 29th October for the "Shine a Light" event. On 13th October FCC hosted a film crew with presenter Richard Hammond: filming a four part series for More4 to be broadcast in January / February called "Britain's great rivers"!! – See here - [Filming with Richard Hammond](#) – currently standing at 17,000 Facebook views!! Volunteer Keith Bailey is acting as project manager for the upcoming Maritime & Coastguard Agency bi-annual out-of-water inspection, and plans for lifting the boat onto the Cromford peninsular are progressing well. To date (19th October) the shop and boat (the trading arms of the charity) have generated wharf-side ticket sales of nearly £10,000, 90% of which was paid to us via cashless means! In that period we've carried 1700 passengers. Wharf-side merchandise sales in this period were £3,500 and we've taken £800 in bucket donations. So when online merchandise sales and the last few October cruises are taken into account we feel confident that we will have made a small profit by the end of the business year to contribute to the charities cash reserves.



PLEASE FOLLOW US @FriendCromCanal – Tweeting and Retweeting is good!

PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK We've had lots of "likes", "shares" & extra followers: [click here](#): group membership has nearly doubled in less than two years!