



# 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 2 : March 2020

**Volunteer Work Party** -In 2019 the FCC work parties had 548 individuals signing on, working 2676 volunteer hours & 466 travel hours. Litter picking on the work parties gathered 81 bags of litter. Contact John Barker 07860 632837.

**Volunteers for Birdswood**; we are now actively recruiting for the new cruising season. Contact Vix Wilding on 07552-055455

**FCC Membership:** Since 2002, we have grown our UK and overseas membership to 959: if you are not already a member, please sign-up! Contact Yvonne Shattower at [membership@cromfordcanal.org](mailto:membership@cromfordcanal.org) or visit [FCC membership](#)

**DID YOU KNOW OUR CANAL IS UNIQUE!!** The stretch from Cromford to Ambergate is not only a Site of Special Scientific Interest, but it also resides in a UNESCO World Heritage Site: *What this means is that we have to take especially great care with what we do on this stretch of the canal.*

## Volunteers



### We need you

**FCC general updates:** Annual General Meeting 20/04/20, Church Hall, Ironville, 1930hrs. Portal next edition planned for mid-March. Birdswood has again contributed significant funds to FCC reserves.

**FCC Strategic Restoration Committee:** progressing with 7 small projects, plus...Beggarlee Planning Application: Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts have requested further information from us, and FCC has engaged a local Ecological Consultancy to help us respond. Amber Valley BC Planners have received a formal supportive response from the Canal & River Trust to our proposal: ..and Browns Bridge – where a team consisting Historic England (HE), DCC, and FCC met on 18/12/19 to discuss the repair plans. HE advised Scheduled Monument Consent is needed and they are considering our application: technical documentation required by DCC has been drafted. The new component part needed (a slewing ring) has 4/5 month delivery so depending on responses from DCC & HE we anticipate Autumn 2020 for the repair work to be completed.

**FCC eNewsletter #1:** Posted to social media & distributed by email: sent to engaged ex-Passengers, FCC members, Volunteers, and over 100 local Councillors. Our President Brian Blessed shared the eNewsletter to his quarter of a million Facebook and Twitter followers, and posted this message on FCC's Facebook page: "Your president here! I understand that last season was very successful for FCC and plans are progressing for the restoration, reconstruction, preservation & maintenance of the Cromford Canal. Wishing you all the best for the coming cruising season on Birdswood –see you soon"!!!

**Birdswood:** The drive system on the Birdwood is an electro-hydraulic system and as part of the recent refit a new Internal Permanent Magnet Synchronous AC motor with integral helical pump was fitted -both being totally silent and about 10% more efficient! Kerry Green is the expert to ask!! Birdswood has recently been working hard alongside volunteers pulling reeds and clearing vegetation: the navigation is now clear for another years' service. Safety refresher training was recently delivered to 45 crew: and we have new masters are in training.

**Dredging update:** at the Cromford end Natural England have asked for a number of clarifications on our proposals (we have responded) and once satisfied they will issue their approval to the landowner DCC. Meanwhile DCC have been doing some dredging around the Poyzers Bridge area: see pictures on our Facebook site.



FCC doesn't have its own YouTube channel, but there are plenty of videos that other people have made: here's a selection [Cromford Canal](#) and [Butterley Tunnel](#)



FCC doesn't have its own Twitter account (yet!), but Birdswood does! Derwent Valley Mills re-tweeted eNewsletter #1 to their 4743 followers!!

**PLEASE FOLLOW BIRDSWOOD ON TWITTER!!!** @Birdswood\_DE4



We are on Facebook!! – we have had lots of "likes", "shares" & extra followers

**FCC:** [click here](#): has grown from 886 members (Nov19) to 1039 members, +18% in 3 months!!.

**PLEASE FOLLOW FCC ON FACEBOOK!!!**

Cromford Canal Boat Trips; Book Birdswood online: [www.birdswood.org](http://www.birdswood.org)

Friends of Cromford Canal

[www.cromfordcanal.info](http://www.cromfordcanal.info)