



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 13: January 2022

MANAGING IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

Just when you thought it was all over ...it isn't!! Omicron, Plan B, Covid passports, third wave, will Xmas be cancelled, will we be able to clear the weeds, have we got enough Crew? Well your Trustees are just carrying on...planning for the new year, meeting virtually via ZOOM, fund raising for and starting work on the Beggarlee extension, and planning for the recommencement of our commercial activities. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!



FCC core & general updates:

Trustees held virtual meetings in November and December, and are starting to plan for the AGM of the charity on 25th April 2022, although are unsure whether this will be a physical or virtual meeting: A re-refresh of Trustees is needed and to that end advertisements have been circulated inviting expressions of interest for replacements for the statutory retirees that have to happen at the AGM. A social event was held on November 22nd with a presentation on Codnor Castle: the next event is planned for 17th of January on the subject of "My mum had one of those!", followed by 21st February and 21st March. The latest edition of portal was distributed out during the first week in December, the distributions included a reminder letter from our Chairman about the benefits of opting-in to our new Direct Debit method of collecting membership subscriptions: we've now got to more than 150 existing FCC members who have migrated. If you are an existing member and want to migrate then please email fccfees@cromfordcanal.org.uk with your agreement and renewal month. An operational meeting was held on 11th November with DCC's Countryside services team where a number of mutual interest issues were discussed.

FCC Conservation and Restoration:

Trustees are aware that Beggarlee clock is ticking – the 2019 planning approval has a three year shelf-life: a recent meeting with the Inland Waterways Association was held to check that we are going down the right path, a professional fund raiser is about to be appointed, and a job description for a Project Manager is being drafted. The leader of Derbyshire County Council – Barry Lewis and Cabinet Member Councillor Carolyn Renwick attended a formal opening ceremony for the newly renovated Browns Bridge on the morning of 16th December– a joint [press release](#) has been circulated to local and social media outlets. John Barker's FCC work parties have been hard at it as usual: litter picking and strimming opposite the Boat Inn at Pinxton, and removing fallen and unstable trees, at Codnor Park Reservoir. John has managed to obtain a grant from the Woodland Trust for 420 hedge whips with sticks and guards these are going to be used at Lower Hartshay to replace dead wood. John also hosted and managed two external volunteer groups from who came to join us in October 2021 to undertake reed pulling one from AECOM and the other from Atkins, both groups being connected to the water industry.

Browns Bridge: As previously reported the swing bridge at High Peak Junction is now back in full operation, but has needed a bit of a tweak to allow easier operation for the formal opening event (above).The bridge can now be easily operated by one man- see here [Browns Bridge facebook video](#) ; we've done another trial / channel clearing run with Birdswood up to the Leawood winding hole and plan more during the winter.

FCC's Birdswood & Shop:

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency bi-annual out-of-water inspection was undertaken on 9th November: a number of external minor repairs were required which have now been actioned and the boat has been lifted back into the water. We have invited the MCA back in March for the annual "in-water" inspection, and are hopeful of being certified for public cruising again in the spring of 2022. As reported in the last edition of the eNewsletter, the commercial trading position at year end is looking good and a small but useful surplus is expected to have been generated for the charities cash reserves. Birdswood already has ten Charter enquiries for 2022, and the Boat Committee is planning to meet in the middle of January to plan for the 2022 season. Sales of the new Leawood Arm booklet are going well! **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS THOUGH!!**



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!