



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 4 : July 2020

THE SECOND COVID EDITION: News is a bit thin in these strange times, but here's a brief update whilst in your current state of social distancing!

Volunteers: Peggy Cope & Alan Oakley our new Volunteer recruitment team started their work full of enthusiasm and ideas then all came to a halt. The good news is that lots of leaflets have been delivered. Various events which had been planned have had to be cancelled. But six new volunteers have been recruited.

Windfall !! : We have recently been the beneficiary of a significant legacy from an anonymous source and have deposited the donation into our Beggarlee restoration fund: thank you whoever you were!! A mention in a will can generate a legacy for the benefit of FCC and its strategic aims.

DON'T LET THE COVID GRIND YOU DOWN!



FCC general updates: The Charity Commission has been advised that our AGM has been postponed due to the lockdown. Meanwhile Trustees have been driving forward with virtual Zoom meetings, including starting to plan for post lock-down! The Summer edition of Portal was distributed in the middle of June. The FCC Chair was interviewed on Radio Derby recently – see our Twitter and Facebook sites for details and recordings. Following the Government's restrictions all Birdswood operations were cancelled until further notice and the Office Shop closed. In the meantime the Boat Operations Manager has been designated as a 'furloughed worker' under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Consequently, the Birdswood phone line will not be taking messages or enquiries on bookings.

Conservation and Restoration: It's obviously in FCC's strategic interest to monitor all developments that might compromise restoration of the route of the canal: we have recently become aware of a couple of such and will provide more details soon. 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.

Beggarlee Planning Application: We are still in discussions with Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trusts and the Archaeology Department at DCC, but things are slowly moving forward and we hope to resolve the outstanding issues shortly by means of conditions attached to the planning approval. Get in touch if you are able to help with any of the construction, planning, design or fundraising at restoration@cromfordcanal.org.

Browns Bridge: DCC have approved the Approval in Principle document, and suppliers and contractors are actively being sought. Previous timescales were to look at bearing replacement this autumn, however that date may slip

FCC eNewsletter #3: Was distributed by email to 453 recipients: 34% of views were on Mobile devices, with one recipient viewing it 22 times!! We have 16% of recipients in USA and even in some in places like the Czech Republic! It's automatically posted to our Twitter & Facebook pages as well where it gets many more views.

Aqueduct Cottage: The restoration of Aqueduct Cottage has continued to make progress: when the Corona lockdown was first announced, the project was immediately put on hold. Then, once the Government restrictions were clarified, the builder agreed to continue working.

Birdswood: A work team removed the rudder which is now being fitted with a new motor but it requires considerable modification to the housing in the rudder and hydraulic pipework.

Cromford end Dredging update: Although we have consent from Natural England, we await soil sampling results from DCC before we can satisfy the Environment Agency with our plans.



In total our Tweets have been viewed more than 35,000 times!! **PLEASE FOLLOW US @FriendCromCanal** – Tweeting and Retweeting is good for our publicity efforts!



We've had lots of "likes", "shares" & extra followers :FCC: [click here](#): has grown from 886 members (Nov19) to 1167 members, +32% in 7 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.