



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 10: July 2021



THE NINTH COVID EDITION:

Well Covid road-map Step 4 "Freedom day" has been postponed – now planned for 19th July (hopefully), which has caused us to change some of our plans. Although work parties have started and our trip boat is being cleaned, tested and used as a floating shop, we now plan to recommence very limited cruising as from 23rd June! New volunteers are being recruited and trained. We're receiving Donations and even buying land for the Beggarlee extension.

FCC core & general updates:

Dates for your diary: Georgian Derbyshire Festival 17th-19th September. Trustees are planning for recommencing our social events Church Hall, Ironville, 1930hrs: September 20th – update of FCC progress: October 18th Bennerley viaduct presentation: November 22nd – Battle of Agincourt presentation. FCC's new website was launched on 4th May, and is available not only for general information on the charity and the canal, but also facilitates new member sign-ups, allows online donations, and enables some of our merchandise to be sold – over £150 of sales achieved in the first month! A new "Google my Business" account has been established to help drive traffic to the new website. Trustees have recognised additional funding streams are needed and donations to our case couldn't be easier via our "Give as you Live" facility. Having reviewed FCC membership fees Trustees have resolved to increase fees for new members and to point out to a significant number of existing members that the fees they pay don't cover the cost of posting out hard copy Portals. Additionally to improve the efficiency of membership subscriptions a new Direct Debit facility is intended to be introduced – watch this space!

FCC Conservation and Restoration:

Steve Parish continues his brilliant work on four route compromises on the Stevensons site: 1. Mr Sleath has demolished his bungalow it off the canal line and is planning a replacement which doesn't compromise the line any longer and is interested in forming some sort of canal-channel: 2. Peter James homes are rapidly building out their housing development, leaving space for the canal line, but the Severn Trent water pipe is an issue that is being debated: 3. Bullbridge hill: immediately to the left of the bridge looking uphill, the householder has built a massive fence that we're complaining about 4. Bullbridge hill: immediately to the right of the bridge looking uphill, the householder has built a garden over the canal line and again we are concerned. FCC work parties under the direction of John Barker are getting back to normal: we still have work at Ironville and Cromford to do but in the next few weeks we are Himalayan Balsam bashing so any help would be much appreciated. Browns Bridge: Trustees have decided to suspend the project and concentrate on working with DCC on funding next year, and meanwhile have declared the bridge inoperable. The recent local elections enabled us to canvas local DCC councillors who have been written to several times and the Council leader has been engaged.

FCC's Birdswood & Shop:

The Boat Committee agreed to the production of a new, updated and cost effective leaflet that volunteer Keith Bailey has had printed: this is now available to be handed out at the Cromford wharf to interested potential passengers. Booking slots have been opened up from 23rd June to 31st July and a number of bookings have been received, and a number of charter bookings and strong enquiries are being managed. Derbyshire County Council's H&S Officer has agreed that under the Covid regulations we can operate with 1 x Master and a maximum of five passengers under Covid Road Map Step 3. FCC's Boat Committee's has been having the boat on the Cromford wharf on Sundays to act in part as a floating shop: income in excess of £700 has been generated from merchandise sales We continue to exploit our on-line presence: more than £2500 of sales of merchandise has been achieved in 8 months from the Birdswood website: In addition to an eNewsletter sign-up button, a new "Donations" button has been added to the Birdswood website which mirrors the facility on the new FCC website.



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

PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK We've had lots of "likes", "shares" & extra followers :FCC: [click here](#): has grown from 886 members (Nov19) to 1623 members, +95% in 18 months!