



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 14: March 2022

PREPARING FOR THE NEW SEASON

"Building the future and preserving the past" – that just about sums up what we're all about! A packed fourteenth edition of the eNewsletter replete with what we're up to over the winter months: strategic and tactical restoration, fundraising and preparing for our commercial trading activities...its non-stop!!
As ever more volunteers wanted, please!

Volunteers



We need you

FCC core & general updates:

Trustees held virtual meetings in January & February and are actively planning for the AGM of the charity on 25th April 2022: advertisements have been circulated inviting expressions of interest for replacements for the statutory retirees that have to happen at the AGM. Trustee John Barker is leading the preparation of the charities accounts due to the unavailability of John Baylis, and we plan to present the accounts to the AGM in April and lodged with the Charity Commission shortly afterwards. A successful social event was held on 17th of January on the subject of "My mum had one of those!", and the next ones are planned for 21st February and 21st March. The latest edition of **Portal** is being distributed in the first week in March and contains several interesting articles including an overview of our industry-strength IT systems. Again we would like to remind legacy members of our strategy to move to Direct Debit payment of annual membership fees: if you haven't already please email fccfees@cromfordcanal.org.uk with your agreement and renewal month. Our online Donations facility that is embedded on our website is paying dividends, with over £1,200 collected from donors since inception. Similarly, we have had several new members – including life-members – join us direct from our new website over the last couple of months.

FCC Conservation and Restoration:

On the Beggarlee project, a professional fund raiser started work on 1st February, and a recent meeting was held on site at Langley Mill with a DCC engineer to discuss the flood mitigation plan. John Barker's FCC tactical work parties have been hard at it as usual: *Cromford to HPJ*: weed and reed clearance, and further work is still needed around Lawn Bridge and a permanent "stop" is required for Browns Bridge to stop over swinging. *Sawmills section*: winter work now finished on that section. *Codnor Park*: cutting up fallen trees, and footpath repairs, all fencing now finished, and further work is planned on the bridge on the reservoir section. *Pinxton section*: vegetation cutting planned. *Leashaw*: moving weed recently cut by Steve Carver. *Lower Hartshay*: reed pulling and winter vegetation clearance ready for new hedging "whips" early March 2022. *Langley Mill*: drain hunting with Chris Broome. Additional to John Barkers teams, DCC Countryside services have also been active, spending a lot of time reed and weed pulling along the canal, at Ambergate, Crich Chase, Whatstandwell, between the aqueducts and either side of Lawns Bridge. A meeting was recently held between FCC and DCC Countryside services (at our request) to undertake walking survey from HPJ to Gregory's Tunnel to discuss issues of leakage and bank/towpath stability. DCC are separately planning on getting contractors to perform a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of the canal towpath from Cromford Wharf to Whatstandwell, to help identify any voids or depressions in the towpath and therefore help plan in repair works where leaks may be. FCC hope to be able to have access to this crucial data when available.

FCC's Birdswood & Shop:

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency were back with us on 23rd February for the annual "in-water" inspection and are very 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. A commercial update is included in the current edition of **Portal**. Birdswood already has twenty-six Charter booking enquiries for 2022 – invoices will be sent out at the start of March to confirm these, and the Boat Committee is planning on starting public cruising again as from 2nd April (MCA permitting!). To that end the Birdswood website has been tidied up and booking slots opened.



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 more than doubled in two years!