



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 16: July 2022

NEW SEASON – ALL SYSTEMS GO!!

As we emerge from the Covid pandemic, most Trustees have started to meet in person – with ZOOM attendances from others: volunteers and general-public are becoming increasingly confident, and we are seeing more people about. The charities efforts are increasingly being re-focused on restoration activities and we are planning for major funding to help our aspirations. Keep your eyes on our Social Media channels and website!



FCC core & general updates:

Trustees held a blended face to face and ZOOM meeting on 10th May, and 7th June. Hugh Potter presented "The Leawood branch" at the FCC social on 16th May, and David Amos presented "Coal in the Blood" on 20th June: the next social events is planned for September 19th with David Amos presenting on "Tracks Tramways & Towpaths". FCC Trustees are hosting a volunteer thank-you event at the Boat Inn Pinxton on 16th July. Our fund-raising partner has applied for grants from more than 30 organizations, and we've just received our second £grant! FCC's membership secretary has written to members who are still paying old membership fees informing them that we can no longer afford to send hard copy Portals to them.

Who was it that said, "any publicity is good"? We're constantly looking at keeping all interested parties abreast of what we're up to through a variety of means, including this eNewsletter and our quarterly Portal, but here are a few other recent publicity activities: we've kept our friends at the Chesterfield Canal Trust and Erewash Canal PDA, and the local regional Inland Waterways Association updated with entries for their upcoming journals – we expect several thousand views of our updates here: we're having a sales stand at Codnor Fete on 3rd July: we had a Birdswood advert on Radio Derby on 4th June: we're getting involved with the joint DVMWHS & Buxton Crescent Trust Georgian festival 16-18th September: we're working on a promotion with Derbyshire County Council for all Derbyshire households, and we've participated in a group convened to promote sites around Leawood and High Peak junction. You'll recall that a TV film crew was at Cromford last October: Britain's Beautiful Rivers aired on More4 on 16th June.

FCC Conservation and Restoration:

On the Beggarlee project, our professional fund-raising partner - Marsha Miles - has now submitted over thirty funding applications, valued at over £250,000, with many others in the pipeline. John Barker's FCC tactical work parties have been hard at it as usual: At Ironville they've been laying new stone for the footpath near Jack Browns Bridge and Cinder Bank with help from 19 helpers from Baker Consultants: at the tow path on the far side of the reservoir they've been moving and laying stone and repairing the narrow bridge. At Beggarlee, Himalayan Balsam bashing is ongoing. At Cromford/HPJ, the Birdswood team are extremely grateful for the weed removal activities north of Browns Bridge, and the work party have collected steel RSJ's for new stands for Birdswood and transported them to Langley Mill for cutting and welding. At Aqueduct Cottage a new steel post and rail over the Leawood Arm Branch has been cut to size and is ready to install. At Lower Hartshay and at Pinxton, much Himalayan Balsam pulling. Browns Bridge lever arm showed signs of splitting, so a temporary repair has been undertaken by an FCC work party, pending a new replacement arm being provided by DCC. A report has been received from DCC on leakages in Cromford to Ambergate section and circulated to Trustees.

FCC's trading operations (boat & shop):

FCC's Boat Committee has delivered two very successful trials of our new "product": a guided premium boat trip with guides focussing on wildlife, and industrial archaeology: to the extent that the committee has launched four further cruise dates. Feedback has been obtained from eleven of the trial bookers and is posted on the Birdswood website for all to view – take a look, it's very positive! Ongoing tracking of our income and expenditure suggests that we've already passed our breakeven point, and we are looking at a very healthy year (financially).



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!