



# 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 15: May 2022

## NEW SEASON – UNDERWAY!!

Spring has sprung and we're well underway for the 2022 season, both with tactical work parties, and on boat operations. Also, much work is going on behind the scenes with the recently appointed professional team who have submitted funding applications on our behalf (with lots of input from ourselves). In this edition, we've included some light relief in the section on Birdswood below for your amusement. **As ever more volunteers wanted, please!**

## Volunteers



**We need you**

### FCC core & general updates:

Trustees held a blended face to face and ZOOM meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April, and also held the charities AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 where the 2021 report and accounts were presented to members: four of the five retiring Trustees were re-appointed after due nomination process. The audited accounts have been lodged with the Charity Commission. The next FCC social events are on May 16<sup>th</sup> with Hugh Potter presenting on "The Lea Wood Arm", and June 20<sup>th</sup> with David Amos presenting on "Coal in the Blood".

Trustees would again like to remind legacy members of our strategy to move to Direct Debit payment of annual membership fees – about 50% of members already have, but a stubborn number haven't responded to our requests and continue to pay us very old membership rates. If you haven't already please email [fccfees@cromfordcanal.org.uk](mailto:fccfees@cromfordcanal.org.uk) with your agreement to migrate to Direct Debit. FCC are planning a joined-up publicity event on 23<sup>rd</sup> September for the launch of the recently renovated Aqueduct Cottage with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust: both parties recognize that we are part of an integrated visitor economy at the Cromford end of the canal.

### FCC Conservation and Restoration:

Ensuring the canal route is not further compromised for future generations is part of what we do, and so recent meetings have been held with Severn Trent Water with regard the burying of a major water main under the canal on the old Stevenson site. On the Beggarlee project, Marsha Miles Consultancy has been contracted to undertake professional fund raising for us and they have now submitted more than a dozen funding applications, with many others being worked on. John Barker's FCC tactical work parties have been hard at it as usual: **Pinxton**: All Winter work has been finished. **Lower Harshay**: DWT have given us two signs which we can possibly use at Lower Harshay, all hedging whips are now planted, and we are now applying for another grant for next November 2022. The sluice needs attending to, and part of the footpath needs repairs. **Cromford**: All the reeds taken out of the canal have now been removed from the canal bank. We plan to supply and fit new handrails and supports for the bridge over the Leawood Arm near the Aqueduct Cottage. Coir rolls need attention the steel holding spikes are now showing, and they are now coming to the end of their life. **Bullbridge**: we are helping Mr Sleath to tidy up his land - what an adventure he's taken on - well worth a visit! **Codnor Park**: We recently met with C&RT to discuss new Adoption Papers for Lower Hartsay and Codnor Park and ongoing work for the season.

### FCC's Birdswood & Shop:

FCC's Boat Committee has designed a new "product": a premium boat trip with guides focussing on wildlife, and industrial archaeology and we're running two trial cruises to test viability. The plan is if successful we will offer more such "specials". Being a 100% volunteer run operation, we try to get prospective passengers / customers to self-serve as much as possible by using the Birdswood website: however, some people still insist ringing in with queries; here are three real and typical examples! "I can see from your website you're starting up on 2nd April, have you any vacancies for 27th March?"; "I can see from your website that dogs are welcome on the boat, can I bring my dog?"; "I see that children are £8/trip - my children are 27 and 31 - can I book them on at £8 please?". Honestly these are real examples!! (there are many others).



**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!