



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 19: January 2023

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS
& VOLUNTEERS!**

Here's hoping for another successful year!!



FCC core & general updates:

Trustees held a ZOOM meeting on 13th December & 12th January, with the next one planned for 14th February. The January FCC social is on 16th January as usual at Ironville church hall with a presentation on the subject of "Tracks, Tramways & Towpaths". Future social events are planned for 20th February – with a presentation on "The First Railways in the Erewash Valley", 20th March – with a presentation on "The Life and Times of Birdswood" Then we've got the FCC AGM planned for 17th April.

Now that 2022 has closed, we are busy preparing our year end accounts for presentation to our Auditors.

FCC MEMBERS – we want to talk to you! Keeping the Cromford Canal in the public eye is crucial, so communicating with all our stakeholders is vital, but communicating with our membership is also an obligation of our charitable status and is essential for us to keep everyone abreast of what's going on. Each quarter members receive our excellent journal "Portal" which contains historical articles and some items on current activities...but in an increasing fast-moving world, that's often not frequent enough! Every two months this punchier eNewsletter is issued to about 250 FCC members for whom we have an email address (it also goes to another 600 interested recipients who are not members), but there are about another 500 FCC members for who we do not have an email address. We want to communicate much more frequently and deeply with all of our membership, whether it be on current initiatives, fund raising drives, social events, AGM notices or current news: so if you haven't already and would like to be much better informed please let us have your email address – send a quick note to secretary@cromfordcanal.org.uk - we promise that we won't pass your details to any third party and you won't be bombarded with email spam.

It's been the traditional "close season", but that doesn't mean that we've been idle – on the contrary, there has been much valuable work done - you'll get a flavor below and in the upcoming edition of Portal.

FCC Conservation and Restoration:

Trustees have agreed to extend the contract with our fund-raising partner – a recent medium sized grant has just landed with others hopefully on their way! We are planning on spending these grants on a range of projects – including a new welfare cabin to be sited at Beggarlee - so watch this space. The Xmas break and recent inclement weather has meant a bit of a slow-down in the activity levels of John Barker's FCC tactical work parties: nevertheless, the work parties have continued work on the Beggerlee enabling project by clearing vegetation – there are lots of pictures on the FCC's Facebook group page, and later this month weed clearance is planned at Cromford and Pinxton with external contractors being employed.

FCC's trading operations (boat & shop):

The FCC's Boat sub-committee met on 10th January to consider the mitigations that have been put in place to the various risks to cruising in 2023: in addition to Birdswood being re-certified by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, FCC Trustees are funding contractors to undertake weed clearance work, DCC are funding leak repairs, and we have assurances that the Arkwright Society's hydro-electric scheme will not impact on water supply to the top end of the canal. And finally, after detailed negotiations, DCC have issued FCC with a new 5-year licence to operate Birdswood. So we have started planning work to re-commence cruising as from 8th April!

As a result of phenomenally successful year of merchandise sales in 2022, we are starting to plan for the restocking of the weighbridge shop – Oh, by the way we've successfully negotiated a new lease for that as well!



PLEASE FOLLOW US @FriendCromCanal – Tweeting and re-Tweeting is good!



PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK We've had lots of "likes", "shares" & extra followers: [click here](#): group membership has nearly trebled in a little over two years!