



# 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 5 : September 2020

**THE THIRD COVID EDITION:** News is a bit thin in these strange times, but here's a few more brief but important updates whilst in your current state of social distancing!

**FCC general updates:** The Charity Commission has been advised that our postponed AGM has to be held and is now planned to take place 21<sup>st</sup> September: as this eNewsletter is being written new Government guidelines have been issued "the rule of 6", and we are checking whether the arrangements that we have made can still go ahead or not. Meanwhile Trustees have been driving forward with virtual Zoom meetings and with working with partner Local Authorities to support us through the Covid crisis. The autumn edition of Portal has just been distributed by post and for members who like soft copies – by Mailchimp. Following the Government's restrictions Trustees have decided to cancel all Birdswood public trips for the rest of the calendar year, and the Office / Shop remains closed.

**DON'T LET THE COVID GRIND YOU DOWN!**



**Good news!**

## BREAKTHROUGH FOR CROMFORD CANAL

We have finally overcome one of the main obstacles in extending the canal further north and reconnecting with the rest of the now derelict and isolated canal in Derbyshire. Planning consents were received 21<sup>st</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August from Amber Valley BC and Broxtowe BC so we can now plan to extend the canal from the Langley Mill Basin to Stoney Lane.

**Conservation and Restoration:** It's obviously in FCC's strategic interest to monitor all developments that might restrict restoration of the route of the canal: we have recently become aware of a couple of such at Bullbridge and Sawmills: our brilliant volunteer Steve Parish is co-ordinating our efforts to try to ensure the Canal's long term interests are not compromised. FCC have been commissioned by Derbyshire County Council to re-surface the downstream tail of Pinxton Weir on the Cromford Canal. The weir was constructed by the NCB, in order to stop the flow of water into that part of the canal during the Smotherfly Opencast Coal scheme in the 1990s.

**Beggarlee Planning Application:** Planning consents were received 21<sup>st</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August from Amber Valley BC and Broxtowe BC so we can now plan to extend the canal from the Langley Mill Basin to Stoney Lane. This has been a long process, and a great deal of that hard work has been carried out by John Boucher. Get in touch if you are able to help with any of the construction, planning, design or fundraising at [restoration@cromfordcanal.org](mailto:restoration@ cromfordcanal.org).

**Browns Bridge:** DCC have approved the Approval in Principal document, and suppliers and contractors are actively being sought. Previous timescales were to look at bearing replacement this autumn, however that date may slip

**Water Resources Study:** Our volunteer Chris Broome is leading on this new study. Water Resources is an important aspect of restoration as keeping the canal in water relies upon there being sufficient water available to achieve this. For each individual planning application, such as the Beggarlee Extension, we have to provide detailed information on how we are to fill the canal and keep it in water. The Environment Agency (EA), local Wildlife Trusts and CRT all have an interest in this. More updates to follow in future editions!

**Birdswood:** Our technical team is still trying to resolve the noisy new motor. Meanwhile we are starting to plan for our annual "in-water" inspections from the MCA in early November. FCC's Boat Committee is still meeting (albeit via ZOOM!) and helping plan for the future!

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

We've had lots of "likes", "shares" & extra followers :FCC: [click here](#): has grown from 886 members (Nov19) to 1293 members, +50% in 10 months! **PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**