



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."

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THE MONEY EDITION!

Our mission infers that money must be spent....and we're starting to do that now...but not being in a "levelling up" area we need to constantly fill the bucket back up locally. We need trading profits, members subs, donations, grants, & legacies to succeed!!



FCC core & general updates:

Trustees held a ZOOM meeting on 16th February, with the next one on 14th March. The March FCC social event is on 20th March, and then we've got the FCC AGM on the 17th of April. The charities annual accounts have been received and are in the process of being formally signed off with our Auditors. Our quarterly journal "Portal" was distributed to FCC members in mid-February – 600 odd hard-copies were posted out and it was also sent electronically to all FCC members for whom we have an email address – about 380 out of our total membership of 730. An FCC presence at the ECPDA 55th Anniversary Boat Rally is being organized over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. The Cromford Canal joins the Erewash Canal at Langley Mill so it's important that we are part of this event. If you're not already, please consider joining FCC as a member: its cheap and you can do it on the FCC website www.cromfordcanal.org where you'll also find a mass of other interesting information: interest in the charity is at its highest ever – the FCC Facebook group has grown by 300% in three years to 2400 members.

FCC Conservation and Restoration:

We have secured a significant grant from Derbyshire Environmental Trust to enable us to start the land drainage works on the Beggarlee site: this is contingent on some conditions, but it will enable us to purchase a large quantity of concrete drainage pipes. An earlier grant from the National Lottery has been spent on the purchase of a new welfare cabin for the use of on-site volunteers which was delivered to site at Beggarlee on 25th February: take a look at the new drone video of Beggarlee on our website!. FCC funded contractors were deployed in February to undertake weed clearance and removal on the Cromford – Leawood stretch and at Pinxton wharf. FCC Trustees have also funded and commissioned a detailed technical survey of the Leawood to Gregory's tunnel stretch to inform us what we need to do to make that bit navigable. So, you can see we are busy spending money! FCC work parties last week completed the repair to the leaking side-slucice in the horseshoe weir in the Cromford Mill yard – the objective being to maximise the water supply to the top end of the canal. Water supply is an ongoing worry, climate change – we had the driest February on 30 years – and the impact of the new Hydro-electric scheme in the mill yard at Cromford are being closely monitored.

FCC's trading operations (boat & shop):

The FCC's Boat sub-committee met on 8th February and ratified the decision to recommence public cruising in 2023: we have a stable crew cohort of 8 Masters and 37 other crew. Several "close season" test runs with the boat have been undertaken: this also helps with crew morale and channel clearing in readiness for the new season. Our season this year will run from 8th April to the 8th of October: we have an intrusive out-of-water inspection by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) that has to be completed by 9th November...and need time to prepare. Our lead Master Mike Kelley has organised annual crew training: we need to prove to the MCA that we do induction and refresher training. Our quartermaster has been busy, and we have a new stock of refreshment consumables in the storeroom of the Weighbridge shop ready to go. Our new Rota Management team is up and running and our online booking slots are now open for Regular and Premium trips, and we are starting to see bookings trickle-in: additionally, we have 30 firm charter bookings. We have had 15,000 promotional leaflets printed – 10,000 of which are being distributed to 100 locations throughout Derbyshire. We are also working closely with other local attractions on joint promotional initiatives – in particular Cromford Mills and Crich Tramway Museum and expect to run another promotion with Derbyshire County Council.



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