



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 17: September 2022

**This is the moment history pauses; for a minute, an hour, for a day or a week;
this is the moment history pauses**



FCC core & general updates:

Trustees held blended face to face and ZOOM meetings on 12th July and 16th August. the the next FCC social events are planned for September 19th, October 17th and November 21st – all at Ironville church hall. FCC Trustees hosted a volunteer "thank-you" event at the Boat Inn Pinxton on 16th July where over 30 volunteers attended. An invitation has been extended to the new CEO of the Arkwright Society to meet with FCC Trustees to introduce each other and discuss areas of common interest. FCC's quarterly journal "Portal" #82 is to be posted out imminently and also sent in soft form to over 150 members. As part of our fund-raising campaign, we were asked to produce testimonials from our many volunteers on why they did what they did, and how they felt they benefited from it: some examples are included in Portal #82. Regarding fund raising, we are designing an information poster to be used in all of our communications channels on the subject of bequests through wills...watch this space. Amber Valley Rotary have kindly donated a batch of 32 branded tabards for use with both FCC work parties and boat crew: see photos posted on the FCC Facebook page. Speaking of which, FCC Facebook group stood at a static 800 members in early 2020: through our various efforts that has grown to over 2100 members: unfortunately, we suffered a "hack" from a religious fanatic "bot" which caused mayhem in July: that problem has been fixed now by a trusted volunteer being recruited as an expert Facebook Administrator.

FCC Conservation and Restoration:

Our professional fund-raising partner - Marsha Miles - has now submitted over sixty funding applications, valued at over £420,000, with many others in the pipeline: so far, we have had a total of £13,250 grants from four of these bids, and we await the results on many more. John Barker's FCC tactical work parties have been hard at it as usual: much clearing of vegetation from Cromford and HPJ and finishing off various jobs such as the tow path at King William Bridge, the C&RT stretch and finishing the metal rail at the Aqueduct cottage. We have used the £2000 grant obtained via our fund raisers to restore the bridge at Waterloo farm, with the assistance and training from a professional stonemason (the one who rebuilt the Portland Bridge at Jacksdale). A meeting is planned with DCC's Countryside Services in early October, and high on the agenda are items such as Cromford-end dredging, weed clearance and water levels. We recently engaged a professional company to take some silt core samples from the section of the canal where Birdswood runs so that we could be more informed of the contents of that silt: our volunteer engineers will now discuss with DCC and Severn Trent as to how and to where we could potentially move the silt, and then we will need the agreement from the Environment Agency to carry out the final plan.

FCC's trading operations (boat & shop):

We're now well over halfway through our season – although the online version of our shop is open for business 24/7/365! To the end of August we have generated over £40,000 in revenue from all sources, (so we expect to make a healthy surplus for the charities cash reserves by the end of the trading year), and we will have given more than 3,000 passengers a fantastic experience that they will not forget! Our plan is to operate until the end of October, and then we face another challenge: this time an in-water inspection of the boat by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in probably November.



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!