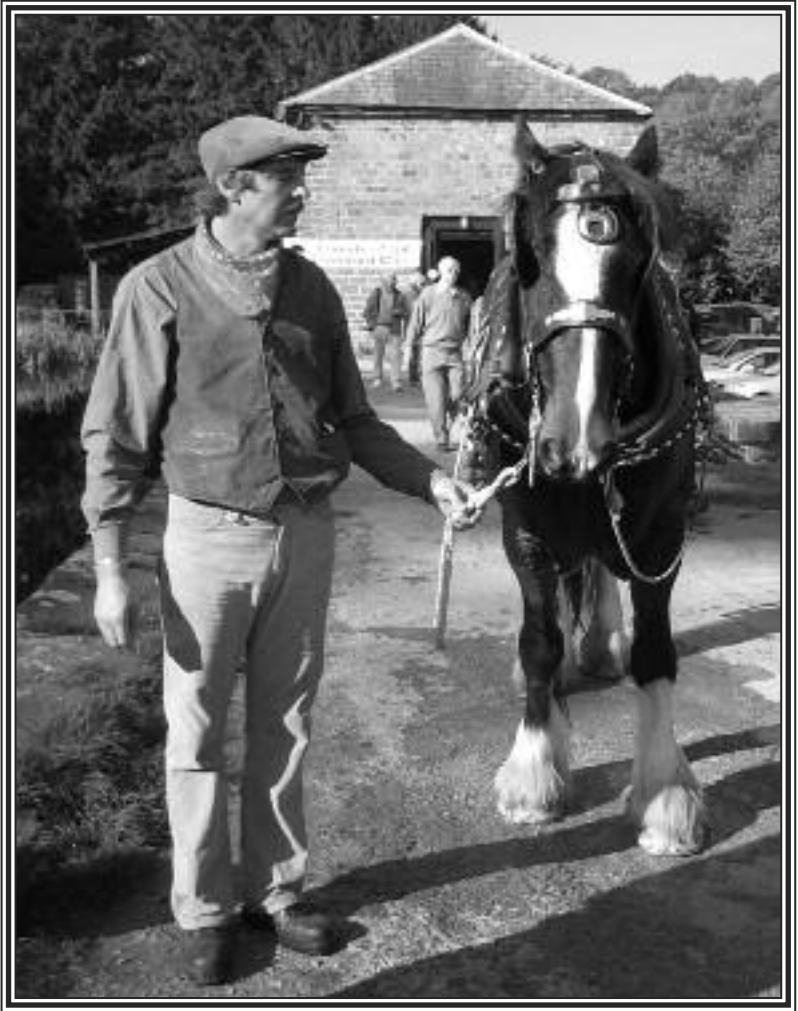


THE PORTAL



**THE JOURNAL OF THE
FRIENDS OF THE
CROMFORD CANAL**

Registered Charity Number 1100700



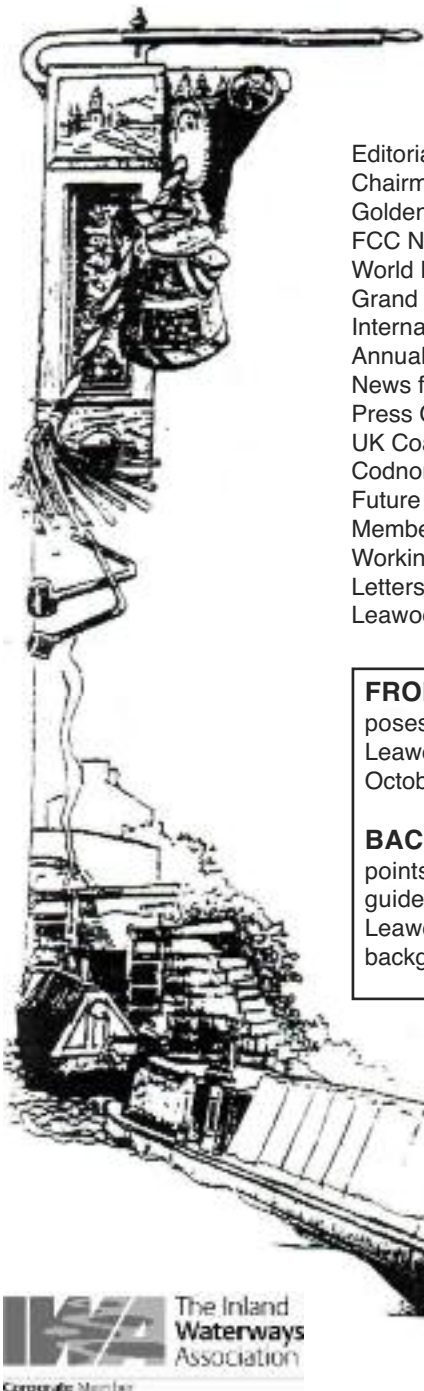
NUMBER 24

NEW YEAR 2008



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FRONT COVER - The motive power department poses before towing the *Duchess* from Cromford to Leawood at the World Heritage Site Discovery Days in October.
Photo: Editor

BACK COVER - Hugh Potter explains the finer points of Wigwell Aqueduct on one of his popular guided walks at the same event. Meanwhile the Leawood Pumping Engine steams merrily away in the background.
Photo: Liz Tatam





EDITORIAL

from Mike Harrison



Welcome to *The Portal* No 24! It is six years since the Friends of the Cromford Canal was formed and Brian Dominic, one of the founder members, undertook to edit this newsletter. After 23 editions, Brian has decided to step down for a well earned rest and in a weak moment I said I would have a go.

My first job is to thank Brian for all his efforts and I only hope I can carry on his good work. Keeping the membership informed is one of the most important jobs in any organisation of this sort and I will try my best to do this.

For those of you who don't know me, perhaps first of all I should introduce myself. I am a motor engineer turned boat builder and my interest in canals started in the mid sixties. My cousin and his wife owned a small wooden cruiser on the River Trent at Sawley and I used to join them on short trips. Then in 1967 they bought an ex working narrow boat and I went with them on their first trip which was to the Inland Waterways Association National Rally at Leicester. Conditions on board were basic to say the least, but I thoroughly enjoyed it and immediately became hooked.

I bought my first narrow boat in 1970 and became a member of the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association at about the same time. I was then involved in their intensive programme of work parties organised by Mick Golds. This led to the re-opening of the previously derelict Langley Bridge Lock (No 14 on the Cromford Canal) in May 1973. The ECPDA work parties then branched out to visit other derelict canals and it was whilst we were both shoveling mud in the bottom of Lock 10 at Marple on the Peak Forest Canal that I met Val Roberts (now FCC Sales Officer). Things developed from there and in 1977 we realised our dream of living on a boat.

After the Langley Mill re-opening, many of us were keen to continue the restoration above Langley Bridge Lock. This led to the formation of Langley Mill Company Ltd, of which I was one of the directors. Excavation of another short length of the filled in Cromford Canal and building of a dry dock followed. Val and I moved our residential mooring from Sawley to Langley Mill in 1983. Since then there have been several extensions to the moorings, each meaning a bit more Cromford Canal in water.

In 1987, I bought a derelict working narrow boat from British Waterways. Val and I restored it to carrying condition and ran it for several years retailing coal to boaters all over the Midlands. So another dream is to deliver a load of coal by boat to Leawood Pump!

We have since built a bungalow at Horsley Woodhouse and after nearly 30 years living afloat and cruising over 45,000 miles, we moved 'on to the bank' in 2006. Whether we shall realise another dream and see the full restoration of the Cromford Canal remains to be seen. Patrick Morriss is a very capable chairman and is supported by an enthusiastic committee. At the moment, much of the committee's work is behind the scenes, but much is going on and I will try to keep you up to date. However, this magazine can only be as good as the contributions received so I am also looking forward to hearing from **you**.

Mike



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

by Patrick Morriss



A Happy & Prosperous New Year to all of you who I have not met face to face since the New Year, I know it might be a bit late but never mind. Of course no mention of this year would be complete without a heartfelt thank you to all of you who turned out in whatever capacity to support the FCC in 2007. Please keep it up!

"A journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step". How true are these words that Chinese leader Mao Tse-Tung once spoke. It's not often you'll find me quoting Mao in *The Portal* but there's a first time for everything. We took that first step in 2002 when we formed the FCC, there's been a few more in the last few days.

Firstly the Smotherfly campaign – almost as old as the FCC! I'll not plagiarise the words of Steve Parish our Local Authority Liaison person and he says:

"We really did hope to have planning consent before Christmas, but at a late stage (i.e. now rather than at any time in the last 20 months) Derbyshire CC decided that they wanted an earlier start date than the normal three years (it used to be five). While we would expect work to begin by 2009, there could be unforeseen circumstances that caused delay, and you cannot now extend a planning consent start date without making a new application, so we're reluctant for AVBC to accept less than the three years. But, one way or another, consent is now virtually assured, with all the hard work that will flow from that." Interestingly the Chesterfield Canal is also seeking help from UK Coal and two Chesterfield stalwarts will be at Ironville to share their experiences with us on 17th March. See page 21.

Secondly comes the announcement from Derbyshire County Council that they have been successful in obtaining EMDA funding for the Ambergate to Cromford section. This news has come through as I write this piece, full details outlined elsewhere in this issue. See page 19. I am assuming that this is in addition to the works announced a few weeks ago.

Thirdly is the news of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust press release welcoming the joint working between the FCC and DWT. This was also announced on 8th January:

"The Friends of the Cromford Canal have joined forces with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to protect the industrial and natural heritage of one of the Trust's nature reserves. The Friends have organised a series of weekend volunteer work parties to remove small trees and saplings that are growing out of the canal walls and stonework. Kate Lemon, the Trust's Reserves Officer, explains: "If the trees continued to grow unchecked they would take over the canal, dry it up and cause irreparable damage to the physical structure of the canal. The Friends are also helping to clear litter from the water, including some large items such as sofas." Erewash Meadows is one of 42 nature reserves looked after by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Grass snakes, amphibians and dragonflies are among the creatures to be found on and around the disused canal, while other parts of the reserve are well known for bird species such as lapwing, snipe, widgeon and teal."



Friends of the Cromford Canal work parties take place on Saturdays, and dates planned are 12th January, 9th February and 8th and 9th March; all dates depend on availability of volunteers. [See Dave Tinkler's report on page 25 - Ed.]

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's own Midweek Volunteer Team will also be carrying out some work on the reserve over the next few months to remove some of the larger trees. Kate commented: "By having two teams of volunteers working on the site we are really able to make an impact. The work the Trust's team is doing compliments the Friends' work perfectly." Pat Morriss, Chairman of the Friends of the Cromford Canal agreed, and added: "We are delighted to have got together with the Wildlife Trust in order to preserve this important piece of historic infrastructure in an environmentally friendly way for the benefit of all". For more information about Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's nature reserves and Midweek Volunteer Team, contact the Trust on 01773 881188.

Fourthly, we have news of the proposed Golden Valley Project including a new section of canal to the north of Codnor Park reservoir and an interchange station with the Midland Railway Centre. Those of you who live nearby will already know about this project and I know some of you have reservations. The project is explained in greater detail below by Tony Brookes. My personal view is the greatest good for the greatest number, but we'll all have our chance to comment when the planning application is submitted.

Last April in my first Pat's Piece I said we may live in interesting times (I must watch this Chinese quote thing!). Well, things may just be moving to a very interesting phase at last.

THE GOLDEN VALLEY PROJECT

from Tony Brookes

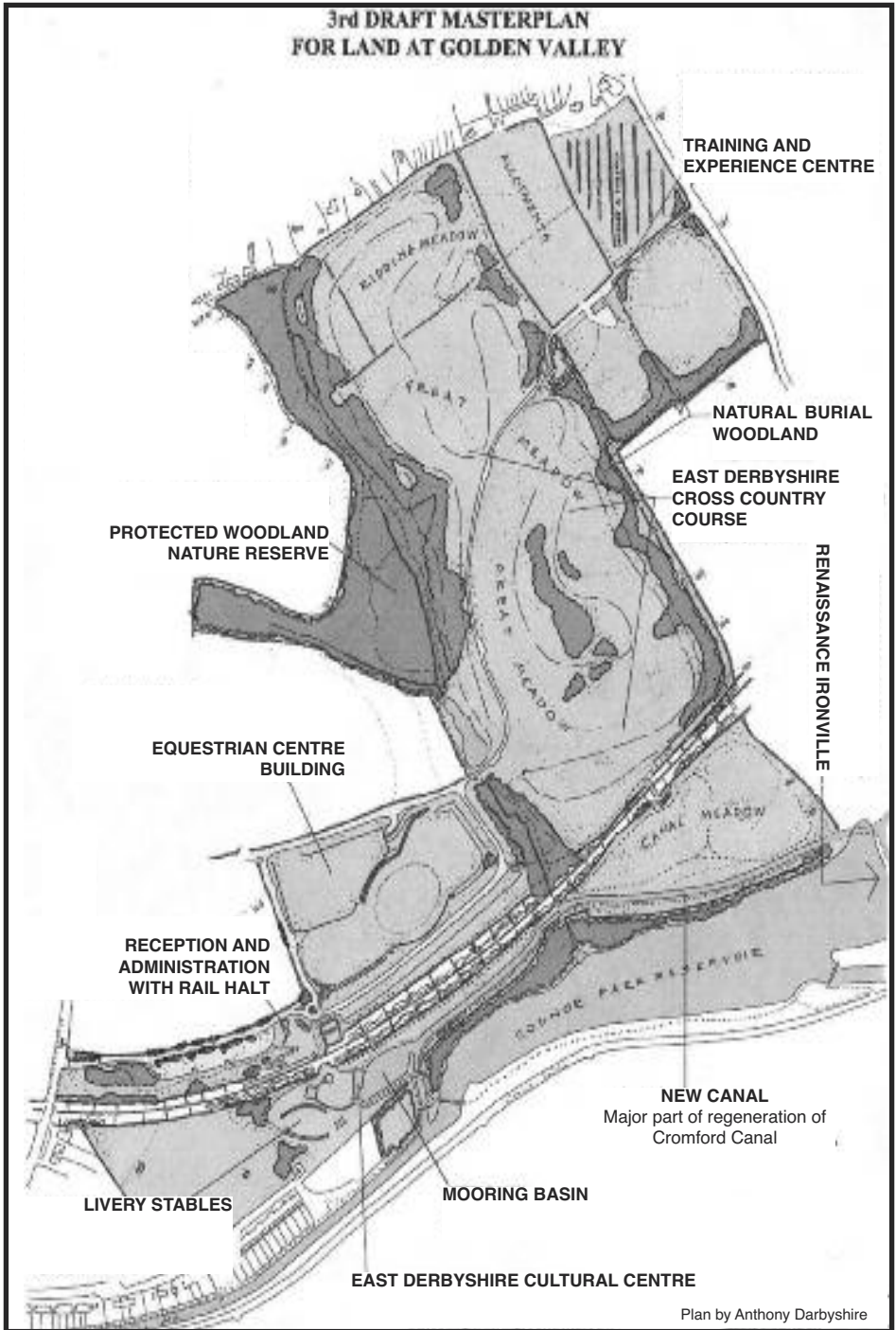
You will see mentioned elsewhere in *The Portal*, that Patrick Morriss is (unfortunately) showing he's human and not a superman by needing help from the NHS. Apart from wishing him well, this article is about one of his duties that I stood in for him very much at the last moment. Like me I shall assume that you know nothing about this, and haven't read the articles about it in the Derby Evening Telegraph and the Ripley and Heanor News. It has been a fascinating snapshot into how developments get put into the planning process: I now have a slight understanding of the amount of hard work that it's taken other committee members to get our Smotherfly application to the stage it's now at.

Anyway, I volunteered to stand in for Patrick in giving a public talk as part of the initial presentations to interested local people: some local residents, MPs, Councillors and officials. Firstly the name of the development seems to have started off as the East Derbyshire Regeneration Initiative and recently been changed to the Golden Valley Project with the EDRI name possibly carrying on as a description of a wider grouping of interested organisations with interests in Ironville/Codnor Park/Jacksdale and surrounding areas.

The Golden Valley Project is the name given to the development of an olympic grade equestrian facility that also has a country park, arts workshop, a small canal basin and a new section of the canal to join up the existing DCC section and almost to the BW section bypassing the reservoir and the reservoir flood protection scheme works. The plan opposite shows the proposals. It's very important to realise that the outline planning application has not yet been submitted to the council and so many details are, as yet, unresolved and will be so until a second, much more detailed application is made to get full planning permission. The meeting I attended, held at the Midland Railway Centre, was the first public consultation. There will be others as required by the planning process. John Boucher, our consultant engineer, gave an outline talk on the Cromford Canal and what we want to do. My talk was much shorter and I put the case for the economic benefits of canal restoration. The whole session was about an hour plus discussions afterwards.



3rd DRAFT MASTERPLAN FOR LAND AT GOLDEN VALLEY



Plan by Anthony Darbyshire



FCC NEWS UPDATE **- so what *is* happening**

from Mike Kelley



It is often difficult for all the membership to be kept up to date with events and progress. We have the Email Club Line which we encourage all to join, but not everyone wants to and some cannot handle this technology yet. (If you would like to join this Email Club Line please write to Giles Metcalf at - giles@lughnasadh.com - he will be happy to help). So we will now be putting out this regular news item, which will consist of bulleted points of events since the last edition of this magazine.

- A great deal of work behind the scenes is still going on concerning our planning application to use the Smotherfly site near Pinxton as part of the restored Pinxton Branch of the Cromford Canal. Members will recall that we are hoping to use the now redundant temporary River Erewash diversion channel to reinstate the canal. It was in May 2006 when this application was first made and many long hours of work have gone into all the twists and turns, particularly by our honorary consultant engineer John Boucher. We are now very hopeful of this application being granted. For details of all the actions taken for this planning application please come along to our AGM at Ironville Church Hall on Monday 7th April 2008 commencing at 7:30 pm.

- 10th October 07: Brian Dominic suddenly resigned from his duties as our Webmaster and Portal Editor. Brian had taken these roles since their inception and made a very good job indeed, for which we thank him. Waterways World magazine once made this FCC website their 'Site of the Month'. We thank Giles Metcalf for taking over as our new Webmaster and Mike Harrison who has taken over as Editor. So this is Mike's first edition. Well done Mike.

- 11th October 07: Whilst not directly an FCC matter, British Waterways announced a new £7 Million marina for Willington on the Trent and Mersey Canal. This shows what our area is capable of and indicates how such a marina could feature prominently in the restored Cromford Canal.

- 20-21st October 07: Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Weekend. The FCC ran a horse drawn boat from Cromford Wharf to High Peak Junction. The crowds were thrilled to see what has now become an annual event for us. Our new trailer, made to look like a Cromford working boat, made its first appearance at this event. Our sales team ran our regular stall and our photographic exhibition was well received. The highlight was the appearance of our Patron Julian Richards who made the draw for our Grand Raffle. There were some really great prizes in this raffle and our thanks must go to Pat Morriss for the considerable work he put in to this. See details on page 11.



- 25th October 07: Our Consultant Engineer, John Boucher, attended a meeting between Ashfield DC, Notts CC & Kirkby Historical Soc., to agree a scheme to consolidate and interpret the Portland Colliery tramway from Jacksdale to Portland Collieries near Kirkby. This embankment is an important and unique example of slag block construction.
- 9th November 07: Incidental, but interesting; Tesco congratulated in Parliament for using barges on the River Mersey and Manchester Ship Canal to transport its wine the 32 miles from Liverpool to its bottling plant in Irlam. This saves 50 lorry trips a week and cuts carbon emissions by 80%.
- 22nd October 07: Our Chairman Pat Morriss gave a well received talk to the Inland Waterways Association Branch Meeting at Stoke-on-Trent.
- 19th November 07: Our regular Social Evening was two talks on our local Codnor Castle, in which the finds and story of the recent 'Time Team's' exploration were discussed. Over 130 were in attendance. See page 22.
- 28th November 07: Our Chairman Pat Morriss went into hospital for an operation. We all wish you well Pat.
- 30th November 07: The FCC have been invited to join in discussions with a local developer and the Midland Railway Butterley concerning new proposals for the canal to go north of Codnor Park Reservoir as part of a large new conservation development. This includes a link from Butterley Midland Rail to the canal.
- 11th December 07: The Cromford and Derby Canals were mentioned in a debate in Parliament concerned with the future funding of British Waterways.
- 14th December 07: On the same topic as the discussions on 30th November mentioned above, 'Golden Era for Golden Valley' was the headline in the Ripley and Heanor News, when a proposal for a £20 million regeneration project was announced. This proposal, as well as being an olympic standard equestrian centre will involve the building of a new section of the Cromford Canal north of Codnor Park Reservoir including a mooring area for boats and a waterside cultural centre. Very good news on the face of it. Your committee will be monitoring developments with interest. A similar article to this also appeared in the Derby Evening Telegraph on 17th December. See also page 4.
- 17th December 07: Our Christmas Quiz Night at the Ironville Church Hall. A good fun night out.
- 3rd January 08: Due to the persistence of our Chairman in reporting to DCC the very poor condition of the towpath between A610 and A38, some action is now being taken. Trees and undergrowth are being cleared and a boardwalk is to be constructed over the length of towpath washed away by flood waters. The the poor drainage of this section is still a problem for which no one wants to take responsibility. British Waterways say it is not their problem. Amber Valley BC say 'they no longer deal with (this particular) drainage issue.' The Environment Agency said it was not their problem when approached by DCC, so Amber Valley is again being approached by DCC and so we go on!



WORLD HERITAGE SITE DISCOVERY DAYS



Photo: Hugh Potter

Once again the Friends made a large contribution to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Discovery Days on 20th & 21st October. On the Saturday we had our sales stand, photographic display and slide show in the Gothic Warehouse at Cromford. There always seems to be a lot of people enjoying the canal scene at Cromford and this event has been well supported each year with a lot of interest shown in the displays. The picture on the right shows the sales stall just before the rush started.

Unfortunately the horse had been double booked for the Saturday but the DCC ranger kindly agreed to tow the boat *Duchess* by tractor from Leawood to Cromford for static display.

On the Sunday, the horse, Billie Jim, hauled the *Duchess* up and down the canal to a crowd of admirers.



Photo: Editor



Passing through the wood in a sylvan setting



Photo: Hugh Potter

After leaving Cromford and passing the rather fine stone-arched Bridge No.1, the boat enters the idyllic wooded section shown above. The horse appears to hardly notice the boat as it casually ambles along, although it is in fact going deceptively fast. The strength of the beast is then demonstrated as the boat runs aground on a shallow section but the horse simply keeps going and effortlessly snaps the tow line. Another hazard is then encountered at the Swingbridge No.2 at High Peak Junction. Apart from swinging the bridge, the crew had to unhitch the line to negotiate the support of the rather ugly overhead pipe as shown below. The boat then continued to Leawood Pump before winding and returning to Cromford Wharf. This very popular exercise was then repeated!

Railway End Swingbridge No.2, complete with rather unfortunate pipe bridge



Photo: Hugh Potter



Arriving back at Cromford



Photo: Hugh Potter

The horse drawn boat is a very popular attraction and, as usual, many people were asking when they could have a boat trip. This is something the FCC will have to think about for the future, bearing in mind how popular it was some years ago.

Unconventional Transport for the Ropemakers



Photos: Editor

We had to move the displays outside on the Sunday but this was no problem as the weather was kind to us. We also had our sponsored walk from Ambergate to Cromford and our Patron Julian Richards attended at Cromford, doing an excellent job selling raffle tickets before drawing the winners.

On each day there were also guided canal walks led by Hugh Potter, rope making demonstrations, paintings by Wallace Spence, and the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust stand, all entertained by Peter Keating with his street organ helping to bring in the crowds. Altogether a pleasant weekend, and also one of the most important of the year for spreading the word and helping to raise the profile of the FCC.

Editor

I see now why they call these things **narrow** boats Pat!





GRAND RAFFLE 2007

We were pleased to have our new patron, Julian Richards, at the World Heritage Weekend at Cromford. He was very helpful in selling tickets on the Sunday and then conducted the draw from the roof of *The Duchess* assisted by chairman Patrick Morriss as shown below.

Photo: Editor



The winning tickets were:

9600	A Berncastle	Southampton	Balloon Flight
8902	Hopcutt	Bucknell, Shropshire	Railway Footplate Experience
7350	J H Harwood	Eyam, Hope Valley	Land Rover Experience
3543	G Ottewell	Ripley	Set of books by Julian Richards
6517	E M Jarratt	Richmond, Yorks	Watercolour Painting
9574	KS & GL Haynes	Oxford	Canal Painted Stool
9026	M Bardill	Spondon, Derby	Waterways World Subscription
5067	T Andrews	Wirksworth	Crich Museum Tickets
7614	Mrs S Gilby	Riddings, Alfreton	Pen & Ink Picture
3535	J Slack	Ripley	Bottle of Whiskey
2546	S D Leivers	Chesterfield	Toiletries
7214	V Davis	Derbyshire	<i>Derbyshire Life</i> Subscription



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

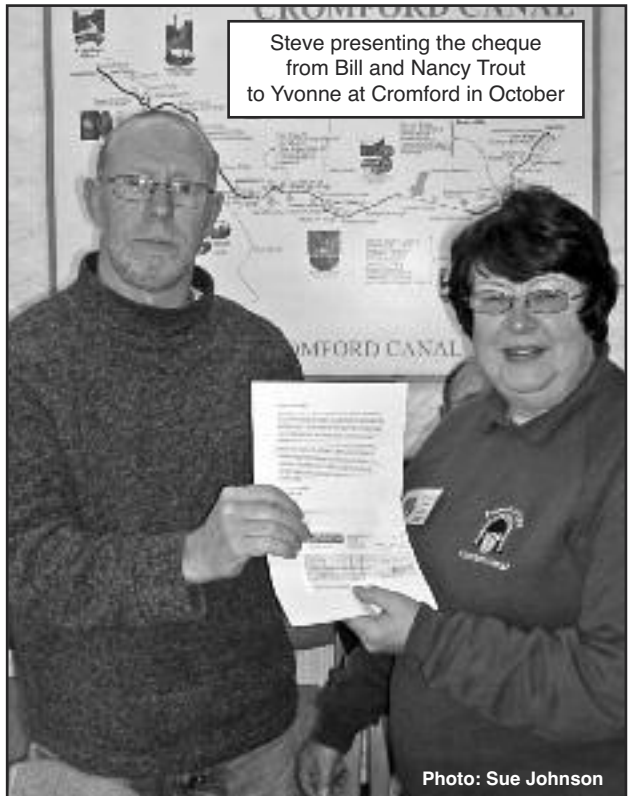
During the World Heritage Site Discovery Days event at Cromford, we received a donation from somewhat further away than usual and by a rather complicated route. This came from America via our members Sue and Steve Johnson of Derby. They are both keen members of both the Erewash Canal Preservation & Development Association and the FCC and Steve is a regular at the work parties at Langley Mill and also volunteered to steer the horse boat at Cromford in October. They kindly sent the following letter together with their cheque. Thank you very much Sue and Steve.

Donation to the Friends of the Cromford Canal

Bill and Nancy Trout, a couple of canal enthusiasts from Virginia USA, attended the World Canals Conference in Liverpool. They came to stay with us after expressing an interest in visiting the Chesterfield Canal in particular but also other Midlands canal restoration projects. We had a wonderful two days with Bill and Nancy who proved to be knowledgeable and fun characters. Steve gave them a tour of as much as could be seen in two days (poor Nancy was exhausted!) and the evenings were spent chatting and comparing cultural and historical understanding of transport and related issues.

Bill and Nancy were particularly impressed by the work of the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association at Langley Mill, with their work on the Cromford Canal and delighted by the vision of the Cromford Canal reaching full restoration. After they left we discovered a cheque for 500 American dollars and instructions to do with it as we saw fit. After due consideration, and much thought, we have decided to donate the money to the Friends of the Cromford Canal as being a project close to our hearts and also impressing our American visitors.

Sue and Steve Johnson





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Cromford Canal will be held on Monday, April 7th. 2008 at the Church Hall, Ironville commencing at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting on Monday, 26th March 2007.
3. Matters arising.
4. Report of the Chairman.
5. Report of the Treasurer and presentation of accounts for 2007.
6. Adoption of the accounts.
7. Election of Trustees.
8. Reports by Officers
9. Any other business.

Minutes of the Fifth AGM are on pages 14-16.

The accounts for the year ending December 31st. 2007 will be available at the meeting.

Election of Trustees.

The Friends of the Cromford Canal is managed by up to eleven Trustees assisted by a number of other members with about 12 meetings a year. The Trustees are responsible to the Charity Commission for the organization of the Friends and report to the Charity Commission each year. In order to have rotation of Trustees and comply with our Constitution, Trustees are elected for a three year term, at present Pat Morriss, John Baylis, Mike Kelley, Mike Harrison, Bob Bullock and Val Roberts have served either 1 or 2 years and will continue as Trustees. This year Yvonne Shattower and Peter Stone retire by rotation and are both willing to stand for election for a further term of three years.

During the year Graham White was co-opted as a Trustee to fill the one vacancy and should have sought election this year. However, due to personal reasons he has now had to withdraw. During the year Brian Dominic resigned as a Trustee after editing Portal for nearly six years. Hugh Potter also intends to resign as a Trustee from this AGM having served for six years, although he is willing to continue as FCC Archivist.

This means that we have five vacancies for election as Trustees with, so far, the two nominations of Yvonne and Peter. Further nominations must be submitted in writing to John Baylis (address inside front cover) before March 22nd. The nomination must be signed by the proposer, seconder and the nominee who must all be FCC members.

After the formal business, there will be a chance for members to ask questions or bring up any matters of concern and we can hopefully have a useful discussion.

Hugh Potter will be displaying some of his large collection of archive material, probably including a Power Point presentation of Reg Baker's slides of the canal taken in the 1960's among others. The sales stall will also be there.

John Baylis Vice Chairman



Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting

held at the Church Hall, Ironville on Monday 26th March 2007 at 7.30pm

1. Present

Mike (Michael) Kelley (Chairman), Patrick Morriss, John Baylis. Hugh Potter, Val Roberts, Brian Dominic, Mike Harrison, Yvonne Shattower, Peter Stone, Bob Bullock (Trustees), John Boucher (Honorary Consultant Engineer), Howard Smith (Erewash Canal Preservation & Development Association representative), Anne Smith, Dave Ratner, Val Kelley, Dave Tinkler, Tony Brookes, Jan Colombo and Meg Tarlton (minutes secretaries), and over 70 members.

2 Apologies for absence

Michelle White and the Rev Steve Parish

3 Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting held on March 27th 2006 had been circulated earlier. Their adoption was proposed by Graham White, seconded by Brian Dominic and carried unanimously.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Chairman's report

The Chairman prefaced his report by welcoming everyone and saying that he was pleased to see so many non-members present.

Julian Richards is now our Patron and the Chairman read out a letter from him, as he was unable to be present because of an accident. His letter stated how pleased he was to be patron, commented on the value of the project and he stated that he intends to take an active role as Patron and wants to be involved in work parties and as well as helping with fundraising.

The Chairman reported on achievements over the first five years. These included having an active and dynamic committee, getting the line of the canal protected, and being registered as a charity. FCC has attended and been a key feature at a number of events, dealt with several significant planning issues concerning the canal and is a partner in Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Excellent communications have been achieved by an award winning website, quarterly magazine and members e-mail network. Strong political support has been gained from all local Members of Parliament, Members of the European Parliament, and all local councils. FCC has ensured the canal is no longer seen as a lost cause.

The Chairman thanked the committee and outlined some of their activities:

Work parties Several had been held during the year, including renovation of the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) horse boat the *Duchess*.

Sales Team They had attended all FCC events, a week long display at County Hall and other local events. In addition, they had produced and packed 4,000 Christmas cards, run a postal service and maintained levels of all stock. They are planning to attend local and national events in the coming year.



Membership Secretary Yvonne Shattower handles all the membership contacts and sends out the Portal four times each year.

Portal editor and Webmaster As well as producing an award winning website, and editing Portal, Brian Dominic is the main organiser of the World Heritage Weekend.

Social events Val Kelley was thanked for organising the social events and maintaining the Chairman's contacts list.

The Chairman also thanked the Trustees and members of the committees for their hard work and the representatives of the Inland Waterways Association and the Erewash Canal Preservation & Development Association, without whom the FCC would never have existed.

Smotherfly Mike Kelley thanked John Boucher, Patrick Morriss and Steve Parish for their work so far on this project. UK Coal had agreed not to fill in the channel created for the open casting, as this will be used as the line of the canal. DCC will not insist that UK Coal implement their agreement until the FCC application is resolved.

Halcrow Group carried out a Flood Risk Assessment. A Wildlife Sub-committee was formed and drew up a report to answer Derbyshire Wildlife Trust issues. An ecology report was drawn up by Environmental Consultancy – University of Sheffield.

Meetings were held with DCC and Amber Valley Borough Council Planning Departments. Accurate surveys were carried out.

Mike Kelley commented that it will need a lot of money to run Smotherfly.

Pinxton Push - 220 walkers took part in April 2006, including 2 local MPs and local councillors. £4,249.81 was raised for the Smotherfly campaign.

World Heritage Weekend Mike Kelley reported on this and said that the Cromford Amble Sponsored Walk raised £718.

Personal Mike Kelley said that because he would be working overseas during the next year, and not retiring as planned, he would be taking a year's sabbatical as chairman. He requested that the Committee elect a new chairman to cover the year. During that time, he will oversee the Smotherfly Project.

The Chairman finished with a request for sponsorship for his Heritage Hike along 56 miles of the Derwent Valley to be held in June.

6 Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts

A copy of the summary of accounts for 2006 and the balance sheet for year ended December 31st 2006 were circulated at the meeting and Bob Bullock explained them to the members. There was a query over gift aid revenue not showing on the accounts but Patrick Morriss said that discussions are taking place with the Inland Revenue as to whether FCC can claim this from the date charitable status was granted or the date it was applied for. Bob Bullock commented briefly on the overpaid memberships subscriptions resulting from a bank error. These are now being corrected.

John Baylis reported that the auditor, Terry Miles, was very pleased with the accounts and the way they were presented. Mike Kelley asked that Terry be thanked for auditing the accounts.

7 Adoption of the accounts

Tony Brookes proposed the adoption of the accounts. This was seconded by Peter Keating and carried unanimously.



8 Election of Trustees

Mike Kelley reported that Anne Smith was retiring as trustee and thanked her for her work for the Friends of the Cromford Canal. Valerie Roberts, Hugh Potter, and Brian Dominic were the retiring trustees and had been proposed for re-election. There being no other nominations Dave Tinkler proposed that they were all re-elected en bloc, seconded by Trevor Robson and carried unanimously.

9 Membership report

Yvonne Shattower reported that it had been a very busy year but there was a slight reduction in active members. At March 2006 we had 681 active members but only 654 this year. Yvonne thought that the committee should consider a membership drive at events through the year. There had been a good response to paying subscriptions by standing order but she mentioned the problem highlighted by the Treasurer. Yvonne also thanked the members who help to distribute the Portal.

10 Archivist's report

Hugh Potter has received transcriptions of two more books of canal permits. This brings the total on the database of boats passing through Langley Mill (between 1814 and 1878) to over 7000. These are useful in family history research where ancestors worked on the canal. Hugh has also had a number of enquiries from people tracing their family tree, where relatives lived in the former Aqueduct Cottage by Leawood Aqueduct.

A wide variety of photographs and other historical material has been donated or loaned for copying, but it mainly covers the Cromford end of the canal. There is not much on the Ironville Lock flight or the Pinxton Arm, so Hugh ended with an appeal for material.

11 Portal/webmaster's report

The Portal has been revamped slightly and the photographic reproduction has improved, including the back cover. Brian Dominic made a plea for more articles for the magazine. He reported that the website had progressed steadily, covering all the big events. When the Heritage Hike is taking place Brian intends to have a "photo of the day" each day on the website.

12 Any other business

Patrick Morriss told the meeting about the Grand raffle. Unfortunately the tickets were not ready for the AGM but will be put into the Portal. He also appealed for volunteers at the events and put out a list of the nine events for people to consider. Patrick also thanked Mike Kelley for his role as chairman.

The committee would like to see a good attendance at the AGM.

This is your chance to have your say and influence the activities of the
Friends of the Cromford Canal.

The past year has been rather frustrating, with a lot of time being put in by
committee members without a lot of obvious sign of change on the canal.

The next few months could see some exciting developments towards restoration.

If you think you would like to become a trustee or volunteer for the post of press
officer, general secretary or fund raiser, we would be very pleased to hear from you.



NEWS FROM THE NORTH

A Year in the Life of the Cromford Canal, Cromford to Ambergate 2007. From the Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service

All with an interest in canals will recognise that conservation of their heritage and wildlife involves a lot of hard work. Time and nature do not stand still. In order to retain the canal's beauty, rich wildlife and important structures, Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Service works with many partners in managing the five and a half miles of canal from Cromford Wharf to Ambergate.

Derbyshire County Council's countryside service canal team has gone from strength to strength in 2007. A compact tractor and trailer has speeded up a whole range of routine maintenance jobs enabling bulky materials such as clay, reed, silt and surfacing material to be transported much more effectively. A second full-time canal warden, Sean Kent, has been recruited to the team.

The team is very grateful to all the volunteers who have got their hands dirty in 2007. Obviously thanks again go to all of the Friends who have continued to volunteer with great enthusiasm and commitment. Key work each year involves the removal of reed and silt which if not cleared would block the canal and stop the flow of water from north to south. Tree felling and thinning is also required to protect the embankments and retaining walls and reduce the amount of leaf litter falling into the canal. Trees can also cause overshadowing and a dead water channel. The thinning of trees at Whatstandwell last year has resulted in many more aquatic plants and waterside plants emerging.



Friends of the Cromford Canal volunteers (and a couple of onlookers) assisting Derbyshire County Council rangers on a joint working party to clear overhanging trees from the Cromford Canal near Ambergate

Photo: Robert Silverwood



Tasks completed in 2007 include reed and tree clearance from the canal adjacent to Cromford Meadows and reed clearance near Leashaw Farm and around Chase Road at Ambergate. Overhanging branches have been cut near Crich Chase and selective tree thinning has taken place at Gregory Tunnel and north of Grattons Bridge at Ambergate. A 150m section of towpath near Whatstandwell station footbridge has also been reprofiled and resurfaced.

Other groups who have assisted in canal management include Amber Valley Conservation Volunteers, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, BTCV Enterprises, Peak Training, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and The Leewood Pump Group.

In addition to volunteer work, Allroads, the county council's capital works team has also rebuilt approx. 20m of dry stone retaining wall and repaired 5 canal leaks by excavating a trench parallel with the towpath and back filling the trench with clay to create a water-tight seal. The magnificent Leewood Pump building had its stone flag roof and valley gutters repaired and the High Peak Junction railway brake vans were re-roofed.

The public interest in Cromford Canal's heritage was expressed with over a thousand people visiting Leewood Pump on the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage weekend. Thanks again go to the Friends

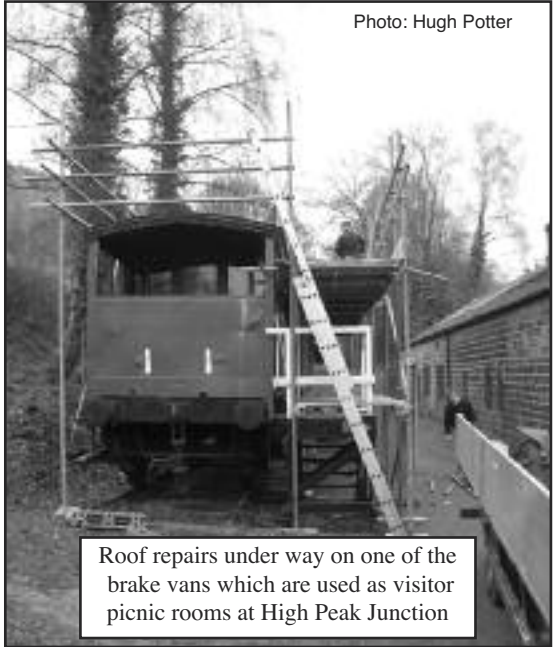


Photo: Hugh Potter

Roof repairs under way on one of the brake vans which are used as visitor picnic rooms at High Peak Junction

for bringing the canal back to its former glory with the horse drawn canal boat the *Duchess* which again proved to be a highlight of the year.



Photo: Hugh Potter

At the World Heritage Site Discovery Weekend at Cromford, the DCC ranger kindly pressed the tractor into service to tow the boat to Cromford prior to the arrival of the horse!

This report was supplied by
Councillor Brian Lucas
Cabinet Member for
Environmental Services
and
Rick Jillings
Area Asst. Manager
(West Area)
DCC Countryside Service
Middleton Top Visitor Centre

For further information contact
Rick on 01629 823204



STOP PRESS - MORE NEWS FROM THE NORTH £800K for Canal

On the day that this issue of Portal went to press, and a couple of weeks after the foregoing report was written, an award of £417,500 was announced from the East Midlands Development Agency to Derbyshire County Council for the 5.5 miles of canal between Ambergate and Cromford. The grant is to encourage economic development through improvements to the canal. In total £800,500 will be invested from a variety of sources including Network Rail, council funds and the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership.

The money will fund a 3-year project which will include:

- The renovation of the railway footbridge at Whatstandwell.
- Engineering work including the design of new water controls, improvement to existing spillways, and restoration of structural features.
- Environmental improvements to increase wildlife in the area.
- Improved access to the canal including the towpath south of Leawood Aqueduct.
- Improving buildings at High Peak Junction to provide more usable work space.
- Renovating the boiler at Leawood Pump House and creating a video about the historic monument.

The water control and environmental improvements will include £100,000 for dredging, including removal of major silt banks: south of Leashaw Bridge (9), from Simms Bridge (12) through Whatstandwell to the footbridge (13A) and between Gratton's Bridge (15) and Poyser's Bridge (16) at Ambergate. This should improve water flow along the canal which is currently impeded by the silt. A full structural survey will begin almost immediately with a view to producing a programme of structural repairs.

PRESS AND PUBLICITY

Especially with all this recent activity, we have reached that stage in any charity's development when we need someone to act as a press officer. We are therefore seeking a volunteer who is comfortable using the phone and email, is organised and methodical and isn't thrown by the thought of chatting to people they don't know. The work will range from writing press releases and getting them to the right papers or magazines, acting as a contact point for the press when they want a story or comment from other members of the FCC, and just acting as the easily accessible face of the FCC. Don't worry, I understand the press are usually quite used to dealing with non professionals. The most important thing to do with them is to do what you say and if unsure, say so and don't try and mislead them. At least that's the impression I've got from our press office at work.

The amount of work will vary from nothing for a while to a couple of weeks being busy with making sure the work of the Friends is well publicised around the time of the world heritage weekend and other events (e.g. fundraising lectures, working parties, etc). It's expected the volunteer would be able to carry out most of this work at home, though there might be the odd committee meeting to attend. I'm not going to try and guess how long per day is needed as it easily could vary from nothing to a dozen phone calls and a few emails. After all, there is a lot of good work going on that's hidden from many of our members, let alone the general public and we really do need to shout about it.

Contact me, Tony Brookes, for a chat on 01332 514548 if you're interested in this role.



UK COAL – SURFACE MINING AND RESTORATION OF THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL

Martin Bloomfield, Secretary of the Chesterfield Canal Trust, supplied the following article. Had the Smotherfly surface mine been proposed now rather than when it was, the FCC may well have seen a similar commitment to the restoration of the Pinxton Arm from the planning stage onwards. The FCC and the Chesterfield Canal Trust personnel are in constant communication and are forever seeking ways to maximise the synergies available to both groups by adopting a common approach to both UK Coal and Derbyshire County Council where such joint working is possible and desirable.

Of course my personal view is that if UK Coal are intending to restore part of the Chesterfield Canal after coaling in the Doe Lea valley then they should get some practice in at Smotherfly, and demonstrate their good intentions to all involved first!

Patrick Morriss Chair, Friends of Cromford Canal

A personal view from the secretary of the Chesterfield Canal Trust as to why people should support this project.

This project will see a mining phase of approximately two years, which will be followed by about a year of landscaping and remodeling of the site. The restoration of a significant canal feature, “The Staveley Puddlebank” which once carried the canal across the Doe Lea valley and was at its time in the late 1770’s on the cutting edge of canal technology.

With restoration under way on both the Staveley and Renishaw sections this is a golden opportunity to re-open a major length of the canal. The cost of this project at a commercial rate would be in the order of £1.5 million, so UK Coal are making a significant contribution to the restoration process.

“Opencast mining – noise, dirt, a huge hole in the landscape and lorries everywhere”. This is the common perception of these operations coupled with the view that only the mining company really benefits.

I would have to agree that there would be a certain amount of disruption, as with any large-scale project. You have to look no further than the present disruption caused by the creation of the Markham Vale scheme with its support roads and infrastructure. This however is a temporary inconvenience that is for a limited period and will in the long term bring benefits to Staveley and the surrounding area.

As this is true of Markham Vale so too, I believe will be the coal extraction scheme. Disruption for a limited time followed by major improvements to the area and the quality of life of its residents. This scheme will bring benefits to all, not just a few canal enthusiasts. Let us look at what a restored canal actually brings:

It is a waterway which is not only used by boaters, but also canoeists, cyclists, those who fish and those who just enjoy the walking and can relax and take their exercise. Across the entire canal network those who use it for boating form only a small percentage of the total visits made by all users.

The environment and the diversity of plant and animal life would also be enhanced; the canal would create a number of new and different habitats that would also create a corridor to facilitate the migration of existing species to new areas. Extra land



being purchased would create further wetland habitats and the reinstatement of the Puddle Bank would create a buffer zone to protect the existing wildlife.

Many people within the canal movement believe in the protection of the environment. Provided that this scheme is managed and monitored properly, there is no reason why the disruption to both the community and the wildlife should not be kept to a minimum.

As with all these schemes, economic benefit lies at the heart of the proposal, so what is in it for all those involved? Clearly UK Coal will make its profit and yes, there will be some temporary employment for some local people, but what else?

Should the scheme go ahead there would be a new embankment across the valley, with the Doe Lea being crossed on an impressive new aqueduct. This is the sort of thing that people travel to see and will attract more spending into the local community. This is not just a guess, but reality, similar schemes have increased visitor spend to their areas. It should also be borne in mind that attractive surroundings also bring increased business interest. Firms looking to set up or relocate want to offer their employees a good working and living environment. House prices typically achieve a 10% rise in value if situated near a canal or water feature, maybe more if they are on the bank.

The existing canal works (part of the Markham Vale scheme) will also create the possibility of a new canal basin in Staveley, this coupled with the proposed restoration will further increase the attractions on offer in Staveley. Within a few years these various projects coupled with other initiatives in the area could make a significant contribution to the rebirth of this community. Staveley has been around since before the Doomsday Book, and over that period it has prospered and developed by taking advantage of changing circumstances and opportunities.

Surface mining is not always a bad thing and if a suitable partnership between the Coal Company, local interest groups and the council can be formed, then the advantages to both the community and the long-term ambitions of the canal groups can be achieved. In conclusion I would agree that there will be relatively short-term disruption for some within the community, however the long-term advantages to all should not be forgotten. What we need is for people to write to Derbyshire County Council when the time comes and express their support. You can write your own letter or if you prefer download the Performa that is on the Trust's website: www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk It is also a good idea to mention this to your local councillor and let them have your views.

Following on from the above, Martin Bloomfield, Secretary of the Chesterfield Canal Trust and Geraint Coles, Development Manager of the Chesterfield Canal Partnership, have kindly offered to give us an illustrated talk about their canal, which has many similarities to the Cromford. Much restoration has already been achieved, but the completion of the section west of the M1 presents severe challenges. Come along to see how they are coping. Details of the talk are:

**Chesterfield Canal Present and Future:
Planning and Progress in Restoration.**

**at Ironville Church Hall (Anvil Room)
March 17th 2008, commencing at 7.30pm**

ALL are welcome



PUBLIC MEETING NOVEMBER 19TH 2007



The public meeting held at Ironville Church Hall in November was very well attended, indeed I would say it was a record for the FCC. It was standing room only to hear the talk and slide show on Codnor Castle. The slightly worrying part was that out of the 130 plus who attended, only about 30 were members. However, the visitors were very welcome and both the raffle and the sales stand enjoyed brisk business.

Much of the interest had no doubt been generated by the publicity beforehand, pushed on this occasion by our archivist Hugh Potter, especially the mention of the Time Team programme which had been filmed at the castle. This demonstrates both the importance of publicity and the power of television.

The Cromford Canal is a trendy modern innovation compared to Codnor Castle, which dates from the twelfth century, and, like the nearby canal, has been subject to a long period of neglect and indifference leading to dereliction. Since May 1998 it has been on the Castles of Britain at Risk Register with a rating of 5. This meant there was a real risk of rapid deterioration. This situation led to the formation of the Codnor Castle Preservation Society who gave us this interesting presentation and whose immediate aim is to stop the castle from falling into further disrepair. To achieve this the remains of the castle are to be consolidated and made safe. UK Coal Mining Ltd., the current landowners, are under a legal obligation to carry out this work.

The long term aim is to reopen the castle to the public so that visitors can again safely explore the remains of this important part of local heritage.

For more information contact the Codnor Castle Preservation Society web site:
www.codnorcastle.com
or email: info@codnorcastle.com



FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The year's programme of events is still being arranged, but this is the story so far. All meetings are held at Ironville Church Hall (NG16 5NN) commencing at 7.30pm.

February 11th - THE RESTORATION, OPENING TO NAVIGATION AND FUTURE OF BUGSWORTH CANAL BASIN by Ian Edgar MBE and Don Baines

Ian Edgar has been a member of the Inland Waterways Protection Society for over thirty years and is the present chairman. For much of that time he has supervised the restoration of Bugsworth Basin in co-operation with British Waterways and English Heritage. The Basin has now received Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent. Its restoration certainly gives encouragement to all canal volunteers. The Cromford Canal was connected by the Cromford & High Peak Railway to the Peak Forest Canal at Whaley Bridge and Bugsworth Basin was a vital part of the working of this canal as a loading point for limestone and a lime burning area. The Basin is now a well used terminus for boats using the Peak Forest Canal. Don Baines is the editor of *One Seven Four*, the magazine of the Inland Waterways Protection Society.

March 17th - THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL PRESENT AND FUTURE: PLANNING AND FUTURE IN RESTORATION

by Martin Bloomfield and Geraint Coles. See page 21

April 7th - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING See page 13

The following dates have also been arranged at Ironville Church Hall, but the speakers are yet to be arranged. See the next issue of *The Portal* but make a note in your diaries now!

May 19th
June 16th

September 15th
October 20th

November 17th
December 15th

Tony Brookes also sends the following information:

Potential FCC Fundraising Lecture by our Patron, Julian Richards, April 21st, 2008

I had hoped by now to be able to write a definitive notice about the fundraising lecture, our patron, Julian Richards has agreed to give at a University of Derby campus on the topic of Stonehenge. Unfortunately the final booking has yet to be made, largely due to the Christmas vacation. When I agreed to act as the organiser of this event for the FCC, I had no idea of the hard work and planning that goes on behind the scenes. The delay has been mostly down to me trying to find out which courses we run at the University would have a link with the subject of Julian's talk, and would benefit the students. I have now found suitable courses and am waiting confirmation of the details. Assuming it all goes ahead as per the last conversation at the University, then the lecture will be at our Buxton campus. This site first started out as the Duke of Devonshire's stables which were then roofed over to keep the horses out of the rain. At the time it was the largest unsupported roof in Europe and has just been the subject of a sympathetic restoration and a return to full use of the site as a University of Derby Campus. It is an amazing building and hosts a wide variety of events: BBC question time, productions of Shakespeare and was opened a couple of years ago by Prince Charles. It will be well worth buying a ticket just to view this building.

If all now goes to plan Julian's talk will on Monday, April 21st. probably starting at 7.00 pm. Tickets are likely to be in the region of ten pounds or five pounds for concessions. Details will be posted on our FCC website, however if you are interested please contact Val Kelley on 01773 833425 – Julian's last lecture at Derby was a sell-out.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

from Yvonne Shattower



I hope it is not too late to wish you all a Happy New Year. Let us hope that 2008 brings the Friends some good news and significant progress in our attempts to restore the lovely Cromford Canal.

Important news for our members this time concerns our Members Meetings, most of which have been held at Ironville Church Hall. Unfortunately we are no longer able to have the main hall as it is now fully booked; however we have been offered the use of a smaller hall in the same building which we will try for a few meetings before making up our minds if this will be a permanent venue. In some ways it will suit us better – it will cost us less – but it certainly will not accommodate the numbers we had for the talk on Codnor Castle and the ‘Time Team Dig’. Val Kelley, Jan Columbo, Meg Tarlton and I have recently got our heads together and are working on a list of speakers for the coming year, so that hopefully, by the time the next issue of Portal is with you, we can give you a full list for the rest of the year. Those arranged so far are summarised on the previous page. We will also be able to distribute this to a wider audience, which we hope will result in new members.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 11th February 2008** when we will have Ian Edgar and Don Baines to speak to us on the Bugsworth Basin and its restoration. This was a massive undertaking which was beset by many problems over a long period before this important location in canal history was brought back in to use. Bugsworth Basin, now fully restored by volunteers, is on the Peak Forest Canal near Whaley Bridge, which is at the other end of the Cromford and High Peak Railway from Cromford and so has much in common with our own project.

Amongst other speakers we hope to invite this year are a return visit by Tim Boddington, representatives from British Waterways and RNLi and a speaker who gives an excellent talk on Boat People. If you know of any interesting speakers, or alternative venues, please let us know. We would like to stay in the Ironville area as we seem to get the best attendance there. Don't forget that our **Annual General Meeting** is booked for **Monday 7th April 2008**. This is an important meeting when you can catch up with our developments over the last year and Hugh Potter has got another very exciting film show lined up for us on that evening. We look forward to seeing you there.

We welcome the following new members who have joined us:

Mr N Taylor, Nottingham
Mrs S Petratis, Alfreton
Mr & Mrs D Burke, Alfreton
Mr M Green, Birmingham
Mr & Mrs P Travis, Matlock
Mr J Hose, Nottingham
Mr & Mrs P Daniels, Heanor.

Mr L Farnsworth, Alfreton
Mr & Mrs M Weston, Newark
Mr & Mrs M Shaw, Alfreton
Mr T Boam, Matlock
Mr & Mrs P Haley, Belper
Mr T Ball & Ms J Saalmans, Ripley



WORK PARTY REPORT

from Dave Tinkler



As many of you will know, I obtained permission from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to work on their part of the Ironville flight of locks last year. These locks have been very neglected for years so there is a great deal of scope for 'scrub bashing' to clear the lock chambers and canal walls of what have become quite large trees. The top part of the flight above the railway bridge is owned by British Waterways who at present will not allow voluntary work on the locks, so it is important that we take this opportunity to support DWT and work on their part of the flight. This will demonstrate to BW and others that we mean business and will hopefully eventually lead to all of the flight being restored. Several work parties have already been held, including the one at Lock 6 where the adjacent dry dock is being uncovered from the jungle. We have two more remaining dates for your diaries for work parties before we have to suspend activities for the bird nesting season in the spring.

The first will be on **Saturday 9th February**. Meet at the railway bridge which crosses the canal above Lock 5 at 10.am. Bring bow saws and/or loppers if you have them. If not then just bring your self and any friends you can drag along with you. There is parking on Adelaide Walk or the car park at Codnor Park Reservoir.

There is another work party as above on the **Saturday/Sunday 8th/9th March**. We have asked the Waterway Recovery Group to assist us on this occasion. This is a nationally co-ordinated body of volunteers, the various sections of which travel around the country to support local canal groups. We therefore need as many of you as possible to come along to show our guests that we are keen and eager to re-open the Cromford Canal.

There will be at least one bonfire to dispose of the cut down brush and also to warm yourself on. If you have never attended one of our work parties then why not come along to one of the above. We don't expect you to work too hard but rather you go at your own pace and if you want a break then just take one. If you can't make the start time then just arrive when you can. Work parties can be great social occasions! Don't forget your flask and sandwiches. When you feel that you have had enough then just pack up and leave, we only ask that you inform someone for health and safety reasons.

We will also need some photo's taken, so any budding David Bailey (or Mrs Bailey) out there, please come along. If for some reason you can't do physical work we would still love to see you to have a chat and get to know you. We need to flood the area with FCC members and show the local community what we are about and encourage more people to join us.

If you would like any further information then contact me.
My phone number is 0115 9635113. E-mail work@cromfordcanal.org.uk
Hope to see you soon. Dave Tinkler (work party organiser)



LETTERS

I would like to encourage all members to send in letters to the editor on any matter of interest to the Friends of the Cromford Canal. So if you have any queries, information, comments to make or views to express, I would be very pleased to receive them and will publish them on these pages. Also, I am aware that the majority of the items in *The Portal* tend to be written by the committee. If you would like to send me an article, be it a few lines or several pages, either by email, CD, letter or the back of an envelope, on any relevant subject, I will be overjoyed! The editorial address is inside the front cover.

Mike

Mr B. Parr of Riddings writes:

Dear Sir

On passing the new 'Cromford View' building site on the eastern bank of the Butterley works, I noticed a sign saying 'Danger 35mtr deep loading shaft'. This suggests that at least one of the two on this level may have been uncovered during their excavational work. If so this is of signal importance to FCC records & plans and to historians in general.

I for one am very interested in the mensuration and engineering aspects of the canal tunnel and in particular the Butterley Wide Hole loading wharf. However, I have encountered problems assimilating the limited published information on the subject, my knowledge coming only from *Portal to Portal* which is somewhat at odds, and from Hugh Potter's guide book. (Sic)

In view of the many uncertainties, it would seem of major historical/engineering importance (if one or both of the loading shafts have been located) to acquire as accurate a 'surface' positioning as possible thus pinpointing the exact position and orientation of the wide hole and tunnel.

I would be very grateful for any information. If this is already available could you please provide details.

Our Hon. Consultant Engineer, John Boucher, replies:

Dear Mr Parr,

'Cromford View' building site

This raises a very interesting point. At the beginning of last year I was involved with looking at two shafts the contractors had found. They were convinced that these were the original loading shafts, and had their archaeologist prepare a report on them, prior to their being capped off and covered over. However, it seemed to me that there were a number of things wrong with their conclusions, and I was convinced that they had not found the loading shafts, but two shafts connected with the mines in the area. I prepared a supplementary report, which went to the Contractor and to the County Archaeologist, but have heard nothing since.

Your letter makes me wonder whether they have now found the correct shafts, and I will try and get over and find out within the next few days. If I can find anything more I will let you know.

Thank you very much for spotting this and drawing it to our attention.

With kindest regards

John Boucher, for the Friends of the Cromford Canal



Hugh Potter writes:

Dear Sir

Whilst walking off Christmas over-indulgence near the bottom of the Ironville flight we were surprised by a sudden russet flash in the sunlight followed by the distinctive electric blue as a kingfisher flew across the canal in the low winter sun. In the last year we have also spotted these wonderful birds around Golden Valley, at Hartshay and at Ambergate. Has anyone else spotted any?

We quite often see one at that well known haven of wild life at Langley Mill - Ed.

We would like to meet as many members as possible at

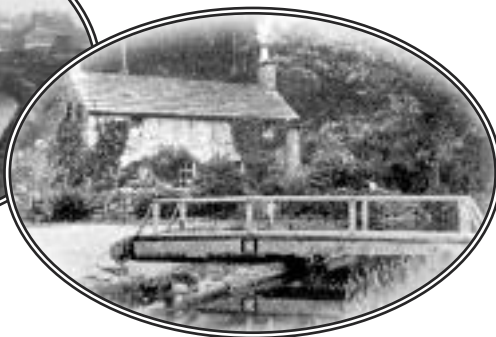
**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.30pm April 7th 2008 at Ironville Church Hall**

Following the formal business
Hugh Potter will be presenting a display and slide show
of some of the extensive collection of archive material
on the Cromford Canal

FCC Sales Stall - Raffle - Licensed Bar

**Notelets featuring Historic Scenes
along the Cromford Canal**

Each pack of eight contains
8 different Notelets and Envelopes



Blank on the inside
for your personal message.

Ideal for your Christmas thank you notes!

Available by post from the sales address: £2.25 plus £1.00 p&p
All proceeds for the benefit of the Cromford Canal



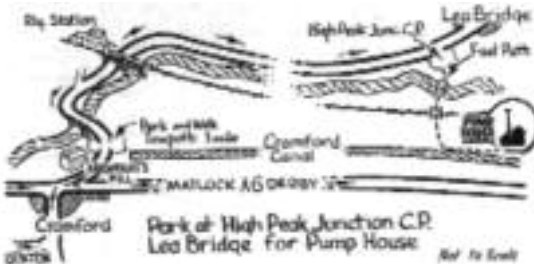
Leawood Pumphouse

STEAMING WEEKENDS 2008

MONTH	SAT	SUN	MON	PERIOD
MARCH		23rd	24th	Easter
MAY		4th	5th	Bank Holiday
JUNE	7th	8th		First Weekend
JULY	5th	6th		First Weekend
AUGUST	2nd	3rd		First Weekend
		24th	25th	Bank Holiday
OCTOBER	4th	5th		First Weekend
	TBA	TBA		Discovery Weekend

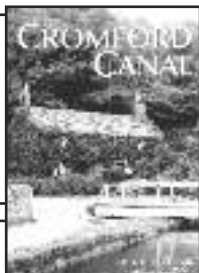
The Leawood pumping engine, installed in 1849 to pump water into the canal from the River Derwent, will again be steamed regularly in 2008 as shown above. This impressive machine is capable of pumping almost four tons of water per stoke. At seven strokes per minute, this is a considerable amount of water, necessary at the time because the mill owners in the Derwent valley insisted that pumping was only allowed on Sundays to ensure their supply was not impaired. It is certainly well worth a visit and will be in motion from noon to 5 p.m. each steaming day. It is supported by Derbyshire County Council and public donations and run entirely by volunteers who also look after the engine at Middleton Top. All offers of help most welcome!

www.middleton-leawood.org.uk



Friends of the Cromford Canal - A selection of the items for sale

Available by post from the Sales Address



The Cromford Canal

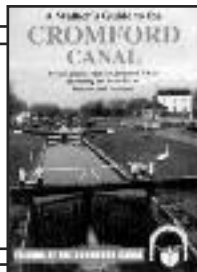
by Hugh Potter **£12.99** plus £1.85 p&p

This 128 page, softback book contains many rare and historical photographs of our canal, with extended captions giving much well researched information

A Walker's Guide to the Cromford Canal

by Mike Harrison & Val Roberts **£3.50** plus 80p p&p

This 36 page booklet follows the route of the canal, including the branches, and guides the walker around the sections which are presently missing



*The Cromford Tunnel
Portal
to
Portal*



Portal to Portal

a short history of the Butterley Tunnel

by Des Greenwood. **£6.50** plus £1.85 p&p

This 49 page softback booklet contains rare photographs of the tunnel interior and the unique loading wharf from the Butterley Works to boats waiting below



Mouse Mats

Available in various designs
all in full colour

£4.50 plus £1.50 p&p



Tea Towels

Various designs
in full colour
vertical or
horizontal

£5.00
plus 80P p&p

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