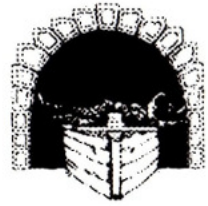


# THE PORTAL



THE JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CROMFORD CANAL

(Registered Charity Number 1100700)

NUMBER 16

NEW YEAR 2006

The Portal is the quarterly magazine of the Friends of the Cromford Canal.

The Friends of the Cromford Canal is a Registered Charity (Number 1100700) which exists to promote the restoration to navigable condition of the whole of the Cromford Canal.

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Last dates for acceptance of articles - end of March, June, September and December, for publication the following month. All articles for publication should be sent direct to the Editor, and can be submitted on paper, as text files preferably by e-mail to the Editor at:

[REDACTED]

Pictures for The Portal or the Web Site should preferably be scanned at 200 dpi (dots per inch) and saved to a size of 600 by 400 pixels and may be sent electronically or on disk or CD, however the Editor can scan good old-fashioned prints if need be and slides can also be accommodated!!

For all the very latest news, plus loads of other information and pictures, don't forget to visit our Web Site:

[www.cromfordcanal.org.uk](http://www.cromfordcanal.org.uk)

The Editor is NOT responsible for blank or missing pages in this magazine - if you have any, please return it to the Secretary at the address below.

The Friends of the Cromford Canal are Corporate Members of:

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Front Cover: "Why do I get the feeling I'm being set up for a photo?" Dave "Moose" Hearnden on Pinxton Arm clearance duties, with The Captain's Log!  
*(Editor)*

Back Cover: A sylvan scene as the horse boat approaches Bridge 1 from High Peak Junction on 29<sup>th</sup> October  
*(Editor)*

 The Inland Waterways Association

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Cromford Canal will be held on Monday, March 27th. at the Church Hall, Ironville commencing at 7.30pm.

## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Third AGM on 7th March 2005.
3. Matters arising.
4. Report of the Chairman.
5. Report of the Treasurer and accounts for 2005.
6. Adoption of the accounts.
8. Election of Trustees.
9. Reports by Officers
10. Any other business.

NOTE. The following Trustees retire by rotation: Mike Kelley, John Baylis, Pat Morriss and Mike Harrison and all are willing to stand for a further term of three years. Derek Dixon will be retiring and is not available for re-election. Bob Bullock was co-opted during the year and is standing for election.

In total there are six vacancies, nominations must be submitted in writing to the Secretary, Pat Morriss before March 12th. The nomination must be signed by the proposer, seconder and the nominee who must all be FCC members.

Pat Morriss, Secretary.

# THE FIRST PIECE OF THE JIGSAW

**A**s I was about to write my Editorial for this issue, I was given the following Press Release for issue to the media:

"FCC pleased to announce progress over Smotherfly Opencast Site

The Friends of Cromford Canal (FCC), Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and UK Coal have reached an agreement to defer the final restoration of the diversion channel. This will allow FCC to put together a comprehensive scheme for the restoration of the Pinxton Arm of the Cromford Canal.

It is anticipated an application for planning permission will be submitted in Spring 2006.

Councillor Carlile, Cabinet Member for Regeneration of Derbyshire County Council, wished the FCC well in developing this scheme.

Mike Kelly, Chair of FCC concluded "This early step towards the restoration of the Cromford Canal gives the opportunity to demonstrate the ecological benefits of canal restoration,

adding to the environmental improvements UK Coal have already achieved in the Erewash Valley, and the unequalled leisure potential for both the local residents and visitors alike".

The FCC was formed in March 2002 to campaign to reopen the entire length of the Cromford Canal including the route to Pinxton. The FCC membership now stands at 700. Following this announcement the FCC will be launching an extensive fund raising drive to fund this exciting development. Any group or person able to help should contact....."

This is a first: the first time we've been able to exert influence on a number of bodies - something we know we've got to do a lot of before our goal takes physical shape. To be able to exert this influence after just under 4 years shows that we have grown up remarkably quickly and we are already starting to be taken notice of.

It's also a first in that it's a first move to actually getting some restoration done - look out for more information!



# E-MAILS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Re. The Ecology Study by Patrick Morriss

It is pleasing that the Ecology Study is going ahead and let us hope that Black and Veatch come up with recommendations that all parties can find agreeable. I do, however, find it sad that wildlife and navigation organisations should so often be at loggerheads. Where have we all gone wrong? Well, part of the problem might be of our own doing in that management of much of the national canal system has taken too little account of the wildlife factor, often for no good reason. Take mowing on the towpaths. I can agree that a reasonable width path needs to be maintained and once every year or two all vegetation between the towpath and the water's edge requires cutting to prevent the growth of anything more substantial than herbaceous plants. Unfortunately as more money has become available in recent years and towpaths have been re-established and repaired, over-mowing has been encouraged and often demanded by today's boaters. This has led to drastic changes in the types of plant that grow in some areas. On the eastern end of the Trent and Mersey canal where 20 years ago over 100 different flowers could be found in late spring, today that number has declined by roughly two thirds. Over-mowing has killed off many wild flowers and encouraged the grasses. We will not have been the only ones to

notice and not everyone has the affinity with boats that we do.

Perhaps it might just help a little if in return for a route to Ironville a more enlightened mowing regime can be accepted.

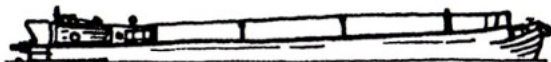
Dave Turner

From Alan Gregory



Ellesmere Port  
Cheshire

I was raised in Jacksdale and consequently the 'cut' as the canal was usually called, and its environs was a natural play area for us youngsters. The overgrown wharf by the canal basin at Stonerow, (I think the correct name was Jacksdale Street) was wonderful for providing bows and arrows and for making dens and hideouts. One thing we used to do quite regularly was walk along the towpath to the lock keepers house and yard and wait for a barge to pull up at the lock there. The bargee would allow us to jump on and we would ride down to the next lock by the 'monkey bridge' where we would get off and walk back. Happy days indeed!



# PICTURES FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE DISCOVERY DAY – 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

by The Editor



The Horse had arrived nice and early - a good job as it took nearly an hour to get her ready for work.



Setting off from Cromford, with the Chairman welded to the tiller!



FCC stalwart Peter Keating helped provide the music at Cromford Wharf with his hand-wound street organ.....



..... whilst the Ambreys made (not so serious) ropes on the Wharf itself.



Rosie and boat on the way back from High Peak Junction

*(Ron Amner)*

## **CHAIRMAN'S CHAT**

*by Mike Kelley*

**Y**ou will all realise that for a project like ours it is very important that we obtain political support. When I went along with John Boucher to meet with Geoff Hoon MP, Leader of the House of Commons, he kindly gave us half an hour to lay our proposals before him and I am pleased to say the meeting concluded with his expression of support. So we now have the support of all the MP's along the line, namely Dennis Skinner, Judy Mallaber and Patrick McLoughlin. We also had similar support from one of our MEP's, Philip Whitehead. They have all said how a

restored Cromford Canal will greatly help the area and act as a spine for regeneration for the areas south of Ambergate.

Following on from my comments in the last edition of the Portal, concerning the ex-opencast coal site called Smotherfly, at long, long last we have now received the formal blessing from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to the agreement we reached last August. This now enables us to advertise the project, and as a first step we intend to issue a press release, which has already been



agreed by DCC. At the time of writing we need a small piece to be added by UK Coal.

The FCC had been reluctant to commit funds for the planning process until it had the formal go ahead from DCC. However, we have not been idle, and you will be pleased to learn that after an appeal by us, the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) has overruled Amber Valley and said that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as set out within the meaning of the 1999 regulations, will not now be required, which considerably simplifies matters for us.

We are also ready to do the flood risk assessment as requested by the Environment Agency, which should be completed by the end of January.

By now most of you will know about the huge success of the Discovery Day at Cromford on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2005, where the FCC worked closely with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. For the first time for over 15 years a horse-drawn boat was again seen on the Cromford Canal. Many members worked flat out to make this a success and my thanks go out to them all, but I must give a special thanks to Brian Dominic, who obtained the horse, the rope making demonstration and the musical organs, all of which helped to back up our exhibition in the Gothic Warehouse and sales stand there, so all-in-all it was a great day. Contacts were made and both DCC and the World Heritage Site saw that we are making our mark. In fact the sales stand was more successful that day than it had been at the National Waterways Festival in the summer.

Whenever we have an event or an activity in and around the Cromford area people always come up and ask the same question, 'When can we see the horse-

boat returning?' It is still remembered with great fondness from the days when it used to be run by the old Cromford Canal Society. The first steps have been made so maybe someone will take it up as a business! The FCC can not do this at present as we not have enough funds for this, nor the personnel who could run and maintain it.

A week before the event a group of us set off on another old boat to do the tree lopping of branches that had grown over the canal. We obtained five boat loads in all. As most of the gentlemen who took part in this work were over a 'certain age' it did look to me a little like a scene from 'Last of the Summer Wine'!

(Brian Dominic is also our webmaster and the website that he runs for us was declared the Website of the Month in the Waterways World magazine. Well done Brian, it's a great site that you have constructed for us)

One of the engineering problems that has given some of us food for thought has been looked at from another, somewhat surprising source and a wonderful solution put forth. In the new 'Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Economic Development Plan', put out in December 2005 page 54 has the following:

"The Transco Site at Ambergate has the potential to be a long term business expansion location for mixed use business park and residential development built around a restored Cromford Canal.

Whilst it is acknowledged that Transco has no immediate plans to relocate, the site has potential to house considerable mixed use and business development over the long term. Should the Transco depot be surplus to requirement it is suggested that the site is developed for a mixed use development. This could be

done around a new marina development around the Cromford Canal where the canal could be brought into the site. The creation of a canal basin would allow the canal to be activated by boats that could be moored and offer day trips to Cromford. This would create a revenue stream and activity on the Cromford Canal. A long term objective of joining the canal to the wider network is the ambition of Amber Valley District Council and provision could be made for its future extension beyond the canal basin."

What a wonderful transformation that would mean for this part of the canal.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has a new award, "Living Landmarks". There are two parts to this, a small number of grants of between £10 million and £25 million, and a second single grant of between £25 million and £50 million. So the FCC Committee decided we would go for the £50 million. Well our project is one of the Living Landmarks. We did not find out about this until late on so several of us were working late into the Christmas holiday season to get this done in time. So watch this space....

We have long been short of a Working Party Organiser, but now I am very pleased to say we have three members stepping forward. Dave Tinkler is taking the lead on our next working parties with Graham White and Tony Brooks both offering to help as future joint working party organisers. All have some experience in Heath & Safety organisation which is vital these days and are working out a programme of what can be done and the tools and equipment they will need to arrange regular working parties.

The main event, which will have been completed by the time you read this, is supporting the Waterway Recovery Group, Christmas Camp at Ironville. Last year WRG removed many of the fallen

and decayed willows from the old line of the canal alongside the Coach Road. This year we are removing trees growing in the stonework of Codnor Park Reservoir dam and spillway. This work was recommended by the Reservoir inspecting engineer at his visit this summer and has been agreed with British Waterways engineering and conservation staff. They also hope to complete the clearing of saplings from the towing path towards Golden Valley and the trees growing in the stonework at the top weir.

Derbyshire County Council is keen for the FCC to help them with the maintenance of the canal on the Ambergate to Cromford section which was taken over by the DCC in the early 1970s. It was our willingness to help them that has contributed toward a good working relationship with DCC concerning the Smotherfly Site and the future of the canal. DCC are covering these events with their insurance, but this insurance limits the numbers who can attend, so it will be a first come first served basis.

If you can get to a work party contact our organiser, David Tinkler on 0115 963 5113 (before the dates shown) If you have any safety equipment; overalls, hard hat, safety boots and heavy gloves, then bring them along. If you do not have any then DCC will provide, as long as your name is in early enough. The work location will be announced later, contact David for details.

The dates are:

1. Saturday 11th. and/or Sunday 12th. February
2. Saturday 4th. and/or Sunday 5th. March

There is also a working mid-week reed clearance organised by Peak Training at

the northern end from Monday 9th to Friday 13th January. This is not organised by FCC or DCC, but our members will be welcome and numbers are not so limited.

## Sign up to our Mailing List!

If you are not already signed up then please consider to do so. Our webmaster runs a Mailing List exclusive to FCC members. No attachments are allowed so therefore no virus can be caught. The benefits are that you can be kept up to date with what is happening without having to wait for this quarterly magazine. Also if there is an emergency where we suddenly need the membership to quickly write to authorities as happened recently with the

Derby Canal when they only found out one day before the deadline that planning permission had been sort for the phone mast on the canal route then the membership can be roused quickly.

But maybe the greatest benefit is that you can be informed of any work parties, social events or simply just express your views and ask questions.

So please write an Email to Brian at [editor@cromfordcanal.org.uk](mailto:editor@cromfordcanal.org.uk) and he will sign you in.

And finally if any of you would like to write an article for the Portal we would like to hear from you.

# ***WATERWAY RECOVERY GROUP - CHRISTMAS BASH 2005***

by John Baylis

**F**or the second time in two years the Cromford Canal was the site of the WRG Christmas Bash designed fill in that empty time between Christmas and the New Year. Once again the work was at Ironville and the volunteers were accommodated at Waingroves Community Centre. Dave Hearnden (Moose) was the site organizer and Maria was head cook and bottle washer. All the work was carried out to British Waterways approved standards and its engineers visited the site on two days. Graham White, Dave Tinkler and John Baylis were in attendance during the work on site.

Following the British Waterways Reservoir inspector's adverse comments on the tree growth in the dam wall this years work was concentrated on their removal and make the first part of the

Pinxton Branch look more like a canal route. On the first two days members of WRG Forestry were present with chainsaws and they cut don all the trees growing in or near the stonework of CPR dam wall, the listed stone bridge at the junction with the Pinxton Branch and some trees growing in the weir and bridge at the top end of CPR. In addition trees growing in the stone towing path wall on the canal section to Newlands Bridge were also removed.

Over the twenty years since the BW works on the reservoir a number of willow trees have grown un the bed of the Pinxton Branch and the wall of the canal along this length. A number of these had broken, fallen or rotten branches and contained a good deal of rubbish. All the broken trees were cut down and the majority of the logs taken

away by local residents for their log stoves; the remaining brash was burnt. In the spillway below the big weir a number of willow trees have grown in reeds on the concrete base of the spillway, the inspector wanted these removed before they damage the concrete or block the spillway. This work was started but due to adverse water levels access was poor and not all trees could be removed; this will need to be done later.

Despite the very cold weather and the sleety snow on two days the work carried out was of a very good standard and nearly completed all that had been planned, although at approaching 30 people on site the attendance was greater than usual.

The large fires were in great demand for keeping warm and three were kept in for the full five days. Thanks are due to Alan Birks at Waterside Catering for his help and advice during the work.



Chainsaw.....



..... and bonfire were (as always) the method of choice.....



..... the latter being **MOST** important when the mercury plummeted!



By the end of the week, it was possible to see the Junction Bridge properly for the first time in years....



..... and the view along the Arm from under the arch was equally impressive.



**"CAUTION - Scrub Bashing in Progress!"**



**Serious discussions over a bonfire**

Living Landmarks is a Big Lottery Fund stream of funding available in two groups. Firstly projects needing a grant of between £10 million to £25 million and secondly projects requiring between £25 million and £50 million. After much soul searching and protracted discussion the committee of the FCC voted to apply for the maximum grant of £50 million for the restoration of the entire canal! There are a number of the smaller grants available, but only one for the £25 million to £50 million, hence the soul searching. The smaller grant would have been enough to restore the canal east of the Butterley Tunnel including the Pinxton Branch.

Briefly the bid is called the Cromford Three Valleys Community Link and concentrates on putting forward the case for the Cromford Canal corridor to provide the common link for the regeneration of the upper Erewash and Amber valleys and the connection of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site to the national canal network.

Some members of the restoration sub-

committee aided by George Jones and Anthony Darbyshire spent a good chunk of the Christmas/New Year break finalizing the bid for this money which had to be submitted by 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

If the Friends are lucky and get over all the hurdles the decision will be taken by a popular vote on national television in 2007 but there is a long way to go before then. Applications will be "long listed" if they qualify and then scrutinized by Living Landmarks personnel before being short listed and going on from there. One benefit of being selected, even if we fail later, is the opportunity of getting separate money to work up our case and carry out some feasibility studies.

One small hurdle is that the project would have to attract 25% matched funding if it was to proceed, so there is a little matter £16,666,666 and 67 pence to beg borrow or etc from other funding bodies.

Whatever the outcome the committee of the FCC will keep you informed of the outcome of this bid.





In past Portals you will have read articles and comments concerning the Ecology Study being carried out by Black and Veatch on behalf of the Friends. To briefly recap, this study was commissioned by the Friends in an attempt to identify the preferred route option from an ecological viewpoint, between the Great Northern Basin at Langley Mill and Ironville.

The purpose of this small article is to keep you all as up to date as possible. The Friends have received the draft report from Black and Veatch in the last few days.

The good news is that a preferred route has been identified. This route is still subject to some alteration and negotiation, but the choice of a route is

positive news, there was a possibility that no route was an obvious candidate for the choice of best route, which would have meant endless argument concerning the way forward.

By early spring the final report will have been published and the Friends can begin the long job of fund raising and further studies that will be required to replace Ironville's connection to the national canal network via the impressive Ironville flight of broad locks.

We should all be grateful for the financial support given to the Friends by Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership and the Inland Waterways Association that made this study possible.

## THE PUSH TO PINXTON

by Patrick Morriss

After long and sometimes frustrating discussions and negotiations, the Friends have been given the go ahead in principle to apply for planning permission to adapt the River Erewash diversion channel across the UK Coal Smotherfly site for a new channel for the Pinxton Branch of the Cromford Canal.

In the very near future, the Friends, UK Coal and Derbyshire County Council will be issuing a joint press release announcing this. (See *Editorial - Editor*) A0 sized drawings have been completed and printed showing current UK Coal and proposed FCC reinstatement schemes for the Smotherfly site. Many thanks to Progressive Design Associates of Derby for these drawings and Phoenix Conveyors of Leominster for their reproduction.

Flood risk assessment, soil analysis and many further studies will be required even to get to the planning permission stage. Fund raising for this project is now vitally important. Due to the ongoing delays and frustrations of getting to this stage the Friends have been unable to officially launch this appeal until now. Elsewhere in this edition you will have seen the announcement of a sponsored walk from Langley Mill to Pinxton Basin on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006, please support and publicise this walk as widely as you can. In addition the Friends are launching a "Sponsor a Yard" appeal, some of you will have seen tentative proposals for this on the FCC newsgroup and three of you have already signed up before the full scheme has been announced, many thanks for this vote of confidence. Yard sponsorships are available at £60 per

yard. For anyone who wants to, the facility is available of paying £5 per month for 12 months. If you feel able to support this campaign and are a UK tax payer, please make sure you complete a Gift Aid declaration as this will mean

your £60 donation will be worth over £75 to the Friends.

Please contact the Secretary (details on back cover) if you feel you can help.

# ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES***

The accounts for 2005 will be available at the meeting.

The Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Cromford Canal held at 7.30pm on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at the Church Hall Ironville.

## **1 Present:**

Mike Kelley (Chairman) John Baylis, Pat Morriss, Hugh Potter, Brian Dominic, Yvonne Shattower, Mike Harrison, Val Roberts and Derek Dixon (Trustees) John Boucher (Honorary Consulting Engineer), Howard Smith (ECP&DA representative) and 60 plus members.

## **2. Introduction**

Mike Kelley Chairman of the Friends of Cromford Canal welcomed members and prospective members to the meeting, and went on to outline the evenings agenda

## **3. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Steve Gould, Tim Boddington, Jeff Hawthorn, J and C Brown, Hilda Brailsford and Dorothy Robson on the evening plus others received beforehand.

## **4 Minutes of previous AGM**

The minutes of the Second Annual General meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2004 that had been previously circulated were adopted. This motion was proposed by Derek Dixon and seconded by Brian Dominic. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **5 Matters Arising (not covered by the agenda)**

There were no matters arising.

## **6 Chairman's report**

The Chairman (Mike Kelley) reviewed the progress and problems of the last year, starting by thanking the members of the main committee and sub-committee for their work over the past 12 months. He then outlined the main events of the last 12 months

Initiate the required Ecological Studies as soon as resources permit. IWA donated

£5,000 towards an ecological study for the section of canal from Langley Mill to Ironville and then the Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership offered £7,500, leaving the FCC to find £2,500. I would like to thank Steve Parish his considerable help in obtaining the DDEP grant. The consultants Black & Veatch will carry out the 12-month study.

Establish and build relationships with all potential members of a Cromford Canal Partnership – Local Authorities, British Waterways, the Inland Waterways Association, Community and Environmental groups etc. and their councillors / managements.

Establish & build relationships Midland Railway Centre, Arkwright Society etc.

Seek positive outcomes at the Smotherfly opencast site. We wish UK-Coal to keep the river diversion they made in place so that it can become part of the restored Pinxton canal. We have obtained detailed surveys from UK-Coal that confirms the river diversion channel can be readily converted to take the restored canal. I offer our thanks to John Boucher our Honorary Consultant Engineer for his work in this matter. I am currently on a campaign to get UK-Coal to listen by meeting many local and district councillors and DCC managers; an MP has also come to our aid. This is a now or never situation, if the FCC had been around when this site was first mined we would have sort to have the river diversion become part of the restored canal then, which would have been much easier that trying to change an existing agreement between UK-Coal and DCC.

A year ago we were concerned that the planning permission for development over the Butterley tunnel would be detrimental to the tunnel. Along we several others the FCC successfully lobbied at the public inquiry the result being that any building work should not impede on the tunnel in any way.

Establish an interim towpath / public footpath route between Langley Mill Basin and Stoney Lane. I am afraid we took no action on this, due to pressure of work from other directions. But Derbyshire County Council has now restored the river bridge at the old aqueduct.

Establish a membership & publicity team responsible for a manageable programme of events, publicity stands, Sponsored Walk, a regular programme of social activities. We now have a display tent, boards, photographs and maps. A team got things together and we had our first presence at last summers IWA Festival. Our special thanks go to Val Roberts, Yvonne Shattower and Patrick Morris and all the team who helped in getting this together.

Our sponsored walk had been another successful event with 110 walkers plus a team of supporters. Our special thanks go the Shelia Smith for all the work she put into this. Also we now have regular social evenings that help greatly in our contact with the membership. Our thanks go to Val Kelley and Brian Dominic for organising these events.

Make full use of the Waterway Recovery Group resources. Two clearance events with WRG were carried out along the Golden Valley and Codnor Park reservoir carried out, one was between Christmas and New Year. We thank John Baylis for organising these.

Put together a standard slide show that can be used by members for publicity. We now have PowerPoint presentations and we are seeking funding for FCC laptop and multi-media projector. Our thanks go to Dave Ratner for this and his other fund raising work so far.

Establish FCC notice boards at key places along the canal. No action was taken on this and I am acutely aware that we need to raise our public profile and one of the ways I seek to do this is with notice boards along the line of the canal.

Further develop the FCC website and use of the Yahoo group. This has been successfully done mainly through the efforts of our Webmaster Brain Dominic.

Seek commercial sponsorship. A detailed presentation and approach has been made to a local company, but the outcome is not sure as yet. If you know of any commercial enterprise that would be willing to sponsor the FCC then please let us know. Peter Stone and Yvonne Shattower put a great deal of work into this.

The Chairman then outlined proposals for this year's aims and objectives

- 1 Continue to press UK-Coal to reinstate the Pinxton Canal
- 2 Seek outline Planning Permission for Langley Mill to Stoney Lane and Pinxton Canal/Smotherfly Site
- 3 Raise funds for full time Project officer
- 4 Make the next Sponsored walk as successful as the last. (From both ends?)
- 5 Raise our public profile more with more publicity Establish FCC notice boards at key places along the canal
- 6 Establish an interim towpath / public footpath route between Langley Mill Basin and Stoney Lane

The Chairman went on to praise the work that was carried out by the Erewash Canal Preservation & Development Association; without their work that was done in the 1970's we would not now have an FCC.

## 7 Treasurer's report

Thanks were offered to Terry Miles, who has audited the accounts and found them satisfactory.

A copy of the balance sheet for financial year ending 31st December 2003 was circulated at the meeting and is attached to these Minutes. In Mary Bellamy's (Treasurer) absence, John Baylis explained the accounts and their adoption was proposed by Patrick Morriss and seconded by Derek Dixon. The motion was passed unanimously.

## 8. The Election of the Committee

In order to meet the rolling committee structure suggested by the membership and to comply with the Constitution Derek Dixon, Yvonne Shattower and Mary Bellamy offered to retire by rotation. Derek Dixon and Yvonne Shattower offered themselves for re-election. Mary Bellamy has indicated that she will not seek re-election and was thanked for her past efforts.

As there had been no other nominations from the membership in general a proposal was made that these two should all be re-elected for a term of 3 years and that those nominated should be elected on bloc. This was proposed by Dave Ratner and seconded by Peter Keating. The membership voted unanimously in favour of electing those nominated and they will serve for a three-year term.

#### 9. Membership Report (Yvonne Shattower)

Yvonne Shattower reported that we had achieved 630 annual members, 15 life members and 10 corporate members who were paid up.

Yvonne expressed concern at the number of members who were not renewing their membership or who had moved and did not respond.

#### 10 Archivist's Report (Hugh Potter)

As part of the project to transcribe the Minutes of the Cromford Canal Company, we have transcribed Volume 1. I am now editing this for publication. Volume 2 is being copied to be transcribed by Reg Schofield, and Volume 3 being photocopied for the FCC to transcribe. I am delighted to say that historic photographs and documents are still coming to light. And seen many of these are now on boards for meetings. We have increasingly good coverage of the Cromford end, but are still desperately short of images of the Pinxton Arm, the locks down from Ironville to Langley Mill, especially any showing boats at work. So, if you still have those family snapshots hidden away, please dig them out. We hear so often of attics being cleared of old documents and photos into skips. A lot of priceless history is lost forever. So if you know of any photos or documents relating to the canal, please allow us to copy them – before it is too late. As we progress with restoration, we are making history. He reminded people that we also need current newspaper cuttings, but make sure the publication and date is written on.

#### 11 Portal/Webmasters Report (Brian Dominic)

Four editions of The Portal have been published in the past year. Photographs can now be set with the text rather than on specific pages, which has made setting out much easier. There has been no increase in cost for this enhancement. The range of articles in the past year has included "Extracts from the Acts", following the work of transcription carried out by Derek Dixon and a photographic feature on restoration activities.

With regard to the Web Site, we have added a page on the Reservoir works in the 80's. Fresh old images continue to appear and of course the restoration works have generated a couple of good pages of pictures. Ongoing at the moment is a major update of all web pages. Another "maintenance" task is to check that all the links to other sites are up and running. One major addition planned for after the next Portal is printed is to have a "Restoration Progress" page: now we've secured funding for the Environmental Study, we can chronicle progress toward our target of full restoration.

Relations with the media have been good: press releases have generated significant column-inches in both the local and waterways Press, and the BBC have turned out for both restoration efforts and for the funding announcement.

Dave Ratner updated the meeting on the progress of the pledge fund raising.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.45.

## ***FCC SALES STAND - AN APPEAL FOR STAFF***

*by Mike Harrison*

**A**s most members will be aware, Val and I have been responsible for the Friends' sales stand from the beginning. This has involved setting up the stall at various public meetings around the area and several boat rallies etc. have also been attended, notably the IWA Nationals at Burton on Trent and Preston Brook. We have also had stalls at Cromford for the sponsored walks and for the World Heritage day.

For 2006 your committee is hoping to be able to increase the number of venues which we attend. This is not only to raise funds, but equally important is to raise the profile of the Friends and to bring our aims and objectives to a wider audience.

Val and I will not be able to attend all the proposed events in 2006, consequently we are looking for a "B team" to take over some of them. Ideally this would be a couple, or a group of volunteers, with transport, who would be prepared to take the sales stand to some of the

venues.

The job is not too onerous and generally enjoyable. It involves transporting and setting up the display material, the sales tables and the stock for indoor events, and the Friends' gazebo for some of the outdoor events. For the larger events our secretary has lent his sales marquee and his expertise. Then it's just a matter of chatting to people, selling the goods, handing out membership leaflets and answering questions etc. A record of sales will need to be kept, and the monies balanced up at the end of each day. Then the stock will need re-packing, the stall dismantling, and returning to Langley Mill ready for next time.

Perhaps anyone interested would like to assist on the stall at the next public meeting or whatever, to get the feel of the job. Please contact Val or myself at Langley Mill. Details on the back cover. (Sales Officer) Phone: 01773 760758 (after 7.30 pm) or mobile: 07780 670430



# WEED CLEARANCE - JANUARY 2006

*pictures by Ron Amner*

I'm indebted to Ron who attended the Working Party on 14<sup>th</sup> January, where reeds cut the previous week by Peak Training were cleared and transported by FCC volunteers under the supervision of Derbyshire County Council.



This lady asked me at the January social meeting if there were going to be pictures on the Web Site - there will be, but this'll have to do for now!



As in all restoration and maintenance works, it's very important to keep towpath walkers and others informed.

## ***WHAT'S ON***

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** at Ironville Church Hall - starting 1930, followed by a short talk by Peter Keating on "Pumping Stations & their Engines"

2<sup>nd</sup> April

**"THE PUSH FOR PINXTON"** - OUR SPONSORED WALK for 2006 - full details in the next Portal

7<sup>th</sup> April

Public Meeting at the Imperial Rooms, Matlock

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April

Steaming days at Lea Wood Pumping House - engine running 1200 - 1700



30 <sup>th</sup> April & 1 <sup>st</sup> May 1200 - 1700	Steaming days at Lea Wood Pumping House - engine running 1200 - 1700
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Steaming days at Lea Wood Pumping House - engine running 1200 - 1700
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Steaming days at Lea Wood Pumping House - engine running 1200 - 1700
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> August	Steaming days at Lea Wood Pumping House - engine running 1200 - 1700
27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> August	Steaming days at Lea Wood Pumping House - engine running 1200 - 1700
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Steaming days at Lea Wood Pumping House - engine running 1200 - 1700

If YOU have an FCC-related event taking place, **PLEASE** get in touch with the Editor and we'll publicise it for you!

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by Yvonne Shattower

As I write this, I am in the throes of my preparations for Christmas. My 'Friends' Christmas cards have been written, and the turkey is on order! We seem to have had a 'bumper' quarter for new members with forty five of you signing up. Thanks for this must go to Hugh Potter and Liz Tatam who boosted our numbers at their 'Pots and Pix' weekend, and to those Members who have "spread the word". We extend a very warm welcome to you all, especially those of you who have received your membership as a gift.

Those members who have joined by using one of our membership forms will be aware that we ask for an E-mail address if you have one. We also ask if you would like to be linked to the Friends Mailing List. This is an E-mail group where members can exchange views on matters regarding anything that is relevant to the Friends of the Cromford Canal. It is also most useful

for contacting our members in between issues of the Portal. Sometimes dates for events such as Work Parties or meetings are confirmed too late to go in the relevant Portal, or we would like to remind you of an event that is imminent, and E-mail is an ideal way to do this. You will also be among the first to learn any good news we have to tell you.

At the moment, about one third of our members are linked to this group. Members who joined by letter may not have had the opportunity to link up, and our Chairman would like to expand the numbers to include as many members as possible. To join, all you have to do is to send your E-mail address to me at [membership@cromfordcanal.org.uk](mailto:membership@cromfordcanal.org.uk), and I will pass it to Brian Dominic, our Editor and Webmaster, who administers the group. He will then link you up. This list can only be accessed by current members of the 'Friends'; it is definitely not open to non members, and the only

way of joining is via Brian. No attachments are allowed with the messages, so the danger of picking up a virus is minimal. Please do link up if you can.

Apart from the Mailing List, it is useful to have an address in case I need to contact a member regarding their subscription, but I am finding that messages are frequently returned. One batch of messages that I sent out recently came back with a 2/3 delivery failure rate. So, having asked you to join the Mailing list, may I ask also ask Members to let me know if they change their E-mail address, also to let us know if they want to disconnect from the list at any time. If you have any questions or concerns about how the E-mail line works, please contact Brian at [editor@cromfordcanal.org.uk](mailto:editor@cromfordcanal.org.uk), and he will be able to answer your queries. I know next to nothing about such things!

At long last we have managed to get the forms printed for payment of subscriptions by Standing Order. This will make it easier for you, the Members, to keep your Membership up to date, and will save the Friends money in postage and printing costs. The forms are currently being sent out with renewal letters, but if you would like to fill in one before your subscription is due, please let me know and I will send one to you. A SAE would be appreciated.

I know 2006 will be an exciting year for the Friends, and I look forward to

meeting more of you as time goes by.

If the lady who won the Mugs in the raffle at Ironville on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January would like to contact me I will do my best to get them to her.

We extend a warm welcome to these new members who have joined us.

Mr A Clifford, Nottingham  
Dr H W Hillier, Nottingham  
Mr R Longmead, Sutton in Ashfield  
Mr & Mrs P Dodd, Eastwood  
Mr & Mrs G Andrews, Ripley  
Mr & Mrs R A Heath, Hope Valley  
Mr W A Brown, Belper  
Mr M Howarth, Belper  
Mr & Mrs P L Rigby, Matlock  
Mr & Mrs J R D Sauzier, Matlock  
Mrs V Wragg, Matlock  
Mr R D Ingleby, Coltishall, Norfolk  
Mr & Mrs R Van Schaick, Nottingham  
Mr S Ryde, Belper  
Mr J Phillips, Matlock Bath  
Doreen Buxton, Matlock  
Valerie Broom & John Moffat, Crich  
Mr R Sladen, Nottingham  
Mr & Mrs G A Daniels, Ashbourne  
Mr R Tymczak, Matlock  
Mr & Mrs P A Griffiths, Alfreton  
Mr C G Smyth, Knutsford  
Mr & Mrs D Rhodes, Alfreton  
Mr & Mrs J C Jackson, Alfreton  
Mr & Mrs M Stewart, Codnor Park  
Mr & Mrs F Leighton, Codnor Park  
Mrs B Wragg, Alfreton  
Mr & Mrs R Taylor, Alfreton  
Mr D Stuart, Chesterfield  
Mr & Mrs D Hunter, Alfreton

