

**Friends of the Cromford Canal**  
(Registered charity, number 1164608)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2025**

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**Friends of the Cromford Canal  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 December 2025**

**Full name** Friends of the Cromford Canal

**Organisation type** Charitable incorporated organisation

**Registered charity number** 1164608

**Principal address** 12 Holymoore Road, Holymoorside, Chesterfield, Derbyshire,  
S42 7DX

**Trustees**

David Martin, Chair

John Barker, Vice Chair & Treasurer

Richard Handley, Executive Secretary

Jack Brown MBE

Ian Hooker LLB

Michael Kelley

Hugh Potter, Archivist and Portal Editor

David Ratner

Stephen Parish

Judy Berry, from 01/09/2025

**Independent examiner**

Eva Stevens, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41  
Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its CIO – Association constitution adopted  
30 November 2015 and most recently amended 20 April 2018.

We advertise in our quarter journal "Portal" for interested parties: any potential new  
Trustees are asked to write a short pen-profile and are then interviewed.

Our constitution requires a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve Trustees: we  
currently operate with ten, three of whom are standing down and opting to seek re-  
appointment / re-election at the 2026 AGM. We are always on the lookout for suitable  
candidates to be Trustees.

The Trustees operate the charity through core administration functions including  
Treasury, Membership, IT and two main sub-committees, covering Restoration &  
Trading operations.

Trustees met eight times during 2025 plus presented the 2024 annual report and  
accounts at the April 2025 AGM: Trustee meetings were held either in blended video  
conferencing or in-person format.

**Operating the charity**

Our charity is operated 100% by volunteers and we have over 100 of them, covering  
Trading operations, Work Parties and specialist roles such as Engineering support.

## Friends of the Cromford Canal

### Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO are restoration, reconstruction, preservation and maintenance of the Cromford Canal, its associated buildings, towing path, structures and craft and the conservation of its natural character as a navigable inland waterway system for the benefit of the public.

### Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Strategic and tactical conservation and restoration work undertaken by volunteers, funded by in-house trading and grants & donations.

The public has expanded access to the 14.5 miles of the canal for walking and cycling, and we operate a trip boat on a short stretch of canal which carries around 5,000 passengers annually.

### Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

### Achieving the aims of the charity

Trustees are mindful that the stated objective of the charity is “*the restoration, reconstruction, preservation & maintenance of the Cromford Canal, its associated buildings, towing path, structures & craft & the conservation of its natural character as a navigable inland waterway system for the benefit of the public*”. Accordingly, we constantly direct and measure ourselves against these aims.

**Restoration:** work has continued at Beggarlee, with groundwork around the newly installed drainage headwalls and footpath clearance, with grass seed being spread around the profiled gully banks: the work being undertaken by FCC volunteer work parties. The Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) contributed to the finishing works of the flood mitigation zone in May 2025. We are now at a standstill as far as any physical work goes at Beggarlee while we resolve our issues with Canal & River Trust over land ownership. In the meantime, we are undertaking more design work of the channel and applying for planning permission to put in an additional winding hole in the canal extension. A detailed geo-technical survey of the Aqueduct Cottage to Gregory Tunnel stretch that was previously completed by external consultants has now been presented to the canal owner (Derbyshire County Council), and discussions continue with DCC on a plan for remedial strengthening work to certain parts of the canal embankment.

**Preservation & maintenance:** Our weekly work parties have been hard at work as usual litter picking, strimming vegetation, repairing and painting fences, planting hedges, repairing footpaths, digging out silt traps, rebuilding steps etc., at many places along the canal including Pinxton Wharf, High Peak Junction, Cromford, Whatstandwell, Jacksdale, Ambergate and the piece of canal that FCC actually owns at Lower Hartshay. The above is only a short summary of the fantastic contribution the FCC work parties make to our charity's objective – more detail can be found on our website.

## **Friends of the Cromford Canal**

### **Fund raising - Trading update 2025.**

Our Trip Boat “Birdswood” started up again in April and completed the cruising season in October: cruising was largely trouble free with adequate water supply from the Cromford Mills hydro-scheme. Additionally, we funded a small amount of spot dredging and weed removal during September in conjunction with DCC along the cruising section at the Cromford end of the canal: that joint funding project also then facilitated DCC being able to fund weed clearance from the Wigwell aqueduct right through to Ambergate.

Trading Operations (boat and merchandise sales) have generated another record surplus for the charity’s cash reserves: 75% of bookings for the boat were through online methods, and a total of 80% of the revenue was delivered by cashless means. The major cost of running our Trading Operations is our trip boat and the need to maintain our certifications with the Maritime & Coastguard Agency: in late 2025 we had two successful MCA inspections (Out of Water structural integrity and In-Water Domestic Safety Management) and as a result of the hard work of the maintenance team (including the installation of additional technical changes to the boat due to new safety legislation) a new Passenger Certificate has been issued to us by the MCA.

The specific fund-raising appeal launched late in 2024 for replacement windows for Birdswood ended up generating over £2,500 of donations towards the cost of the windows – the balance being funded from FCC’s cash reserves. The new windows were installed in March 2025 and have proven to be a great asset – as has the new “cratch-cover” for the rear deck.

Merchandise sales accounted for over 25% of our Trading Operations revenue, which is thanks to dedicated volunteers who manage the Weighbridge shop at Cromford, deliver wholesale sales, and fulfil online orders from our website.

We have an active sub-committee of the charity that looks after the operation of the boat and shop and that is now actively planning for the upcoming 2026 cruising season including developing relationships with other elements of the local visitor economy.

### **Fund raising – Memberships**

Revenues raised from membership fees are the second largest source of our regular funding, and where members have consented, we also claim Gift Aid from the HMRC: in 2025 we were successful in reclaiming nearly £4,000 from current and previous years. Our membership records are in very good shape and are filed securely in a central “cloud storage” area: we have a largely stable but slightly shrinking base of 520 individuals (including joint and lifetime members) that we would like to grow.

## **Friends of the Cromford Canal**

### **Fund raising – Strategic**

The charity's three main means of generating funding have traditionally been through trading, membership fees and ad hoc donations and legacies. Trustees are grateful for a local volunteer who has taken on the task of low-value fund raising through various bids, and in 2025 we were successful in securing four small grants from The Weeping Cross Fund, Doyly Carte Trust, William Dean Trust and Morrisons Foundation totalling £6,169. These grants were spent on purchase of coir rolls, chainsaw training and bridge repairs. In addition to grants we continue to receive small individual donations made through our online portal.

Our aspirations for 2026 include work on more elements of the Beggarlee project, to include the new lift bridge, land purchases, construction of a winding hole and putting the second 30 meters "in water": these costs will be funded from a mixture of cash reserves and significant additional fund raising.

### **Strategic relationships**

Trustees continue to cement key relationships with Partners: examples of these include:

- Regular meetings with the CEO Arkwright Society.
- Regular formal (and informal) meetings with Derbyshire County Councils countryside services team.
- Ongoing working relationships with the Erewash Canal Development & Preservation Association.
- Ongoing contact with local Canal & River Trust staff.
- Involvement with the Northern Canals Association.
- Significant input was provided to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site management plan.
- Liaison with the Cromford Canal & Codnor Park Reservoir Group.

### **Communications and publicity**

Keeping the charity in the public eye is key for us and this is done through a variety of means: we published four editions of our quarterly journal "Portal" in 2025. We regularly send updates to our database of 1500 email contacts and use social media – mainly Facebook: our FCC Facebook group has grown 700% over the last five years to 5600 members (an increase of 1400 in one year). We constantly update and refresh content on our new website and we regularly supply content and articles to a range of partners including DVMWHS, Chesterfield Canal, IWA, Peak advertiser, ECP&DA, Derbyshire Times, Derbyshire Now, Waterways World, and Towpath Talk. In September, we received a very prestigious award from Trip Advisor for our trip boat Birdswood – which is apparently one of the top ten percent of things to do in the world: we intend to exploit this fantastic epithet!

## Friends of the Cromford Canal

### Public and member engagement

Trustees are acutely aware that we need to constantly engage with not only FCC members, but the wider interested public and we are constantly trying to expand this area of our operation. In 2025 we held a total of eleven social events on a variety of subjects at the church hall at Ironville, with around 30-40 attendees at each (albeit mainly FCC members) and as planned also held two other very successful events at Cromford's Gothic Warehouse: revenue from these events was over £2,500.

In September delegates from The Inland Waterway Association's AGM attended the Beggarlee extension to view our work and nineteen delegates turned up from canal societies from all over the country. FCC also hosted over 60 delegates for a meeting of the Northern Canals Association in March, after which delegates were invited to visit the work on the Beggarlee extension.

### Volunteers

We have a stable cohort of dedicated volunteers across the charity who are all well-briefed on all activities of the charity, and all committed to working towards the charity's strategic aims: without them we would really be unable to function. A total of around 10500 hours of volunteer hours were delivered to FCC activities in 2025.

In July 2025 a "thank you" event was also provided at the Fishpond pub at Matlock Bath for all the charity's volunteers and partners - around 50 of whom attended.

### Summary

In summary, the FCC charity has had a very successful 2025: we've generated a significant surplus from our trading activities, have secured some small grants for our ongoing tactical and strategic restoration work. Our public visibility continues to grow, and we continue to be supported by our wonderful cohort of volunteers. Work has continued on the Beggarlee extension, and our regular work parties ensure that the canal is conserved for future generations. Despite making some significant purchases and expenditure, we have closed the year with higher cash reserves (from £227,669 to £277,016) due largely to a significant contribution from Trading Operations.

### The charity's policy on reserves

In order to comply with their legal duties, the Charity Commission expects trustees to decide upon, publish and monitor their charity's reserves policy as part of their end of year accounts.

The level of reserves set by the Trustees reflects the FCC's particular circumstances and is monitored throughout the year as part of the normal monitoring and budgetary processes. The Trustees propose to maintain reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to three/six months' operational expenditure.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed Richard Handley Date 16/03/26  
Richard Handley, Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Friends of the Cromford Canal  
for the year ended 31 December 2025**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of the Cromford Canal (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

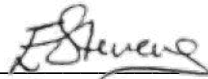
As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 16/03/26  
Eva Stevens BSc, CPFA  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

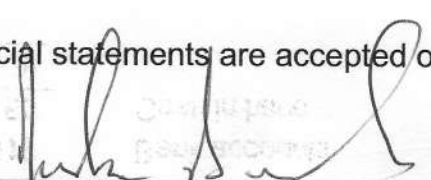
**Friends of the Cromford Canal  
Receipts & payments account  
for the year ended 31 December 2025**

<i>2024 (as restated)</i>			<i>2025</i>
Total Funds £		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
	Note		Total Funds £
<b>Receipts</b>			
4987	Bank interest	4410	4410
125	Fundraising	664	664
88126	Grants & donations	22650	6169
5373	Memberships	5931	-
65043	Trip boat income (Trading Operations)	73010	-
<u>163654</u>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>106665</u>	<u>6169</u>
<b>Payments</b>			
832	Admin & accountancy	902	-
165	Bank charges	510	-
5405	Consultancy & planning	-	-
590	Canal structure/maintenance	714	5533
14753	Beggarlee canal restoration	-	9783
566	Events & room hire	1571	-
2466	General insurance	2207	-
2114	Gen. advertising, printing & FCC website	959	-
313	Memberships & subscriptions	496	-
2257	Miscellaneous expenditure	474	-
3483	Printing & stationery	3287	-
463	Speakers	422	-
98	Telephone & postage	175	-
-	Training	200	1004
25995	Trip boat expenditure (Trading Operations) 9	31540	-
1270	Working party/WRG	805	-
32249	Tools & equipment	2851	54
<u>93019</u>	<b>Total payments</b>	<u>47113</u>	<u>16374</u>
70635	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	59552	(10205)
157034	Cash funds at start of this period	223877	3792
-	Transfers between funds	(8317)	8317
<u>227669</u>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<u>275112</u>	<u>1904</u>

**Friends of the Cromford Canal  
Statement of assets and liabilities  
at 31 December 2025**

2024		2025
£	Cash assets	£
227619	Bank accounts	276966
<u>50</u>	Cash in hand	<u>50</u>
<u>227669</u>		<u>277016</u>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>		
2798	Stock	3351
-	Debtors	4 5970
<u>-</u>	Prepayment - Insurance	<u>62</u>
<u>2798</u>		<u>9383</u>
<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		
Trip boat 'Birdswood' & its fixtures & fittings, purchased in July 2013, cost £61,683.		
Dumper Truck, purchased November 2016, cost £3,900.		
Land at Cromford Canal Langley Mill, purchase completed December 2019, cost £9,697.		
Land at Cromford Canal at Hartshay, 500 yards, donated.		
Welfare unit, purchased February 2023, cost £10,104.		
Volvo Digger, purchased September 2024, cost £28,800.		
General equipment.		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<u>(744)</u>	Creditors	5 <u>(3168)</u>
<u>(744)</u>		<u>(3168)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed   
John Barker, Trustee

Date 13/2/2026

**Friends of the Cromford Canal**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2025**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Grants & donations**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Ardent	500	-	500
HMRC Gift aid	3884	-	3884
Morrisons Foundation	-	2929	2929
Sundry grants & donations	5696	-	5696
Boat windows donation	2500	-	2500
Mr J Drinkwater	10070	-	10070
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	-	1240	1240
The William Dean Trust	-	1000	1000
Weeping Cross Fund	-	1000	1000
	<u>22650</u>	<u>6169</u>	<u>28819</u>

**3. Funds analysis**

	Opening balance £	Receipts (Payments)		Transfers £	Closing balance £
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General	174042	106665	(47113)	(8317)	225277
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Restoration	40000	-	-	-	40000
Land purchase donations	9835	-	-	-	9835
	<u>223877</u>	<u>106665</u>	<u>(47113)</u>	<u>(8317)</u>	<u>275112</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Lower Hartshay	2530	-	(1626)	-	904
Beggarlee canal restoration	1262	-	(9783)	8521	-
Coir rolls (Morrisons)	-	2929	(2721)	(208)	-
Coir rolls (William Dean)	-	1000	-	-	1000
Chainsaw course (Weeping Cross)	-	1000	(1004)	4	-
Bridge repair (D'Oyly Carte)	-	1240	(1240)	-	-
	<u>3792</u>	<u>6169</u>	<u>(16374)</u>	<u>8317</u>	<u>1904</u>

The transfer from the Coir rolls (Morrisons) fund to the General fund reflects the release of any restrictions on the use of these funds.

## Friends of the Cromford Canal

The transfer from the General fund to the Beggarlee canal restoration and Chainsaw Course (Weeping Cross) fund is to cover the deficit on these activities.

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds and resources set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

The specific purposes for which the restricted funds are to be applied are as follows:

Lower Hartshay – repairs & maintenance of Lower Hartshay land.

Beggarlee canal restoration - for the Beggarlee Restoration project.

Coir rolls (Morrisons & William Dean) – towards purchase of coir rolls.

Chainsaw course (Weeping Cross) – towards the course and protective clothing.

Bridge repair (D'Oyly Carte) – for the bridge repair at Lockwoods.

### 4. Debtors

	£
Bank interest due for 2025	3440
Beggarlee security deposit return	2530
	<u>5970</u>

### 5. Creditors

	£
Admin & accountancy (IE fee)	774
Printing & stationery	444
Trip boat office & shop	1569
Trip boat purchases for resale	381
	<u>3168</u>

### 6. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

### 7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in this period.

### 8. Glossary of terms

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Debtors:** These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

**Prepayments:** These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

## Friends of the Cromford Canal

**Restricted funds:** These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

### 9. Analysis of the costs of the trip boat 'Birdswood' (Trading Operations)

	£
Advertising & website	1778
Bank, Stripe & PayPal charges	842
Boat insurance	663
Boat repairs & maintenance	4327
Boat windows	5000
Crew costs	643
Maritime & Coastguard Agency	2352
Miscellaneous boat costs	4138
Purchases for resale	8707
Refund to customers	280
Tripboat admin, office & shop	2584
Working party/WRG	226
	<hr/>
	<b>31540</b>