

## Fund Britain's Waterways Update for Members, 18 August 2023

Dear FBW Member,

I am writing to update you on the first Fund Britain's Waterways event, the Campaign Cruise at the Mailbox in Birmingham on Sunday 13th August. Sunday morning dawned grey and wet in Birmingham which were far from ideal conditions and it was remarkable just how many people showed their support. You can watch the presentation that was livestreamed from the event on YouTube [here](#).

I was absolutely delighted with the media coverage of the event. The Campaign Cruise was the lead story on ITV Central News on the Friday evening and both ITV and BBC filmed from the event with clips shown on the news that evening and the next day. The event was also covered on Sunday morning by BBC Breakfast, Radio 4 and Radio 5. Thanks to additional filming by the Press Association, The Independent, AOL News, Yahoo News and Birmingham World also reported on the event. Visit the FBW News page [here](#) to watch available recordings and read the news articles.

The level of media coverage at this early stage in our campaign is excellent and shows the importance of our canals and rivers is being recognised. This will be a long campaign probably lasting beyond the general election due next year and I hope you will support our future events. I also have some other requests for you:

1. Encourage your contacts to join FBW. They just need to email [membership@fundbritainwaterways.org.uk](mailto:membership@fundbritainwaterways.org.uk) saying they would like to join, and we will take them through the simple process.
2. If you haven't already signed the FBW petition please sign, and encourage as many other people to do so as possible: <https://www.change.org/p/fund-britain-s-waterways>
3. Like and share #FundBritainsWaterways posts on social media
4. Join us at forthcoming events: the [Brownhills Canal Festival](#) on 19-20 August, the [IWA Festival of Water](#) at Pelsall on 26-28 August, the [Black Country Boating Festival](#) at Netherton on 8-10 September, and the Rally being organised by FBW member Fund Gloucester's Waterways in Gloucester Docks on 30 September (see attached invitation)
5. Follow the progress of the BCN Society's working boats Atlas and Malus on social media as they travel from the FBW Birmingham Campaign Cruise to the Brownhills Canal Festival, the IWA Festival of Water and the Black Country Boating Festival spreading the word. Search #FBWonTour to follow their progress.

I like many others am determined that the millions of hours spent restoring our waterways are not undone by a short-sighted failure of government to invest in them. The Fund Britain's Waterways Campaign must succeed to ensure that future generations can continue to benefit from them in the way so many do now.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to all the participating boaters and supporters on the towpath, as well as those who worked so hard to make Sunday such a success including both the local FBW organising team and the local CRT team and volunteers.

Kindest Regards,

Les Etheridge - **Chair of Fund Britain's Waterways**

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