

Fund Britain's Waterways Update for Members, 16 October 2023

Dear Member

Update on Fund Britain's Waterways (FBW) including the public petition and the Westminster Campaign Cruise Tuesday 14th November.

FBW continues to bring all those interested in our inland waterways together and is attracting wide public support for its campaign to safeguard the future of Britain's unique network of inland waterways. This email is to remind all members of the key messages FBW is working to convey and to alert you to next month's Westminster Campaign Cruise on 14th November which is still open for boat registration.

Now with almost 100 organisations as members FBW is not only seeking an increase in future funding of the waterways managed by the Canal and River Trust and the Environment Agency but also assurance that there will be adequate investment to safely maintain the network, including those waterways managed by smaller navigation authorities. FBW's key message is that Britain's inland waterways are a highly valued national asset for boaters and non-boaters and must be safeguarded for future generations to come. As you know, they are enjoyed by millions of people each year and their associated businesses provide crucial employment for communities up and down the land. However, without sustainable funding arrangements going forward all is being put at risk. Therefore, please continue to use every possible means, including social media channels, to help raise awareness of #FundBritainsWaterways and encourage people to sign [FBW's public petition](#) which is set to soon exceed 50,000 signatures.

Maintaining FBW's momentum in the run up to the next General Election is essential. It is why we will continue to plan further events for the Spring following next month's Westminster Campaign Cruise which will build on the recent success of campaign cruises in Birmingham and Gloucester. The November Westminster Campaign Cruise will involve a good variety of boats including narrow boats and working boats. The flotilla will make its way along the Thames from West India Dock to Westminster Bridge for around midday on Tuesday 14th November subject to weather conditions. The boats are expected to hold position for a short time off the Palace of Westminster before returning to West India Dock where all mooring fees have been waived for this campaign cruise. Boats can still register up to 24th October to join the cruise and there are also some spaces left for competent crew.

If you are unable to participate on the water but would like to show you support by joining others on Westminster Bridge that day please contact Frances Phasey on Tel 07734 038 297 who can sign you up to the supporters WhatsApp group. In this way you will be kept fully up to date on the progress of the boats and their expected time of arrival at Westminster. For more details, including on registration and itinerary, please view FBW's website <https://waterways.org.uk/fund-britains-waterways>

With best wishes,

Les Etheridge
Chair
Fund Britain's Waterways