



Fund Britain's Waterways Additional Update, April 2025

With less than two weeks until the 2025 Fund Britain's Waterways campaign cruise to Westminster, this is an additional update with details of ways in which you and your contacts can support the cruise, particularly by taking part in the social media campaign and by coming to Westminster Bridge. There are also some non-cruise-related requests and information.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN CRUISE

1. Take part in the social media campaign leading up to 7 May

We are asking as many FBW members and supporters as possible to join us in posting the same message at the same time on each of the ten days leading up to the Westminster cruise. The message is simple: we need to make sure the government knows that the public want them to protect our canals and rivers.

We ask you to post from your organisation's and/or your own Twitter/X and Facebook accounts using text and photos provided by FBW, as close as possible to 12 noon on each day from Monday 28 April to Wednesday 7 May inclusive.

The text and photos to use can be downloaded from the FBW website, at www.waterways.org.uk/fbw2025cruise

After the cruise please do continue to like and share posts with the #FundBritainsWaterways hashtag.

2. Come to IWA Canalway Cavalcade on 3-5 May

The flotilla will gather at IWA Canalway Cavalcade in Little Venice over the Bank Holiday weekend 3-5 May. This annual canal festival celebrates the best of life on the waterways in London and its community and entrance is free. Details at

<https://waterways.org.uk/support/ways-to-get-involved/events/iwa-canalway-cavalcade-2025>

3. Come to Westminster Bridge on 7 May

We need as many people as possible to show their support on Westminster Bridge from 10:30 a.m. on the day. Boats will travel in convoy up the River Thames, arriving from 10:30 a.m., with the main gathering for viewing by Parliamentarians from the terrace of the Palace of Westminster at 11:00 a.m. Please come along if you can to cheer the flotilla on and engage with passers-by.

If you can come to Westminster Bridge, please contact Frances Phasey on 07734 038297 to join the supporters' WhatsApp group so that you will be updated on the progress of the boats and their expected time of arrival at Westminster. This will also give us an idea of numbers for the Met Police.

4. Keep supporting the boaters after 7 May

The boaters will not have finished when they reach Westminster, and we need to keep supporting them and helping them to spread the message further afield.

From Westminster the flotilla will head downstream again to West India Docks for a debrief onboard the ship belonging to new FBW member [Theatreship](#).

The boats will then turn north again and make their way to Boston before crossing the Wash to Wisbech and the Anglian waterways, drawing attention across the country to the ongoing need for investment and support for our inland waterways.

The schedule for the cruise to and beyond Westminster can be found [here](#) and a photo report on its progress to date [here](#). You can follow the flotilla by joining the Facebook group [Fund Britain's Waterways – Cruises for 2025](#).

REQUESTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers in two areas as detailed below. If you may be able to help please do email info@fundbritainwaterways.org.uk.

1. FBW will have a presence at the 2025 Crick Boat Show (<https://www.crickboatshow.com/>). The public days at the Show are Saturday 24 – Monday 26 May, with a Trade & Preview Day on Friday 23 May. If you would be able to spare some time to help promote the campaign at this event we would be delighted to hear from you.
2. The FBW steering group is looking to extend its membership beyond boating-related organisations, in order to give a more accurate reflection of the varied value and appeal of the inland waterways. If you would be interested in joining us or can suggest a possible candidate, please do get in touch.

FBW MEMBER SURVEY

Thank you again to everyone who completed the FBW Member Survey earlier this year. In order to inform our planning we designed a short online survey to gather members' insight, opinion and advice about the future of the campaign.

We were extremely grateful to everyone who contributed. The response rate was very high and this clearly reflects the engagement of our members, which we very much appreciate. We undertook to publish the anonymised results and you can find them attached to this email.

The steering group will be revisiting future campaign strategy after the peak of activity on the campaign cruise.

Lastly, thank you for supporting FBW in one more push to get our message across as the Government is finalising its Spending Review.

Sent on behalf of the Fund Britain's Waterways steering group
info@fundbritainwaterways.org.uk



Flying the flag at Foxton Locks en route to London (credit: Brian Sharples)