

Calder Navigation Society
IWA Campaign 2023

As you will all know, our waterways are under threat. Many of you will already have contacted your MP about the proposed reduction of government funding for the Canal & River Trust. And if the response I got is anything to go by, we have a long battle ahead of us to get them to change their minds.

CNS has been a member of the IWA for over 40 years and they have asked us to help with their national campaign in the fight for our waterways. Set out below is the rallying call from **Sarah Niblock, CEO of Inland Waterways Association**

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

Only IWA – Protect Our Waterways

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) is the only independent, national charity dedicated to supporting and regenerating Britain's navigable rivers and canals as places for leisure, living and business.

IWA was formed to protect our inland waterways in 1946 at a time when they were under threat. As a result of IWA's work many navigations that would have closed remained open. Appreciation of the value of our waterways began to grow and restoration schemes got under way. We can now say proudly that since IWA was formed 500 miles of waterways have been restored and another 500 miles are under restoration.

But, gravely, the clock is starting to turn backwards. The government has announced it is cutting its grant to Canal and River Trust, putting the network's future in peril. IWA is very concerned that without adequate funding our waterways will again face closures and the millions of hours of volunteer time spent restoring and protecting waterways will be lost.





We launched the “Protect Our Waterways” campaign in March 2023 and, by joining IWA, you will strengthen our voice.

Your society is doing a sterling job of fighting for your stretch of the navigation and IWA is proud to support the work of societies across the country. Our support includes;-

Educating politicians about the many and varied benefits of our waterways.

Access to expertise to guide your projects through the planning system.

Engineering and heritage expertise to call upon.

Practical Restoration Handbook - the ‘go to resource’ for all volunteers involved in waterways restoration.

Help with construction costing and planning.

Help with construction projects through WRG camps and weekends.

Sharing knowledge and ideas through the Restoration Hub.

Technical expertise – engineering, planning and heritage etc.

Provision of cost-effective insurance for restoration projects.

Only IWA provides this range of support to the waterways family, but now we need every member of this society to help to reverse this damaging decision. Restoration projects will become untenable. You know better than anyone that it is far more costly to repair and restore than to prevent decline in the first place. Here is how you can – and should – support our campaign:



As well as being an individual society member, please join IWA. You will have access to all the benefits above and more. Your membership will help strengthen our voice to protect the network and ensure another 500 miles are restored.

Make a one-off or regular donation to IWA towards our campaign costs.

Sign up for our mailing list where you'll find links to our petition and how to write to your MP.

Spread the word – please use your communication channels to engage as many of your local waterways users as possible and direct them to our website.

It will only take you a few minutes via our website www.waterways.org.uk, but could put the waterways on the right path for years ahead.



There are already far too many sites like this around the canals and navigations, so please give the IWA's plea your full consideration. CNS is a rather small fish in a rather small waterway and we definitely need the big boys on our side in the fight to maintain the Calder & Hebble Navigation for everyone.

The next regular Newsletter should be on its way to you in November.

Richard Potter – Newsletter Editor - September 2023