



FUND BRITAIN'S WATERWAYS

Steering Group Members, January 2024



Les Etheridge, Chair of FBW and former IWA National Chair

I have been enjoying the waterways for over 50 years following a hire boat holiday on the Norfolk Broads. After a few years on the Broads, I widened my interests to the canals and other rivers and have since walked or cruised along many of the waterways in the UK. I became an IWA member 40 years ago and a member of NABO soon after it was formed. Recognising how important volunteering is to the inland waterways I have volunteered for IWA for over 20 years and am a former trustee and National Chair.

Contact: les.etheridge@waterways.org.uk



Anne Husar, NABO Chair

My Fund Britain's Waterways credentials include nearly 20 years liveaboard on our 70ft narrowboat during which time we've cruised many of the English canals and rivers, also most of the European ones too. Now recently elected NABO Chair, a boater recently described me as a "passionate" supporter of the canals; I'll accept that.

Contact: nabochair@nabo.org.uk



Sue O'Hare, IWA Trustee and Chair of Navigation Committee

My love of waterways started by reading Arthur Ransome books and watching ships on the River Ribble. Various hire boats on the Norfolk Broads and then the canals led to a shared ownership narrowboat and eventually a boat of our own just before the Covid-19 pandemic. I've been a member of IWA's Navigation Committee since 2016 and an IWA Trustee since 2020, and in 2022 I was appointed Navigation Committee Chair.

As a teenager I heard about a section of the Rochdale Canal outside Manchester being filled in to create a shallow water park, and was horrified by the lack of forward thinking and sheer waste of potential. Ever since then I have been strongly motivated to make sure our waterways are properly valued as the enormous asset they are and never wasted again.

Contact: sue.ohare@waterways.org.uk



Hazel Owen, AWCC National Chair

Hi, I'm Hazel, a seasoned inland waterways enthusiast with over 20 years of experience navigating our beautiful water systems. Having made Strawberry Island my home base in the North East of the waterways system, I have explored and cruised a significant portion of the inland waterways, becoming well-versed in their intricacies and hidden gems.

It is my love for these waterways that led to my involvement with the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs (AWCC), where I currently hold the esteemed position of National Chair. Subsequently becoming involved in the Fund Britain's Waterways Campaign, advocating for proper funding and resources to ensure the preservation and enhancement of our cherished waterways.

Contact: hazelowen.awcc@outlook.com



Andrew Phasey, RYA

Andrew Phasey represents the Royal Yachting Association on the FBW steering group. Andrew is an enthusiastic river and canal boater in the UK and Europe. He has a strong belief in waterways being available for all, and is committed to supporting the campaign in every way for as long as it may take.

Contact: theoldmainline@fastmail.fm



Joanna Richardson, British Marine

Joanna is British Marine's Senior Public Affairs officer having joined British Marine in summer 2022 after working as a Policy Manager at Hampshire County Council where she supported the Leader of the Council and later specialised in economic development and environmental services. Having spent her formative years teaching sailing and then worked for over a decade for senior Members of Parliament, Joanna is passionate about supporting the leisure marine trade. An experienced campaigner, today she works with a wide-range of organisations to help influence government in ways to safeguard the industry and enable more people to enjoy boating and other activities associated with Britain's coastal and inland waterways.

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