

The Inland Waterways Association
CUTS Campaign

Branch Briefing Notes No. 10

Briefing Notes for IWA Branches and Corporate Membership Organisations

Waterway Community Weekend

March events round up - what are you doing?

I trust that your branch or groups' plans for an event or activity on the weekend of 3 & 4 March are well underway, working in conjunction with your local partner organisations. We want to promote this initiative as the waterways community working together to demonstrate the value of waterways to ALL communities.

Please encourage all members to participate in whatever way they can – if an event is not planned, please **walk the waterway in your community** with leaflets and constituency petition sheets. Encourage all users you meet to write to their MP, and collect ALL users' signatures to demonstrate they support the waterway they are using - walking, cycling, jogging, fishing ...

Please review the following and feedback information urgently!

1. Forward details of your event or walk to CUTS campaign coordinating team

Email details of activities you are organising or taking part in to: cutscampaign@waterways.org.uk. Please will **every branch respond ASAP** so we know you are in receipt of these notes and indicate details as follows.

If your March event already appears on the IWA website – simply note this in your e-mail. There are branches planning activities that have not yet forwarded any information; please submit the basic information now and forward any more as it becomes available:

- Event Name/Location
- Date & time
- Overview description
- Organisations involved
- Contact information – name, telephone & email (& postal address to send leaflets to)

The National Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Show takes place at the NEC Birmingham throughout next week. The campaign and events planned for 3 & 4 March will feature on the IWA stand so we need your information urgently.

2. Leaflets and Banners

When contacting cutscampaign@waterways.org.uk please advise if you need copies of these leaflets:

- A5 Leaflet "Waterways for All / Your Local Waterway is at Risk!" leaflet
- New IWA membership leaflets

Use the A5 leaflet to urge people to write to their MPs - MPs still want to hear directly from their constituents.

The existing protest banners are being redistributed; some will not be sent out until the week commencing 26 February after use at the National Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Show at the NEC Birmingham.

3. NEW Constituency Petition

In ADDITION to the existing national petitions, MPs can also each present to Parliament a CONSTITUENCY petition on behalf of "... the Constituents of [CONSTITUENCY] and other users of Britain's inland waterways". It gives each MP the opportunity to make a brief statement to the House of Commons mentioning their waterways and how they are at risk.

ALL users of your local waterway can sign this additional petition – constituency residents and visitors - even if they have already signed a national petition. Collecting only a page or two of constituency signatures will enable a petition to be presented and a speech to be made.

Save Our Waterways are 'personalising' the parliamentary-approved petition sheet for each MP's constituency. Information will be added to campaign websites shortly; meanwhile request a version for your MP(s) by e-mailing the name of your MP and Constituency to: nbquidditch@dsl.pipex.com.

These petitions should also be returned to the PO Box address at the foot of the petition sheet on 5 March; please post first class, ensuring heavy packages has sufficient postage!

All waterway users can also be urged to sign the existing 'national' petitions – both online to the Prime Minister (<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/SaveOurWaterways>) and on paper, downloaded from: www.saveourwaterways.org.uk (the date for returning this has been extended to 5 March 2007)

4. WOW children's activities resources

WOW colouring activity sheets are available to download under Branch Briefing Notes 9 at:

<http://www.waterways.org.uk/News/DefraFundingCuts/BranchBriefings>.

The new activity, a WOW "I Spy" style trail, is nearing completion; another link will be circulated shortly to enable you to download 10 pictures for laminating and displaying around your location plus a trail sheet for photocopying so visitors can record each picture spotted.

5. Working in partnership

Most IWA branches are already in communication with partner organisations and local waterway and community groups; cross check websites and contacts for the following:

- Reports on campaign events to date and details of 3 & 4 March weekend feature in the current issues of RYA Magazine and BCU's "Canoe Focus" and their members are encouraged to support events. Contact you local clubs via their websites: www.rya.org.uk www.bcu.org.uk
- Businesses - waterside or used by visitors: pubs, cafes, general stores, etc;
- Groups who care about their locality: Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guild, civic societies, historical associations, wildlife trusts, U3A, British Legion, church goers;
- IWA corporate members, waterway societies, boat clubs, community boats; ramblers, anglers, cyclists, running clubs.

6. Press, PR and Media

Please also confirm to cutscampaign@waterways.org.uk the name of the person looking after publicity for your activity - if different to the main contact. Including telephone, mobile and e-mail contact details.

Julie Arnold, for IWA CUTS Campaign
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