

MEDIA RELEASE.

29th May 2025.



RTS SUPPORTS LOCK KEEPERS.

The River Thames Society supports our Thames Lock Keepers in their proposed industrial action in a dispute with the Environment Agency over staffing levels.

The main issue is the inadequate number of Lock Keepers to cover the vital work of operating weirs and locks.

A falling number of trained staff and the under-funding of maintenance at locks and weirs has serious implications for the Thames, including increased flooding, damage to the environment, and a seriously detrimental impact on commercial and leisure interests.

We call on the Environment Agency Board to meet the concerns of the Lock Keepers by funding safe staffing levels and dealing with the backlog of repairs and breakdowns.

Critically, we call upon the Government through DEFRA, which funds the EA, to acknowledge the serious position facing the Thames and the wider catchment due to long-term lack of investment. Increased funding now is vital to prevent future flooding and safeguard river users and nearby communities.

ENDS.

Contact : Peter Finch, RTS Chairman, sailor1057@aol.com,

07711 419772. www.riverthamessociety.org.uk.

Note for editors: The River Thames Society was formed in 1962 and currently has over 1000 members. It is committed to maintaining the proud traditions of the River Thames and working in partnership with river users to safeguard the natural environment and to safeguard the well-being of the river, its tributaries and wider catchment. (Charity Number 288380; Limited Company 1747301)