



One of the last walks before lockdown

Summer 2020



The future after lockdown

Welcome to Our Summer 2020 Newsletter (May edition)

This Newsletter will keep you up to date with what's been happening in the executive and alert you to the situation and decisions being made by the Government, the Ramblers and IVW Committee.

I trust you are all keeping well and finding time to get outdoors, be it in the garden or on a local walk somewhere.

As you may be aware the Ramblers guidelines, as of 14th May, state that all Ramblers walks and events are now cancelled until further notice, extending their original deadline from 31st May to the end of June at the earliest. The Ramblers will be reviewing their strategy on a monthly basis in response to the latest government advice and the IVW Committee plan to do likewise. We had a virtual Committee meeting on the 26th May when we decided to reconvene monthly to review our walks, events and activities programme in the light of any revisions in restrictions. Our next meeting will be in late June and will include a review of the remainder of the summer programme.

If you are scheduled to lead a walk in July or August but no longer wish to, or are for any reason unable to do so, please contact Alan, our programme secretary (programmeivw@gmail.com), to let him know. Alan may be able to replace the leader from a pool of volunteers willing and able to lead the walk on their behalf. With 'Track and Trace' imminent, having a pool of volunteers could prove useful to sustain a level of expectation in our walk plans provided it is in compliance with COVID-19 safeguards. For example a leader could be forced to isolate shortly before a planned walk and it would be better to replace them if we can, rather than cancel the walk.

Our website has been updated to reflect the current situation and a banner placed across walks and events that are definitely cancelled. These include all our walks until 30th June and some activities planned in June and July. The coach trip to Ironbridge on 7th June is cancelled and members' booking fees are being refunded. The Yomp, Chomp and Roll-Up pork roast on the 8th July was cancelled by the Committee at the last meeting because of issues surrounding social gathering. However the morning walk that day might (I stress might) continue if the review in June allows it.

Please visit our website and the Ramblers website to get full advice on the situation as it develops and to get the status of our walks and activities on the summer programme. All members' first point of reference must be the IVW website. It is the GoTo place; visit there often and before every walk.

One of the things to emerge from our virtual Committee meeting was the Programme Secretary's announcement that he needs to issue the templates to walk coordinators so they can get walks from leaders for the Autumn programme. IVW have to start preparing walks early and the programme will be built on leaders willing and able to submit a walk or two. For example it could simply be a walk that was cancelled in the last two or three months, which can now be rescheduled onto the autumn programme. There should be no pressure to fulfil a weekly or fortnightly schedule of walks. We may have to impose social distancing restrictions or limit the number of members on a walk or number of walks anyway. Much depends on government advice, but some things may also depend on members' support on walking after lockdown. For example: 'your confidence to walk again in a group', 'your confidence to travel on day trips or holidays' and 'your confidence to meet others on a social event'. Putting the right social distancing rules and safety concerns in place on activities could be awkward.

These items will be discussed and expanded further in our next virtual Committee meeting in June. We plan to hold more frequent meetings through the summer as advice changes and also want to issue a regular Newsletter informing you of those changes. Here are the summer/autumn walk and event activities that require a review within existing Government & Ramblers Association guidance and a level of support from the membership:

- Friday Bus Walks?
- Thursday Informative Walks?
- London Walks?
- Weekend away to the City of Wells?
- Coach trip to Rochester?
- Secrets of the Auction?
- Christmas Dinner?

The following Social Events have either been discussed or need discussion before going ahead:

Kayaking on the Ouse 4th July '20 – The Committee discussed it on 26th May and decided the event could go ahead. The plan has been changed to a circular route since the organiser is unable to ferry the group back from Great Barford as group travel would break social distance rules. It also means the promised Cream Tea can no longer be provided. Members should bring their own refreshments.

Yomp, Chomp and Roll-Up Pork Roast 8th July '20 – The Committee discussed it on 26th May and decided to cancel the event on the basis it would break social gathering rules at the Langford Bowling Club. However, the pre-event walk in the morning might be able to go ahead depending on the Committee's decision in the June review.



IVEL VALLEY WALKERS

Bedford River Festival – 18th & 19th July '20 – The organisers, Bedford Borough Council, have cancelled the festival.

Bedfordshire Walking Festival – 5th to 13th September '20 – The event is going ahead at present and a programme of walks being prepared. Barry Ingram requires one more Split walk for – Sunday 13th. The organisers, Bedford Borough Council, will make the final decision on whether the event is to take place.

Weekend to City of Wells 2nd to 5th October '20 – Booking the event is closed and under review by the Committee. Please do not send or BACS transfer the booking fee until it is Open to book.

Coach trip to Rochester 20th October '20 – Booking the event is closed and under review by the Committee. Please do not send or BACS transfer the booking fee until it is Open to book.

W&H Peacock 29th October '20 – The Committee discussed it on 26th May. The event has been booked and paid for 40 places which is the minimum number. The Social Secretary will send a message out later in the summer to seek firm interest in the event. A minimum of 40 to 100 maximum places available at £12 per person – A Bargain (Hunt)!!

AGM – Old Warden VH – Sunday 15th November 2020 with refreshments after the morning walk. At present all meetings are cancelled by the Ramblers, but the committee expect it to go ahead?

Christmas Luncheon – The plans are there but the Committee await Government/Ramblers advice.

Proposed Events for 2021 - A long way off considering the current situation but we have a plan.

The deferred IVW holiday to Ambleside 25th to 30th April 2021 – Booking the event is closed and the event is full. Members who booked this year have managed to rearrange their accommodation into next year and remain keen to go.

Other proposals for 2021 on the Social Event Calendar:-

A 'Thames Barge' cruise on an old historic barge from Morden along with a walk – Booking for 40 people.

Brewery Visit incorporating a staggered walk thereafter around Bury St Edmunds – A beautiful historic town!

Remain Optimistic and keep Safe when outside Walking

The IVW Chairman