



September 2020



Welcome to Our Monthly IVW Update

Since my last Update in August, restrictions on our movement around town and the countryside had begun to ease greatly. The committee had agreed to increase the maximum number of members on a walk to 15 from the 6th September. However the situation has markedly changed in the last week with a tightening of restrictions on movement and indoor activities. The virtual committee meeting on the 22nd September has reflected upon this developing situation and the risk it poses to our walkers and the general public. We have also received a small number of emails and reports suggesting that the control of distancing on the larger sized group walks had become a bit “hit and miss”, with walkers being drawn closer together.

So reluctantly the committee have had to **reduce the maximum number on walks back to 9 + the walk leader**. This will become effective from **Tuesday 6th October** (after the Wells Weekend), unless the government intervenes in the meantime to reduce it further.

The committee voted for change because of the rapidly rising infection rate of COVID-19 nationally. It was felt to be the responsible thing to do and to reassure our members we take their safety, and the safety of members of the general public that we meet on our walks, very seriously. We will not do anything to compromise that position. The maximum number on our walks will continue to be reviewed monthly by the committee for the foreseeable future. If you have questions or concerns about our decisions, please contact any member of the committee.

The autumn programme has now been merged into a rolling programme on our IVW website: <https://www.ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk/pop-up-walks>. If you have any difficulty is accessing our website, please contact our webmaster (WebmasterIVW@gmail.com).

Please visit the IVW website on a regular basis to get booking information and to review available walks. It is a ‘dynamic’ programme which means that it is constantly being updated as walk leaders put on “Pop-up walks” to fill any gaps in the programme and add walks to give members more opportunity to get on a walk in their local area. For example, in August we tried two Sunday walks,



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one full day, one split day in different areas, giving members more opportunity to get out on walks of differing length and suitability.

Communicating to our members by email is now a regular feature. If you are receiving this Update by post, it is because you have not registered an email address with the Ramblers Association that we can use to contact you. In this case, I urge you to register your email address with the Ramblers Association. This will help reduce our postage costs. You can register your email address by logging in to the Ramblers website (<https://www.ramblers.org.uk>) and updating your profile; by email ramblers@ramblers.org.uk; or by phone (020 3961 3232). If you have any difficulties please get in touch with me (chairmanIVW@gmail.com).

Our walks programme includes walks branded "MAX6" which limits the number of walkers to 5 + the walk leader, so that we have a variety of walks with different maxima. I would like to think that many who currently walk in smaller groups they organise themselves might be drawn to join our small group walks.

Please remember that any group of walkers you walk with informally must follow the 'Rule of 6' announced by Government. It is only official Ramblers-organised walks, such as those published on our website, that are exempt from this ruling. That's because our Ramblers walks have the protocols, risk assessment and contact tracing in place to comply with the conditions set by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). Any other walks – even if they include Ramblers members and friends - are not exempt from the ruling and may get into trouble if seen walking with more than 6.

Last month we introduced the 'Eat Out to Help Out' walks on our rolling programme which received a mixed response. The uptake to walk and eat was slow to begin with but the numbers booked onto them began to grow through the month. I reckon the idea might have become popular on a Tuesday or Wednesday if the scheme had continued. However the appetite to walk and eat on a Monday was not there and one was cancelled – I suspect members were still full after their Sunday Roast?

The cancelled Bedfordshire Walking Festival was replaced with a week of ideas that included 'Pop-up Walks', 'Pop-off to the Greensand Challenge', 'Pop-out for Longer', 'Pop-along to Apps & Maps'. The ideas had a margin of success in attendance considering the difficulty in advertising and promoting the event without publicity material. Nick Markham thanks the contributors who offered to lead a walk and to those who supported the festival by coming along to the different events.

Events Calendar:

Weekend to City of Wells 2nd to 5th October

The Committee and Organiser have agreed it is viable.

The holiday is fully booked. Numbers on a walk will be kept to the restrictions set by the Committee, the Ramblers or the Government on the day of the walk.

Coach trip to Rochester 20th October – Cancelled.

We hope to offer members a coach trip next year if it is possible – Much depends upon conditions of travel on the coach and the uptake of bookings if a trip is organised.



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W&H Peacock 29th October

The event has been cancelled by the organiser and venue operator. We will have to wait until next year for – A Bargain (Hunt)!!

AGM – Will be a Zoom Meeting – Tuesday 10th November 2020.

IVW have Zoom subscription for up to 100 members to join the AGM meeting from their homes. We will announce how that is to be arranged and how you can join the AGM in the next few weeks.

Christmas Luncheon – Cancelled

It would have been lovely to have held a lunch with all our walkers together under one roof but conditions prevail to prevent it happening. However at the moment a group of 6 IVW walkers can still get-together and enjoy a Christmas lunch.

Deferred IVW holiday to Ambleside 25th to 30th April 2021 – **The holiday is fully booked.**

Members have rearranged their accommodation for next year and remain keen to go.

It seems likely we will need walk leaders from the holidaymakers to help lead the walks.

We are proposing the following 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!

If you have any ideas or exciting formats in which to hold Covid-secure holidays and trips next year, please get in touch.

Keep Optimistic and remain Safe when outside Walking

The Chairman