



## Summer Newsletter 2021

Look above, we are outdoors again in groups of various sizes, enjoying the countryside around us! Toes are crossed that the easing of restrictions will continue into July when the IVW website should become filled with social events, path maintenance tasks as well as walks. I hope you've all been looking forward to joining walks again and chatting to others on them. Even if it means starting on a short walk in a small group and gradually booking yourselves onto longer walks with more people – the walk leaders will try to create walks for everyone in the walks programme.

Enjoy our newsletter.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ivel Valley Walkers are back with a summer full of walks already planned and placed onto a Rolling Programme on our website. I would like to thank our walk coordinators and walk leaders for their time in preparing and organising them. A Rolling Programme allows flexibility for additional walks to be added. For example, I want to arrange a London walk this summer and the Rolling Programme allows me to defer my decision on the date when it should take place rather than fixing it in April. Some walk leaders are preparing other additions to the Programme like Friday Bus walks with a different format, evening walks, or MAX 6 walks alongside other walks. So, please keep visiting the website regularly to see what's going on that week in terms of walks and social events. This is our flexible approach that is responsive to the changing profile of the pandemic and associated guidance.

Discussion of the Rolling Programme led the committee to start discussing the future of the printed programme as we had it before the pandemic. It's a wonderful thing to hold, but do IVW need to print the programme? Or could it be a PDF for members to print at home? Should we focus on printing a shortened version of the programme? A pamphlet



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rather than a booklet to promote IVW walks to members and non-members? Something for the walking festival or for libraries, for example? Over the next few weeks, I ask members to share their thoughts with me and/or other committee members, in person or by email, for further discussion by the committee at their next meeting in July.

Ramblers Association walks continue to be exempt from legal gathering limits, and can take place with any number, as long as the walk leader is in agreement. In IVW we are continuing to specify maximum walk numbers that leaders are prepared to lead and our walks will follow our covid-secure guidance - which includes physical distancing. The booking system will also remain for the time being.

In addition, from Monday 17 May:

**Car-sharing and coach travel can resume in England.** Members should take sensible precautions and follow the government advice on shared travel to and from our walks and volunteer activities. The committee will review whether to agree a coach trip for the autumn providing there is enough support from members – Ironbridge perhaps? Please express your interest in a coach trip to Tony Sheward.

**Group social events can take place for groups of up to 30 outdoors, and groups of 6 indoors.** The committee have agreed in principle to a summer barbecue for 30+ in August, provided the government's upper limit on group numbers is removed. Bernard and Mary have arranged it for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August at Langford Bowls Club. We are in the process of rearranging the Wednesday walk and finalising the cost of entry to members, which won't exceed that of previous Yomp, Chomp and Roll-Up events (£9). Please express your interest in attending to Bernard or Mary Morse.

## PROGRAMME & WEB

Our exciting Rolling Summer Programme is available on the IVW website for walks up to the end of August 2021. Booking on walks is still required and the maximum number the walk leader will accept on them listed. More walks may appear during the summer as leaders attempt to provide a range of group walks from 6 walkers upwards.

As mentioned above, we started a discussion at committee last week on whether to produce a printed copy of the Autumn Programme as we did before the pandemic. The success of the Rolling Programme online has questioned if it is really necessary to print a copy, and whether instead a print run could be just a pamphlet used for promotion purposes. We will be seeking your views during group walks on the future format and content of the printed programme, so we can further the discussion at the next committee meeting in July.



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## **BEDFORDSHIRE WALKING FESTIVAL: 11<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Thoughts are that in addition to the usual group walks there would also be a number of extra walks each day designed at welcoming new members and promoting walks of interest. The organisers believe the festival will offer an opportunity for Bedfordshire residents and those in neighbouring counties to find out more about their area and to widen their horizons and explore Bedfordshire.

Can I ask IVW walk leaders to start planning their Festival walks, plus any additional group walks for this period and send details to **Nick Markham by Sunday 6th June** using the template below (bedswalkfest@gmail.com). The organisers will be printing the walking festival booklet in July for distribution in August. Please help us with the Walking Festival.

Date	
Start Time (s)	
Location (incl grid ref & post code)	
Walk Title	
Distance (s)	
Walk Description	
Further Information <i>(that may be useful)</i>	
Walk Leader	
Contact Details	

Please add maximum walk number and booking requirements if you wish to do so.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

The government roadmap has tentatively allowed organisers to begin announcing some wonderful events on our IVW social calendar for 2021. It starts in July with a kayak trip on the river; a summer barbecue at Langford Bowls Club in August; onto a Barn Dance in late October and then ending with Christmas Dinner in December. We've been busy. A long weekend to the Marlborough Downs is in the planning for autumn too.

I thank Roger, Bernard & Mary, Val and Antony for preparing them.

One additional event might feature if there is support and Roger gets a grip on how it can be organised – Go Ape at Woburn! If you fancy zip wires and swinging through trees get in touch with him. The cost is expected to be £33 each. There are some other social



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events in the planning which will not make this year. They are expected to materialise next year and we will keep you posted. Please come and experience our Social Events.

## **IVW EVENTS CALENDAR 2021**

31<sup>st</sup> July – Kayaking on the River Ouse with scones and cake afterwards.  
A circular route on the river at £39 per canoe.  
Organised by Roger McLeod [SocialSecIVW@gmail.com](mailto:SocialSecIVW@gmail.com)

4<sup>th</sup> August – Pork Roast Barbecue at Langford Bowls Club  
Cost is £9 per person and a chance to play a game of bowls  
Organised by Bernard & Mary Morse

Go Ape at Woburn? Contact Roger McLeod [SocialSecIVW@gmail.com](mailto:SocialSecIVW@gmail.com)

8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October – A Long Weekend to the Marlborough Downs  
Organised by Antony Copsey

30<sup>th</sup> October – Barn Dance at Houghton Conquest Village Hall  
Bring food and dance the night away  
Organised by Val Bailey

8<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Luncheon at Stagsden Golf Club  
IVW traditional festive lunch with a walk beforehand  
Organised by Bernard & Mary Morse

For further details of these events please refer to our IVW website or contact Roger McLeod on 07989307046 or [SocialSecIVW@gmail.com](mailto:SocialSecIVW@gmail.com)

## **IVW EVENTS CALENDAR 2022**

8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May – Ambleside Holiday Part 2 for members who couldn't make April 2021.  
Pre-booked & Full.  
Organised by Roy Carter [ChairmanIVW@gmail.com](mailto:ChairmanIVW@gmail.com)

We wish you all Happy Summertime Walking!

Please check the Ivel Valley Walkers website for the most up to date information.  
[www.ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk](http://www.ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk)

Roy Carter  
Ivel Valley Walkers Chairman [ChairmanIVW@gmail.com](mailto:ChairmanIVW@gmail.com)