



Summer Newsletter

Where does the time go, we will soon be half way through the year and still so much to do and see. I believe the club is going from strength to strength especially with the numbers turn up for each walk. I know the weather has been kind to us walkers so far but our gardens could do with rain. Enjoy our newsletter.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Around 55,000 Rambler Group walks take place every year across a huge variety of different terrains and weather conditions. The vast majority of these walks are incident-free, but occasionally things can go wrong as has happened on some IVW walks. Someone may trip and fall or start to feel unwell, and in rare cases you may face a serious emergency.

Thanks to the People's Postcode Lottery, The Ramblers are working with St John Ambulance to offer free first aid training to volunteers across the country from July onwards. A new half-day training course is being designed to cover essentials and outdoors scenarios, to provide us with the tools and confidence we need. We will await news from our Training Manager, Nick, on how it is going to be introduced to our Ramblers Area and Groups.

Can I thank Bob & Celia for organising a wonderful IVW holiday to Alfriston in the South Downs National Park. They put in a lot of effort to present a varied walks programme that pleased everyone. If any members would like to put forward their plans for a holiday next year, the committee will be happy to review their proposals at the next meeting.

The Ramblers Volunteer Roadshows are returning in the summer with the first event taking place on Sunday 30 June at Granta Park in Cambridge. The day is an opportunity to improve your knowledge, meet other volunteers and share ideas about the vision of The Ramblers. The day is absolutely free to all Rambler volunteers with



IVEL VALLEY WALKERS

lunch and refreshments provided.

You will be happy to learn that The Ramblers interpretation of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) has new clarity on the way it is being applied in practice after consulting with the Information Commissioner's Office. One of the key changes is that The Ramblers are going to classify local walk programmes as 'contractual' and not 'marketing'. This means we do not require explicit consent to send walk programmes to members via email, providing the programmes only contain straightforward information about group walks.

However, Newsletters, like this one, are classified externally as 'marketing'. The regulatory definition of 'marketing' is having any content which promotes the aims and objectives of the organisation. This means Newsletters will require explicit consent when sent by email. The updated General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) guidance is now available on the Ramblers website.

Please enjoy the rest of the summer and the walking that IVW walk leaders have provided in our programme.

GENERAL SECRETARY

We are very pleased to welcome Gillian Wilkes to the Committee as our new General Secretary and hope that she will enjoy being an active committee member.

FINANCE

IVW are now registered for Internet Banking, and we are looking at future payments to be made online, as it is costing us 30p per cheque when submitting them to the bank. We are getting Roger registered on the account to allow members to test the process on a social event - an announcement soon. We want to begin action on this in the Autumn programme.

PROGRAMME SECRETARY

As you are aware our new and exciting Summer Programme 2019 is out and has been distributed to various locations - Libraries, Post Offices etc where people can pick up a copy.

Please remember the Summer Evening walks, the Informative Walks and an Introduction to a Long-Distance walk of 15 miles called 'Walk the Icknield Way', alongside our social events.



IVEL VALLEY WALKERS

The Amble walks are proving very popular and there is a possibility that these may become weekly events – The Committee would be grateful to hear your views on this matter.

Wednesday Walks

For some time now the Committee has been concerned with the number of Walkers on a Wednesday with respect to Safety and Walk Leader Responsibilities managing large groups. Even more troubling are the parking issues which limit where best to start walks and how to park vehicles considerately.

Several ideas were forwarded to committee and it was decided we should ask Wednesday Walkers about these proposals with a view to start trialling them on the Autumn programme.

1) Offer 2x Wednesday walks at different locations - A & B walks, possibly at a different pace

Walk leaders would repeat their walk on the programme on different Wednesdays saving the need for more leaders to come forward and reducing the footfall with 2 walks on offer.

2) Split Wednesday walk in two directions - clockwise/anticlockwise when numbers are high

It wouldn't resolve the parking issue but would make the walk manageable and safer. It does rely on having an experienced walker leader in our midst at the start of the walk.

WEBMASTER

The plan to switch the existing IVW website over to a new provider sometime soon was unanimously agreed by the committee. Also agreed was the proposal to move from Flickr to Google for archiving photographs which means that we will have unlimited space to store them in future. However, we will not be moving the current photos on Flickr over to Google.

WALKING FESTIVAL

Bedford Walking Festival 10th Anniversary 7th - 15th September '19

The walks programme from IVW is complete, however, we need Volunteers to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Walking Festival at our "hub" in Ampthill Park:- Sunday 15th September - Volunteers required to help in Ampthill Park to attract, advertise and promote Walking in Bedfordshire.

If you are able to spare an hour or so of your time, please contact Roger McLeod on 01234 216639 email: rogermcLeod@hotmail.com



IVEL VALLEY WALKERS

EVENTS CALENDER 2018.

- 10th-12th June City Explorer break Liverpool
- 19th June Pork Roast at Langford Village Hall
- 14th July Day 1 Icknield Way Walk
- 27th July Cruise & Walk the Grand Union Canal
- 13th August Gliding Experience
- 4th-7th October Long Weekend Malvern
- 20th October Coach Trip to Aldeburgh
- 30th November Barn Dance

For further details of these events please refer to your IVW Walk Programme
New IVW Policy for Event/Holiday Leaders.

For further details please contact Roger McLeod on 07989307046 or
rogermcleod@hotmail.com

The Committee advise that it is up to Event/Holiday Walk Leaders to decide and restrict the numbers of people they wish to participate in their event/holiday. IVW members will have priority over Non IVW Members on these types of events/holidays.

We wish you All Happy Summertime Walking!

For further information please check in the walking programme brochure, or our web site for the most up to date information.

www.ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk

Graham Mills
Ivel Valley PR Officer