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**April 2021 Monthly Update**

Dear All,

First of all, we have received the good news that we can restart social walks with limited numbers. Rita Williams, our Walks Secretary, will be getting in touch with more information shortly.

Meanwhile here is the full statement from Julie Cribb, the LDWA Chair

***Further to our last guidance we are pleased to announce that some LDWA social walking activities can commence earlier than anticipated. Please see below for the situation in each of the regions. In all cases strict adherence to the relevant government legislation and guidance applies regarding travel and social distancing. In cases where activities commence the walks must be uploaded to the LDWA website, the walks register completed and uploaded and, in cases where numbers on the walk exceed 6, the walk must be LDWA Covid risk assessed. It is advised that all documentation is carried by the walk leader during the walk, either in paper or digital form.***

***ENGLAND***

* ***Walking can restart in groups of up to 30 from Monday 29 March (but walk leaders can decide on a lower number)***
* ***Walks must be Covid-19 compliant with a risk assessment and delivery plan completed for walks with more than 6 people***
* ***Minimise travel and avoid busy areas (especially over the Easter weekend) and be aware of the impact of activities on landowners/ local residents***

***SCOTLAND***

* ***Walking can restart in groups of up to 15 from Monday 29 March***
* ***Walks must be Covid-19 compliant with a risk assessment and delivery plan completed for walks with more than 6 people***
* ***Travel permitted only within local council areas. Please avoid busy areas and beauty spots (especially over the Easter weekend) and be aware of the impact of activities on landowners/ local residents***

***WALES***

* ***All LDWA activities are currently suspended.***

***Please bear with us as we continue to work on restarting Challenge events.***

***Julie Cribb***

***Chair, LDWA***

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| A plea from the LDWA NEC:  **IT Operations Manager**  We need some help!  Are you competent with technical information and able to assist those members who might not be quite as technically minded? And are you happy to commit some time for a year to get us in a more stable position?  We might just have the ideal role for you, and we think that it’s an exciting way to help the LDWA.  After speaking to members, we’ve had some feedback that our IT & Internet Director role is just too big, especially with the new IT project that we’re starting to work on. Rather than burden someone (and more likely, entirely put off) with this large role, we’ve decided to split it into two distinct parts. One role is for an IT operations manager, to keep things ticking over and running smoothly, whereas the second role is for more of a project manager who can take a lead on developing the new web-site strategy (we’re advertising this second role in the next issue of Strider).  We’re really looking now for someone to head up the IT operations team. There are a number of dedicated and skilled volunteer LDWA members who provide a lot of the support for our members and for our local groups. There is also our third-party supplier who does some maintenance work and very limited development work (given that we have plans to develop a completely new website in the very near future). We are looking for someone to cover this role for a year, from the end of April 2021. This will give you time to settle in and see how the new arrangements work and it’s not too onerous a role in terms of the time it’ll take.  You don’t have to be an IT expert or specialist in computer science, just be competent with IT, be willing to learn and also keen to help others who need assistance. You won’t be left alone if you need help, but we’re hoping to get a team player who works well with other volunteers and is also willing to engage with the NEC to report how things are going and if you need extra help or resources.  For more information and to express an interest in the role, please contact Madeleine Watson on [secretary@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ldwa.org.uk).. If you’re not quite sure it’s for you or are nervous for any reason, please do still e-mail, just in case (and we might find something else you can help with!). |

**Beach of Dreams Volunteers wanted!**

Beach of Dreams is a collaborative 500-mile walk from Lowestoft to Tilbury, taking place this summer from 26 June to 1 August. The object of the exercise is 'to discover the hidden gems of the East Coast of England, inviting collaboration from communities and artists along the way in Suffolk, Essex, Southend, and Thurrock.'

Kinetika’s Artistic Director (and London LDWA Chair), Ali Pretty, and Guardian journalist Kevin Rushby are walking the entire route, joined by artists, writers, scientists, and local residents. Together, guided by strong environmental themes and the challenges of our current time, they will consider the question “How can we creatively reimagine our future?”

The LDWA is a partner in the project, with Peter Aylmer plotting the route, with support from Colin Saunders. The team are looking for walk leaders from Suffolk, Essex and London to assist with recces in April of the daily walks and to attend as leaders and backmarkers on the walk itself in June/July.

If you’d like to get involved, please email [ali@kinetika.co.uk](mailto:ali@kinetika.co.uk)

We won't expect recces to be done until April when the stay local restriction has been lifted!

For more information and the itinerary have a look at the [Beach of Dreams](https://kinetika.co.uk/beach-of-dreams-walks) web site.

**Essex Paths Guide**

How often have you wondered what to do about a wobbly stile or a blocked footpath? What is the precise legal situation and who should do what to sort things out?  
This [Paths Guide](https://ldwa.org.uk/lgt/downloads/EssexAndHerts/Essex_Paths_April_2021.pdf) produced by Essex Ramblers will  to help you. It covers a range of scenarios common to the public rights of way network. All faults need to be reported using[Essex Highways Fault Reporting System](https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/public-rights-of-way-issues), otherwise they will not be accepted   
NB The guide is based on one originally produced by Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum. Many thanks to both them and Essex Ramblers for permission to share it with our LDWA members.

For information on rights of way in Hertfordshire and  how to to  report footpath faults see  [Hertfordshire Rights of Way](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/countryside-access/rights-of-way/rights-of-way.aspx)

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| The baton for the LDWA monthly virtual challenge has now been passed back to the Lakeland group for April:    Don't be an April Fool - Join in with the [**April A-Z Countryside Virtual Challenge**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LakelandLDWA)**.**Every day in April we will be posting a topic on the Lakeland Facebook page relating to the beautiful countryside we all cherish so much. Whilst out for your daily walk, see if you can take some pictures relating to the topic, then come back and post some pictures and perhaps some facts about what you have seen. Then fill in your miles on the spreadsheet linked below and see what you can clock up in the month. No limits to how much you d**o, everyone achieving over 100 miles will receive a virtual certificate**at the end of the month. Walk within the current guidelines for your home area, hopefully these broaden as April progresses 🤞  There will be **spot prizes too for photos** so look out for those.  Here is a link to the spreadsheet. Enjoy your walking 😊  [https://docs.google.com/.../1SmF7B3phxlk1SMFQGQSJ.../edit...](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SmF7B3phxlk1SMFQGQSJVXr6r90Ptm-uAUOi_M3Aq6w/edit?fbclid=IwAR3P8VnpfXtjvassWjhmjY8X2lpzBbLf-r0XaBa2Lvzg17WLObI2dFlJUPU#gid=1002473353) |

And finally, I know some of you have been as baffled as Nigel by the odd box he found while out on a local walk. Well, the mystery has finally been solved.   Read on to find out more  [Mystery of a wooden box](https://lalg.org.uk/node/9780)

That's all folks - and this month I really can say I hope to see you on a walk soon.

Jackie