**October 2020 Monthly Update**

Hello and welcome to your October Essex and Herts update.

October is fast approaching, and although the sun is shining brightly as I write this, there was a much more autumnal feel to the weather over the weekend. My walking companions on Sunday had all swapped the shorts and tee shirts of last weekend for trousers, hats and fleeces. We enjoyed a circuit of the Welwyn Garden City Centenary Walk (as had another group  of Essex and Herts walkers the day before), one of the many walks to be found in the [LDWA Long Distance Paths database](https://ldwa.org.uk/ldp/members/search_by_path.php)

It's great to see so many of you are out and about either on our 'official' social walks or doing your own thing. The last few weeks for example have seen members tackling some old LDWA challenge walk routes, conquering The Vectis Trail, climbing some Lakeland peaks and enjoying the sunshine on the South Downs Way.  Whatever you are doing, please share your pictures with us all on our Facebook page and there's still time to send me something (pictures and a few words) for the October Newsletter - the deadline is Saturday 3rd October. (email address below)

If any of you aren't managing to get out on longer walks yet, please get in touch. We can't make promises, but we may be able to put you in touch with other members in your area.

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| **Social walks**  As you will be aware the Government issued some new Covid-19 regulations on 22nd September and following this the LDWA NEC released an updated statement about social walks in England:  **Nothing has changed in relation to the rules, delivery plan and risk assessment that were provided by the NEC on 26.08.20. Consequently, Local Groups may continue to provide a walks programme as long as it complies with the new rules provided by the LDWA. In summary, group walks where 7-30 people inclusive attend must have a delivery plan/risk assessment completed by the walk leader. With walks where 6 or fewer people attend there is no legal requirement to complete a delivery plan/risk assessment, but we do recommend you do.**  The full statement and some  Frequently Asked Questions  (FAQs) about social walks are available on the [News page on the LDWA web site](https://ldwa.org.uk/news/news_story.php?news_id=606)  We are aware that LDWA local groups have different approaches to  advertising their walks programme, and here in Essex and Herts we are trying to be as fair as possible to our members  As places on our social walks are limited, any upcoming walks will only be advertised (by email) to Primary members of Essex and Herts in the first instance.  This initial email will include the date of the walk, the leader's name, the distance, the area of the walk and the number of walkers permitted.  If there are still places available once our Primary members have been given adequate time to respond, the walk will then be opened up to our Associate members as well.  Notification will go out via email again and possibly on our website and the Essex and Herts Facebook page.  The more walks we hold, covering as much of Essex and Hertfordshire as possible, the more opportunities our members have of attending a walk. So if you can lead a walk, with your own limit set for walker numbers, please contact Rita, our Walks Secretary by email to book a date. Please note Rita's new email address:  [essexandherts.walks@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:essexandherts.walks@ldwa.org.uk)  If there are any changes to the Covid 19 regulations in relation to social walks we will try  to update you as soon as possible, but would advise that you  also keep an eye on the LDWA News page. |

**Facebook**

There are a couple of Facebook groups that may be of interest to some of you. Firstly, there is a new Facebook group for LDWA members who are interested in history.  It’s early days yet, but this Facebook group is for discussion of interesting things found on walks, general chat and also planning long-distance walks and holidays.   [www.facebook.com/groups/ldwahistory](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ldwahistory)

 And for our Essex members there is a new Facebook page called Rambling Essex. The aim is to 'bring together online everyone and anyone with an interest in hiking the beautiful countryside, byways and waterways of our county to share their favourite routes, create discussion, search for new walks and generally inspire people to get out and ramble!' [www.facebook.com/groups/RamblingEssex.](http://www.facebook.com/groups/RamblingEssex.)

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| **Walks Database**  A reminder that we have a new Walks Database on the Essex and Herts website. You can use this to look back over all the social walks that have taken place since 2008 - perhaps to inspire future walks, or possibly just to trigger memories of some of our past walks.  However, it is also possible for additional information to be added to a walk.   This can include photos, notes on the walk, but perhaps most usefully GPX files.   Where a GPX file is available, the route is shown on a map and LDWA Members can download the file for their own use.  If additional information has been added to a walk on the database it is indicated by a small "+" symbol against the walk. It’s early days yet, but you can see how this works on the Walden Ways walk (15/03/20) and Little Hallingbury walk (02/08/20)  I know that over the last few months a lot of you have been revisiting old social  walks, so If you have a GPX file and any notes or photos of the walk, send them to  Richard  who has volunteered to manage the Essex and Herts database for us.  If possible, include the date of the original walk.  Richard also has a new email address  [essexandherts.database@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:essexandherts.database@ldwa.org.uk)  Our walk leaders come and go, and it would be a shame if all the effort that had been put into planning a really good walk is lost forever, so let's start using this database to its full potential. |

**Stop Press! Here is the latest information on next year's 100 which was issued yesterday:**[**Update on Y 100 Sir Fynwyl**](https://ldwa.org.uk/2021Hundred/N/7632/100-update-september.html)

Enjoy your walking!

Jackie

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