

ivc *Newslines* @aivc

The In-house Magazine of the Association of Intervarsity clubs

Winter 2018/19



Norwich

For the latest news and up to date information, look at our website or check out our Facebook pages.

AIVC Website www.ivc.org.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/aivc.org.uk>

To post reviews of events, photographs etc that might appeal to prospective members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/181221324419/?fref=ts>

Our closed group for discussing issues relevant to IVC. E-mail Nick, our National Development Officer at Development@ivc.org.uk if you would like to be added to the group

Contents

Editor's Note	2
Chairman's Chat	3
Welcome to Our City – A Proposal	5
aIVC Webmaster Report	6
A week in the Lakes with Norwich City Social.....	11
Dates for your Diary	12
Updating Your Club Details	14
Logging on to the AIVC Web Site (www.ivc.org.uk).....	14
Registered users.....	14
Non Registered users	14
Adding Events	15
Newslines Contributions	15
AIVC Committee 2018 -2019.....	16

Editor's Note

Mark Johnson

Hello and welcome to the Winter 2018/19 edition of Newslines.

I'm always on the lookout for news or items of interest from clubs. If you've been on a good IVC event, weekend or holiday, please do think about letting me have a quick write-up and a photo.

Chairman's Chat

Ann Jones

Musings on IVC and friendship

I've just carried out a very brief survey of half a dozen or so IVC websites. Although all visually different they all have a recurring theme – making friends.

Over the years that I have been a member of London IVC I've made many friends and participated in a wide variety of activities that I might otherwise not have.

This year I have had particular cause to be grateful for the friends I have made in IVC. Earlier this year what had been intended to be a 3 week trip to Myanmar ended up as a one week holiday and 3 weeks in hospital in 3 different countries. My travelling companion and IVC friend Louise was a star, sacrificing her holiday to stay with me until she had to fly home for work. The thought of her visits gave me something to look forward to each day I was in hospital. After she left I had to make do with the BBC world news and National Geographic TV channels to keep me amused – no substitute.

Once home other IVC friends continued to support me. Shura drove me home from the London hospital, did shopping and cooked some meals for me. Michel took me out and Martine arranged to meetup.

Who are your IVC friends, aren't you glad you are a member of an IVC club?

Don't keep it your yourself, spread the word, shout it loud –



IVC FOR FRIENDSHIP

Communication in the 21st century

We now use Zoom webinar software for our committee meetings. This works very well, and the savings in time and travel costs are significant.

Conference 2019

I'm pleased to announce that conference next year will be held in Halifax on the w/e of 10/12th May at the North Bridge Leisure Centre.

Follow the details as they unfold on the aIVC website.

Motions for consideration at the AGM must be with the aIVC secretary by Saturday March 9th

Remember, as Joan said, “it’s cheaper up north”, so no excuse for not being there!!!



Insurance

Our Secretary Mike Timmis went to a great deal of effort to ensure we got the best quote for our Insurance.

Despite getting cheaper quotes we have decided to continue with our current insurers, but we have an enhanced policy in that we have indemnity for aIVC and all associated clubs' committee members in the event of legal action. We chose to continue with our current insurers as the cheaper policies included too many restrictions.

The policy document can be found on the website once logged in under the AIVC/AIVC Documents – current menu

Mike wishes me to thank you all for responding to his survey that was required for insurance purposes and to advise that the same and possibly further information may be required next year.

Thanks Mike for your efforts.



Happy Festive Season

See you at Conference

Welcome to Our City – A Proposal

Nick Wilkinson, National Development and Publicity Officer

On Merseyside, non-IVC groups, many using Meetup, take IVC's territory. It is happening nationally. What does the IVC have that the competition has not?



The competition is mainly local. They do much the same as us having local events while also organising trips and holidays further afield. Nevertheless, we have a major advantage. What we have and they have not, are the links with other IVCs.

So how is this proposal, IVCs host national 'Welcome to Our City' events? All that is needed are two national events each year and IVC will shine. The Merseyside IVC has done it three times in recent years. It takes surprisingly little effort.

Without going into too much detail the host club decides the date, recommends accommodation, puts together a schedule and organises a Saturday evening meal. Let the visitors book their own accommodation.

The schedule sounds like hard work. How do you plan things when you do not know how many are coming, what they want to do, or the availability of the host club's members to run things? The answer is the scalable, one size fits all, plan.

This is how it is done. People are coming from all over the country and some not starting their journey until they finish work. There will be late arrivals, so Friday evening's meeting point is near the railway station and in a pub serving food until late.

It is unlikely that everyone will want to visit the same attractions but aim to get the people in the same area at the same time. Tell your visitors what there is to see and nominate the eating-places and times to eat. Ask your local members to lead groups but the secret is to organise things so that they will run, from the schedule, by themselves.

Nick, AIVC's National Development Officer, has had a lifetime of organising others. He will do everything that he can to help organise your IVC's event. Send him a message via www.ivc.org.uk. Go to 'home'/'contact us' and leave your contact details.

aIVC Webmaster Report

Bob Clifford aIVC Webmaster

PICTURES FROM CLUBS FOR AIVC HOME SLIDER GALLERY



We have added a picture slider gallery to the home page of the AIVC web site.

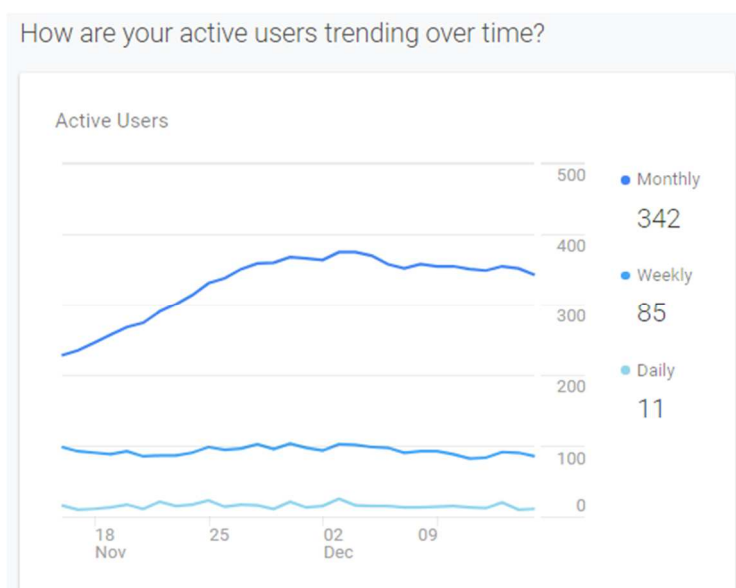
Because of this change, we would like to invite each club to supply **ONE** picture that they consider is representative of their club to go in the picture gallery.

The picture must be **700pixels wide by 350 pixels high** to fit in with the other pictures in the gallery. You can also supply a brief comment to be displayed with your picture of the form "[Club Name] – Promo description of the picture for your club" up to 50 characters long.

Please send your pictures to me at webmaster@ivc.org.uk for inclusion in the picture gallery.

GOOGLE ANALYTICS FOR AIVC WEB SITE

Having installed Google Analytics on the AIVC web site on Nov 28th 2018, we are now getting an insight into how many members and others visit the AIVC web site.



ACTIVE USERS REPORT

Based on the information we have so far, there were 342 visitors reported for the 28 days up to 15 Dec 2018. We know from other data in the analytics report that a large proportion of the visitors came in to check the events list pages. This means we can reasonably assume most of those visitors to the AIVC web site will be IVC Club members, which is around 10% of members in the UK.

Based on such figures we can therefore say with reasonable certainty that currently around 90% of IVC members take no active interest whatsoever in the AIVC web site. **This means it is even more important that clubs publish the AIVC inter-club events in their own programs of events for this information to be visible to the missing 90%.**

WHAT DEVICES DO VISITORS USE?

Over the previous 28 days up until 15 Dec 2018, the majority of users (around 56%) accessed the AIVC web site from a desktop PC. The trend is generally downward for desktop access, but this is likely to remain the majority way of viewing the site for some time yet.

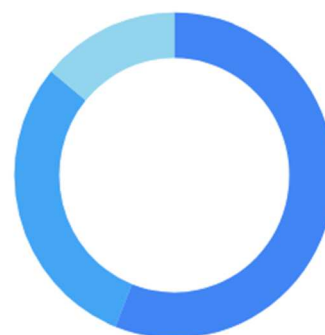
The second most popular means of access to the AIVC Web site is by mobile smart devices. This currently accounts for about 30% of users and is growing at about the same rate that desktop is declining.

Finally, 14% of users view the AIVC web site on a tablet type device. Interestingly, as a means of access these devices is also increasing. This is likely to be because of the increasing power of tablet devices.

These sorts of numbers are also likely to be similar to those for club web sites. **For this reason, it is highly recommended that clubs must consider how their web sites look on mobile devices.** This is going to be an increasing way that prospective members will see the club's information.

What are your top devices?

Sessions by device



Desktop

56%

↓ 9.7%



Mobile

30%

↑ 5.4%



Tablet

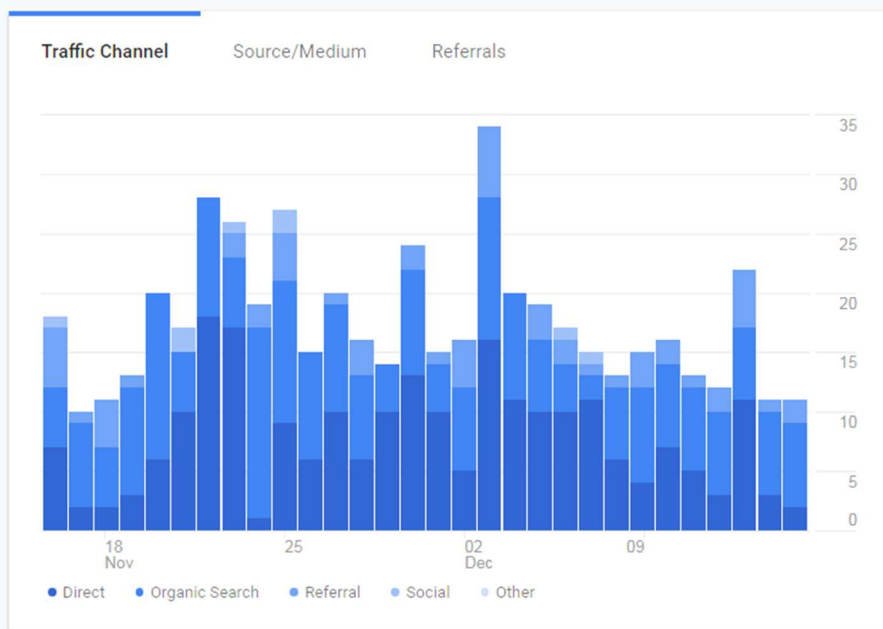
14%

↑ 4.3%

HOW ARE AIVC WEB SITE USERS ACQUIRED?

In the 28 days up until 15 Dec, the way users came to the AIVC web site has varied quite widely. However, it is clear from the graph below that the most significant ways of getting users to the AIVC site are "Direct", by "Organic Search" and with "Referral" as the least likely.

How do you acquire users?



Here are some brief explanations of what these terms mean:

📌 **Direct** – Visitors who visited the site by typing the URL directly into their browser. 'Direct' can also refer to the visitors who clicked on the links from their bookmarks/favorites, untagged links within emails, or links from documents that don't include tracking variables (such as PDFs or Word documents).

📌 **Organic Search** – Visitors referred by an unpaid search engine listing, e.g. a Google.com search.

📌 **Referral** – Visitors referred by links on other websites.

A possible conclusion we can draw from the above statistics is that club web sites are generally pretty poor at referring users to the AIVC web site. **This means that clubs may be missing promoting one of the most significant benefits of joining their IVC, which is access to inter-club events.**

The lack of referrals to the AIVC site from club web sites, probably contributes significantly to the issue that 90% of members take little or no interest in the AIVC. This will be because the lack of a **PROMINENT LINK**, will make it difficult for their members to get to the AIVC web site.

LAYOUT OF BULLETIN PAGE IN AIVC AND CLUB WEB SITES

I received a request from Edinburgh IVC to look at the current layout of the Bulletin page on the Agoria web site software.

You can see the current layout of the bulletin page on the AIVC web site at the address below:

www.ivc.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=event.bulletin&tab=260&formaction=PageAction

Events for October 2019

WEEKEND IN BLACKPOOL - OCT 2019

Fri 18 Oct 2019 to Sun 20 Oct

Meetup for an enjoyable social weekend in Blackpool to include two nights Dinner, Bed and Breakfast plus an exclusive ride on a vintage illuminated tram around the world famous Blackpool Illuminations.



You need to be a member of one of the many IVCs around the country to take part in this event. This event is organised by London IVC. [Check out their website here](#)

COST: From £192.00
BOOK BY: Sun 31/Mar/2019
SHARED BY: 🟢



Association of IVCs (AIVC) (& Basingstoke Friends, Edinburgh Socialives, Exeter IVC, Halifax & Huddersfield IVC, London IVC, Surrey Social (Formerly West Surrey IVC), Sheffield IVC)

The requested change from Edinburgh affects the AIVC and all the other sites of the clubs currently using the Agoria system. It also affects all non-Agoria using clubs, as it would change how they copy inter-club events from the AIVC web site.

I have looked at the suggestion from Edinburgh for the change of layout for the Bulletin page. As a result, I agree with them that it should make it easier for clubs to copy the Inter-Club event details into their own programmes. However, I do not want to make the change without receiving some feedback first from clubs. The change to the Bulletin page layout can briefly be summarised as follows:

1. Remove boxing around each event
2. Swap the order of the event title and date
3. Separate events with a horizontal line

The following are comments made by Edinburgh Socialives about the current layout:

“The current format of the bulletin web page does not give us very good cursor control when selecting text and the enclosing boxes do not transfer when text is copied from the page.

The main change from the current layout we would like to see is the date before the event title

Putting 'at' in the timing doesn't always make sense. Delineation between events like a line across the page would be useful."

This means that the layout of club events on the bulletin page would look something like the following examples:

Wed 5 Dec

CHRISTMAS MEAL, HAMPTON HOTEL

7.30 pm

Hampton Hotel, Corstorphine Road

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Organiser: Micky Steele 07803 777 111

Sat 15 Dec

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT AT RADISSON BLU HOTEL

7.00 pm

Radisson Blu, Royal Mile, Edinburgh

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

Organiser: Irene Stone

E-Bulletin via Group Mailing

Any clubs using the **Group Mailing** function in Agoria to send a regular **e-bulletin by email** should also be aware that any change to the Bulletin event format would also be reflected in their e-bulletin. I know that this will at least affect the AIVC e-Bulletin plus Basingstoke and London groups.

How to vote on the Bulletin page layout change

Before making the change, you have a chance to take part in a poll on the AIVC web site using the Agoria software-voting feature. The details above will appear on a page on the AIVC web site under the **Events** section. The page will be accessed on the Events on the menu using the menu item **"Bulletin Page Layout Vote"**.

The question put is a simple binary choice with an option to abstain ... just like the voting we do every year at the AIVC Conference:

DO YOU AGREE TO THE CHANGE OF BULLETIN PAGE LAYOUT IN AGORIA OUTLINED ABOVE?

YES – I agree to the change of Bulletin page layout

NO – I do not agree to the change of Bulletin page layout

ABSTAIN – I have no strong opinion and will accept either of the layouts

Notes on Voting form ...

You have the chance to add your own comments about why you have voted the way you did. This gives you the opportunity to sway others to your way of thinking.

Only Club Officers may vote as the voting page will not be available to club members using the “aivcevents” login username. You must be logged in to the AIVC Web site (www.ivc.org.uk) with your personal email address and password on the AIVC site in order to vote.

The vote will remain open until the end of January 2019 and you will be able to change your vote as often as you wish until the date the vote closes. This will allow you to read comments from others and change your vote if they provide you with a good reason to do so. Constructive comments may also play a part informing the changes implemented.

A week in the Lakes with Norwich City Social

Mark Johnson aIVC News Officer

“Very Flat, Norfolk” according to Noel Coward. To get some respite from this, Norwich City Social headed to the Lake District in late October, under the capable leadership of Verity Bullock.

Six of us, plus two dogs, rented a very comfortable farmhouse a few miles from Coniston for a week.



We were very lucky with the weather, enjoying five sunny days. Activities were a mix of walking and sightseeing. Some of us ascended the Old Man of Coniston, while others enjoyed a boat trip on Ullswater. We all enjoyed a journey on the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway, heading up to the village of Dalegarth for a wander in the woods (left).

Most evenings we ate in, and then enjoyed relaxing in front of the wood burning stove* (*We actually had the choice of two lounges and stoves, but went for the one with the most comfortable sofas!)

Our week was planned to coincide with Coniston Speed Week, when large numbers of powerboats attempted high speed timed runs up and down Coniston. We watched from the shore, but there was no opportunity to take part!

Thanks to Verity Bullock for organising such a pleasant and entertaining trip! (And best wishes for a speedy recovery following your recent accident in Morocco.)



Dates for your Diary

Check out these fantastic events, full details of all events can be found on the AIVC website.

<p>Weekend in Cheshire</p> <p>Organised by Birmingham IVC</p> <p>Fri 4 Jan – Sun 6 Jan 2019</p> <p>Birmingham IVC invite you to join them for its 2019 New Year Weekend Celebration at Alvaston Hall Hotel, a grand country house, in the glorious Cheshire countryside.</p>	
<p>Swanage Blues Festival</p> <p>Organised by London IVC</p> <p>Fri 1 March – Mon 4 March 2019</p> <p>The Swanage Blues Festival brings together an amazing collection of Blues Musicians, Fans and Friends for a weekend of Jams, Open Mics and Headline Performances.</p>	
<p>aIVC Conference 2019</p> <p>Organised by Halifax and Huddersfield IVC</p> <p>Fri 10 May – Sun 12 May 2019</p> <p>The 2018 conference and weekend to be held in Halifax</p>	
<p>Bird Watching Norfolk Coast</p> <p>Organised by London IVC</p> <p>Fri 24 May - Mon 27 May 2019</p> <p>Staying in accommodation in Cromer and visiting the excellent bird watching sites along the Norfolk coast - a prime birding area. We will also include some cultural visits this year.</p>	

Week at Edinburgh Festival

Organised by London IVC

Sat 10 Aug – Sat 17 Aug 2019

Join us at the world's greatest entertainment festival, staying in value for money, student accommodation close to the heart of the festival.



Weekend in Blackpool

Organised by aIVC

Fri 18 Oct – Sun 20 Oct 2019

Two nights Dinner, Bed and Breakfast plus an exclusive ride on a vintage illuminated tram around the world famous Blackpool Illuminations on the Friday evening with your fellow IVC'ers.



Cherry Blossom In Japan

Organised by London IVC

Spring 2020

The holiday of a lifetime to Japan to experience the Hanami (Cherry blossom), cuisine, culture, wild life and scenery.



Updating Your Club Details

Please help us to stay in touch.

To update your club details, whenever your club officers change, please contact the web master Bob Clifford on bob_clifford@email.com .

Logging on to the AIVC Web Site (www.ivc.org.uk)

Registered users

Anyone registered with AIVC, can logon to the website using their e-mail address and this will allow you to add events and change their details.

If you don't know your password, select the forgotten password option (at the top right of the screen just under the login options) and a new password will be generated and emailed to you.

Updating your Password or User ID

Once logged in -

- a) select user area from the top menu selections
- b) select 'my security settings' from the drop down menu on the left
- c) change your User ID & Password to that of your choice in the user name & password settings section
- d) scroll down the page and save your changes

Non Registered users

These will be the ordinary members of IVC clubs around the country who wish to log on to the AIVC website. They should use the following settings:-

uid = aivcevents

password = brighton18

This allows access to the private areas of the calendar showing full details of all AIVC events as well as contact details.

Adding Events

Only Registered Users can add events and there are two detail boxes to complete.-

The public section displays information to the whole world. It is a good idea to always put something in this section to give the public a flavour of the event.

You should also add the following text :-

“You must be a full member of IVC to go to this event. If you are not a member do not contact the organisers. Speak with your nearest branch of IVC. (<http://www.ivc.org.uk>)”

You may also wish to add a link to your own clubs website for example we add the following text for events entered by London IVC:-

“If you are interested in joining London IVC go to our web site www.londonivc.com”

The private description is what is displayed to members who are logged in. The fields – organiser, organiser details and location are ONLY displayed to logged in users unless the event is marked as public.

In the event any changes to events, please advise Peter Howe at towerpete@aol.com

Newslines Contributions

Please, please, please.....Newsline needs more contributions.

What do you want to see?

Feel free to contact me with your ideas or contributions.

Send any correspondence to Mark, at markjohnson873@gmail.com

AIVC Committee 2018 -2019

<p>Chair</p> <p>Ann Jones (London IVC)</p> <p>aivannc2014b@yahoo.co.uk</p> 	
<p>Secretary</p> <p>Mike Timmis (Cambridge)</p> <p>mike@timmis.org</p> 	<p>Web Master</p> <p>Bob Clifford (Active Hampshire)</p> <p>bob_clifford@email.com</p> 
<p>Treasurer</p> <p>Bradley Rawlings (Suffolk)</p> <p>brawling_uk@yahoo.co.uk</p> 	<p>News Officer</p> <p>Mark Johnson (Norwich City Social)</p> <p>markjohnson873@gmail.com</p> 
<p>National Events Officer</p> <p>Alison Armstrong (Milton Keynes)</p> <p>armstrong2bn@btinternet.com</p> 	<p>Nat Development & Publicity Officer</p> <p>Nick Wilkinson (Merseyside IVC)</p> <p>tivium@hotmail.com</p> 