



The ileostomy & internal pouch  
**Support Group**

**SUPPORTING DEVON & SOMERSET**

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# Autumn Newsletter 2020

Hello Everyone.

The Committee hope you are all coping in these unusual times and have been able to get help where needed. We can now start to look forward to the new normal whatever that may be.

### **September Meeting at Kingsteignton**

We are very disappointed to announce that after much consideration, we have taken the decision to cancel our September meeting. At this time, July, there are too many unknowns to be able to have an interesting, worthwhile and safe event.

The Devon & Somerset IA Committee will no doubt have to reassess how we meet members needs in future having already put thought to trying some new ideas at the start of the year. We would be delighted to welcome additional members to join the committee. Please get in touch for more details.

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### **Subscriptions**

Members should have received, at about the time of the last Journal, a form for membership renewal. Please note that subscriptions will be due on the 1<sup>st</sup> October and should be sent to IA National Office at Rochford, Essex.

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### **IA and Coronavirus**

A couple of things from the IA website which may be of interest to those who do not have internet access.

### **How is IA affected?**

IA have taken steps to ensure its staff and volunteers are following government social distancing guidelines. IA National Office are now operating from their homes and working remotely. The national office inbox is still being monitored and calls are still being received. However, we are on a reduced staff, so we appreciate your patience if you struggle to get through first time.

All social media channels are still operating and you are

## Diary Dates

### Devon & Somerset IA

26 September 2020

Kingsteignton Community  
Hall, Newton Abbot

**CANCELLED**

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### Mid Devon Ostomy Group

Boniface Centre, Crediton

Planned 2020 dates:

7 November

2pm-4pm

Please contact Janice for  
confirmation they it is still  
going ahead

**If you feel you can help  
us in any capacity, please  
contact Sid.**

welcome to contact us on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook, and membership payments are still being taken through our website if you wish to join. Board meetings are taking place remotely via Zoom to ensure the charity continues to run and decisions are made in-keeping with social distancing rules. Our annual Information Day and AGM, due to take place at the end of March, was cancelled to ensure the safety of our staff and members.

On a local level, IA branches and affiliates around the country and in Northern Ireland have cancelled all group meetings until further notice. They will still be communicating via a newsletter in the IA Journal, which will be printed and distributed on schedule as normal.

### Reopening of public toilets

The reopening of public toilets is a local decision for councils who are following the Government's guidance based on a risk assessment and whether social distancing measures can be maintained.

For the moment this means people are having to check with their own local council if public toilets are going to be open in their area. However, IA are continuing to lobby to ensure all Accessible toilets are opened by local councils for those with hidden disabilities as a priority.

For the moment, please contact your local council, or the local council for the area you are visiting, for advice and guidance about which public toilets will be available and when.

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Until next time.  
Take care.



Photos:- front page Barnstaple Fair, below Taunton and Bridgwater Canal,  
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