



IA UPDATE



January 2026

Welcome

Change is afoot at IA with the launch of new volunteering roles (detailed on page 4), and ongoing interviews for a dedicated IA Stoma and Pouch Care Specialist Nurse and CEO. More to follow in due course!

Our January round-up covers events from around the network, volunteering news and more. Don't forget, we love hearing from you too so please get in touch, whether it's to share your story, give us feedback or let us know about your events: marketing@iasupport.org

Michael Bell, CEO

Regrettably, IA's CEO, Michael Bell, informed the Board towards the end of 2025 of his intention to step down as IA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Fulfilling a dual role of both CEO and Treasurer over the last seven years, Michael navigated IA through a complex restructure and changed our legal status to a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2018. Michael has continued to undertake these very busy roles in parallel since and has remained instrumental in managing further change across IA.

We are delighted, however, that Michael has agreed to remain with IA and will continue to retain existing financial responsibility alongside the CEO.



In early January we started recruiting for a new CEO, with interviews planned for early March. Depending upon timings, we hope to report further in the

summer Journal with an update on the recruitment process.

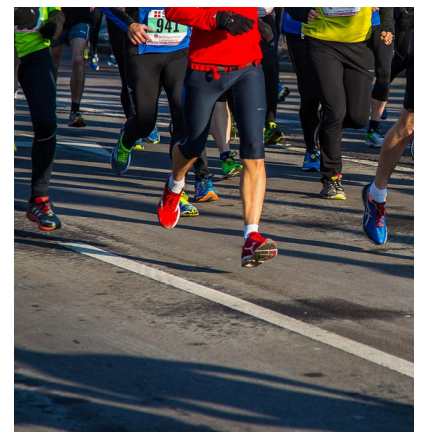
The Board remains indebted to Michael for his dedication and leadership over the last seven years as CEO while the charity navigated its new path, delivered new services and implemented IA's strategic plan.

In this, IA's 70th year, we are very excited to see what the future holds for the charity at this pivotal moment and how we can continue to move forward under new leadership.

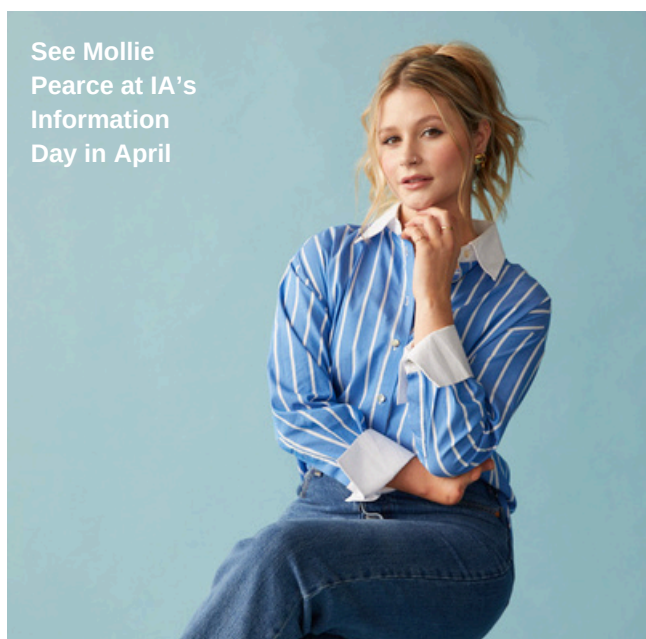
Run for IA at London Landmarks Half Marathon

Sunday 12 April will see an assembly of runners race past the capital's most iconic sights for the popular London Landmarks Half Marathon, from Downing Street to Trafalgar Square.

Would you like to take part in aid of IA? We ask that runners aim to raise around £250, and we will support you with a running top and literature for any events you may want to host. We will also promote your activities online to help garner donations to your JustGiving page. Please email: caroline.bramwell@iasupport.org



Join us to celebrate IA's 70th anniversary at Information Day, 25 April 2026



IA's platinum year has begun, and we're excited to celebrate this 70-year milestone in style at our Information Day on Saturday 25 April 2026 in Warwickshire.

The event will comprise presentations from medical professionals and health and wellbeing specialists, alongside special guest speakers, including TV personality and disability campaigner **Mollie Pearce** and world champion fitness model **Zoey Wright**.

Catch up with friends, take part in workshops, hear about the latest developments in stoma and internal pouch management and care, and meet a host of product exhibitors. After a day of information gathering, we hope you'll stay on to let us entertain you into the evening with live music after a black-tie gala dinner.

We invite you to be part of this memorable occasion and to **book your place at Information Day 2026.**

Information Day 2026, Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LD

Date: IA's AGM (*for company law members and board members only*): Friday 24 April.

Information Day: Saturday 25 April, from 9am to 5pm; where booked, gala dinner from 7pm.

Booking: <https://iasupport.org/infoday26>



Nominations for IA Lifetime Achievement Award

To celebrate our platinum year in 2026, and in recognition of the extraordinary work IA's volunteers have contributed to the charity, we will be awarding a number of Lifetime Achievement Awards at our Information Day on 25 April, and we invite you to nominate those who you consider to be the most deserving of recognition.

Nominations could be due to a culmination of efforts and/or achievements or due to a single act that has had a lasting, positive affect at a local or national level.

This is your opportunity to recommend a fellow volunteer to be honoured for their outstanding contribution to IA. Every entry will be given the utmost consideration, and those selected will be announced during the celebrations at IA's Information Day 2026.

Please send your nominations by Friday 20 March

Please email info@iasupport.org providing the name of the nominee, the group to which they belong, the reasons for their nomination and the person(s) proposing the nomination.



New online hospital service to launch in England



IBD patients in England are set to benefit from an NHS online hospital service in 2027, as part of plans to cut waiting times. In [a report by BBC News](#), the virtual hospital will be accessible through the NHS App and initially focus on nine conditions including IBD, menopause, prostate and eye conditions, with the aim of expanding digital care and reducing pressure on in-person appointments.

The online hospital will provide assessments, check-ups and follow-up appointments delivered by a dedicated team of clinicians. According to the BBC News article, NHS England stated that 'no patient will be forced down this route as they can still choose face-to-face appointments', and that 'tests, scans or procedures that are needed will take place at healthcare sites close to patients' homes, while doctors review and assess their notes remotely'.

[Read the full story on BBC News.](#)



IA Group News from Roy Bustin, Group Relationship Lead

New volunteer role descriptions

We know that it can sometimes be difficult to recruit new volunteers for traditional committee roles such as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. To address this, we've been consulting selected groups on a proposed alternative group structure. Thank you to those groups who were involved in the process.

Following this feedback, we are pleased to introduce two new volunteering roles: **Area Co-ordinator** and **Group Volunteer**. We are trialling these two volunteer roles in areas where we have 'dormant' groups with no volunteers currently in place. The Area Co-ordinator will act as the main contact of IA locally, whilst the Group Volunteer offers flexible support to a group to help activities run as smoothly as possible. You will start to see these new roles being advertised across our communication channels, including the volunteering section of our website at <https://iasupport.org/volunteer-vacancies/>

If you are currently volunteering with us and would like to discuss your options regarding the new roles, do get in touch and I will be happy to discuss things further.

Volunteer with IA postcards

Did you know that we now have 'Volunteer with IA' postcards? These handy cards can be given out at any group event and distributed amongst your local community. The postcards give useful information about how to get involved and what kind of opportunities are available. These will be included in the new member packs and are available for all groups to order through national office. If you would like a quantity, do get in touch and we can arrange for them to be sent out.

Volunteer network meeting

Join us for our first volunteer network meeting of the year, happening on **Tuesday 3 March**. This will take place **online**, starting at **7pm**. The meeting is open to all current volunteers and is an informal opportunity to meet others in the volunteer community and share information. If you would like to attend, please email us at volunteering@iasupport.org to receive the joining link.



Volunteer recruitment platforms

I'm pleased to share that we have recently set up recruitment accounts with Doit Life, GoVo and NHS Volunteering.

These websites connect people looking to volunteer with organisations like ours who are seeking help. The accounts will help increase our online presence and promote volunteering to diverse new audiences across the UK. The accounts will be managed centrally, but we are encouraging groups to get involved.

If your group might benefit from promoting any volunteering opportunities, do let us know and we will be happy to help.

Student Volunteering Week

We're getting ready for a busy week ahead as part of Student Volunteering Week. On Monday, we'll be at Sheffield Hallam University alongside our South Yorkshire group, then on Friday supporting our East London & South Essex group at a volunteer fair at the University of East London. In between, I'm looking forward to meeting the Head of Volunteering at King's College London to promote our opportunities.

Many colleges and universities will be hosting volunteer fairs, which is an ideal opportunity to promote your group, network with other charities and hopefully recruit some new volunteers along the way. We're also interested in hearing from any students who currently volunteer with us, to promote the value of volunteering and showcase the impact that students can have on our work.