

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

August 2024

Contact Details

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Next Newsletter: Please send copy for the next issue to both editors
 by midday on the **10th of the month.**

Please note earlier deadline for September newsletter of **7th September**

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2024			
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
Fri 30 Aug to Sun 1 Sep	Ben Nevis	Marion Downie	Weekend
Thu 12 to Mon 16 Sep	Lake District	Sarah Dixon	Long weekend
Wed 25 September	London Canal Walks: Limehouse Cut, Lea River, Hertford Union Canal loop	Hilary Pettit	Day walk
Fri 18 to Sun 20 Oct	Herefordshire and NE Black Mountains	Andy & Kirsty Johns	Weekend
Sun 10 November	Teddington to Chiswick	Charles Harrison	Day walk
Sat 14 December	Londinium – history walk and Christmas social	Marion Downie	Day walk + social
2025			
Sat 18 January	AGM and Annual Dinner Cotswolds	Angela Leaman	Weekend
Sat 8 to Sun 16 March	Crickhowell Walking Festival	Andy Johns	Not LMC. Book direct via the CWF website.
Mar/Apr tbc	Yorkshire Dales	Angela Leaman	Weekend self-catering

Fri 13 to Mon 16 June	Exmoor	Heather & Andrew McGinn	Weekend
Sat 25 October	LMC - 50th Anniversary Reunion Salisbury	Angela Leaman	Club social

LMC Meets Details

Fri 30 August to Sun 1 September – Ben Nevis – Marion Downie

Way back in February 2020, I advertised my plan to have a weekend in Fort William to climb Ben Nevis and then Covid intervened. 2024 seems a good time to revive the plan and although I will plan it around the weekend of Saturday 31 August/Sunday 1 September to accommodate those who want to travel by sleeper, we can also extend the time either before or after. There are many other options for good walks in the area, particularly if we have enough cars.

Travel: train from London to Fort William, including a sleeper service from Euston, or fly to Inverness and hire a car (c. 70 miles) or take a train or bus. There is also a bus from Glasgow airport. Another option is to combine the weekend with a visit to Edinburgh for a bit of the Festival or Fringe.

Ben Nevis: Walk statistics for the Ben are 11 miles, 1,345m of ascent, taking 7 – 9 hours by the mountain path route (both up and down).

June Update : Five of us are now booked to go to Fort William in the hope that we will have one clear day's weather to climb Ben Nevis.

If anyone else is thinking of joining, please note that accommodation is expensive but there may be alternatives further afield or a friend recommends the camping pods.

Contact: Marion Downie

Thu 12 to Mon 16 September – Lake District – Sarah Dixon

I have booked 2 next-door Airbnb [self catering cottages near Seathwaite](#), Broughton in Furness with 4 bedrooms and 8 beds, allowing 8 people to join the meet only if 2 couples are included for the 2 king sized rooms. There are two twins, so depending on gender mix we could fit in 6 non couples with 4 people sharing the twin rooms and 2 singles. The booking can be cancelled early September if no one is interested. The cost is £1,497 i.e. if 6 people come each pays £250 or £62/night.

It's in a great location with walks to Seathwaite Tarn, Coniston Old Man, Grey Friar, Harter Fell, Crinkle Crag and even Scafell perhaps, plus the choice of the lower fells to the south. There is a pub 1 mile away. We can get online shopping delivered.

In case the meet is oversubscribed, I can look for additional accommodation or find somewhere bigger. It's good to have a flexible cancellation policy, but this location looks great. Sadly no lake to swim in though..

Please let me know if you are interested.

Contact: Sarah Dixon

Exploring the Regent's Canal and beyond – Day Walks – Hilary Pettit

The first of Marion's Elizabeth Line walks earlier in the year was a very interesting walk along the Regent's Canal from Paddington to King's Cross and following that I have been given a book on the whole of the canal which looks worth more exploration. As these are relatively short, I have included these as mid-week walks with apologies to those who are still working.

Wednesday 25 September – Limehouse Cut, Lea River, Hertford Union Canal loop 5.5 miles

Starting and ending on the Regent's Canal, the walk will take in Three Mills and the Olympic Park before ending in Victoria Park. Meet at Limehouse DLR station at 11.30am

Please let me know if you are intending to come.

Contact: Hilary Pettit

Fri 18 to Sun 20 October - NE Black Mountains and Herefordshire hills – Andy & Kirsty Johns

We now have 13 people for this weekend. All six rooms at The Firs B&B in Hay on Wye are reserved for us and fully taken up. Extras have booked their own accommodation at The Swan very close by. Others are most welcome to join us, but you will need to make your own accommodation reservations – if you do this, please let me know where you are staying and if you wish to be included in supper bookings on Fri/Sat nights.

Our intention is to explore this corner of the Black Mountains in the Hay-on-Wye area, and/or areas such as the lower hills along the Herefordshire/Wales border and the Golden Valley. Distances are likely to vary between 8-12 miles, height gain between 1000-2000 ft. There is beautiful scenery all around, and autumn is a great time to see it at its best.

Contact: Andy & Kirsty Johns

Sun 10 November - Teddington to Chiswick – Charles Harrison

This is a walk of 7 miles from Teddington Lock along the River Thames to Strand-on-the-Green timed to coincide with the annual Draw-Off at Richmond Lock. This is when the weirs are left open to allow the river between Teddington and Richmond Locks to drain down at low water on each tide to allow for maintenance on riverside structures, providing a very different view of the river. The day will finish a short distance away at your Secretary's house for soup & bread. Teddington station is on South Western Railway; in Chiswick, the options are South Western Railway, London Overground and the District Line Please let me know nearer the time if you are interested.

Contact: Charles Harrison

Sat 14 December - Londinium – A Saturday Walk around Roman London – Marion Downie

This will be a stroll around the City, looking at some of the main Roman sites. The walk will be about 2.5/3 hours (allowing for lunch) but longer if we decide to stop at the Mithraeum or Amphitheatre (depending on demand). Meet at 11am outside the City Information Centre which is opposite St Paul's Cathedral on the route up from the Millenium Bridge.

Contact: Marion Downie

Sat 18 January 2025 – Cotswolds LMC AGM and Annual Dinner – Angela Leaman

I am delighted to let you know that we will be returning to the Cotswolds for our AGM next



January. The venue will be the Hatton Court Hotel which is located near Painswick and 12 minutes' drive from Gloucester station. The Cotswold Way passes close by and there is good walking to explore. The AGM and private dinner will be held in the Cotswold Room.

I have a provisional booking for 14 rooms for Saturday night which will be held until the end of November. Bookings can be extended on request to Friday, for those who wish to arrive the night before. Walks will be arranged for mid-morning Saturday and on Sunday morning.

To book your place please call the hotel directly on 01452 617412 and quote my name to link into the LMC group booking and discount rate. Guests will be required to pay in full for Saturday dinner/accommodation at the time of booking, but Friday night can be paid for on arrival. Friday dinner can be at the hotel, or there is a cheap and cheerful pub 5 minutes' drive away at the Kings Head in Upton St Leonards.

The rates are as follows:

Saturday DB&B: Double £149 (total for 2 people); Single occupancy £129.

Friday B&B: Double £109; Single £99. Note there is no provisional booking held for Friday. The hotel is unlikely to be busy but advise booking earlier to ensure availability if staying two nights. All rooms will be Executive/Superior grade.

T&C: Bookings can be cancelled free of charge until 7th December. After 7th December we can cancel 2 rooms free of charge up to 48 hours prior to the event. Further cancellations will be charged in full.

Hope to see you then.

Contact: Angela Leaman

www.hatton-court.co.uk; Hatton Court, Upton Hill, Upton St Leonards, GL4 8DE

Sat 8 to Sun 16 March 2025 - Crickhowell Walking Festival – Andy Johns

Planning is well underway for next year's nine-day Crickhowell Walking Festival in and around the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (Sat 8 March to Sunday 16 March).

See <https://www.crickhowellfestival.com/2024-gallery> for lots of good images from March 2024 – fog, rain, plenty of mud, sunshine, great views and many happy walkers. Booking opens as usual on 1st December... put it in your diaries now!

March/April 2025 - Yorkshire Dales – Angela Leaman

Expressions of interest are sought for a self-catering trip to the Yorkshire Dales next spring. If you think you may be interested let me know, so I can get a feel for numbers to find a house to rent for a long weekend.

Contact: Angela Leaman

Fri 13 to Mon 16 June 2025 – Exmoor – Heather & Andrew McGinn

We are proposing to run another weekend meet at the Simonsbath House Hotel, Simonsbath, Exmoor next year. We have provisionally booked the hotel for the weekend and will get the prices for next year in September.

We have also asked that they include transport as well as dinner, bed, breakfast and a picnic lunch each day, because we felt that not needing to use cars on linear walks was a huge advantage giving us more time to enjoy cafe stops on the walk and a later start to the day. Again, it would be 2 days of walking plus a shorter walk on Monday before travelling back. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us for this meet so that we can gauge whether it is viable. Then in September after we know prices and date for deposit, we will ask for a commitment. At present we have the whole hotel, but numbers will depend on rooms and the capacity of the minibus.

Bookings will be on a first come first served basis. We look forward to you joining us.

Contact: Heather & Andrew McGinn

Sat 25 October 2025 – Salisbury LMC - 50th Anniversary Reunion

Those that were there will remember the fantastic evening we had in 2015 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of LMC Mountaineering Club. Around 80 current and former members came together for dinner and a hugely sociable evening at Lensbury Club in Teddington.

Therefore we plan to do it again for our 50th! Yes, it all began in 1975.

Kirsty has been in touch with a long roll call of past members and we have had a very enthusiastic response. Therefore, I'm delighted to let you know that the LMC 50th Reunion dinner will take place on **Saturday 25 October 2025** at the White Hart Hotel in Salisbury.

Further details will be released as plans progress, but in the meantime – **SAVE THE DATE!**

Contact: Angela Leaman



The 1970s – the decade of happy campers and plaid shirts

Meet Reports

Kings Cross Day Walk and Social - Sunday 7 July

A fine day for 12 LMC members, quite literally as sunshine replaced the forecast heavy rain. London guide Kirstie Shedden, a university friend of Stephen's, led a great walk around the buildings and waterways of Kings Cross. Kirstie painted a vivid picture of life in Victorian times; the change of Kings Cross station from goods yard to passenger hub; the 1,000 plus horses stabled at Coal Drops Yard and the huge workforce processing produce arriving at Granary Square. We also explored the modern development of the area by Camden Council, including an invitation from Sarah to explore the stunning architecture (and tea) at her studio in the award-winning Gasholder development.

Another highlight was a visit to St Pancras Gardens. Tucked away and easily overlooked, a fascinating site with its historic church and literary associations with Dickens and Thomas Hardy. We also heard the story of Mary Wollstonecraft, daughter of Frankenstein author Mary Shelley. A century ahead of the suffragettes, Wollstonecraft published 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman' in 1792.

The day included a delicious tapas lunch at Camino. A big thank you to Kirstie (and Sarah) for a terrific day out which we enjoyed very much.

Angela Leaman

Photos:

Exploring the Grand Union Canal; Tapas lunch at Camino; The Gasholder building.

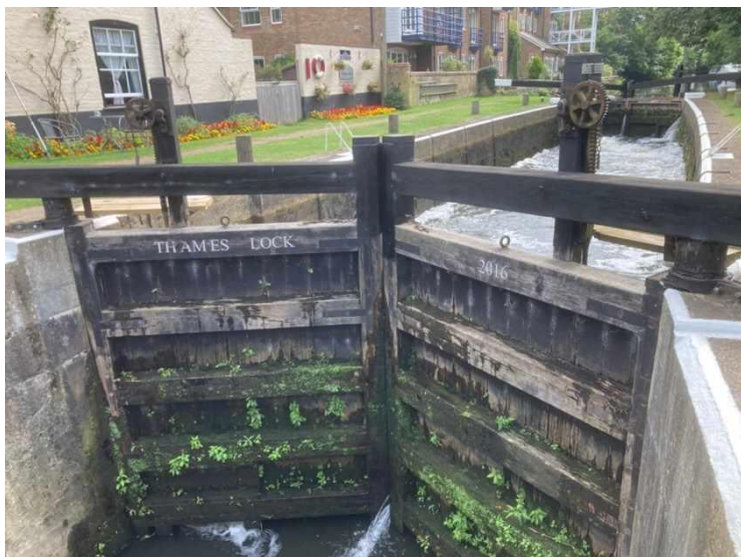
Brookwood to Weybridge – Sunday 04 August

We had planned a walk along the Basingstoke Canal and the canalised part of the River Wey, opened in 1653. Unfortunately, we had a few withdrawals due to injury prior to the day and a serious incident on South Western Railway that morning meant that only one of our party was at Brookwood for the start (our newest member, Liz!). The resulting disruption meant that Hilary and Alyson were unable to join us, but Marion, Clare, Charles and David (by bike!) were able to get to Woking where we finally met Liz at Kiwi & Scot – a handily placed café barge.

It was a glorious day so a very pleasant walk along the green corridor of the canal, through the built up areas of Sheerwater and West Byfleet to the junction with the River Wey Navigation, a distance of some 4 miles. The junction is beneath the M25 but roadside fences mean that motorists are unaware of the peaceful waterways below.

Photo: At lock on Wey Navigation

We headed north along the Wey Navigation (incidentally, part of the 3,010 mile E2 European long distance path which runs from Galway in Ireland to France's Mediterranean coast – perhaps John's next challenge after the Wales Coast Path?!). We passed impressive mill buildings at Coxes Lock, now converted to apartments and reached Weybridge, where the Wey Navigation and River Wey meet then along to Thames Lock and the River Thames, a distance of 3 miles.



The day ended a short distance away at David's house where we were treated to tea and cake, an ideal end to our walk. Many thanks to David for the afternoon tea – and subsequent lift to the station.

Charles Harrison

Out Walking Reports & / or Photos . . . *None this time*

Other Events / Items . . . *None this time*

Extra Elements: Books, DVDs, Films, other Walks / Climbs – views & comments . . .
If you've read any walking / mountaineering / travel books which you've enjoyed, please share.

LMC Newsletter link to send to interest future possible members:

<https://www.hillsandvalleys.co.uk/LMC/LMCdownloads.htm>

BMC: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/> Newsletter at: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/newsletters>

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