

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

September 2024

Contact Details

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 Hilary Pettit

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

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2024			
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
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 17 November (Amended date)	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

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 17 November - Teddington to Chiswick – Charles Harrison

NB This is an amended date

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

Ben Nevis - 30 August to 1 September 2024

Five of us (Stephen, Angela, Marion, Rob and Lizzie) enjoyed the delights of a weekend in Fort William in glorious weather at the tail end of Summer.

Stephen, Angela and I made it to the summit of Ben Nevis (1,345m) and Rob and Lizzie got up to 1,200m. Stephen, Angela and Rob had all climbed Ben Nevis twice before and only Lizzie and I had not done so. Lizzie has a few years on me to make the ascent another year and hopefully has not been put off. Climbing Ben Nevis is a surreal experience – fellow walkers included elite fell runners participating in the RAT Race; a huge number of charity walkers (some only wearing boots and 'budgie smugglers'); and families often with quite young children. It made the track very busy and at times slow but it definitely added to the interest and everyone was very friendly. It was a long day – 10 hours but well worth it.

Photos:

Windy on top – Old Observatory in background

View from the top

With the lovely weather continuing on the Sunday, and everyone's legs being a bit tired, we opted for a trip to Glenfinnan. Starting at the station, we visited the small but fascinating museum about the building of the railway line and the now very famous Glenfinnan Viaduct. We witnessed the Jacobite Express arrive and then did a circular walk to the viaduct and down into the valley beneath it to the NTS Visitor Centre.



In the afternoon, we visited Neptune's Staircase a series of 8 locks at the start of the Caledonian Canal where we were able to enjoy tea on the terrace of the hotel with a view of

Ben Nevis shrouded with mist on the top which reiterated just how fortunate we had been with the weather the day before.

A great weekend and a relief for me to finally 'tick off' Ben Nevis!

Marion Downie

As a postscript, Stephen and Angela followed Ben Nevis with a week on Skye to tackle the Trotternish Ridge. Another lucky weather window and highly recommended if you enjoy wild camping.

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

Other Events / Items

Skiddaw Forest Appeal

The Cumbria Wildlife Trust is seeking to purchase Skiddaw Forest (including Skiddaw summit) and return the currently nature depleted area to a mosaic of habitats. They have already raised a significant amount, but they urgently need quite a bit more (£1.25 million). Here is the link to the appeal: <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/skiddaw-forest>. This seems like a wonderful (albeit ambitious) project and we have just made a gift-aided donation. Hopefully many of you might also like to donate members of LMC have visited Skiddaw many times over the years!

By the way, if you find you get a repeated 'incomplete postcode' message when entering your address on the Trust donation page, then putting a space after the last character of your postcode seems to do the trick (probably because many postcodes have 7 digits, whereas ours only has 6). We have pointed out this glitch to them, as it may well prevent some donations being made – hopefully their IT department will correct it very soon!"

Kirsty & Andy

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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