

# LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

## November 2024

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### Contact Details

**Chairman:** David Wells  
**Meets Co-ordinator:** Angela Leaman  
**Secretary** Charles Harrison  
**Treasurer:** Paul Ackroyd  
**Newsletter Editors:** Angela Leaman  
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**Next Newsletter:** Please send copy for the next issue to both editors  
 by midday on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

| LMC Meets & Events Programme 2024 |   |                         |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Date                              | Event   | Meet Leader             | Comments                                  |
| Sun 17 November<br>(Amended date) | Teddington to Chiswick                        | Charles Harrison        | Day walk                                  |
| Sat 14 December                   | Londinium – history walk and Christmas social | Marion Downie           | Day walk + social                         |
| <b>2025</b>                       |   |                         |   |
| 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. |
| Fri 13 to Mon 16 June             | Exmoor  | Heather & Andrew McGinn | Weekend                                   |
| Fri 12 – Fri 19 September         | Lake District                                 | Sarah Dixon             | Full week or shorter stay                 |
| Sat 25 October                    | LMC - 50th Anniversary Reunion, Salisbury     | Angela Leaman           | Club social                               |

### Sun 17 November - Teddington to Chiswick – Charles Harrison

*NB This is a revised date - to fit in better with low tide at Richmond Lock*

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

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### Sat 14 December - Londinium – A Saturday Walk around Roman London followed by dinner – Marion Downie

Londinium – A Walk around Roman London on Saturday 14 December followed by dinner

This will be a stroll around the City, looking at some of the main Roman sites, starting at 11am and followed by an early evening meal at 5pm.

I have emailed those who have confirmed that they wish to come with the details as I am away for most of November. If anyone else wants to come for the walk or the meal, please let me know.

**Contact:** Marion Downie,

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

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 and **SPARE ROOMS WILL BE HELD UNTIL 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER.**

**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 early to ensure availability if staying two nights. All rooms will be Executive/Superior grade.

**T&C:** Bookings can be cancelled free of charge until 7<sup>th</sup> December. After 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.hatton-court.co.uk); Hatton Court, Upton Hill, Upton St Leonards, GL4 8DE

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

Planning is progressing well for next year's nine-day Crickhowell Walking Festival in and around the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (Sat 8 March to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March. See

<https://www.crickhowellfestival.com/2024-gallery> for great images from March 2024 – fog, rain, plenty of mud, sunshine, fantastic views and many happy walkers. Only four weeks until online booking opens on 1st December... get March in your diaries now!

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

We will be running another meet at the Simonsbath House hotel, Simonsbath, Exmoor next year from Friday, 13th June to Monday, 16th June.

Double/Twin - £98.50 per person per night DB&B, plus packed lunch

Single - £108.50 per person per night, DB&B plus packed lunch

Dogs - £7.50 per night

There will be two days of long walks plus a shorter walk on Monday before everyone heads home. We will also use the hotel minibus for some walks.

Please let me know if you would like to join us by the **20th December** or if you would like any more information so that I can inform the hotel of names and numbers. A deposit of £50 per person will be required by the end of February.

We have already had about 10 members who have expressed an interest but could you all please confirm too. At present we have the whole hotel. Final 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 McGinn

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### **Fri 12 – Fri 19 September 2025 - Lake District – Sarah Dixon**

Due to the popularity of the location in the [Duddon Valley](#) giving a wide choice of beautiful walks on high and low fells for all capabilities and states of health I am planning to organise a week from Sept 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2025 in the same two cottages we hired this year (see the meet report). The price has been reduced for 2025 due to direct booking and is now £1800 for the two cottages (See Cottage 1 and

Cottage 2 below for details). The two cottages accommodate between 6 to 8 people giving a price per person per week of £225-£300.

We have 6 people signed up so far. There is still a double room available in the cottages and I can find other accommodation if there is demand. If people wanted to stay for a couple of days instead of a week I'd be happy to organise that.

There is other accommodation very close by as detailed below and I can enquire about availability there should there be more people interested. The Riverside Stone cottage is just over the bridge from Cottages 1 and 2, and the Newfield Inn and Seathwaite Lodge next door to it are a short walk away.

[Cottage 1](#)

[Cottage 2](#)

[Newfield Inn](#)

[Riverside Stone Cottage](#)

[Seathwaite Lodge](#)

**Contact:** Sarah Dixon

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### **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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup>! Yes, it all began in 1975.

Kirsty and I have 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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;

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| <b>Meet Reports</b> |
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### **Hay on Wye Meet Report - 18th-20th October 2024**

Thirteen of us gathered in Hay on Friday night for supper at the Red Indigo Indian restaurant (John B, Chris & John D, Alan, Brian, Heather & Andrew, Rita & Gerry, David W, first-timer Sarah A and ourselves). Nine of us stayed at 'The Firs' B&B (used previously by LMC a good few years ago), where we were made very welcome by the owner Sally, with others staying in the nearby Swan Hotel and Maple House.

There had been 40mm (over 1.5 inches) of rain on Wednesday, and another 8mm over Friday night, but thankfully Saturday morning dawned fine, and the Met Office promised a minor high-pressure ridge for the day. After a prompt breakfast, 11 of us (minus Heather & Andrew who went sightseeing elsewhere for the day) drove in three cars up the narrow and steep lanes to the Gospel Pass at 550m (1800 ft) to



start our circular walk. This began with a steep slope in the morning mist up towards Hay Bluff, rewarded with a gentle walk along to the summit trig point at 677m (2220ft).

*Photo of us all at Hay Bluff trig point in the morning mists.*

In the Black Mountains, once you're up, you stay up! Views began to appear, and we followed Offa's Dyke along the Hatterall Ridge for over three miles with right foot in Wales and left foot in England, all still above 2000 ft. By this time, the valley floor to our right was over 1000 ft below, and that's where we were now headed, across slopes that showed just how wet the week had been and required due care to negotiate the narrow and muddy path as the gradient steepened towards the valley floor. The unsurfaced lane to our next staging post, Capel-y-Ffin (Capel of the Boundary), was seriously muddy as Andy rejoiced (not!) in proving. Thankfully the Honddu river provided a good spot for rinsing boots, trousers, shirt and rucksack – oh, and binoculars.



*Hatterall Ridge, above Vision Farm.*

The tiny St. Mary's parish chapel, dating from 1762 and only 26 x 13 ft inside is a gem, with the first verse of the Mountaineer's Psalm (Psalm 121) aptly engraved in its east window, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help".



*St Mary's church at Capel-y-Ffin.*

A short walk up the Gospel Pass road brought us up to a lovely sunny spot by an old cottage for a well-deserved lunch in the sunshine, looking down the perfectly glaciated valley towards Llanthony Priory.



*Lunch stop, with views back down to Capel-y-Ffin and beyond, and looking back down the Nant Bwch valley on the way up to Twmpa.*

What comes down must go back up, so much restored, we set out up the charming Nant Bwch (Buck Stream) valley to regain the northern ridge of the Black Mountains. The upper stretch is very fine with numerous waterfalls and great views back down the Honddu valley, and after 3 miles and over 1000ft of ascent we duly gained the pass with its stunning views north over almost half of Wales.

Another 250 ft up led us to the summit of Twmpa (The Mound), our last top for the day. How it got its alternative name of Lord Hereford's Knob is not recorded. After a well-earned break in the autumn sunshine, we strolled down a recently much-improved path to the cars at the Pass, having recorded 11.5 miles and 2000 ft of ascent, by which time we were really looking forward to supper at The Olde Black Bull (which turned out to be excellent)!

With Sunday's weather forecast pretty atrocious, some opted for a leisurely morning of walks by the river and visits to Hay Castle. However, David, Brian, Gerry and Rita decided to brave the weather and head off on a short six mile walk to Mouse Castle Wood. An enjoyable and pretty walk through the fields around Hay, only slightly marred by a very heavy shower just before reaching the wood, where they tried (inconclusively) to spot the ruins of Mouse Castle among the various earthworks before heading back to Hay for lunch and home.

**Andy & Kirsty**

*(Photos from Kirsty, Sarah and Rita)*

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**Exploring the Elizabeth Line: Hanwell Station to Richmond – 17 October 2024**





On a gorgeous sunny and warm day, Stephen and I met at Hanwell Station for a leisurely six-mile stroll to Richmond Station.

On leaving the station, the route quickly took us down to the Wharncliffe Viaduct (which featured in a previous walk). This was designed by Brunel in 1836 and now carries the Elizabeth Line as well as the Great Western Railway over the Brent Valley. We joined the path alongside the Brent River which then joins the Grand Union Canal at the Hanwell flight of locks. The walk along the canal allowed us to admire a variety of old industrial units, new build flats and canal boats in a variety of conditions. After reaching Brentford Lock we had a short section of road before we entered Syon Park, the London home of the Duke of Northumberland, and also home to a very nice garden centre and café. We had

lunch sitting outside at the café and then made our way through the park to the Thames at Isleworth.



A small detour to avoid a flooded section of Thames Path due to high tide was required and then we crossed the river by Richmond Lock. We just managed to get under the rail bridge after Twickenham Bridge before the tide came up and flooded the path. We then 'enjoyed' watching the river come up Old Palace Lane at great speed, although we did feel sorry for the owner of a car that didn't get back in time to move it. As it was such a lovely afternoon, we had a drink outside the Prince's Head prior to making our way along Richmond Green to the station.

Marion Downie

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

## Other Events / Items

Some members may fondly remember meets at the Elenydd Wilderness Hostels in mid-Wales. Their latest Newsletter gives an interesting insight into the trials and tribulations of running a volunteer hostel and the history of former occupants. Both of our visits have been to Tyn y Cornel, so perhaps we should give Dolgoch a try sometime? There is a rather lovely video about Dolgoch and the Cambrian Mountains on the hostel website (skip through the cycling if it goes on a bit!).

**Elenydd Hostels Newsletter:** [https://mcusercontent.com/7b3ee366f59f54fce4465f1bf/files/76f22ece-f041-92ee-a92c-d6d4adaaec4e/newsletter\\_53\\_Oct\\_2024.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/7b3ee366f59f54fce4465f1bf/files/76f22ece-f041-92ee-a92c-d6d4adaaec4e/newsletter_53_Oct_2024.pdf)

**Dolgoch video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNpoYeXTutA>

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.*

In 2016 Dan Richards wrote a book about his great-great-aunt Dorothy Pilley, and his own mountain experiences following in her footsteps. A staunch feminist, Dorothy was a pioneering mountaineer in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and in 1921 founded the Pinnacle Club, the first women's climbing club in the world. Dan's book gained considerable attention and Dorothy's autobiography Climbing Days, first published in 1935, has now been re-issued.

Both are a great read. I would perhaps try Dan's book first to give context to Dorothy's thrilling adventures in the British mountains, the Alps and beyond. Her own book is a fascinating insight into another world of the 1920s and 30s – shades of Downton Abbey meets hard rock! Highly recommended.

Angela Leaman

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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