

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

January 2025

Contact Details

Chairman: David Wells
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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 10th of the month.

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2025			
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
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.
Sun 9 March	North Downs Way	Rob Kell	Day Walk
Fri 9 - Sun 11 May	Gower, Wales	David Wells	Weekend
Fri 13 to Mon 16 June	Exmoor	Heather & Andrew McGinn	Weekend
Sun 6 – Sun 13 July	Welsh Coastal Path	John Blight	Full week – details to follow
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

Anyone interested in joining any of the activities above should contact LMC by email at:
LMCmountaineeringclub@gmail.com

From the Treasurer: 2025 Subscriptions

2025 Subscriptions – now overdue

The BMC have increased their subscription per adult member in 2025 to £ 29.33 (from £ 23.90 in 2024). The Committee have therefore had no alternative but to increase the LMC subscription for 2025 to £30. One of the reasons for the large BMC subscription increase appears to be financial problems which the BMC have encountered, the exact reasons for which are unclear.

The Committee are not happy about this and have reservations as to whether BMC membership continues to represent good value. We have, therefore, scheduled a separate discussion of this at the AGM.

Meanwhile, if you wish to remain a member for 2025 and vote at the AGM, then you will need to forward £30 per person as your subscription by Bank Transfer to

The LMC Mountaineering Club

Sort Code 30-18 -25 (TSB Bank)

Account No 00144738

Giving your surname as reference

Anyone who experiences any problems with this should consult the treasurer, Paul Ackroyd.

Meet Details – forthcoming events

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:-

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.

Any unallocated rooms were released at the end of November, so if you still wish to book please contact the hotel for availability.

T&C: This close to the event, our contract allows 2 rooms to be cancelled 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

CWF booking went live at 06.00 on 1st December. First booking received at 06.02! We have 82 walks in 9 days in and around the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, from 2 to 17 miles and up to 3,600 ft ascent at the top end. Almost 40% sold so far and three walks booked out already but still loads of variety available.

See www.crickhowellfestival.com/2024-gallery for great images from March 2024 – fog, rain, plenty of mud, sunshine, fantastic views and many happy walkers. Come and banish those winter blues!

Sun 9 March 2025 – North Downs Way – Rob Kell

I will lead a 9.5 mile (or 15.2 km) walk from Dorking to Merstham along the North Downs Way. This is a linear walk but there are railway stations at both ends – Dorking Deepdene and Merstham respectively. We will start at 10am from Dorking Deepdene station. Currently there are no planned engineering works but if anything changes, and subject to attendance, we may amend the start time. I will be taking a car so can assist with travel and additional cars would be useful. I did lead this walk a few years ago when I walked the entire North Downs Way and found it to be one of the prettiest parts of the entire route.

Please bring a packed lunch.

Contact: Rob Kell

Fri 9 - Sun 11 May 2025 - Gower, Wales – David Wells

It's a few years since the club visited the Gower (and actually not sure I've ever been!) and will be a few years before John reaches there on the coastpath, so I'm organising a weekend meet in May, avoiding the public holidays. The Gower is great for coastal walks stretching from Rhossili in the west through Oxwich to The Mumbles in the East but also has some interesting if lowish hills.

I'm proposing to base the weekend in Reynoldston, which is slightly inland and away from the tourists. You are welcome to add either Thursday or Sunday nights as well - I will organise a full

day walk on Saturday, probably walking from Reynoldston, and a longish half day on Sunday depending on interest. We will arrange dinners later - the King Arthur is well rated.

I've blocked 3 rooms until end December at each of Rushbrook Cottage (which takes pets) and Hills Court B&Bs (no pets), both of which offer continental breakfast in the room. There are not too many other B&Bs so get in quick. If you wish to come, please contact the B&Bs directly quoting my name and/or LMC. Contact details are Claire Lloyd for Rushbrook Cottage and Jill John for Hills Court . Both are also available on Airbnb. There's also 1 room available at Luddington Grange (though I haven't blocked this). Most rooms are £80 or £90 single or double.

January 2025 Update: There are 10 people signed up to this weekend and all rooms at Rushbrook Cottage and Hills Court are now taken. The Luddington Court room may still be available, and anyone else wishing to join the meet will have to find their own accommodation.

Please let me know if you book.

Contact: David Wells

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 minibuss 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 minibuss. Bookings will be on a first come first served basis.

We look forward to you joining us.

Contact: Heather McGinn

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 12th-19th 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

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 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 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;

<h2>Meet Reports</h2>

Londinium: A Walk around Roman London - 14 December 2024

After recent rain and blustery weather, we were very fortunate to have a dry day with sight of blue sky and even the sun.

Eleven of us met at 11 am to begin a stroll around the City, looking at some of the main Roman sites and fragments of Roman/Medieval Wall.

Our first stop was the Mithraeum (Temple of Mithras) which was uncovered in 1954; re-located to another site and then re-located back to its original position in c.2017 under the Bloomberg Building (architect: Foster and Partners).

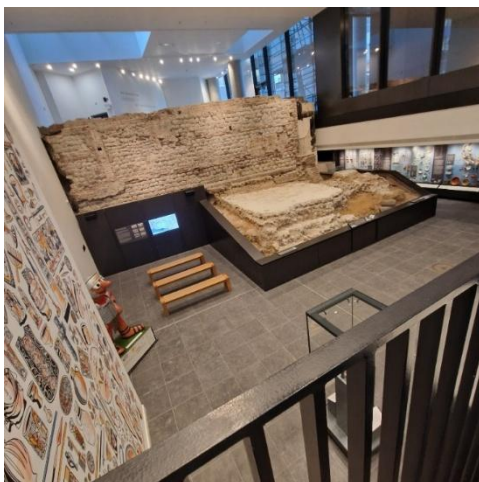


The Temple of Mithras



After admiring the 'London Stone' which may or may not be Roman in origin located opposite Canon Street Station which is built over a large Roman complex including bath house, we walked on to Tower Hill Station where we saw our first significant section of Wall. This is busy with tourists, so we quickly moved on to the more secluded and more impressive section located behind the Leonardo Hotel.

The Wall at Tower Hill



It was then time for lunch in Senzo café which is conveniently located within 'The Wall at Vine Street'. This is an impressive section of wall with good show cases exhibiting some of the finds from the site, Roman, medieval and later.

The Wall at Vine Street

We walked on to Aldgate (site of one of the 6 gates in the Roman wall) and then to St Mary Axe (aka 'the Gherkin', architect: Foster) where we noted the plaque to a Roman teenage girl whose remains were discovered on the site.

We did a quick diversion into Leadenhall market, site of the Roman Forum, and thence on to the Guildhall Art Gallery which houses remains of the Roman Amphitheatre in its basement. We spent an hour in the Gallery as, in addition to the Roman remains, there is a good art collection. Lizzie took the opportunity to create some art of her own in the form of Christmas decorations.

Dusk was falling by this time but we marched on to the view further sections of wall at St. Alphage Gardens and the Barbican where, not for the first time, I became disorientated. However, a route down from the Highwalk was found and we quickly made our way to Haz where we enjoyed an early meal before heading home.

Marion Downie

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

Other Events / Items . . .

Kendal Mountain Festival on Tour

For a number of years, the club arranged a meet in Kendal for the Mountain Festival to sample some of the many films and talks on climbing and adventure on offer from around the world. From February to May 2025, the highlights of the 2024 Festival are coming to a venue near you!

[UK Tour | Kendal Mountain Events](#)

It's a few years since I've been, but it's usually an interesting selection and a fun evening watching people doing challenging and often crazy things from the comfort of a cinema.

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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