

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

February 2025

Contact Details

Chairman: David Wells
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Secretary Charles Harrison
Treasurer: Paul Ackroyd
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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
Sun 23 February	Capital Ring: Woolwich to Grove Park	Marion Downie	Day Walk
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
April – date TBC	Smallford Trail: Hatfield to St Albans	David Abbott	Day Walk – details to follow
Thu 24 – Sun 27 April	Hebden Bridge	Marion Downie	Weekend
Fri 9 - Sun 11 May	Gower, Wales	David Wells	Weekend
Fri 13 to Mon 16 June	Exmoor	Heather & Andrew McGinn	Weekend
July – date TBC	Darent Valley Path, Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk – details to follow
Sun 6 – Sun 13 July	Welsh Coastal Path: Anglesey	John Blight	Full week
August – date TBC	Old Winchester Hill, Hampshire	Heather & Andrew McGinn	Day Walk – details to follow
Sun 7 September	Hertfordshire	Hilary Pettit	Day Walk – 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
November	TBC	David Wells	Weekend

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2026			
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
January	AGM and Annual Dinner – location TBC	Angela Leaman	Weekend
March	TBC	David Wells	Weekend

From the Secretary: LMC members

At the recent AGM it was agreed that that ‘a list of members be included in the newsletter’. In accordance with these instructions, this is a list of our current (30) members:

David Abbott, Paul Ackroyd, John Blight, Stephen Cogbill, John Deacon, Sarah Dixon, Marion Downie, Alan Dunworth, Barbara Ebdon, Charles Harrison, Brian Holmes, Andrew Johns, Kirsty Johns, Robert Kell, Christopher Lawrence, Alyson Lawton, Angela Leaman, Penny Leech, Gerry Lynskey, Andrew McGinn, Heather McGinn, Hilary Pettit, Rita Rawson, Teresa Siemaszko, Liz Walters, Sean Walters, David Wells, Nick West, Sheena West, Michael Whittaker

Meet Details – forthcoming events

Sun 23 February – The Capital Ring : Woolwich to Greenwich – Marion Downie

Starting in May 2014, David Abbott, John Dean and I walked the Capital Ring with Paul, Alyson and Rebecca amongst other members joining us for many sections. We then went on to walk the London Loop. Given the passage of time and the number of people who have expressed an interest in doing some, or all, of the Ring, I am proposing that I do it all over again!

The Capital Ring is a 78-mile circular walk round London - never more than 10 miles from Central London and wherever possible making use of the parks and woodlands that surround the City and all accessible by public transport.

The first stage is from Woolwich to Grove Park (c.10 miles) with an opt out at Falconwood after 6 miles. I suggest meeting at 10am at the South End of the Woolwich Foot Tunnel. The Elizabeth Line is running on this day as are trains from Grove Park.

If you are interested, please let me know.

Contact: Marion Downie

Sat 8 to Sun 16 March - 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 <https://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 – North Downs Way – Rob Kell

February update for transport arrangements

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. I will be leaving a car at Merstham station and catching the 9:01 replacement bus to Redhill, where I'll catch the 09:23 train to Dorking Deepdene that arrives at 09:46. I am happy to provide a lift from Merstham back to Dorking or Guildford if helpful – I have room for 4.

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

Thu 24 - Sun 27 April – Hebden Bridge – Marion Downie

I walked one week of the Pennine Way last year but missed a day near Hebden Bridge with the plan that I would try and fit it in this year...! The section I need to do is from Lumbutts to Ponden which is about 14 miles. There are many other interesting and shorter walks in the area, including around Hardcastle Crag and Hebden is a lovely town.

Accommodation is slightly tricky in that the hotels in Hebden are relatively expensive and many of the self-catering cottages are only one or two bedrooms. I have found one property, Elmet Farmhouse, outside Hebden which sleeps 6 people (one double and two twins). It costs £900 for three nights (Thursday, Friday, Saturday).

<https://www.elmetfarmhouse.co.uk/>

To assist with my planning, please let me know asap if you might be interested. You don't need to commit just yet, but I need to get an idea of any interest.

Contact: Marion Downie

Fri 9 - Sun 11 May - 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. For anyone wanting full English breakfast, the King Arthur hotel is also available. 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 (07974 757851) and Jill John for Hills Court (01792 390882). Both are also available on Airbnb. There's also 1 room available at Luddington Grange (Carol on 07527 307986 though I haven't blocked this). Most rooms are £80 or £90 single or double.

January 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 – 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.

February update : There are 11 of us signed up for the meet and everyone has been allocated a room in the main building and all are doubles. At present we have the hotel to ourselves. *There is one double room left* and room for two more in the minibus which will determine final numbers for the weekend. The room is not being held for LMC so if you would like to join us please let me know as soon as possible.

A deposit of £50 per person will be required by the end of February.

We look forward to you joining us.

Contact: Heather McGinn

Sun 6 – Sun 13 July - Wales Coast Path, Anglesey – John Blight

This year's coast path walking week will take us to Anglesey, somewhere I've never been. We will walk approx. 72 miles from Amlwch on the North coast to Aberffraw in the South West (or

vice-versa if the mood takes us.) The ascent is a mere 6500 feet. This is only about half of a typical South West coast path week, so well within everyone's capabilities. I will book an Air B&B either in, or very near, Holyhead. As usual, we will use a combination of cars and public transport.

I already have five people interested (including me) so please can you let me know **by the end of February** if you would like to join us.

Contact : John Blight

Fri 12 – Fri 19 September - 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 – 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

Meet Reports

LMC Annual Dinner and AGM – 17/18 January 2024

We returned to the Cotswolds for the 2025 AGM. The venue was Hatton Court Hotel near Painswick, an Edwardian country house which we all enjoyed and was rather more upmarket than expected (especially if, like Marion, you scored the honeymoon suite!). Unfortunately 3 people had to cancel but still an excellent turnout of 18 members. For early arrivals there was a convivial dinner in the local Greene King pub on Friday night.

The full team convened on Saturday morning for a walk around Haresfield Beacon. The AGM weekend tends to be muddy but the path through Standish Wood was an easy stroll, enlivened by an animated encounter with an enraged local dog walker. Those in front had allegedly 'forced her off the path' but, interim apologies having been made by the back markers, the reality was a little different! The walk continued with an ascent of Haresfield Beacon where we imagined the 'far reaching views' from the Cotswold scarp. The Chairman then decreed the walk to be too short, a reasonable assessment but not taking into account that the revised route would be blocked by a barbed wire fence. After concluding that we wouldn't all manage to climb over it, an investigation of field boundaries and bushes found a way through. The walk ended at the Haresfield topograph – a rather beautiful bronze landscape created in the 1930s. Back at the hotel for the AGM, David chaired an amiable and open discussion on club administrative matters, ably assisted by Charles to record the voting. It was reported that the Club had a good year with the bonus of several potential new members. Lizzie Kell (age 11) was awarded 'Walker of the Year' for an impressive first big mountain walk, reaching a challenging 1200m on Ben Nevis in August. The AGM was followed by a good dinner, and the night concluded with drinks by the log fire in the bar.

After a second dive into the vast hotel breakfast menu, we spent the morning exploring Buckholt Wood and Coopers Hill. The latter is the site of the famous cheese rolling competition. We were entertained at the top of slope by a young man who had actually taken part in the event. The hill really is fearsomely steep and Brian impressed by tackling the descent, albeit a tad more slowly than the record time of around 7 seconds.

A very good weekend and thank you to everyone who volunteered to organise an event for the 2025 Meets Programme. Without you the club is unable to come together.

Angela Leaman

*Photos: The Haresfield Topograph
Walker of the Year – Lizzie Kell
Rolling down Coopers Hill*

Postscript to AGM Weekend

As you will have seen in the minutes of the AGM, John had some climbing equipment (some dating back to Lensbury Mountaineering Club days) which he wanted to re-home. Rita offered to pass them onto a friend who volunteers with mountain rescue and here are the ice axes with their grateful new owners at Wasdale Mountain Rescue. Thanks to Rita for finding them such a good new home.



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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