

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

March 2025

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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 8 to Sun 16 March	Crickhowell Walking Festival	Andy Johns	Not LMC. Book direct via the CWF website.
Sun 16 March	Capital Ring: Grove Park to Streatham	Marion Downie	Day Walk
Sun 6 April	Ayot Greenway, Hertfordshire	David Abbott	Day Walk
Thu 24 – Sun 27 April	Hebden Bridge	Marion Downie	Weekend
Fri 9 - Sun 11 May	Gower, Wales	David Wells	Weekend
Sun 11 May	Darent Valley Path, Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
Fri 13 to Mon 16 June	Exmoor	Heather & Andrew McGinn	Weekend
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
Sat 17 – Sun 18 January	AGM and Annual Dinner – near the North Wessex Downs, south Oxfordshire	Angela Leaman	Weekend – details to follow in April newsletter
March	TBC	David Wells	Weekend
Mid July	Opera and Mountains in Austria	Paul Ackroyd	Full Week

LMC WhatsApp Group

As discussed at the last AGM, to enhance communication within LMC, we propose to set up a LMC WhatsApp group for ad hoc communication, sharing news, photos etc. To avoid overload, it is not intended for specific details of weekends etc - which meet leaders can communicate as they see fit. Participation is voluntary but so we'll see how the usage develops (or not). Obviously, phone numbers of participants will be available to all members of the group. I'm happy to act as Admin, so if you'd like to be part of the group, please send me a text or WhatsApp.

David Wells

Meet Details – forthcoming events

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

March Update

As you read this, CWF 2025 will be in full swing. About 30 of the 82 walks will have been completed or will actually be out on the hill. We'll have had illuminating talks about Search and Rescue Dogs South Wales (with expert canine participation) and the Llanthony Valley as a mecca for artists, plus workshops on navigation and map skills.

This year's walks vary from 2 to 17 miles with 200-3,600 ft ascent, and our website will soon feature the best entries to the Photo Competition with its prizes of Lowa boots (unfortunately, festival organisers not eligible)! I'm pleased to say underfoot conditions are much better than last year, and the weather forecast looks reasonable for the week ahead – fingers firmly crossed. **There's still time to book walks and events and hot foot it to Crickhowell to sample the final days of the 2025 festival:** <https://www.crickhowellfestival.com/>. Then after a couple of months off, the CWF team will be into planning mode to build another combination of new ventures and old favourites for our 18th festival in 2026. Happy Days!

Sun 16 March – The Capital Ring : Grove Park to Streatham – Marion Downie

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.

Stage 2 is from Grove Park to Streatham (c.11 miles) with an opt out at Crystal Palace after 8 miles but there are several other opt outs available. Dinosaurs are promised! I suggest meeting at Grove Park at 10am. There is a train from Charing Cross (9.36am) via London Bridge (9.45) which gets in at 9.58.

If you are interested, please let me know.

Contact: Marion Downie

Sun 6 April – The Ayot Greenway – David Abbott



Continuing the railway theme, meet at 10.35* at Wheathampstead (with its preserved railway platform) car park behind the Bull, not the pub carpark but public carpark behind with height gauge and loos. The intention is to walk the Ayot Greenway east (optional visit to St Peter's church) to Ayot Green (George Bernard Shaw used this station) to lunch at the Waggoners [Menus – The Waggoners](#) returning via Brocket Hall and the river Lee ... about 8 miles in all.

*bus arrives 10.28

If you are interested, please let me know.

Contact: David Abbott

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

March Update

David Abbott, John Blight, Hilary and I are booked for this trip, plus Sarah Dixon who lives locally. Elmet Farmhouse, outside Hebden, sleeps 6 people (one double and two twins).

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

If anyone else is interested, please let me know.

The main walk is the Pennine Way section 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.

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. 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 (Carol, 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

Sun 11 May – The Darent Valley, Kent – Paul Ackroyd

I am intending to organise a walk along part of the Darent Valley in Kent. It is a linear walk. We will start at the pretty village of Otford, where there are several pubs and tea rooms, and then take the Darent Valley path northward through Shoreham, where there are another three pubs and onto the village of Eynsford (more pubs!).

En route there are a number of interesting sites including the Castle Lavender farm, Lullingstone Country Park, Lullingstone Castle with its "World Garden of Plants" which has been featured in BBC TV series and the Lullingstone Roman Villa, which is managed by English Heritage and has some exceptional mosaics.

It should be possible to visit some of these. About 6 miles largely flat.

I propose that we should meet at Otford about 11 AM. For those travelling by public transport it is possible to catch a train from London Bridge or Victoria. For those driving I suggest parking in the Otford station car park for a modest fee. At the end of the walk, it will be possible for those travelling by public transport to get a train back to London from Eynsford or back to Otford to pick up the cars.

As you will have noted there are plenty of hostelrys along the way but on Sunday in May they will be crowded so I suggest a sandwich for flexibility.

If you're interested in coming, please let me know by email and I will set up a WhatsApp group. At the moment trains seem okay, although the Thameslink is not running, but this will need to be kept under review.

Contact: Paul Ackroyd

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 minibuss 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 minibuss 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. As usual, we will use a combination of cars and public transport.

March Update

I have booked an Air B&B in the coastal resort of Trearddur, a few miles south of Holyhead. There is one space in a twin room for anyone prepared to share with me. Otherwise, the house is full. Please let me know. There are other properties available nearby if anyone wants to join us. Please make your own bookings.

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;

Early Notification

Mid July 2026 – Opera and Mountains in Austria – Paul Ackroyd

I am hoping to arrange another trip to Austria as we have done twice in the past. The core of the visit is to stay in Bregenz on Lake Constance for the festival where they have an elaborate opera stage actually in the lake. Their productions are normally spectacular and in 2026 they will be doing Verdi's La Traviata. It will be probably sung in Italian with German subtitles. So unless you are fluent in one of these languages, you will not have a clue what is going on but a bit of pre reading of the synopsis should be sufficient and the visual experience is

wonderful. After a couple of nights in Bregenz, we will travel (by bus or car) up to the small ski resort village of Damuls where we know a delightful little hotel run by an Austrian lady, Claudia, who has always made us very welcome in the past, and where the food and wine are excellent. The scenery is spectacular (if it's not raining) and there are some good walks accessible by chairlifts which in the past have been free.

The key constraint is accommodation in Bregenz which gets very busy at the time of the festival. Hotel bookings do not yet seem to be open, but I think they will be within the next couple of months. If you are interested in coming, please let me know by email and I will keep an eye for when hotels are taking reservations. It will be necessary to get in very early. Once we have some idea of who has booked I will contact the hotel in Damuls and arrange tickets for the opera. In the past, people have done various other things around these core activities, including cycling all the way around Lake Constance. It will be up to you to make necessary transport arrangements (which are very easy) and plan any additions to your holiday.

Contact: Paul Ackroyd

Meet Reports

Walking the Capital Ring Stage 1 – 23 February 2025

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.

Hilary and I met in Woolwich at 10.00am and after leaving the Thames, walked through a series of parks (Maryon Park, Maryon Wilson Park, Charlton Park and Horn Fair Park) which were all once part of the Charlton House Estate. Charlton House is a Jacobean House which belonged to the tutor to Prince Henry (eldest son of James VI (or I) i.e. elder brother to Charles I). We then walked across Woolwich Common and after crossing Shooters Hill had a short walk to Severndroog Castle where we met up with David Abbott who had already explored the tower. Severndroog was built in 1784 by the widow of Sir William James, commodore of the East India Company's marine force. The name comes from his victory at the battle of Suvarnadurg on India's west coast in 1755.

After coffee, we walked on through an interesting mixture of woodland and the former rose garden of Castlewood House (demolished 1920s) and the former ornamental garden of Jackwood House (also demolished 1920s). Although only 30 minutes after coffee, we stopped for lunch at the excellent Oxleas Café with stunning views over the North Downs.

We then walked on through Eltham Park North and, after crossing the A2 and railway by footbridge, into Eltham Park South.

Not long after 3pm we arrived at Eltham Palace which had been the principal country residence of the English monarchy from early 14th century to mid-16th century and then ruined by Cromwell. It was purchased by the Courtaulds in the 1930s and they built a house with amazing

Art Deco interiors adjoining the medieval Great Hall with its hammer beam roof which they used for entertaining.

After touring the house and having tea in the newish visitor centre (a large greenhouse), we continued our walk down King John's Walk which was a rather muddy path. Rather than finish the walk at Grove Park we shortened it slightly by diverting to Mottingham Station as after a lovely dry day, it was starting to rain and the wind was picking up. Also, David advised that there were trains every 15 minutes to London Bridge as opposed to every 30 minutes from Grove Park!

Marion Downie

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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