

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

April 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
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
March	TBC	David Wells	Weekend
Mid July	Opera and Mountains in Austria	Paul Ackroyd	Full Week

LMC WhatsApp Group - Reminder

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

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

March Update

David Abbott, John Blight, Brian, 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 it will be a few years before John reaches there on the coast path, 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 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 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 minibus for some walks.

April update : There are 12 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.

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.

April Update

I am very happy to report there has been a tremendous response to join us in Salisbury in October to celebrate LMC's 50th Anniversary. It has been great to hear from so many current and former members of the Club.

The Reunion dinner will take place on **Saturday 25th October 2025** at the [White Hart Hotel](#) in Salisbury, near the famous Cathedral Close and within walking distance of the station (trains from Waterloo). Rooms have been reserved at the hotel for Saturday night, and a discount is available on Friday if you wish to stay the weekend. Salisbury is a medieval city and an attractive place to visit. I am delighted to let you know that **booking is now open** and those who have already expressed an interest in coming to the reunion will have received details of how to book on a separate email group.

TRAVEL

The hotel has a car park (complimentary for group bookings) and is within walking distance of the station (trains from Waterloo).

ACCOMMODATION

Please contact the hotel directly to make your booking. **IMPORTANT: quote 'LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB' to obtain the group rate.** Note the hotel is a historic building and does not have ground floor bedrooms or a lift - please speak to the hotel for any specific requirements. Dogs are permitted on request.

Room prices (includes breakfast)

Classic Double/Twin: £130 (2 people)

Privilege Double: £140 (2 people)

Double room single occupancy: £120

Single room: £110

Friday rate: As above minus £15

Saturday dinner: £31.50; 3 courses with tea/coffee (excl. drinks)

T&Cs

Dinner and accommodation to be paid for on arrival.

Cancellation - accommodation

Up to 28 days before arrival: No charge

Between 28 and 21 days: 25%

Between 20 and 14 days: 75%

Between 13 and 7 days: 75%

Less than 7 days or non-arrival: 90%

Cancellation - dinner

Dinner may be cancelled free of charge up to 2 weeks ahead

If you experience any problems with your booking do let me know.

Contact: Angela Leaman;

Sat 17 January 2026 - LMC AGM and Annual Dinner

I am delighted to let you know that the 2026 AGM will be held at the Chiseldon House Hotel south of Swindon. I have a provisional booking for Friday and Saturday night and rooms will be held until the end of October.



The venue is near the Marlborough Downs where we stayed for the 2024 AGM but, never fear, your intrepid organiser has discovered new pastures to walk upon. A back road from the hotel will lead us to the North Wessex Downs in south Oxfordshire, which I don't think we have visited before. Notably, the area around Uffington with its famous prehistoric white horse. Chiseldon House is a grade II listed building which was built around 1821. Originally part of a large estate, the hotel has a spacious and elegant garden setting (although perhaps not

cocktails on the terrace in January!). The AGM and private dinner will be held in the Borelli room on Saturday night. Hospitality prices seem to have gone up rather sharply of late however I have negotiated a decent group discount.

To book your place please call the hotel directly and quote 'LMC' to obtain the group rate.

Guests are required to pay in full for accommodation at the time of booking, but dinner is paid for on arrival. Friday supper can be taken at the hotel, or there is a reasonable looking pub 5 minutes' drive away. The club has a historical link with The Plough on the Hill, as a pit stop for fish and chips en route down the M4 from Shell Centre to Wales on a Friday night!

Hotel details are as follows:

Friday/Saturday B&B: Double £90 per night (2 people); Single occupancy £80.

AGM Dinner: £40 (3 courses + coffee/tea, excluding drinks).

T&Cs: Rooms may be cancelled free of charge until 2pm the day before arrival. Numbers for the AGM dinner will need to be finalised 2 weeks beforehand.

Dogs: permitted at the hotel's discretion in the grounds and bedrooms. Please check with the hotel for details and charges.

Hope to see you there.

Contact: Angela Leaman

Chiseldon House: www.chiseldonhouse.com Tel: 01793 741010

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

Dorking to Merthsam – 9 March 2025

After fun and games with an M25 closure and rail replacement bus services Marion, Charlie, Liz, Sean, and I were all punctual for our 10am start for what is typically the third stage of the North Downs Way.

After a short walk along the A24, albeit with a pleasant view of the vineyard we arrived at the



Stepping Stones Car Park at the foot of Boxhill. After a brief coffee cabin stop, we undertook the most difficult climb of the day, to be rewarded with a glorious view on a crisp, cloudless Spring morning of the Surrey and Sussex countryside. I stand by my description that the remainder of the walk was “undulating,” although the climb onto Reigate Hill did clear out the lungs a bit.

We followed the trail along the ridge, enjoying views of the countryside, the remains of lime kilns that were dotted

long the trail and some water towers. Lunch was off the ridge but again with a pleasant view of the countryside.



After lunch we followed the trail for our second major climb of the day onto Reigate Hill. At the top we explored the Inglis Memorial which I later learned was built as a drinking fountain for horses, presumably rather posh horses.



This was followed by an exploration of Reigate Fort which we learned was built in 1898 to protect us from the French because the Government did not trust the Royal Navy to do the job. It was closed a mere 8 years later in 1906 following the launch of HMS Dreadnought.

After the Fort we descended into Gatton Park, designed by Lancelot “Capability” Brown for our afternoon coffee and ice cream stop.

The remainder of the walk was a gentle descent through a State Boarding School – who knew such things existed anymore – and a golf course to arrive at Merstham a little after 4pm.

An enjoyable day all round and it was especially nice to meet our new members Liz and Sean, who were excellent company.

Rob Kell

Walking the Capital Ring Stage 2 – Grove Park to Streatham - 16 March 2025

On a very cold but sunny day, Hilary, Charles and I met on the train to Grove Park and then walked to Beckenham Place Park where we met up with Paul in time for coffee.

It was good to see the progress that had been made in the park since my last visit.

We then set off for Crystal Palace. We went slightly off-piste following a route that took in the church where Paul volunteers at the food bank and down a lovely little side street with very bijou cottages. We had an excellent lunch, sitting in the sun at the café in Crystal Palace Park and then we set off to look for dinosaurs. At this point, David Abbott caught up with us and we were all able to enjoy the walk through the park together. David chose to get a train from Crystal Palace station and Paul a bus which then left three of us to complete the section to Streatham.



It is an interesting walk but is almost entirely on roads or hard surfaces so harder on the feet than the previous section.

The next section is Streatham to Richmond via Wimbledon, *so if you are interested in this or other sections, let me know.*

Marion Downie

Out Walking Reports & / or Photos

Crickhowell Walking Festival – 8 to 16 March 2025

CWF 2025 was a real treat – great weather (about 10 drops of rain all week), firm conditions underfoot, lots of sunshine and cool fresh breezes rather than last year's howling gales. What more could we ask?

Apart from the 82 walks with 1400 participants, there were four navigation workshops, four fascinating evening talks and an enjoyable pub quiz. Crickhowell, the surrounding mountains and indeed the whole Bannau Brycheiniog National Park did us proud! After a wash-up meeting in the next couple of days, we organisers will be into our fallow time until we start planning CWF 2026 in July/August.

Kirsty and I were not the only LMC folk there. Who could the mystery participant be, and will they reveal who they are? Any guesses?'

Andy Johns

... and in answer to Andy's question, mystery solved!

The Crickhowell Walking Festival not being accorded the status of an LMC meet then this cannot be a meet report!

However, a festival offering 82 walks in 8 days in what must be the loveliest walking country in the south part of the British Isles can surely be allowed some comment from a happy visitor? Circumstance only permitted a short visit this year but a day on Skirrid Fawr in perfect weather with a sociable group led by Andy, making it as enjoyable and informative as ever, made the trip more than worthwhile.

The following day allowed time for a stroll beside the Usk followed by the canal path and the disused railway track. With memories refreshed of times gone by the journey back up the M4 was delightfully uneventful. Next year hopefully time will allow a few more walks – but whatever, this rambler will be there.

Just one sad note for any visitor to Crickhowell wanting to sustain themselves with handmade baps and sandwiches from that super little shop across the road from the Bear. You can't. It's closed! A number of factors are cited by the poster in the window, but the top one is "Local supermarkets opening". There is a Co-op at the top of the town!!! It is to be hoped that this lovely little town doesn't go the way of so many.

Michael Whittaker

The Ramblers win landmark High Court appeal to save paths in historic Hayton Woods

The Ramblers recently won a long running legal case against an offshore company which was trying to permanently stop the public using a series of paths in historic Hayton Woods in Cumbria. If they had lost the case, there could have been far-reaching consequences for paths and access for Britain.

In conjunction with this news, they are fundraising for their Legal Fund which enables them to challenge issues which put public access and access to nature at risk – especially when they could set a dangerous precedent. Further information on the case can be found here

[The Ramblers win landmark High Court appeal to save paths in historic Hayton Woods - Ramblers](#)

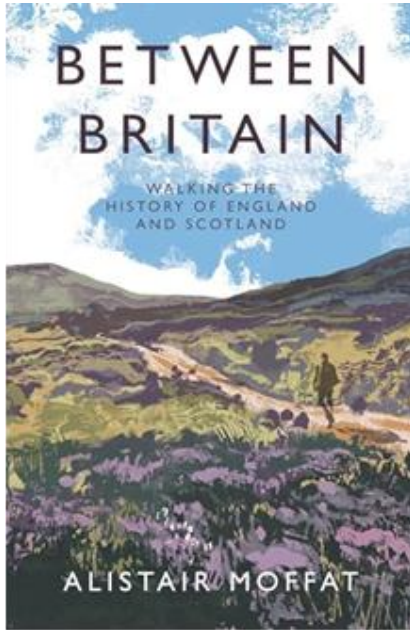
and if anyone would like to support this cause, details on how to donate can be found here

[Support our Legal Fund - Ramblers](#)

Sarah Dixon

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.

***Between Britain* by Alistair Moffat**



This is a lovely easy read about walking the route of the border between Scotland and England from Berwick upon Tweed to the Solway Firth. It is part history, part autobiography and part gentle musings about land, politics and much more.

Marion Downie

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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