

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

May 2025

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Next Newsletter: Please send copy for the next issue to both editors
 by midday on the **8th June**.

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2025			
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
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 – Around the Chess Valley	Hilary Pettit	Day Walk
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

Meet Details – forthcoming events

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

Sun 7 September – Around the Chess Valley – Hilary Pettit

A 7 mile circular walk starting in Sarratt, taking in some of the surrounding pretty villages along part of the Chiltern Way and returning along the Chess Valley walk. We will meet at 11.00 on Sarratt Green outside the Post Office Stores, where there is plenty of parking on the west side of the green.

There are pubs close to the end of the walk for welcome refreshments but please bring a picnic lunch with you. Please let me know if you would like to come along.

Contact: Hilary Pettit

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

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

The Ayot Greenway – 9 April 2025

Alyson and I arrived at the start of the walk in Wheathampstead in good time before David Abbott's bus was due, so we took advantage of the tempting village roadside café in the sunshine for a quick coffee. However, David had opted to drive so he soon joined us, swiftly followed by John and our party for the day was complete.



George Bernard Shaw once lived nearby and is depicted along with other notable locals in a nearby mural which we visited before heading for the restored Wheathampstead station platform where we met the great man himself.

Like many, the station was closed in the mid-sixties following the Beeching report and the platform became stranded on its embankment as surrounding tracks and bridges were removed as the village developed.



Wheathampstead Station – GB Shaw still waiting for a train

It remained abandoned until local volunteers set to work to restore it for the 150th anniversary of its opening in September 2010.

Once clear of the village, we soon joined the Ayot Greenway which is a footpath along the old railway which joined Wheathampstead to Welwyn Garden City. After a couple of miles, we turned off to Ayot St Peter's to see the beautiful Arts and Crafts St Peter's church. It was



St Peter's Church

perfectly timed as the service had just ended, and we were welcomed in to view the interior. Our lunchtime reservation at the Waggoners in Ayot Green then beckoned, where we all indulged in a delicious Sunday roast.

Our route then took us through the golf course in the grounds of Bocket Hall before joining the Lee Valley walk back towards Wheathampstead.

On the return journey, David realised that he had walked away from the pub with one of their very fine linen napkins, so a citizen's arrest was duly made. Our resident magistrate agreed to release the prisoner on his promise to return the item to the pub that week (and a good excuse for another lunch!).

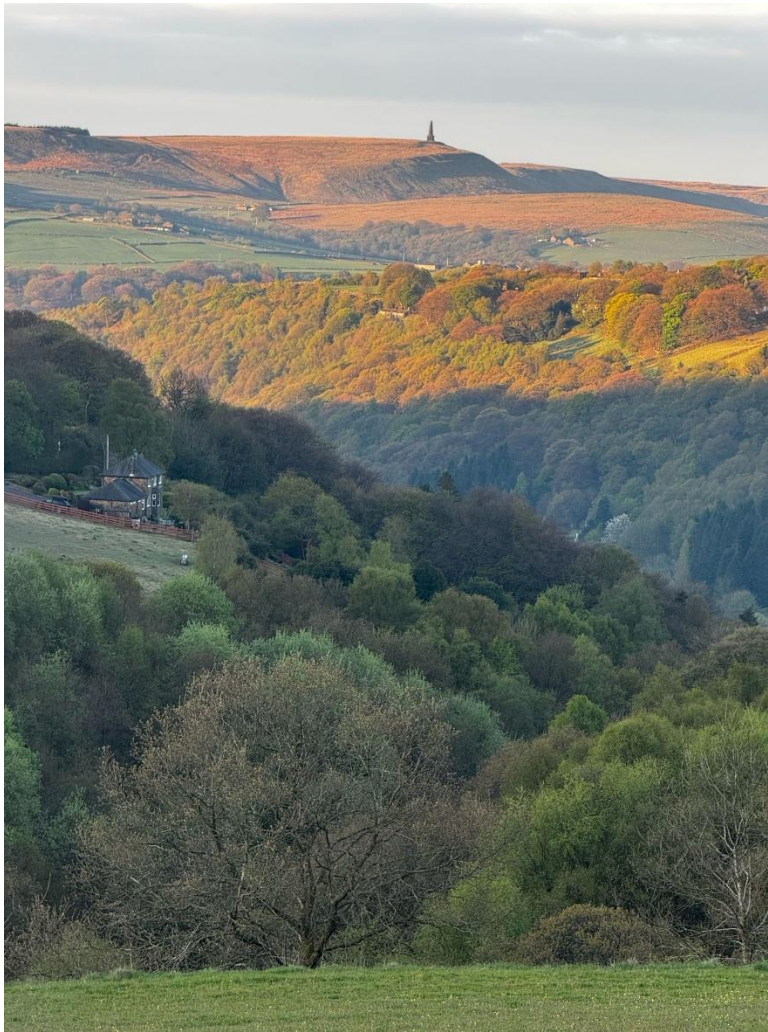
In the meantime, it was a useful sun hat.

Thanks to David for organising a lovely walk in the gorgeous spring sunshine.

Hilary

Hebden Bridge - 24 to 28 April 2025

David Abbott, John Blight, Hilary, Brian and I stayed in the delightful Elmet Farmhouse in Pecket Well near Hebden Bridge and were joined by Sarah Dixon and Buster for three excellent days walking.



The house had extensive views back to Stoodley Pike, Heptonstall Church and nearer to hand the Robin Hood Inn where we had excellent dinners on Friday and Saturday nights.

View from the house to Stoodley Pike

On Thursday, we convened at Sarah's house in Thornton for a wonderful dinner which was preceded by a fascinating private tour by the General Manager of the newly opened Bronte Birthplace Trust. <https://www.brontebirthplace.com>.

Friday morning was a lovely day and we set off with two cars to Withins Clough Reservoir from where it was a relatively easy climb to Stoodley Pike. Most of us then followed the Pennine Way until Colden Water at which point we left the Way to make our way back to Pecket Well. For four of us, this also meant that we enjoyed tea and home-made cake at the café in Heptonstall before we set off on the final stage.

Photo: *Everyone together at Stoodley Pike*

On Saturday, we all walked from the house to Lumb Hole waterfall via Crimsworth Dean Beck where we split into two groups. Hilary, David and John walked back to Pecket Well via Hardcastle Crags and Gibson Mill and Marion, Sarah, Brian and Buster walked to Ogden Reservoir (where Brian's car had been left earlier in the morning). This route enabled us to admire the 'conduits'; one of Simon Armitage's poetry stones (quite weathered and hard to read); and the Emily (Bronte) Stone (found only because Sarah had been there before). It was a wonderful walk and we met scarcely anyone for several miles.



Lumb Hole Falls – Lack of rain means less impressive than normal

Hilary departed on Sunday morning for a visit to the Piece Hall in Halifax en route to Northumberland. The remaining 5 plus Buster squeezed into Brian's car but not for long as David wanted to be dropped off at the side of the road near Oxenhope so that he could meet up with us part way round (and avoid a climb). Four of us parked at Ponden Mill at the bottom of the reservoir, purchased cakes at the café and then set off on the Pennine Way. This route took us to Top Withins reputed to be the inspiration for *Wuthering Heights*. As we walked down to Walshaw Dean reservoirs we met up with David. After lunch, David and John set off on another path and Sarah, Brian and I continued on the Pennine Way until Colden Water where we turned off for Pecket Well. We all rendezvoused in the Robin Hood for a well-earned drink (or two).

It was a great weekend. Apart from filling in the bit I had missed last year on the Pennine Way, my highlight was hearing my first ever cuckoo near Graining Water on Sunday's walk. I envisage a return trip sometime as there are many other fantastic walks to explore in the area.

Marion

Out Walking Reports & / or Photos . . . <i>None this time</i>

Other Events / Items

Helen Rennard's New Winter Munro Record

For anyone wanting some inspiration for putting the Mountains back into LMC !

https://www.ukclimbing.com/articles/features/helen_rennards_new_winter_munro_record-16326

Stephen Cogbill

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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