

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

June 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
Fri 13 to Mon 16 June	Exmoor	Heather & Andrew McGinn	Weekend
Sat 21 June	The Capital Ring – Streatham to Richmond	Marion Downie	Day Walk
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
Fri 14 – Sun 16 November	Swanage	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 Mountaineering Club 50th Anniversary Celebration in Salisbury

Volunteers needed to organise and lead walks

Salisbury is a great location for our weekend celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Club and we are preparing a list of things for people to do. However, we are also seeking volunteers to organise and lead walks on Saturday and Sunday. These can be full days or half-days, really whatever the organiser wishes to suggest.

One possibility is a self-guided walking tour of Salisbury on Saturday. <https://www.slow-travel.uk/post/self-guided-walking-tour-historic-salisbury>. Obviously, this can be self-guided but arranging for a group to meet up is a way of allowing people to get together and mix before the party.

Please email me if you are willing to organise a walk.

Thank you!

Marion

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 this 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.

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

Sat 21 June – The Capital Ring – 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 3 is from Streatham to Richmond (c.12 miles) with an opt out at Wimbledon after 5.5 miles, or as someone did the last time, meet us at Wimbledon Park for the remainder of the route. Meet at 10.30am at Streatham Common Station.

I am sure we will find places for refreshment during the day, but I suggest bringing a sandwich as I recall the café at Wimbledon Park being extremely busy.

If you are interested, please let me know.

Contact: Marion Downie

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 last 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;

Fri 14 – Sun 16 November - Swanage – David Wells

For the last LMC weekend of the year, I'm proposing to organise a couple of walks around Swanage, in the middle of the Purbecks, with great walks along the coast path as far as Lulworth Cove or Durdle Door, to Studland and Poole harbour, or inland to Corfe Castle and beyond. Swanage offers many restaurants and cafes and entertainment, although unfortunately the Steam railway doesn't operate in November. Bus services do offer the opportunity for linear walks though.

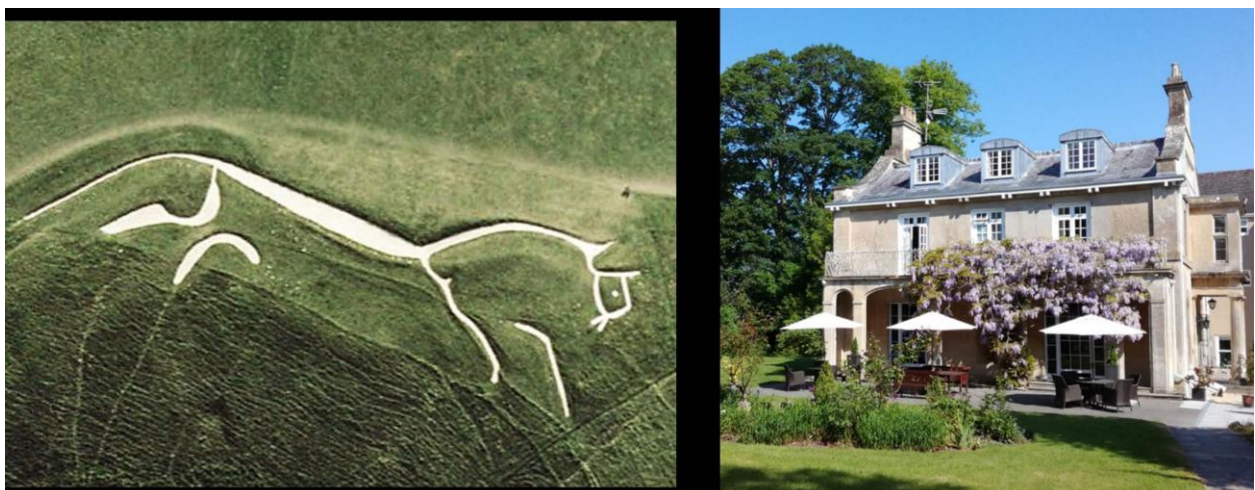
I propose to base the weekend at the Purbeck House Hotel, which has plenty of rooms available at this time. Quoted rates for 2 nights Friday-Sunday are £120 single, £190 double. Continental breakfast adds a further £9/night (no cooked breakfast I'm afraid!). A 10% discount is available for room payment at time of booking. The hotel does not take dogs

Please book hotel and let me know if you're intending to come along. I will book dinners for Friday and Saturday evenings nearer the time and also suggest walks depending on the group and likely weather!

Contact : David Wells

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 Damulds 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

Gower – 9 – 11 May 2025

A group of 10 intrepid LMC'ers, including Martin and Jane Lambert on their first trip for MANY years, moved into Reynoldston in time (or not exactly in time in the case of David, the meet leader) for dinner at the Britannia Inn at Llanmadoc. Having been welcomed by the band happily playing outside in the evening sunshine, a great evening and an enjoyable welcome to the weekend was had by all, notably featuring the local 'salt marsh lamb'.

Photo: The intrepid 10 at Arthur's Stone

The following morning, after a 'do it yourself' breakfast served in the rooms of the B&Bs (a labour saving measure presumably borrowed from AirBNB) we gathered for a 9.5 mile walk in clear sunshine over the heights of Cefn Bryn (ridge hill) past the neolithic burial mound of Arthur's Stone and then along the ridge with great views over the Gower and the Exmoor coast, before meeting the Welsh coast path amongst the bluebells, spring flowers and rhododendrons of Penmaen and the spectacular Three Cliffs Bay.

Photo: Three Cliffs Bay

A short but undulating walk across the cliffs and through woods took us to lunch, at which point the group, following tradition, split. Five followed the original route back through the pretty gardens of Penrice Castle, being rewarded by a pint at the end, while those seeking more sunshine strode across the beach taking advantage of low tide to reach Oxwich, and a further loop along the coast before returning past Oxwich Castle, part folly, part manor house, a stop for tea and cakes at Oxwich and a short return trip through Penrice. Early evening drinks in the warm sunshine were followed by another great meal at the King Arthur hotel, a short walk from our B&Bs.



Devils Bridge at Worms Head

Sunday once again promised lots of sunshine, and Andy and Kirsty decided to explore the sand dunes and quieter areas of Whiteford Sands, whilst the rest, profiting from a 5-hour tidal window, enjoyed a mix of walking, tottering on rocks and ridges, and some not so gentle scrambling, to reach the end of Worms Head.

A really varied walk, and the short additional loop along the coast path was spectacular. Happily, the rainstorm held off JUST long enough to find the tea shop in Rhossili. Overall, a great weekend with enjoyable company, helped enormously by the May sunshine.

Photo: Those who made it up the final scramble to the top of Worms Head (plus photographer!)

David

Walking the Darent Valley – 11 May 2025

On a sunny warm early summer's day 5 five of us: Marion, Hilary, Alyson, Kerstin and Paul met up in the picturesque Kent village of Otford. John was prevented from joining us due to a lingering malady and David due to over complex transport arrangements caused by Thameslink outages That must be a first!

Since we met next to a very pleasant coffee shop with Alice in Wonderland theme we started with coffee and cake. Slogans on the walls proclaimed "We Are All Mad Here "; so, we fitted right in.

Then we started our walk, walking northwards through the Kent countryside, watching the local villagers engage in their Sunday pursuits, cricket, golf, etc. When we reached the village of Shoreham, we were delighted to find that the annual duck race was in preparation. For those of you who might be concerned, no living animals are endangered during this pursuit, as the ducks in question are plastic or wood. Unfortunately, the race was not due to start for a couple of

hours when the Duck Master arrived, but we were able to talk to the costumed stewards. We were informed that the going was fast, and the water quality was good.

We continued following the course of the Darent to the Lullingstone Country Park, where we stopped for lunch and then thereafter onto Lullingstone Castle via the Castle Farm lavender fields. A couple of weeks later the Today programme was broadcast from Castle Farm, to illustrate current problems in the farming industry.



Lullingstone Castle is a lovely manor house with a redbrick gatehouse dating from 1492. The main manor house was not open, but we were able to visit the "World Garden of Plants", an extensive collection of plants from all over the world displayed in beds representing the continents. Particularly impressive was size of the specimens in the Cacti House.

Unfortunately, one of the inmates decided to savage our esteemed meet leader but after a bit of self-administered

first aid and a restorative cup of tea in the marquee we moved on toward Eynsford. On the way we passed the Lullingstone Roman Villa renowned for its exceptional mosaics. Unfortunately, the current guardians English Heritage had decided to close it for "renovations". The nature of these renovations was not specified but a source tells me that they had decided that after 2000 years the mosaic floors were in need of some updating, possibly with Amtico and perhaps a new IKEA kitchen. We resolved to return in due course, for a proper look.

We then continued the along the final stage of our walk under the impressive Eynsford viaduct which carries a railway. Had David been with us he would no doubt have been able to provide us with much more useful information. At the pretty village of Eynsford with its river and ford we called into one of the hostelries for much needed refreshment. Thereafter, a short walk uphill led to the railway station for our journeys home.

A delightful day's walk in the Kentish countryside.

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

Other Events / Items

Bob Hastings (1945 – 2025)

Those of you who were walking with LMC back in the 1980s may remember Bob & Jo Hastings, who occasionally came along with Sue & John Prout and Sarah, all old university friends. Sadly, Bob died on 14th May, aged 80, leaving Jo and son Dougie. A good number of us travelled up to Yorkshire for his funeral on 6th June – for 'Bob's last Gig'. We're not sure where this photo was taken, but Jo & Bob are the two on the left. Others in the photo are myself, Maggie & Ian Tucker, and Beth & Frank Fuller.

Photo: Jo & Bob Hastings and others

Kirsty Johns

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>

END