

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

July 2025

Contact Details

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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 10 August	Old Winchester Hill, Hampshire	Heather & Andrew McGinn	Day Walk
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
Sun 5 October	SE London- Petts Wood and Scadbury Park	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
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

Sun 10 August – Old Winchester Hill – Andrew & Heather McGinn

The old Winchester Hill walk, approximately 12 miles / 1,100 ft of climbing, will be on 10th August starting at 10am.

We will start at the disused railway station at the foot of the hill, then via a circuitous route climb up onto the hill for lunch. Then head south-west to Brockbridge, to pick up the old railway line and walk back to the station.

If you want to join, please contact Heather for details.

Contact: Heather McGinn

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](#)

July Update

We currently have 7 people booked into two neighbouring cottages and 1 person in the [Newfield Inn](#) nearby. If anyone else is interested in joining us in the beautiful Duddon Valley, offering a wide choice of beautiful walks on high and low fells for all capabilities, there are two rooms available at Seathwaite Lodge next-door to the pub. (Breakfast would be in the pub). They are really cheap - I was offered £270 for the week for either a king or a twin. I'm sure she would be happy to take people for a shorter break. The pub and Lodge are a pleasant short walk away from the cottages, either through the woods or along the road.

Please let me know if you are interested - we are pencilled in under my name at the Lodge.

Contact: Sarah Dixon

Sun 5 October – SE London; Petts Wood and Scadbury Park – Paul Ackroyd

I am intending to rerun the Scadbury Park and Petts Wood walk which proved very popular and interesting the last time we did it. In spite of being in suburbia this is a very pleasant, largely wooded walk through ancient woodland past the ruins of the Scadbury House and across farmland and open fields. About 6 miles.

We will meet in Petts Wood about 11.00 am at some suitable coffee shop and end up probably with a drink in the Daylight Inn named in honour of William Willett who had the original idea for adjusting the clocks in winter and to whom there is a memorial on the walk.

There are frequent trains from London stations to Petts Wood and easy parking in Petts Wood for those driving.

There are plenty of refreshment places in Petts Wood but nothing en route, so please bring sandwiches.

Let me know if you're interested in attending.

Contact: Paul Ackroyd

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, *mentioning to them that you are joining the LMC group*, 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

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

Simonsbath House Hotel, Exmoor - 13-16 June 2025

Twelve members attended the meet, most for three nights and some for two due to other commitments.

The first walk of the meet, 13.5 miles, started at the hotel, up onto the moor at Brendon Common, then down Badgworthy Water and the Lorna Doone valley. Hitting the Lyn River we turned west to Watersmeet and a welcome drink, coffee or ice-cream, depending on tastes, before being picked up in the hotel's mini-bus to be taken home. At the bridge crossing, pictured below, we bumped into a group of horse-riders, taking the easy option. The weather started with a bit of rain and drizzle but quickly turned pleasantly warm.

Photo of group on bridge

Day two was planned to be an uneventful stroll from Dunkery Beacon back to the hotel, approximately 11 or 14 miles, depending on opting for the short or longer option after lunch. The weather was perfect. After lunch David, Rob and Brian opted for the long and as it turned out, straightforward walk back. The rest of us set off expecting a few simple miles. Just before Warren Bridge we turned right to traverse a hill, with the River Exe on our left. We then dropped down to the Exe at the indicated crossing point to find no obvious place to cross the water, but with some water filled boots and excellent paddling skills from the ladies (and directions from Christopher) we made it across. Unfortunately, the two indicated paths on the hill we needed to climb, including the main Macmillan way, had not been used for years and no longer existed. So, we had to find our own way, sometimes on all fours, through tussocks and very boggy ground to the crest where we did hit the re-routed way. That climb will stick in our memories from some time!

Hilary opted for a shorter walk on day two (which was more forgiving for a niggling knee injury) and missed the excitement of the river crossing. A 5 mile circular walk at the Valley of the Rocks took in some of the coastal path and South Cleave hill where there was a fabulous view over what must be one of the most picturesque cricket grounds in the country.



The last morning, by popular request, the loop at Selworthy was repeated. Five of us participated, with a relaxing picnic lunch before heading home.

Photo of five on Selworthy loop

Heather McGinn

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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