

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

January 2026

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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 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
Fri 6 – Sun 8/Mon 9 March	Wye Valley Monmouth	Angela Leaman	Weekend
Sat 7 to Sun 15 March	Crickhowell Walking Festival	Andy Johns	Not LMC. Book direct via the CWF website.
Fri 17 – Mon 20 April	Llangollen	Brian Holmes	Weekend
Sat 23 May	Kent – Darent Valley with cultural diversions	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
Sat 20 to Sat 27 June	The Wales Coast Path – Llyn Peninsula	John Blight	Full Week
Mid July	Opera and Mountains in Austria	Paul Ackroyd	Full Week – Fully Subscribed
Fri 11- Mon 14 September	Wasdale Head (aka putting the Mountains back into LMC)	Sarah Dixon	Weekend
Sun 13 December	London Christmas Social - A Walk for Curious Wanderers	Angela Leaman	Day Walk – more details to follow

From the Treasurer: 2026 Subscriptions – now due

These are now due if you have not already made your payment, please do so via bank transfer.

If you wish to remain a member for 2026 and vote at the AGM, then you will need to forward £32 per person as your subscription by Bank Transfer to:

The LMC Mountaineering Club

TSB Bank Sort code 30-18-25 Account no. 00144738.

Anyone who experiences any problems with this should consult the Treasurer .

Meet Details – forthcoming events

Sat 17 January - 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

Fri 6 – Sun 8/Mon 9 March – Wye Valley Monmouth – Angela Leaman

January Update

For the first meet of the year, we will be staying in the small market town of Monmouth. Monmouth is situated on the lower reaches of the Wye, and the Offa's Dyke long distance trail runs through the town. It is an attractive base for a weekend, with a good range of independent shops and cafes. To account for unpredictable weather in early spring there are a variety of lower-level walks, including from the town centre, and easy road access. Evening meals will be booked at a local pub or restaurant. Nearer the time, if the weather forecast is good there is an option to extend the stay until Monday for 3 nights.

Our base will be the Monmouth Premier Inn. Not the most glamourous of places but comfortable, good value and a 10 minute walk from the town centre. Room rates are currently listing from £60 to £93 per night for a 2-night stay, depending on the level of flexibility. There is other accommodation in town, if furry friends want to come or you prefer to stay somewhere else.

I currently have 6 takers for this meet and if you would like to join us, please book your accommodation direct and drop me a line so I know you are coming.

Contact: Angela Leaman

Sat 7 to Sun 15 March - Crickhowell Walking Festival – Andy Johns

CWF booking went live on 1st December and, with two months still to go, over half the walk places have been sold and 21 of the 80+ walks are sold out, mainly hard and long ones, but a good spread of walks and areas still available. This year is our 18th Festival, and it is as popular as it was back in 2008! In all, we again have over 80 walks in nine days in and around the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, from 2 to 20 miles and up to 3,500 ft ascent at the top end. There's still loads of variety available. And relax – the 20-mile, 3500 ft walk is sold out.

This is not an LMC organised event, so you need to book your own individual walk places at www.crickhowellfestival.com, and your own accommodation. As many of you know, there is a handy Premier Inn in Abergavenny and several town pubs/B&Bs. Go to www.crickhowellfestival.com/2025-gallery for great images from March 2025 – only about ten drops of rain in the whole nine days. Whatever the weather in March 2026, we'll get many happy walkers and some very fine views. Time to banish winter blues.

NB: Those attending Angela's Monmouth weekend meet 6-8th March, may like to stay on for a few days and join some Crickhowell Walking Festival Walks, as above

Fri 17 to Mon 20 April – Llangollen – Brian Holmes

Based in Llangollen (NE Wales) offering spectacular hill walking and sight-seeing opportunities with stunning views above the attractive Vale of Llangollen. All accessible direct from our accommodation in the centre of Llangollen. We will have sole use of a superior Hostel offering flexible accommodation in eight rooms with facilities for the party to enjoy socialising together. This includes rooms with double beds and rooms with bunk beds suitable for single or shared occupancy. Rooms have on-suite shower rooms except two sharing a dedicated bathroom. Accommodation is of a good standard with comfortable mattresses. We have use of a lounge, fully equipped kitchen and separate dining room and drying room together with parking provision.

A full choice of walks and excursions will be on offer. Guided full day walks with steady ascents on to higher ground on Saturday and Sunday. Route plans for less demanding, shorter, self-guided walk will also be offered. Visiting sites of archaeological interest and tourist attractions. And an opportunity to put the “M” back in LMC with a professionally managed “age-related” rock-face experience at extra cost of +/- £50 (spectators free) on the Monday morning of departure if there is sufficient interest. A walk will also be offered on Friday afternoon.

The cost will be based on an equal share of the total cost for sole use of the Hostel. Depending on occupancy this will be in the range of £250 - £150pp for the three nights' accommodation. There will be an additional charge for self-catering breakfast based on an equal share of the cost of shop purchase by the organiser. The cost of accommodation will be confirmed at the time of being advised of the balance due which is required to be paid by *6th March* and after which we are unable to offer any refund unless there is a substitution. Interest should be registered with the meet organiser, Brian Holmes, advising room requirement (Double, single sole use or accept single sharing) and potential interest in the rock-face experience. Any enquiries can additionally be dealt with by contacting Brian. *A deposit of £50 per person to secure the booking of the Hostel is required by the AGM or a commitment to do so shortly after.* The AGM will provide an opportunity to share more detail and hopefully confirm the arrangements are viable.

A plan to walk approximately 65 miles during the week from a base to be decided – more details to follow.

Contact: Brian Holmes

Sat 23 May – Kent Revisiting the Darent Valley – Paul Ackroyd

I am intending to redo the Darent Valley walk, which was much appreciated last year, with differences. This time we will walk north to south, starting at the village of Eynsford.

We will make a relatively late start around about lunchtime. We will make our way to the Lullingstone Roman villa, which was closed last time we visited. I hope they will have completed their renovations. We will then proceed along the Darent Valley path past the Lullingstone and Shoreham to arrive in Otford in time for dinner at one of the lovely pubs there. After dinner, those who wish can attend the Sevenoaks Shakespeare production outdoors in the historic

Archbishop palace in Otford. They are doing some sort of mashed up version of the Taming of the Shrew!

A linear walk of about 6 miles mainly flat.

This trip will be dependent upon trains running between Otford and Eynsford, and whether the Lullingstone Villa has indeed reopened. Updates will be provided in subsequent newsletters. To register your potential interest contact me.

Contact: Paul Ackroyd

Sat 20 to Sat 27 June – Wales Coast Path – Llyn Peninsula – John Blight

A plan to walk approximately 65 miles during the week from a base to be decided – more details to follow.

January update – Could I please have firm commitments for this trip by the AGM. I will make a booking immediately after.

Contact: John Blight

Mid July – Opera and Mountains in Austria – Paul Ackroyd – *Fully Subscribed*

This trip is now ***fully subscribed***. We have 11 people attending the opera on the lake in Bregenz and 9 travelling up to Damuls for walking, wine and food in the mountains

Contact: Paul Ackroyd

Wasdale Head 11 - 14 September (aka putting the Mountains back into LMC) – Sarah Dixon

January Update

So far, we have 9 people confirmed for the meet, some staying in the hotel and some in a self-catering apartment. There is interest from one other person and there is availability of another self-catering apartment with one double room and one two single bedroom. It would be great if we could attract 2 or 3 more people so that we can book this.

It's a great starting point for lots of nice mountains including Scafell Pike, Great Gable and Pillar but also many possibilities for lower-level walks or gentler ascents via valleys and down towards Nether Wasdale.

Please contact Sarah Dixon to discuss the accommodation options if you are interested.

Meet Reports - None this time

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

Other Events / Items . . . Caption Competition

From the many entries (a sum total of two ... from the same person) there was a clear front runner. Congratulations to John who wins the competition with a conversation between two aliens.

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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