

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

September 2026

Contact Details

Chairman:	Brian Holmes
Meets Co-ordinator:	David Wells
Secretary	Charles Harrison
Treasurer:	Paul Ackroyd
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Next Newsletter: Please send copy for the next issue to both editors
by midday on the 10th of the month.

From the Meets Co-ordinator

2026 Meets Programme

Thanks to those who have already volunteered to organise days or weekends or weeks, but if anyone else would like to offer a walk, please contact David Wells and/or submit to the newsletter editor. The club needs a healthy programme to attract and keep members and to maintain the group spirit we know and enjoy. On that topic we would also love to see new members on meets, so free to free to encourage friends to come along and give us a try ... membership numbers are roughly stable, with some renewed interest from the 50th anniversary, but always room for more!

Thanks,

David

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2026			
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
Sun 27 September	Barnes Circular (Kew and Gunnersbury Park)	Alyson Lawton	Day Walk
Fri 9 – Sun 11 October	Peak District	David Wells	Weekend
Sat 24 October	The London Countryway - Box Hill to Horsley	Charles Harrison	Day walk
Sun 6 December <i>(amended date)</i>	London Christmas Social - A Walk for Curious Wanderers	Angela Leaman	Day Walk

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2027			
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
Sat 16 – Sun 17 January	AGM and Annual Dinner – Wiltshire	Angela Leaman	Weekend
March (dates TBC)	Cotswolds	Gerry Lynskey and Rita Rawson	Weekend
Fri 23 – Mon 26 April	Llangollen	Brian Holmes	Weekend

Meet Details – forthcoming events

Sun 27 September – Barnes Circular (Kew and Gunnersbury Park) – Alyson Lawton

The walk will be starting again at Barnes station (as it was easy to get to last time plus has free street parking) walking to Kew Green and then into Gunnersbury Park (option to see local very interesting free council run museum - Victorian kitchens plus displays on Ealing film studios etc) and back via Strand on the Green.

Total distance about 8 miles but lots of opt out points.

July Update I have checked the engineering works on Southwest London trains for 27 Sept and trains look as though they are running through Barnes so I can confirm the date of the day walk.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Contact: Alyson Lawton

Fri 9 – Sun 11 October Peak District – David Wells

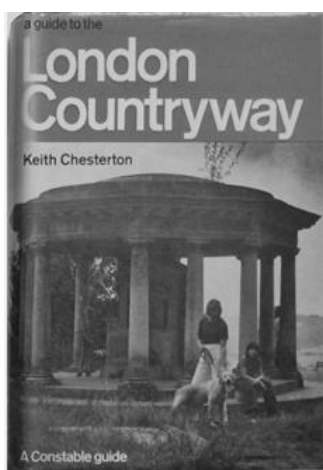
I've now confirmed the dates and location for the programmed Peak District Meet. We will base the meet in Hayfield, which is on the west side of the Peak District National Park, in the High Peak area. It is a pretty and historic village with direct walks available from the village - notably a 10 mile circuit onto Kinder Low, and some shorter walks in the surrounding hills. A short drive (or local buses) can connect to the Derwent Valley and to Edale. I plan to offer full day walks on Saturday and Sunday, and likely a shorter walk on Friday afternoon for early arrivals. I have provisionally booked all 4 rooms in my name for the two nights at the Kinder Lodge in the centre of the village. Room rates are £182 for the 2 nights including full breakfast. Dogs are welcomed and additional nights are likely available. You will need to ring and confirm bookings and likely leave a deposit on 01663 743613. Please let me know when you have booked - we can't hold the rooms for too long. If all rooms are booked, there is other accommodation in the village in pubs or apartments etc, for instance the George Hotel or Lantern Pike Inn (which is just outside the village).

September Update All the rooms at the Kinder Lodge are now taken, but more attendees would be very welcome, and self-catering accommodation at least is still available in the village.

I look forward to seeing a good autumn weekend!

Contact: David Wells

Sat 24 October – The London Countryway – Box Hill to Horsley – Charles Harrison



The London Countryway is an orbital path around London, which predated the LOOP. It was devised by Keith Chesterton of the Long Distance Walkers Association and the guidebook (left) was published in 1978. The 2nd edition followed soon after when the opening of the M25 severed the route near Epping necessitating a diversion! I plan to retrace the route starting with the first stage of 9 miles from Box Hill to Horsley. The route is not signposted like the LOOP but I'm hoping that the footpaths can still be identified. There are stations at Box Hill & Westhumble and Horsley which will be our start and end points.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Contact: Charles Harrison

Sun 6 December - London Social: A Walk for Curious Wanderers



The LMC Christmas social will explore London's history through the curious oddities left behind. A green and leafy route will take us 3.5 miles from Westminster to Berkeley Square, through royal parks and Georgian squares.

En route we will decipher remnants of street furniture and explore the stories behind hidden corners. The walk will be followed by a meal at a nearby restaurant.

As restaurants will be busy in December, it would help if you could book your place by the end of October. Hope to see you then.

Contact: Angela Leaman

2027 Meet details

LMC AGM and Annual Dinner – Saturday 16 January 2027

I am delighted to let you know that the 2027 AGM will be held at the Lamb, Hindon on the Wilts/Dorset border near Shaftesbury. I have a provisional booking for Friday and Saturday night (15/16 January) and rooms will be held until 15 November.

Hindon, historically a medieval market town, is a small village of traditional stone and thatched cottages located in the Cranborne Chase National Landscape (AONB). The area has many walking routes across the chalk hills and ancient woodlands, and the latter are particularly attractive in the winter months. Walks will be organised for Saturday and Sunday. The Lamb is a 12th century coaching inn, with 18 hotel rooms and the character of a country pub. The annual dinner and AGM will be held on Saturday night in the private dining room, and Friday supper will be at the Grosvenor Arms across the road.

How to book:

Rates at the Lamb relate to room size rather than occupancy. Therefore, I recommend that 'Cosy' and 'Boutique Double' rooms are reserved for single occupancy, and couples book the 'Bigger Boutique' and 'Family' rooms. This will enable a fairer rate per head. Rates below include breakfast and are per room per night.

Cosy Boutique: £100 (3 rooms)

Boutique Double: £105 (5 rooms)

Boutique Twin: £105 (1 room)

Bigger Boutique Double: £120 (5 rooms)

Boutique Family: £120 (2 rooms)

Please telephone the Lamb directly and quote my name to link to the group booking and discount. You will then be emailed a link for payment. The provisional booking is for two nights so let them know if you are only staying on Saturday.

www.lambhindon.co.uk; Tel. [01747 820573](tel:01747820573).

Once you have made a booking, please drop me a line to let me know.

Arrangements for the annual dinner will be sorted out nearer the time - around £40 per head (excluding drinks).

Dogs are welcome throughout the pub, restaurant and designated guest rooms (lead in shared areas). Canine guests get a VIP welcome hamper with treats, a bed or blanket and bowls, and there are dog showering facilities. My understanding is £25 per night but please check.

Cancellation t&cs: Full refund for accommodation if a booking is cancelled before 12.00 GMT one day before your date of arrival. If the booking is cancelled later the first night will be charged. Terms for dinner cancellation TBA.

Parking: The Lamb does not have designated parking for hotel guests. The customer car park has 4-5 spaces and a car park directly opposite has 12 spaces. There is also on-street parking nearby and the hotel advise parking should be fine in January.

A final word on why we are in Wiltshire again for the AGM - not because it's a short drive from my house! I did a lengthy search from the Welsh borders to the Thames valley to find a different location. However reasonable rates, sufficient bedrooms and private dining are the holy grail of bookings and I failed to find anywhere else suitable. Suggestions for 2028 welcome!

Any questions don't hesitate to ask and hope to see you there.

Contact: Angela Leaman

Fri 23 – Mon 26 April 2027 Llangollen – Brian Holmes

Following the success of our recent Llangollen meet and the encouragement to repeat next year, I confirm I have booked the Llangollen Hostel for sole use 23 – 26 April 2027 (3 nights).

I will be able to lead some new walks or repeat depending on interest. As previously described, there are a number of options from longer led walks to easier self-guided routes and a host of tourist attractions.

Contact: Brian Holmes

Meet Reports

Walking in Pepys Footsteps – Tower Bridge to Greenwich Saturday 15 August 2026

Charles, Rob, Lizzie and I set out on this walk along the south bank of the Thames on a day which was warm and sunny and thankfully nothing like the heat of the previous two days when London was suffering its fifth heatwave.

I found this walk in a Time Out guide to London Walks suggested by London writers, in this case by Claire Tomalin, a biographer of Samuel Pepys. Pepys lived near the Tower of London but with his role in the Navy Board, he regularly visited Rotherhithe, Deptford and Greenwich and often walked.

It was a very interesting walk – always plenty to see and an interesting contrast between the old industrial heritage and docks and the new buildings at Canary Wharf and the City. On Bermondsey Wall there is a group of bronze statues, a cat on the Thames wall, a girl leaning against it, a man on a bench opposite and a woman with a spade (reflecting her tree planting campaigns). This is a memorial to Dr Alfred Salter MP who together with his wife Ada, devoted his life to the poor of Bermondsey. The little girl is their only child who died of scarlet fever. Dr Salter seems to have been a remarkable man – a brilliant doctor who often provided free medical care, but Ada was just as impressive. She was the first female (and labour) councillor for Bermondsey in 1909 and in 1922 became the first female mayor of a London Borough and the first Labour Mayor in Great Britain.

Photo: Dr Salter and friends

We had lunch at the café at Surrey Docks Farm and then slowly made our way to Greenwich where Charles left to go home and the rest of us went to Zizzi for cold drinks and sustenance. Lizzie and Rob then headed over to the British Museum for a sleepover. It is good to know that some are keeping the LMC camping tradition alive!

Photo: Looking forward to a good night's sleep?

Marion Downie

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.

Follow the Acorn

I recently came across this blog post on the National Archives website which draws on its collection to trace the introduction of the acorn symbol for long distance footpaths. It seems to have taken years to agree on the design and I was surprised to see that it's only been in use since the late 60s.

Hilary

[Follow the acorn: Designing a symbol for... - The National Archives](#)

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/explore-the-collection/the-collection-blog/follow-the-acorn-designing-a-symbol-for-long-distance-national-trails/

Follow the acorn: Designing a symbol for long distance national trails



Drawing of an acorn symbol on stone, 1967. Catalogue reference: COU 1/1117

September is the perfect month to get out and explore our nation's coast and countryside by foot.

But have you ever thought about how the symbols and signposts that mark the myriad routes that criss-cross our lands came to be?

Using records held in The National Archives, this fascinating new blog post investigates some of the administrative history behind marking rights of way that eventually led to the design of a universal symbol for long distance trails in England and Wales.

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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