

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

March 2026

Contact Details

Chairman: Brian Holmes
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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

The meets programme for 2026 is looking quite healthy, but we would welcome additional weekends particularly during the summer months, and day walks are also looking quite sparse after May. 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
Sat 7 to Sun 15 March	Crickhowell Walking Festival	Andy Johns	Not LMC. Book direct via the CWF website.
Sat 28 March	Capital Ring – Streatham to Richmond	Marion Downie	Day Walk
Fri 17 – Mon 20 April	Llangollen	Brian Holmes	Weekend
Sun 10 May	West Ruislip to Rickmansworth	Hilary Pettit	Day Walk
Sat 23 May	Kent – Darent Valley with cultural diversions	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
Fri 5 to Sun 7 June	Norfolk – Wells Next the Sea	David Wells	Weekend
Sat 20 to Sat 27 June	The Wales Coast Path – Llyn Peninsula	John Blight	Full Week – Fully Subscribed
Tue 21 to Mon 27 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
October (Dates TBC)	Peak District	David Wells	Weekend
Sun 6 December <i>(amended date)</i>	London Christmas Social - A Walk for Curious Wanderers	Angela Leaman	Day Walk – more details to follow

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2027

Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
Sat 16 – Sun 17 January	AGM and Annual Dinner – location TBC	Angela Leaman	Weekend
March (dates TBC)	Cotswolds	Gerry Lynskey and Rita Rawson	Weekend
April (dates TBC)	Peak District	David Wells	Weekend

Meet Details – forthcoming events

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

By the time you all read this, CWF 2026 will be well under way. If previous walking festivals are anything to go by, we'll get many happy walkers and some very fine views – along with many muddy boots and probably a few route alterations for weather conditions!

Andy

Sat 28 March - The Capital Ring - Streatham to Richmond Marion Downie

This walk was scheduled for 21 June last year but was cancelled due to a heat wave. Subject to trains and transport working, I am proposing Saturday 28 March.

Stage 3 of the Capital Ring is from Streatham to Richmond (c.12 miles) with an opt out at Wimbledon after 5.5 miles. 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

Fri 17 to Mon 20 April – Llangollen – Brian Holmes

February Update

There has been a good response to the Llangollen meet making it viable to secure the sole use of this superior hostel. For those who may consider booking nearer the time, there is one double room available and sharing rooms with bunk beds. All have en-suite bathrooms. There is also scope to use nearby accommodation and join the group for self-catering and socialising.

[Llangollen Hostel | Llangollen Holidays | Llangollen Hostel - En-suite Private Rooms, Llangollen, UK](#)



Based in Llangollen (NE Wales), offering a range of 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 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 walks will also be offered. The programme will include visiting sites of archaeological interest and tourist attractions. 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). A deposit of £50 per person is required at the time of booking.

Further information for accessing the hostel and parking arrangements, together with the detail for participating in the walk on Friday afternoon will be provided in the call for the balance to be paid. A full briefing of the programme opportunities will be given Friday evening. A reservation will be made for the full party to eat out at a local restaurant on Friday evening.

Contact: Brian Holmes

Sun 10 May – West Ruislip to Rickmansworth – Hilary Pettit

Taken from a book on walks from the terminus stations of the Underground (by the same author as the Elizabeth Line walks) this 9 mile walk explores a large tract of open countryside north of Ruislip. It takes in Bayhurst Wood, which forms part of the Ruislip Woods Nature Reserve, where it follows some of the Hillingdon Trail to the Grand Union Canal. The walk then follows the Colne Valley walk along the canal to Rickmansworth where there are cafes and pubs for refreshments before homeward travel from the station.

There is an option to shorten the walk about halfway through with a bus from Harefield to Denham main line and Uxbridge underground stations.

Meet at 10.30 at West Ruislip tube station and please bring lunch with you.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Contact: Hilary Pettit

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

Fri 5 – Sun 7 June - Norfolk – Wells Next the Sea – David Wells

March Update

We currently have 4 attendees and we would welcome more. Rooms are still available at the Quay Rooms.

It's a long time since the club has visited Norfolk – I believe 20 years or so, and there are fond memories of those events. The North Norfolk coast benefits from sand dunes, cliffs (up to the dizzy heights of The Beeston Bump at 63m or even Beacon Hill at 105m) but also very pretty countryside and coastal scenes. The resorts of Cromer, Sheringham and Beeston also feature on possible walking routes. The Norfolk Coast path, part of the English coast path, and the Peddars Way, follow the coast through Wells though there are pretty inland walks as well. There are also bus services along the coast, allowing linear walks. Stately homes such as Holkham Hall or Felbrigg Hall and a miniature railway from Wells to Walsingham provide alternatives to walking and pretty local pubs also feature.

I will plan 2 full days walks for Saturday and Sunday, though plenty of other options will be available. I will arrange dinners closer the time once we know numbers. Wells Next the Sea has a Tudor port and plenty of dunes between the village and the sea. The hotel is on the quay and the village has plenty of places to eat I understand.

I have a provisional booking at The Quay Rooms in Wells-next-the Sea for Friday 5th and Saturday 6th June. This offers continental breakfast (included) or for those needing an English breakfast, there are cafes nearby. There is also a lounge offering tea / coffee and places to sit and eat. Even a tennis court!

Please make a booking directly with the Quay Rooms quoting LMC and let me know you are coming. Rates are £125 per night for single / small double or £135 for large double / triple. Please ring Steve (owner) on 01328 710898. You can also book on booking.com and maybe other sites, although these may be more expensive and direct booking is preferred by the owner. They can also arrange a minibus to start or finish of walks if we wish, so a car should not be necessary once we are there.

Contact: David Wells

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

February update

A plan to walk approximately 65 miles during the week from a single base. There are now 8 people booked for this meet, accommodation has been booked and is now *fully subscribed*.

Contact: John Blight

Tue 21 – Mon 27 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

Fri 11 – Mon 14 September Wasdale Head (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

Custom House to Stratford – 23 February 2026

Not one of the most inspiring or scenic of the Elizabeth Line walks taken from 'Exploring the Elizabeth Line' by Jeff Lock but we were very fortunate to have one of the few days with no rain and even some sunshine!

Charles, Hilary and I met at Custom House Station at 11am and headed straight for a traditional café where we enjoyed coffee, cake and, in my case, a bacon roll. We then weaved our way through streets and bits of green space until we entered Beckton District Park and joined the Capitol Ring. Once we joined the Greenway built over Bazalgette's Northern Outfall Sewer it should have been a straight walk to the Olympic Park and the end of our walk but unfortunately Thames Water are undertaking works on the sewer which necessitated us taking a detour through Plaistow. Although on a positive note, it is good to see that Thames Water are undertaking works on the sewage system!

Marion Downie

Monmouth - 6 - 8 March 2026

For the first meet of the year post-AGM the Club went to Monmouth. Sarah stayed up the road in the dog friendly and historic (16th century) Old Court Hotel. The main group of 9 stayed in the less historic Premier Inn with a view of the A40. However, it did have the advantage of being a short walk into town, across the medieval Monnow Bridge for dinner, cake and shopping. The 'ladies' in particular enjoyed browsing Salt and Pepper, an extremely well stocked kitchenware shop.

Friday dinner was taken at an Indian restaurant specialising in Bangladeshi street food which we all enjoyed. A splinter group then watched the second half of the rugby at a nearby pub, where Wales put on a spirited performance against Ireland and John failed to enlighten me on the difference between a ruck and a maul.

Monmouth has two rivers and on Saturday we were able to walk directly from the hotel across the Wye to explore the hilly countryside to the east. The walk was listed on the Monmouth Walking Club website and a fine club they proved to be. Not only was the route very interesting with a riverbank walk, several historic buildings and railway architecture, but the club chairman responded immediately to a request for advice on flooding with detailed guidance about the walk. I'd like to think LMC would have been as efficient!

The walk was quite a workout with some steep ascents, first taking the Offa's Dyke path to ascend the Kymin; a historic 18th-century hilltop site with a Naval Temple and panoramic views of the Wye valley which we could just about glimpse through the fog; misty weather being a recurring theme over the weekend. Back down to the river, we crossed a lofty footbridge,

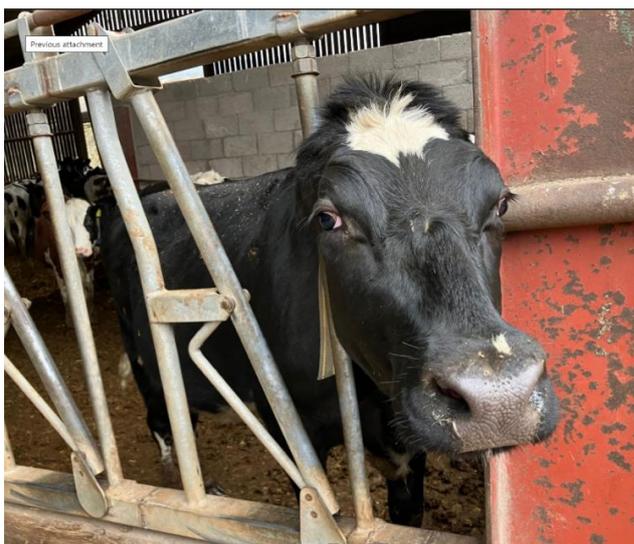
bolted to the skeleton of an 1870s railway bridge. This was the defunct Wye Valley Railway with picturesque views up and downstream. Climbing up the other side we had lunch in a pretty wood filled with birdsong, before continuing uphill to the delightful grade 1 listed medieval church at Penallt. Tipped off by my new best friend from the Monmouth Walking Club, we made use of the self-service tea table inside. The churchyard had lovely views of the bowl of hills that enclose Monmouth and was full of native daffodils. The walk continued with a tense walk through a farmyard filled with cows and a rather aggressive dog; then passing the magnificent Troy House, constructed in the 1680s but now sadly derelict. The walk ended at another iron bridge and the site of Monmouth Troy station. Closed in 1964, the station was dismantled and reconstructed at Winchcombe on a restored line in Gloucestershire.

Saturday dinner was at Creates bistro, where we had a very enjoyable evening but failed to discern whether the crayfish arancini contained any shellfish or was sage and onion stuffing. Those seeking a digestif, having declined the live but loud folk music at the first pub, ended the evening at Weatherspoons where we raised the demographic by at least 40 years.

On Sunday we drove south through the mist to Tintern Abbey. Another really good walk following the Wye Valley Way, climbing up through woodland with luminous green moss and a dramatic waterfall. Making our way down to the river through the pretty village of Llandogo, the return leg followed the riverbank and crossed two attractive 19th century bridges. Monmouth was a new location for the Club and proved to be an attractive base for some high quality walking.

Angela Leaman

Photo removed: the group and a backdrop of native daffodils at Penallt Church



Buster keeping a close eye on the remote mower at the Old Court Hotel



Crossing Brockweir Bridge

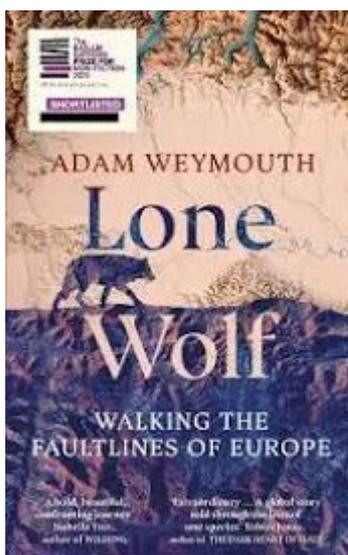
Photo removed: The Wye Valley Way above Tintern

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

Other Events / Items . . . *None this time*

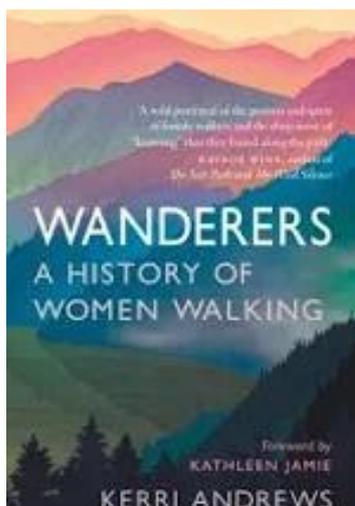
Extra Elements: Books, DVDs, Films, other Walks / Climbs – views & comments . . .
If you've read any walking / mountaineering / travel books which you've enjoyed, please share.

Thanks to Marion for these book recommendations: -



Lone Wolf by Adam Weymouth

In this book, the author walks from Slovenia, through Austria to Italy and the Lessinian Plateau above Verona in the footsteps of a young wolf. The wolf's journey had been tracked via GPS. The book is about an epic walk but also a debate about re-wilding and the re-introduction of wolves and the impact on traditional farming and communities.



Wanderers by Kerri Andrews

As the title suggests this is a book about women walking! There are ten chapters covering ten different women to whom walking was an important part of their lives. Some are obvious inclusions such as Dorothy Wordsworth, Nan Shepherd and Cheryl Strayed. Some seem less obvious such as Virginia Woolf and Anais Nin who did most of their walking in cities and quite a few I had not heard of e.g. Elizabeth Carter from the 18th century.

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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