

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

October 2026

Contact Details

Chairman:	Brian Holmes
Meets Co-ordinator:	David Wells
Secretary	Charles Harrison
Treasurer:	Paul Ackroyd
Newsletter Editors:	Angela Leaman Hilary Pettit

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Next Newsletter: Please send copy for the next issue to both editors
by midday on the 10th of the month.

Membership Update

Welcome back to Paul Taylor who has rejoined the club.

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

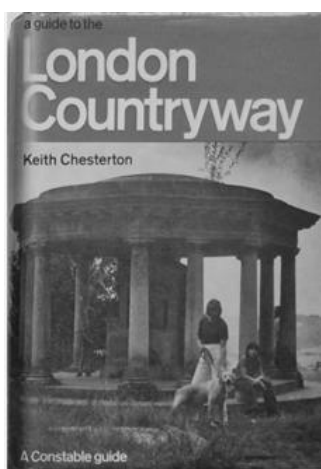
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
Sat 24 October	The London Countryway - Box Hill to Horsley	Charles Harrison	Day walk
Sat 14 November	Teddington to Kew	Charles Harrison	Day walk
Sun 6 December (amended date)	London Christmas Social - A Walk for Curious Wanderers	Angela Leaman	Day Walk

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
Fri 14 – Mon 17 May	Melrose, Scottish Borders	Nick West	Weekend

Meet Details – forthcoming events

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

Sat 14 November - Teddington to Kew – Charles Harrison

This is a walk of 6 miles from Teddington Lock along the River Thames to Kew timed to coincide with the annual Draw-Off at Richmond Lock. During this time, the sluice gates are lifted to allow the river from Teddington to Richmond Lock to drain to its natural low-tide level to allow for essential maintenance thus providing a very different view of the river. The path between Richmond Lock and Kew re-opened in November 2025 following work to repair a major riverbank collapse. Teddington and Kew Bridge stations are on South Western Railway. Gunnersbury station on the District Line is a short walk from Kew Bridge. Please let me know if you are interested.

Contact: Charles Harrison

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

Over 2000 years London has been shaped by a variety of shifting powers and influences, each century leaving an ephemera of historical remnants, details and symbols. These relicts are now stubbornly anchored in the modern metropolis but can still be used to uncover its secrets. Join me for a promenade around central London to open a fascinating window onto the city's past. The walk will start from London Bridge and be approximately 3 miles long, followed by a late lunch at a local restaurant. As eateries will be busy in the run up to Christmas, I will be making a provisional booking soon. Therefore, if you plan to attend, I'd be grateful if you could let me know now so I have a rough idea of numbers. Lunch only bookings welcome if you prefer not to do the walk.

Ho ho 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

Fri 14 – Mon 17 May 2027 Melrose, Scottish Borders – Nick West

Having been strong-armed by David at the recent Lakes meeting, I propose taking the Club into Scotland (just) for the first time in many years and basing a spring meet in and around Melrose.

This central part of the Borders is dominated by the distinctively shaped triple summits of the Eildon Hills - remnants of a complex volcano, and the Rivers Teviot and Tweed. The landscape is very varied, with range after range of rolling hills north of the Eildon Hills, and green pastures to their south sweeping away to Kelso and Jedburgh, with the Cheviot Hills on the border with England beyond. The area is deservedly popular with walkers and is crossed by no less than three of Scotland's great long-distance routes (St. Cuthbert's Way, the Borders Abbeys Way, as well as the start of the National Scottish Trail) as well as numerous more gentle river walks. The area is rich in history too and the town is full of character. Melrose is dominated by its great, ruined abbey, and Jedburgh and Kelso both also repay exploration, not least for their great country pubs. Selkirk had a long association with Sir Walter Scott, and his grand home at Abbotsford is merely one of a multitude of impressive stately homes nearby as an alternative for any day just too wet for walking.

The LNER East Coast Line connects to the Borders Railway at Edinburgh Waverley Station, which runs 35 miles to Tweedbank, a 5-minute taxi or 8-minute bus ride to Melrose. You can obviously also drive or get a cheap flight up to Edinburgh. If anyone wishes accommodation on the Thursday night beforehand and a lift down, we would be happy to accommodate guests – we live in Edinburgh and have two spare rooms on a first call first served basis and would be driving.

I am exploring accommodation options now but it would be very useful to have early expressions of interest (even potential) and for how many nights, in order to know how many we might need to cater for. A flavour of the walking available can be viewed here

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/borders/melrose.shtml> or here

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/680/melrose>.

Contact: Nick West

Meet Reports

Barnes Walk - Sunday 27 September 2026

Six of us met at Barnes Station and followed a route of snickets to the Thames. We were very surprised to see such a low tide and many boats competing for the deep central channel. Walking towards Kew bridge, we passed the site of an old brewery and the path became quite slippery from the previous high tide. The vista opens up at Chiswick Bridge with some very fine houses and a shady path that passes the National Archive. Having previously checked the fixture list for Brentford Football Club, I was surprised to see some pre-match activity as we passed the new football ground near Kew Bridge Station. Further enquiry revealed that it was the women's team. I thought a fixture list would have covered both men's and women's teams.

We then went under the A4 (a road very familiar to Londoners wanting to escape the city to the west) on a road that almost immediately leads into Gunnersbury Park. We had a very pleasant sandwich stop sitting on the terrace overlooking the park outside the museum, which seemed to have quite a lot of activities going on inside.

Photo outside museum

We avoided this and set off for a coffee in the cafe instead, afterwards retracing our steps in time to get out of the area before kick-off. Our path back to Barnes followed the north side of the river through Strand on the Green and Chiswick. The tide had now turned, and the river was now full. Claire joined us in Strand on the Green and shortly afterwards Teresa left, tempted by a quick bus route home. On then to Barnes bridge, more shady paths and occasional glimpses of the river and boat houses, losing Charles and Claire at the north end and a further departure at the South side. So who were the final three to enjoy a half of shandy?

Photo of 'the final three'

Alyson Lawton

Wasdale Head - Friday 11 - Monday 14 September 2026

There was lots of reminiscing about the old days as a group of 15 gathered at and around the Wasdale Head Hotel. Most people had rooms in the hotel, with a couple in self-catering next door and two in the B&B a short stroll down the road. It worked well as we all had dinner together, served in our own private dining room.

The Friday afternoon saw a small group setting off up Mosedale valley in bright sunshine, reaching Black Sail Pass via Gatherstone Head before heading back for dinner.

We awoke to heavy cloud on Saturday. One group did a low-level walk, with some setting off from Wasdale Head along the road to Nether Wasdale to join up with others who parked near the beginning of the lovely footpath round the bottom end of the lake. The original plan to walk back to Wasdale Head via Whin Rigg and Illgill Head, above the infamous Wasdale screes, was aborted due to the heavy cloud and we diverted via Miterdale Forest into Eskdale and then back home along the valley past Burnmoor Tarn. The final section was probably the most exciting as it involved 4 beck crossings, one of which involved calf deep wading. The drying room was full that night.

Distance 11.65 miles (15 for road walkers) 1,934 ft.

Photos removed

A second group had a pleasant stroll around Wasdale Head itself, investigating St Olaf's Church, England's smallest parish church which still has a service twice a month. Others visited Brantwood, the home of John Ruskin.

Sunday was bright and sunny and a group set off to conquer the mountains heading first of all for Great Gable via Sty Head. A couple turned back at Sty Head but the rest reached the summit only to have what can only be described as an interesting off-route descent by scree slope reaching Beckhead, at which point two people decided to go down, the rest going on to conquer Kirkfell, and then via Black Sail Pass back to Wasdale. In the meantime, other splinter groups had done a variety of walks that included a pleasant walk at Nether Wasdale, including the route round the end of the lake; a gentle stroll partway up towards Sty Head; and the direct route up Kirkfell from the hotel and back via Beck Head. What a great day in the mountains for everyone, regardless of fitness!

People photos removed



Most people set off home on the Monday but I think all agreed the LMC must return again to one of their old haunts – there is so much still to explore.

Sarah Dixon

Out Walking Reports & / or Photos . . . <i>None this time</i>

Other Events / Items

Sarah Bulling (27th March 1955 – 29th August 2026)

As all of you now know, Sarah passed away on 29th August after enduring a long battle with cancer. Six of our members attended the funeral on 1st October and, I believe, several others watched the live streaming. It was a very moving occasion which was attended by many of her friends from her days working at the BBC, her fellow Arsenal supporters and members of the various choirs that she sang with over the years.

Her cousin Richard asked me to pen a few words, which the vicar read out at the service and which I reproduce here:

"I first met Sarah some thirty years ago, when we were invited to a mutual friend's wedding party, (Chris and Louisa Lawrence). The mutual friend knew we both lived in Potters Bar so he suggested we travel together, which we duly did. Thus began our long friendship sharing our mutual love of music and passion for the outdoors. Sarah joined our walking club, known as the LMC Mountaineering Club and, although she was not a frequent walker, she eventually agreed to become our Newsletter editor. She did sterling service for almost ten years, only giving up at the end of 2023, so she could concentrate on her health."

We will all miss her.

Photo of Sarah and others in South Devon, January 2011 removed

John Blight

Elizabeth Marlow (18th January 1943 – 2nd October 2026)

You will all have received Hilary's email with sad news about our long-standing friend Liz. We are not sure exactly when Liz joined LMC but, at the 2015 Reunion Dinner, she and Angela were candidates for the longest continuous LMC membership. She was a Committee Member for four years from 1983, helping with social events and publicity. We all have many good memories of Liz, she was a very regular and enthusiastic attendee on weekends, when she was always good company and had an impish sense of humour. She regularly attended our AGMs – including the 2014 AGM in Charlbury below. All except our more recent members will remember her well and with great affection.

Photo of Liz and others removed

Some of you will know more about Liz's life than we do but we are pretty sure that she worked in market research for Shell UK. When we first knew her, she was living near Lensbury and she subsequently moved to Richmond. After retirement, she had many active interests, including volunteering for Riding for the Disabled. She was an active member of Kingston Ramblers and sang with a local choir. She shared a great love of music with other LMC members, including trips to opera at Glyndebourne. We last met her at a choral concert at Gloucester Cathedral in early August 2019. Liz was, like many others, hit hard by Covid. Her last few years were, very sadly, quite troubled and she ceased communicating with friends. Since early 2022, she had been living at Cecil Court, a specialist care home in Kew. Her brother, Bob, along with a Richmond neighbour, very kindly kept us informed of Liz's situation from time to time.

Bob has just let us know that, sadly for her friends and wider family, Liz did not want anyone other than immediate family at her funeral and he is respecting her wishes - so we sadly won't get a chance to jointly remember and share our memories of her time with LMC. **However, if any of you have special memories or other photos of Liz, please do send them to me and we will forward them privately to her brother Bob.** We think that, in the absence of a joint commemoration, Bob would appreciate receiving these – he has mentioned more than once how much Liz loved the time she spent with us all.

Here are a few photos of Liz from the archives: firstly, in the Lake District in May 2013, and then at the LMC Reunion Dinner in November 2015.

Three phtoos removed

This last photo was one of the images in Stephen's wonderful AV presentation at the 2015 Reunion Dinner – Liz peacefully snoozing in the sunshine somewhere, sometime.

With fond memories of Liz.

Kirsty & Andy Johns

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