

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

May 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.

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 23 May	Kent – Darent Valley with cultural diversions	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
Sun 31 May	The Capital Ring: Richmond to Greenford	Marion Downie	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 – <i>Fully Subscribed</i>
Tue 21 to Mon 27 July	Opera and Mountains in Austria	Paul Ackroyd	Full Week – <i>Fully Subscribed</i>
Fri 11- Mon 14 September	Wasdale Head (aka putting the Mountains back into LMC)	Sarah Dixon	Weekend
Sun 27 September	Barnes Circular (Kew and Gunnersbury Park)	Alyson Lawton	Day Walk
Fri 9 – Sun 11 October	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
Fri 23 – Mon 26 April	Llangollen	Brian Holmes	Weekend

Meet Details – forthcoming events

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

May Update: Final arrangements

It seems that the Roman Villa at Lullingstone is at least partially open and trains seem to be working.... so the day walk on Saturday 23 of May is on depending on weather!

I suggest that we meet in Eynsford at about 11.40 on Saturday 23rd of May.

- For those travelling by train there is a train from Victoria, leaving at 10.47 arriving at 11.41.
- For those travelling by car, I suggest you park in Otford. There is a car park at the station and get the 11.29, from Otford arriving Eynsford at 11.35. I intend to do this.

We will walk to the Roman Villa: it is not fully open because they have not finished their renovation work, but it will be free to enter, and we will be able to see what work they are doing to preserve the fine mosaics from water and other damage. More information on the English Heritage Website.

Please bring a packed lunch because although places will be open, they will be busy.

We will then continue our walk through the Lullingstone Country Park, past Shoreham and arrive in Otford late afternoon. We will have a meal in one of the pubs in Otford and then those who wish can attend the Sevenoaks Shakespeare production of "Shrewed". Some sort of modern version of the Taming of the Shrew set in the 1940 with a live swing band.

More details on www.sevenoaksshakespeare.co.uk/shrewed

It is an open-air production in the Old Archbishops palace starting at 8.00 pm so make sure you have some warm clothes/blankets.

At the end of the production. We can pick up the cars or catch trains back to London.

If you are intending to come, I do need to know because I have to make a reservation at one of the pubs in Otford and they will be busy on a Saturday night. Also, probably to buy tickets in advance for " Shrewed", although this may not be quite so important. We do have to take our own seating for the outdoor theatre production, which is obviously impossible for those travelling by train, but I will bring enough chairs in my car for all those I know are coming. I hope those who are coming by car could bring their own chairs and possibly one or two spares.

Please email me if you are intending to come.

- **Contact:** Paul Ackroyd
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Sun 31 May – The Capital Ring: Richmond to Greenford - Marion Downie

Stage 4 of the Capital Ring is from Richmond to Greenford (c.11 miles) with an opt out at Osterley after 5 miles. Meet at 10.30am at Richmond Station – there is a Costa as you come out on the left.

I am sure we will find places for refreshment during the day, but I suggest bringing a sandwich as it gives us more flexibility if places are busy.

If you are interested, please let me know.

Contact: Marion Downie

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

April Update

We currently have 4 attendees and we would welcome more. The Quay Rooms B&B has only one more room available if anyone else would like to attend. Please use the number starting 01328 below if you wish to book as Steve is currently unavailable.

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). 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

May Update

We now have 12-14 people confirmed for the meet, some staying in the hotel and some in self-catering apartments. At time of writing there is still one double room available (book directly with the hotel).

It's a great starting point for lots of nice mountains including Scafell Pike, Great Gable and Pillar but there are also possibilities for lower-level walks or gentler valley ascents. Some examples of gentler low-level walks for rainy days or for those wanting a less strenuous and a slower pace option are given below, and of course a slow walk up one of the valleys and back is always an alternative. So if you don't feel fit enough to climb a mountain, there are other things to do, as well as enjoy people's company in the evenings over dinner.

Way out West Walk 10.57 miles 1,295 ft ascent (can be made shorter and lower)

Nether Wasdale 3.83 miles 286 ft ascent (can be made longer and higher)

Wasdale Head 3.63 miles 260 ft ascent (can be made longer and higher)

Please contact Sarah Dixon with any questions.

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. I will be able to check any planned engineering work impact on trains nearer the time.

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).

I look forward to seeing a good autumn weekend!

Contact: David Wells

2027 Meet details

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

Llangollen Walking Weekend – Friday 17 – Monday 20 April 2026

Nine members enjoyed the visit to Llangollen, North Wales where we had an introductory walk on Friday and longer walks above the attractive Vale of Llangollen on Saturday and Sunday. The Llangollen Hostel in the centre of town provided an ideal base with comprehensive facilities where we could enjoy socialising as a group. Following our introductory walk up to the remains of Castell Dinas Bran towering above the town, the Corn Mill overlooking the rapids of the river Dee provided a perfect setting for our evening meal.

On Saturday, everyone elected to tackle the 11 mile, 2,200ft ascent along the edges of Eglwyseg Mountain through the heather moorland and back along the Offa's Dyke Path through the impressive scree of the limestone escarpment. Minor showers did not dampen spirits or the views.

On Sunday, everyone was up to tackle another 10 mile, 2,300 feet in the other direction to do a circuit taking in the Pontcysyllte Aquaduct, a World Heritage site, spanning the river Dee 127 feet below. The canal offered a less challenging route back for one whilst the rest of the group climbed the other side of the valley with stunning views back to Llangollen and the mountains beyond illuminated by bright sunshine. Everyone made their own arrangements to bring back a range of takeaways to enjoy together in the dining room on Saturday and a collective effort of self-catering on Sunday evening.

Everyone felt the Hostel provided a comfortable base with easy access to a wide range of local services and attractions. Each of the walks started from the Hostel and further options remain to be explored. So much so, it was agreed we should repeat the meet with variations again next year and the Hostel has now been secured for sole use 23 – 26 April 2027.

Brian Holmes

West Ruislip to Rickmansworth - Sunday 10 May 2026

On a chilly May morning Alyson and I met at West Ruislip underground station at the end of the Central Line, exploring new ground for us both. Crossing the road on the bridge over the railway gave us our first glimpse of many during the day of HS2 works where the line emerges from the Northolt tunnel before crossing the newly built Colne Valley Viaduct.

The walk took us immediately into countryside, but the route was quite difficult to find in places and clearly isn't well used. After crossing a succession of fields, we waded through Bayshurst Wood Countryside Park where we expected to meet others out for a Sunday stroll or dog walk but instead only came across two teenagers on a quad bike who asked the way to (what we later realised to be) a nearby pub. As it turned out they had absolutely no interest in the pub as we met them a second time further on through the woods where they were filming wheelies and other tricks and were there precisely because they expected no-one else to be. It was then back out into the countryside where we passed a group of Duke of Edinburgh students before meeting up with David A at St Mary's Church in Harefield.

David had visited the church before we arrived and found out lots of interesting information, as well as being offered a cup of tea at the end of the morning's service. Unfortunately, we arrived just in time to be too late for tea, only to see the leftovers in the pot being poured down the drain. However, a bench in the very well cared for church yard proved a perfect place for a lunch stop followed by a wander round the Australian Military Cemetery which had a very interesting history.

In November 1914, Mr and Mrs Charles Billyard-Leake, Australians resident in the UK, offered their home, Harefield Park House and its grounds, to the Minister of Defence in Melbourne for use as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers of the Australian Imperial Forces. The Hospital initially consisted of Harefield Park House, a 3-storey plain brick building, some out-buildings and grounds of some 250 acres, accommodating 150 patients. By November 1916 the site was functioning as a general hospital and occupied around 50 buildings on the estate including ward huts, garages, recreation rooms, and a mortuary. At its peak it could accommodate 1,000 patients and treated some 50,000 soldiers during the course of the war. The site was bought by Middlesex County Council in 1919 and eventually became the specialist heart and lung NHS hospital.

112 of the soldiers treated in the hospital did not survive and a local MP, Francis Newdegate, offered a plot next to the church to extend the cemetery where each was buried with military honours.

The headstones, which are of a design unique amongst the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cemeteries, were chosen by the staff and the patients of the hospital.

They were created before the end of the war, thus predating the standard CWGC design in use from the 1920s to the present day.

After a welcome coffee stop in Harefield village, we caught a glimpse of the new Colne Valley Viaduct (it is there if you look closely!) before dropping down to the towpath for the afternoon's walk along the river to Rickmansworth and the journey home.

Hilary Pettit

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

Other Events / Items

Gordon Alabaster

The Shell Pensioners News has just announced the death of Gordon Alabaster on 10 October 2025 at the age of 82.

Gordon was an enthusiastic member of the climbing section of the LMC in the late 80s and early 90s and regularly attended meets in North Wales, the Peak District and the sandstone outcrops South of London. Some of the best events took place on Froggatt Edge and Stanage Edge in Derbyshire. Back then the M1 was quiet and one could leave London at 6 am on a Saturday morning and be tucking into breakfast at the Lover's Leap transport cafe in Stoney Middleton by 9am whilst the rock dried out. Gordon was a calm, organised and patient man who set a very good example to novice climbers like me. I was relieved and grateful that he was managing the belay when I first fell off a rock face. I have very happy memories of his contribution to the Club.

Alan Dunworth

Outdoor supplier discounts with BMC membership

The BMC secretariat have advised me that the following shops provide discounts to BMC members, and you **need to use the following codes for online shopping**. For in-store shopping, I gather that you just need to show your card (which you now have to print off rather laboriously from the BMC website using your BMC login details). It might be useful to write these codes on the back of your BMC card.

- Cotswold Outdoor/Snow+Rock/Runners Need – AF-BMC-A6C (15% discount)

- Absolute Snow – BMC-0346-X (10%)
- Valley & Peak - BMCVP10 (10%)
- Arran Active - AABMC2023 (10%)

The 15% at Cotswold Outdoor comes in very useful from time to time. If your annual spending at Cotswold comes to £205 or more before discount, you will have completely covered the BMC part (£30.74) of your annual £32 LMC membership fee.

More supplier discounts are listed on the BMC website

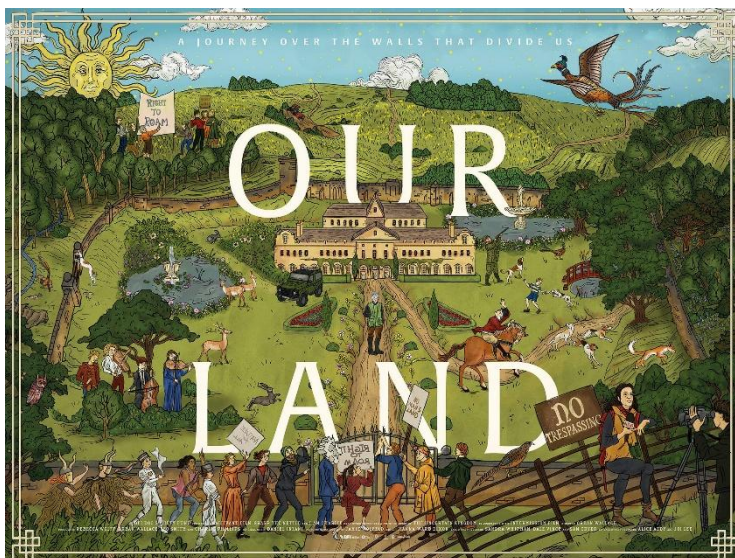
at: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/en/retail-discounts> (including 15% discount at our very own Crickhowell Adventure). You can use your card for in-store shopping, but you need to contact the BMC secretariat to get individual outlet codes for *online* shopping at any of these.

Kirsty Johns

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.

Film: Our Land

It seems to be the season for independent films with a walking theme, and Our Land is released on 8 May.



The documentary centres on the question of land access and the right to roam in the English countryside.

It goes to the heart of the 'Right to Roam' movement, with its provocative trail of mass trespass, campaigning and education.

It visits both sides of the fence by also exploring landowners' concerns around environmental

protection and the danger widespread access could pose to a landscape already under threat.

With 92% of land and 97% of all rivers in England not legally accessible to the general public, Our Land displays the wild and beautiful landscape whilst delving into the complex issues of access, custodianship and conservation.

Once again, I haven't seen it yet, so I can't actually recommend it, but it sounds as though it will be interesting.

It seems to be showing for the odd night here and there at small venues and more details can be found in the link below.

Our Land | Documentary
Ourlanddocumentary.com

Hilary

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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