

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

October 2025

Contact Details

Chairman: David Wells
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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.

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2025			
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
Sat 25 October	LMC - 50th Anniversary Reunion, Salisbury	Angela Leaman	Club social
Fri 14 – Sun 16 November	Swanage	David Wells	Weekend
Sun 30 November	Barnes Circular	Alyson Lawton	Day Walk

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
March	TBC	David Wells	Weekend
Mid July	Opera and Mountains in Austria	Paul Ackroyd	Full Week

Message from the Chairperson

2026 LMC Committee - Advance Notice!

At the AGM in January, a new committee will be elected. The current Secretary (Charles Harrison), Treasurer (Paul Ackroyd) and Meets Secretary (Angela Leaman) have expressed a willingness to continue in their roles. However, as Chairperson, having completed a three year term, I am not eligible under the club rules to stand again. Hence we need a new Chair!! Could any volunteers or those interested in the role please contact me to discuss - with the highly effective current committee, the chair role is really very easy!

David Wells

Meet Details – forthcoming events

Sat 25 October – Salisbury LMC - 50th Anniversary Reunion

Those that were there will remember the fantastic evening we had in 2015 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of LMC Mountaineering Club. Around 80 current and former members came together for dinner and a hugely sociable evening at Lensbury Club in Teddington. Therefore, we plan to do it again for our 50th! Yes, it all began in 1975.

April Update

I am very happy to report there has been a tremendous response to join us in Salisbury in October to celebrate LMC's 50th Anniversary. It has been great to hear from so many current and former members of the Club.

The Reunion dinner will take place on **Saturday 25th October 2025** at the [White Hart Hotel](#) in Salisbury, near the famous Cathedral Close and within walking distance of the station (trains from Waterloo). Rooms have been reserved at the hotel for Saturday night, and a discount is available on Friday if you wish to stay the weekend. Salisbury is a medieval city and an attractive place to visit. I am delighted to let you know that **booking is now open** and those who have already expressed an interest in coming to the reunion will have received details of how to book on a separate email group.

TRAVEL

The hotel has a car park (complimentary for group bookings) and is within walking distance of the station (trains from Waterloo).

ACCOMMODATION

Please contact the hotel directly to make your booking. **IMPORTANT: quote 'LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB' to obtain the group rate.** Note the hotel is a historic building and does not have ground floor bedrooms or a lift - please speak to the hotel for any specific requirements. Dogs are permitted on request.

Room prices (includes breakfast)

Classic Double/Twin: £130 (2 people)

Privilege Double: £140 (2 people)

Double room single occupancy: £120

Single room: £110

Friday rate: As above minus £15

Saturday dinner: £31.50; 3 courses with tea/coffee (excl. drinks)

T&Cs

Dinner and accommodation to be paid for on arrival.

Cancellation - accommodation

Up to 28 days before arrival: No charge

Between 28 and 21 days: 25%

Between 20 and 14 days: 75%

Between 13 and 7 days: 75%

Less than 7 days or non-arrival: 90%

Cancellation - dinner

Dinner may be cancelled free of charge up to 2 weeks ahead

If you experience any problems with your booking do let me know.

Contact: Angela Leaman;

Fri 14 – Sun 16 November - Swanage – David Wells

For the last LMC weekend of the year, I'm proposing to organise a couple of walks around Swanage, in the middle of the Purbecks, with great walks along the coast path as far as Lulworth Cove or Durdle Door, to Studland and Poole harbour, or inland to Corfe Castle and beyond. Swanage offers many restaurants and cafes and entertainment, although unfortunately the Steam railway doesn't operate in November. Bus services do offer the opportunity for linear walks though.

I propose to base the weekend at the Purbeck House Hotel, which has plenty of rooms available at this time. Quoted rates for 2 nights Friday-Sunday are £120 single, £190 double. Continental breakfast adds a further £9/night (no cooked breakfast I'm afraid!). A 10% discount is available for room payment at time of booking. The hotel does not take dogs

Please book hotel, *mentioning to them that you are joining the LMC group*, and let me know if you're intending to come along. I will book dinners for Friday and Saturday evenings nearer the time and also suggest walks depending on the group and likely weather!

Contact : David Wells

Sun 30 November – Barnes Circular – Alyson Lawton

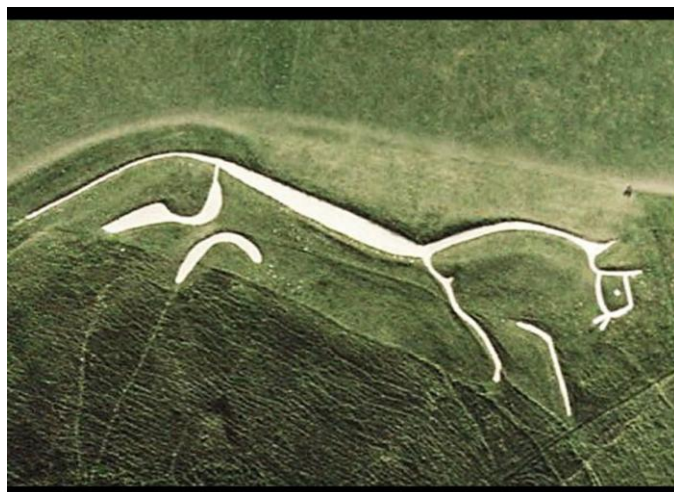
Departing from Barnes Station, we will walk across Barnes Common and over to Chiswick House and then by the Thames to Hammersmith, crossing back over and follow Beverly Brook and the commons back to Barnes Station about 7 miles in total. We will meet at 11.00.

The critical thing is Sunday transport of course. There is free parking in Station Road, Barnes on Sundays for anyone wanting to drive. Having looked up all the engineering works this side of Christmas, the only weekend that makes sense is 30 November as there are at least frequent trains running through Barnes from London due to diversions from other lines! Sadly, there is not a cafe or loos at Barnes Station so an early coffee stop might be in order. Please bring a sandwich as it's a busy area for food ordering in cafes and pubs.

Contact: Alyson Lawton

Sat 17 January 2026 - 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

Chiseldon House: www.chiseldonhouse.com Tel: 01793 741010

Early Notification

Mid July 2026 – Opera and Mountains in Austria – Paul Ackroyd

I am hoping to arrange another trip to Austria as we have done twice in the past. The core of the visit is to stay in Bregenz on Lake Constance for the festival where they have an elaborate opera stage actually in the lake. Their productions are normally spectacular and in 2026 they will be doing Verdi's *La Traviata*. It will be probably sung in Italian with German subtitles. So unless you are fluent in one of these languages, you will not have a clue what is going on but a bit of pre reading of the synopsis should be sufficient and the visual experience is wonderful. After a couple of nights in Bregenz, we will travel (by bus or car) up to the small ski resort village of Damuls where we know a delightful little hotel run by an Austrian lady, Claudia, who has always made us very welcome in the past, and where the food and wine are excellent. The scenery is spectacular (if it's not raining) and there are some good walks accessible by chairlifts which in the past have been free.

The key constraint is accommodation in Bregenz which gets very busy at the time of the festival. Hotel bookings do not yet seem to be open, but I think they will be within the next couple of months. If you are interested in coming, please let me know by email and I will keep an eye for when hotels are taking reservations. It will be necessary to get in very early. Once we have some idea of who has booked, I will contact the hotel in Damuls and arrange tickets for the opera. In the past, people have done various other things around these core activities, including cycling all the way around Lake Constance. It will be up to you to make necessary transport arrangements (which are very easy) and plan any additions to your holiday.

Contact: Paul Ackroyd

Old Winchester Hill, Hampshire - 10 August 2025

Michael, Heather and Andrew enjoyed a pleasant walk on Old Winchester hill back in early August. Parking is always easy at the disused railway station at West Meon and the walk starts by following the disused line East. The first encounter was with a couple of substantial fallen trees - the only way to pass them being to crawl underneath on hands and knees.

Our next interesting moment was about 15 minutes later as we came off a small back road to walk up to Hen wood. The 'track' had been closed to traffic but not walkers. However, a very irate lady came charging out from her quite large house to inform us in no uncertain manner



that we could not pass. Further inspection of the notices clearly indicated we were fine to continue, which we did, while being accompanied for 50m by our, not so happy, housewife. The rest of the ten miles was completely uneventful.

A beautiful day, a reasonably gentle climb to the top of the hill, where we had our lunch sitting on a covered water tank, with great views.

Then down from the crest to the west, where we again intersected the disused railway line and strolled back to the cars.

It was a good distance for the lovely warm day

Andrew and Heather McGinn

Lake District – Duddon Valley 12 - 19 September 2025

Marion, Stephen, David, Angela, Hilary, Brian and Linda (welcome to Linda on her first LMC meet) stayed in two lovely cottages (Riverside and Duddon at Hall Dunnerdale – highly recommended) and Buster and I stayed in the local pub. This must have been the worst week for weather for months as it rained every day, but it demonstrated the wisdom of staying in this lovely valley which offers low level walks as well as high peaks, so we made the best of it with a variety of walks and other leisure pursuits. We had delicious home cooking for 4 nights (thanks to Marion, Linda, Hilary and Angela) and delicious pub food at the Newfield Inn (within walking distance) for 3 nights.

Saturday 13th (the best day for weather) – We all set off together up Coniston Old Man.

And managed to split into 4 groups by the end of the day! David diverted to ascend Caw. Stephen, Angela and Hilary went up and along Dove Crag and Brian, Linda, Sarah and Marion went via Goat's Water to the shoulder below the summit, Sarah and Marion reached the summit. Everyone except David took the same route down (but in separate groups) along the treacherous banks of Seathwaite Tarn, and we all ended up home at about the same time. (max. 8.89 miles, 3,144 ft).

Sunday 14th The weather being iffy in the morning, we did a pleasant circular walk to [Swinside Stone Circle](#) (one of several walks provided at the cottage as laminated leaflets). The initial section of the route was via stepping stones – the first two people fell in but got to the other side. The others decided to find a different route. (4.5 miles 669 ft). David who did a shorter route braved the stepping stones on the way and did not fall in (very foolhardy!).

In the afternoon Marion, Angela and I did a splendid gorge walk up the Duddon valley direct from the cottages. Due to the rain the river Duddon was a raging torrent. The path was through trees, narrow and difficult underfoot but rewarding. The return route took us left and steeply uphill where the meet leader was panicking about a ford just spotted on the map at this late stage and likely to be impassable due to rainfall. It was raining heavily by this time and the thought of retracing our route down the gorge was somewhat depressing. Luckily there was a footbridge! The route back was via green lanes, easy underfoot and very picturesque. Walk strongly recommended (Wallowbarrow gorge walk) (4 miles 1030ft).

Monday 15th Really bad weather so four of us, determined to walk, visited the National Trust Nature Reserve, Sandscale Haws on the South side of the Duddon estuary. Walking into the wind along the beach proved difficult so we cut into the nature reserve that was sheltered amongst the dunes.

We found lots of different fungi, including large parasol mushrooms as demonstrated by Angela. On the way back we walked rapidly along the beach blown along by the wind. David, given the task of finding us a nice café for lunch, excelled himself and we all thoroughly recommend [Pam's Cafe](#) at Kirby-in-Furness. Others found plenty of entertainment out of the wind and rain — visiting Coniston, Brantwood, shopping etc.

Tuesday 16th - Brian, Marion and I decided to defy the weather, and we set off up Caw. At the top the wind was so fierce Brian and I clung to the trig point and I held on to Marion! With the cloud clearing we took the direct precipitous route down and continued on to the wonderful Stickle Pike and beyond and then back via Stickle Tarn. These are the low level Dunnerdale Pikes that give wonderful views back to the high peaks.

Stephen and Angela visited Rydal Mount and Levens Hall. Linda, Hilary and David walked along Haverigg Beach, the Seawall and visited Hodbarrow RSPB on the north side of the estuary.

Wednesday 17th A rather disappointing walk for 4 of us. The first half was fine, leading past a bobbin mill and to a photogenic hunting lodge, however the route back was a tedious straight woodland track. (6.67miles 800ft). David took a shorter route, and we caught up with him to walk together back along the aforementioned track. Others did the gorge walk, or sections of it.

Thursday 18th Having looked at the weather forecast the night before there was due to be a rain free period till lunch time. A miracle happened. 6 of us got up at 6, breakfasted at 6.30, left the house at 7 and were walking round Devoke Water by 7.25 (another leaflet). The photographers amongst us extolled the wonderful early morning light. 5 of us reached [Barnscar](#) the best Settlement I had ever seen, with many compounds, homes and cairns spread over a wide area. We walked back over Water Crag, Rough Crag and Pike How giving us drier passage underfoot than the outward route alongside the lake. We had another exciting stream crossing with 3 brave people and the dog wading across and 2 crossing by clinging onto to a fence. In the meantime, David was having a more leisurely walk by the lake admiring the multitude of cairns. After the walk we lunched at Dalegarth Station in Eskdale and saw the train pull out before heading back (by car) over Hardknott Pass as the rain began to fall. (6.77 miles 748ft)

There was certainly plenty to do even in the rain and I think we all had a good time, especially Buster.



Sarah Dixon

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.

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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