

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

November 2025

Contact Details

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Secretary Charles Harrison
Treasurer: Paul Ackroyd
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Next Newsletter: *Early Deadline* Please send copy for the next issue to both editors
 by **midday on the 6th December.**

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2025			
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
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
Fri 6 – Sun 8/Mon 9 March	Wye Valley Monmouth – PROVISIONAL	Angela Leaman	Weekend
Sat 20 to Sat 27 June	The Wales Coast Path – Lleyn Peninsula	John Blight	Full Week
Mid 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

From the Chairman

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
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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

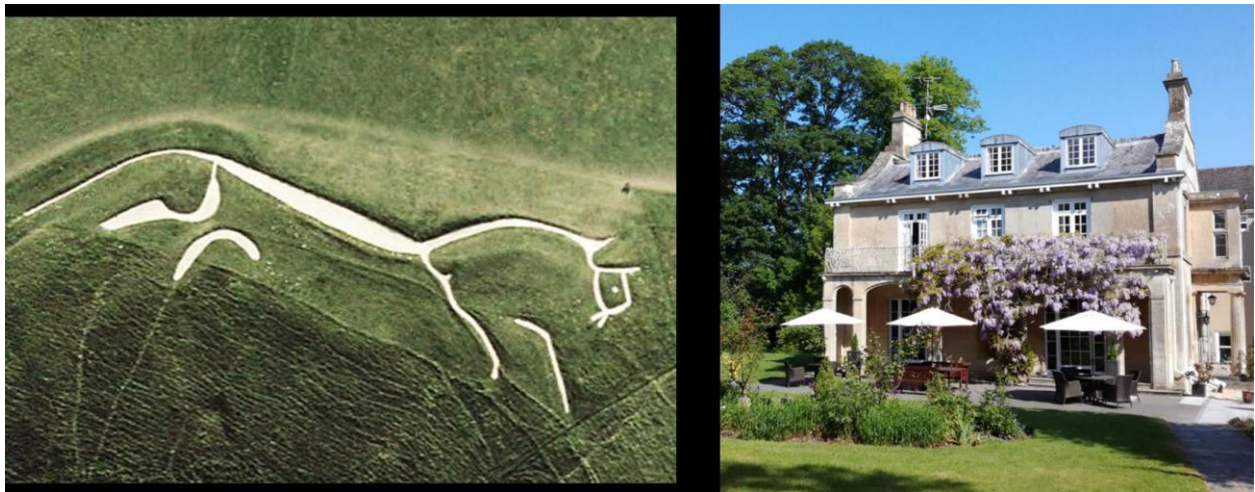
Departing from Barnes Station, we will walk across Barnes Common and over to Chiswick House and then by the Thames to Hammersmith, crossing back over and follow Beverly Brook and the commons back to Barnes Station about 7 miles in total. We will meet at 11.00.

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

Fri 6 – Sun 8/Mon 9 March 2026 – Wye Valley – Monmouth – PROVISIONAL – Angela Leaman

This is a provisional save the date for a March weekend in the Wye Valley staying in the small market town of Monmouth. I can't confirm just yet, pending other holiday arrangements, but should be able to firm up things up for the December Newsletter.

Monmouth is situated on the lower reaches of the Wye, and the Offa's Dyke long distance trail runs through the town. It is an attractive base for a weekend, with a good range of independent shops and cafes. To account for unpredictable weather in early spring there are a variety of lower-level walks, including from the town centre, and easy road access.

We will stay in the Monmouth Premier Inn. Not the most glamorous of places but comfortable, good value and a 10 minute walk from the town centre. Room rates are currently listing around £90 per night. I have picked weekend dates for a 2/3 night stay but, depending on attendees, there may be an opportunity for a mid-week break. There is plenty of other accommodation in town if furry friends want to come.

If you are interested in a spring trip to Monmouth, I'd be grateful if you could drop me a line so I have a feel for numbers. If I am unable to go ahead in early March I plan to arrange the same meet at another time.

Contact: Angela Leaman

Sat 20 to Sat 27 June 2026 – Wales Coast Path – Llyn Peninsula – John Blight

A plan to walk approximately 65 miles during the week from a base to be decided – more details to follow.

Please let me know if you are interested in coming to help with planning accommodation.

Contact: John Blight

Mid July 2026 – Opera and Mountains in Austria – Paul Ackroyd – *Fully Subscribed*

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

Wasdale Head 11 - 14 September 2026 (aka putting the Mountains back into LMC) – Sarah Dixon

This should bring back many happy memories for some, as I have booked a few rooms at Wasdale Head Hotel in the West Lake District (2 singles, 2 doubles and 1 twin) for the above dates. There is some flexibility for more rooms at the hotel and at an Air BnB location nearby should there be demand. There is free cancellation on the rooms till September 5th. Single room £258.75 and double/twin for £517.50 for 3 nights including breakfast.

It's a great starting point for lots of nice mountains including Scafell Pike, Great Gable and Pillar but also possibilities for lower-level walks or gentler ascents via valleys and down towards Nether Wasdale.

Contact: Sarah Dixon if you are interested.

Meet Reports

Scadbury Park and Petts Wood - 5 October 2025

On a bright early autumn day, Alyson Hilary, John and Paul met in a very pleasant coffee shop in Petts Wood in south-east London before setting off on our walk. The walk took us initially across a complex spaghetti junction of railway lines before entering the Hawkwood estate: an area of farmland and open fields, now in the care of the National Trust and seemingly far away from the suburban sprawl which surrounds it. A slight ascent took us to the busy A208 which we crossed with some trepidation onto the Scadbury Park estate, a delightful area of ancient

woodland with some impressive old trees also run by the National Trust. The sun was out and walking through the colouring autumn foliage was glorious. Due to a minor map reading error by our walk leader, we did this part of the walk in an anticlockwise direction, coming in due course to the site of the moated old Manor house. Now very much in ruins and the moat full of ominous looking greenery.

Photo of Scadbury Manor

The manor is not accessible to the public, except on one weekend per year, but from a cursory inspection through the fence it did not look as if it had changed very much since some of us visited it several years ago. It is being excavated by the Orpington and District Archaeological Society, but their pace seems to be glacial.

It has an interesting history and occupants but skip the following 2 paras if you are not interested!

In 1424 Thomas Walsingham a wealthy vintner from the City of London, bought the manor from a certain Thomas Dale. The manor was inherited by Thomas's son, Thomas Walsingham II, and then by his son James Walsingham (1462-1540) who was Sheriff of Kent in 1497. James's son was Sir Edmund Walsingham (ca.1480-1550) who was knighted for his part in the battle of Flodden. Sir Edmund later became Lieutenant of the Tower of London and was responsible for many of the prisoners of Henry VIII; Sir Thomas More, Thomas Cromwell, and Anne Boleyn being among the best known.

In 1738 The old manor house on the island was demolished possibly because it had become unsafe. In 1914 the then owner Robert Marsham-Townshend, a member of the Diplomatic Service and a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, moved into the farm bailiff's house at Scadbury and extended it to make a substantial country home. He was a keen antiquarian and carried out excavations and repairs on the moated manor site. During World War II a Home Guard platoon was based at Scadbury. On 28 March 1945, one of the last World War II VI flying bombs fell on Scadbury demolishing the medieval barn and damaging surrounding buildings. In 1983 the London Borough of Bromley bought the site and designated Scadbury Park and surrounding areas as a Local Nature Reserve.

Leaving the Manor site we continued on to the picnic spot for a slightly delayed lunch, surrounded by bears (carved wooden ones) and with sweet chestnuts falling around us.

Photo of three with bears!

After lunch we continued the circuit back to the A208 and thence directly south through Petts Wood itself also managed by the National Trust. We came across the monument celebrating William Willetts, a local resident who was an untiring advocate of daylight saving, which was adopted in 1916 after his death. From there it was not long to reach the railway line again and return to the town of Petts Wood where we had a celebratory drink, appropriately in the Daylight Inn. A delightful early autumn walk.

Salisbury LMC - 50th Anniversary Reunion - 25 October 2025

Photos of the evening

A full report from Angela on a wonderful weekend will follow next month, with a message below from Andy and Kirsty on behalf of all who were there.

A big "THANK YOU" to Angela and her organising team members Hilary and Marion for such a splendid evening in Salisbury on 25th November. Your hard work paid off and you gave us all a weekend to remember. Not forgetting Chairman David (and past Chairman Andy) for their words, and MC Paul keeping us all in order with his bugle on the night. It was so good to see so many old and new faces, and a great deal of reminiscing and catching up was done throughout the weekend. Thank you all.

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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