

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

December 2025

Contact Details

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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 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 23 May	Kent – probably Darent Valley with cultural diversions	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk – more details to follow
Sat 20 to Sat 27 June	The Wales Coast Path – Llyn Peninsula	John Blight	Full Week
Mid 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 – date TBC	Llangollen	Brian Holmes	Weekend – more details to follow

REMINDER: LMC WhatsApp

Just a quick reminder that LMC has a general WhatsApp group- quite a lot of 50th party photos were posted there but many of you don't get to see them!! Let David Wells if you'd like to join.

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given, that the 26th Annual General Meeting of the LMC Mountaineering Club will be held at the **Chiseldon House Hotel, New Road, Chiseldon, Swindon, Wiltshire SN4 0NE** on **Saturday 17th January 2026**.

Motions for debate, and nominations for Committee, must be received by me, at the email address below, no less than four days before the meeting. Motions received seven days before the meeting will be published with the agenda and arrangements will be made for all paid-up members to vote on these. A draft agenda is being circulated with this notice.

Charles Harrison

From the Treasurer: 2026 Subscriptions – now due

The BMC have increased their subscription per adult member in 2026 to £ 30.74 in line with the increase in the RPI of 4.8%. The LMC subscription mainly pays for the BMC membership (which includes their insurance cover) plus small margin to add to LMC funds. The Committee have therefore decided to increase the LMC subscription for 2026 to £32; an increase of £2 on 2025.

If you wish to remain a member for 2026 and vote at the AGM, then you will need to forward £32 per person as your subscription by Bank Transfer to:

The LMC Mountaineering Club

TSB Bank Sort code 30-18-25 Account no. 00144738.

Anyone who experiences any problems with this should consult the Treasurer.

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

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.

December Update : Five people have already expressed an interest so please can I have firm *expressions of interest by mid-January*, so I can book 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

December Update: This should bring back many happy memories for some, as I have booked a few rooms so far 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 one more room at the hotel and in two 3 bed apartments should there be demand. However, the configuration and pricing are rather complex, so if you want to join the meet could you please contact me to find out the options. It would certainly be helpful if non-couples could offer to share a twin room and if you could commit earlier rather than later. There are also some slightly cheaper options than those initially specified.

So far, we have four definites – Michael, Marion, Rob Lewis and myself, with two possibles – Peter and David Wells.

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.

Please contact Sarah Dixon to discuss the accommodation options if you are interested

Meet Reports

Salisbury LMC - 50th Anniversary Reunion - 25 October 2025

A whole year in the planning, 58 current and former members convened for a grand reunion to mark our 50th anniversary at the White Hart Hotel in Salisbury. I can safely report that everyone had a great time. Some photographs from the Reunion follow this article.

The event kicked off on Friday evening, with dinner for 22 at Baroushka and some excellent Lebanese cuisine. The activities programme, wonderfully organised by Marion, was a recurring theme during the weekend, enabling former members to catch up with old friends and current and past members to become acquainted.

On Saturday Stephen led an intrepid group of 12 prehistoric explorers around the historic sites of the Stonehenge landscape. As well as ancient sites from the 4th to 2nd millennium BC, the tour included military activity in the early 20th century which made an interesting contrast. This included the site of the huge, now grassed-over Stonehenge Aerodrome that straddled the current A303, a place where WW1 horses were stabled, and three of the oldest surviving military hangars in the world. David A. kindly provided information about the Military Light Railway. The light rain generally held off, and everyone was treated with a rainbow to round off the day.

Meanwhile, further south, 7 current and former members and a dog joined John B on a 10-mile route from Langford Lakes in rather less clement weather. First a climb up to an old Roman road into Grovely Wood then down to Great Wishford where a pub miraculously appeared to coincide with the first downpour of the day. A pleasant meander along the banks of the river

Wyllye followed, then another bit of uphill towards some very dark clouds. No pub emerged this time and they returned back to the cars somewhat drenched!

The Reunion dinner took place on Saturday evening, magnificently compered by Paul armed with a bell and a vintage microphone. The dinner was book-ended by a welcome from the current chairman David W. and a toast to the club from former chairman Andy J. There was an affectionate tribute to Ricky Turpin who posted the original advert for the club in Lensbury Club News back in 1975. Unfortunately he failed to attend many meets as he was soon posted to Nigeria! Dinner was followed by some intense socialising, and an opportunity to inspect a display from the club archive and wonderful photo reel curated by Hilary.

On Sunday morning Paul lead a group of 9 around historic Salisbury. Starting in the Cathedral Close and assisted by Alyson's excellent guidebook, the walk visited Arundells (former home of Edward Heath) and Mompesson House, a Queen Anne town house. Exiting past the College of Matrons (erected 1682 for widows of the clergy) and the North Gate with its stone slot for the portcullis, the walk continued via the Market Square and the impressive Poultry Cross, a landmark for the markets in the city. A nearby pub, the 700-year-old Haunch of Venison, was formerly a brothel and has a tunnel to St Thomas's Church; but which way did the traffic flow? The tour concluded with two hidden gems; a 14th century staircase tucked away in a modern shopping mall and a gorgeous medieval hall with vaulted wooden ceiling and stained-glass windows hidden in the Odeon cinema. The walk ended with lunch at the historic Red Lion hotel.

The second group lead by David W. explored a walk along the pretty Woodford valley taking in Old Sarum, a historical mash-up of an Iron Age hillfort, a castle built by William the Conqueror and the site of Salisbury's first cathedral. There was also an unexpected encounter with camels. In summary the weekend was a fitting and warm tribute to the adventures and friendships the club has nurtured over the years.

Angela Leaman

Following photos of people removed from public circulation:

The Master of Ceremonies calls for order at the drinks reception.

Some smart gents, featuring several LMC chairmen, inspect the club archive display.

The Reunion dinner at the White Hart Hotel.

The Wiltshire flag leads the way through the Stonehenge landscape.

Tilly the dog leads past and current club members through Grovely Wood.

On safari in the Woodford valley.

Swanage Weekend - 14-16 November 2025

For a final weekend of the year, a group of 7 (including Peter Deibel, returning to the club after many years), plus Buster, descended on the 19th century Scottish baronial castle, now the Purbeck House Hotel in Swanage, for a November break. After floods on the Friday disrupted traffic and tragically engulfed Monmouth, the forecast for the weekend was dry. An enjoyable first evening at the Black Swan pub featuring French specialties such as Cassoulet and Tartiflette allowed planning for the weekend's activities.

Saturday morning dawned with mist on the hills, which didn't deter the many early sea swimmers (sadly not including our members, though Peter was tempted...). We headed off to Old Harry Rocks, where the mist lifted and provided great views across to Poole Harbour and Bournemouth. From there to Studland and then up to the Purbeck Way. Trying to stay below

the mist, we managed to briefly lose Peter, found the obelisk celebrating the local water company, then descended for lunch away from the cool breeze. The afternoon ridge walk featured views to the Purbecks to the west and Poole harbour to the East, before descending to the spectacular ruin of Corfe Castle, destroyed during the civil war and a feature ever since. A bus back to Swanage was followed by a bracing tea and cakes stop outside at a seafront café, completing a great 11 mile walk.

Dinner at the 'Salt Pig Too' restaurant was a gourmet treat, with lots of meat (not just pork!) for some, really succulent sea bass for others. Having expected restaurants in November to be deserted, both the pub and the restaurant were buzzing – obviously business off-season in Swanage isn't too bad!

Sunday dawned cloudy but without mist, and a bus trip to Kingston provided a starting point for the coastal path back to Swanage. Three decided immediately to lengthen the walk by taking a

fairly muddy and slippery descent to the picturesque fishing harbour at Chapmans Pool, whilst the others stayed higher and reached the ocean watch point and Norman chapel at St Aldhelm's Head. Very sparse cell phone reception meant it was a surprise when we all managed to reconvene at lunch time, admiring the various rock-climbing groups in the old quarries – a haunt of LMC in times past. Continuing along the very muddy coast path, not helped by path maintenance leaving it strewn with gorse – not much fun for Buster – we arrived at Durston lighthouse, before finding the globe and the obligatory teashop in the castle before the final push to Swanage for a total of 10-12 miles, depending on route, and the drive home.

More photos removed:

The mist lifts for a great view of Old Harry's Rocks.

Unexpected challenges with a fixed rope descending the mud to Chapman's Pool.

Buster is keen to get to the tea shop at Durlston Castle.

David Wells

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

Other Events / Items . . . *Caption Competition*

Sorry, photo removed!

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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