

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

July 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 to new member Zsuzsa Tihanyi who has been introduced to the club by David W.

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
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
Sat 15 August	Walking in Pepys Footsteps – Tower Bridge to Greenwich	Marion Downie	Day Walk
Sun 27 September	Barnes Circular (Kew and Gunnersbury Park)	Alyson Lawton	Day Walk
Fri 9 – Sun 11 October	Peak District	David Wells	Weekend
Sat 24 October	The London Countryway - Box Hill to Horsley	Charles Harrison	Day walk
Sun 6 December (amended date)	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 – Wiltshire	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

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

Sat 15 August - Walking in Pepys Footsteps – Tower Bridge to Greenwich - Marion Downie

I found this walk in a Time Out guide to London Walks suggested by London writers, in this case by Claire Tomalin, a biographer of Samuel Pepys. It is basically the Thames Path from Tower Bridge to Greenwich c. 5 miles.

Meet at the south end of Tower Bridge on the Eastern side. We will meet at 10.30am and that then allows time to explore Greenwich and enjoy other cultural activities.

If you are interested, please let me know.

Contact: Marion Downie

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 or to let me know.

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.

July Update I have checked the engineering works on South west London trains for 27 Sept and trains look as though they are running through Barnes so I can confirm the date of the day walk.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Contact: Alyson Lawton

Fri 9 – Sun 11 October Peak District – David Wells

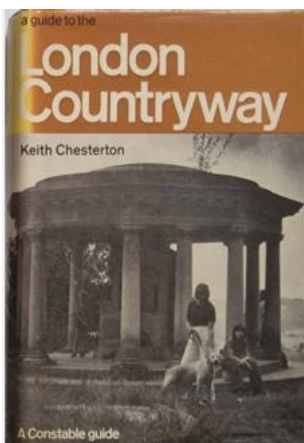
I've now confirmed the dates and location for the programmed Peak District Meet. We will base the meet in Hayfield, which is on the west side of the Peak District National Park, in the High Peak area. It is a pretty and historic village with direct walks available from the village - notably a 10 mile 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).

July Update All the rooms at the Kinder Lodge are now taken. However, there are still rooms available at the Lantern Pike Inn, which is a 15 minute walk to Hayfield, and there are several apartments showing on Booking.com and Airbnb. More are very welcomed!

I look forward to seeing a good autumn weekend!

Contact: David Wells

Sat 24 October – The London Countryway – Box Hill to Horsley – Charles Harrison



The London Countryway is an orbital path around London, which pre-dated 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

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

Meet Reports

Walking the Capital Ring Stage 5 – Sunday 14 June 2026

The fifth stage of the Capital Ring was 12 miles from Greenford to Hendon. Four of us, Charles, Hilary, John and me, met at Greenford Station on a lovely sunny day. Fairly quickly we arrived at The Ealing Beaver Project in Paradise Fields which for London and a built-up area is quite a surprise. [The Ealing Beaver Project – Bringing Beavers Back to London](http://theealingbeaverproject.com) theealingbeaverproject.com



Entering and leaving the Beaver Project involves going through some heavy duty metal gates – no beavers were spotted! Having exited the area, we then joined the Grand Union Canal. We stopped for a welcome coffee at the Horsenden Loaf before climbing up Horsenden Hill.

We then headed towards Harrow-on-the Hill where we found two benches on the small green where we had our lunch. A theme of this walk was seeing many closed pubs, many of which Charles had frequented in his youth, and in Harrow-on-the-Hill we sat beside the King's Head Hotel (closed since 2001) underneath a 'gantry' advertising the hotel <https://plumbersharrow.co.uk/blog/the-kings-head-hotel-gantry>.

After lunch, we strolled through the town admiring the school and its sport facilities but this time didn't have the problem of getting lost crossing the playing fields as the school has created a diversion – all very good except it means the route spends a bit longer on the main road!

The next section is past Northwick Park Hospital and then a bit of road walking before getting to the open spaces of Barn Hill (good views of Wembley), Fryent Country Park and finally the Welsh Harp Reservoir before arriving in Hendon for transport home.

Marion Downie

Wales Coast Path – Llŷn Peninsula – Saturday 20 to Saturday 27 June 2026

Our plan this week was to walk a 70 mile stretch of the Wales Coast Path from Trefor on the North coast of the Llŷn Peninsula to Pwllheli, the area's only main town on the South Coast. This was going to include a fairly challenging 10,000 feet of ascent. So eight hardy souls duly assembled at our near-palatial Air B&B high up on a hill overlooking the pretty fishing village of Aberdaron. The first day's walking went according to plan, 9.25 miles from Trefor to Nefyn.

The weather then intervened! Not the usual downpours but the extreme heat! We thought we would escape the heatwave in the south east but, alas, NO! We soon realised that trying to do 13 plus miles in these conditions would be foolhardy, if not downright dangerous. We might have managed it forty years ago, but not today. We worked out some cut-down routes for the rest of the week and hatched some ingenious plans to beat the heat, like getting up at 4.30 am in one case.

We missed the last section out altogether and only completed 46 miles of the planned 70. On the plus side, we had more time for swims, leisurely lunch stops and chilled wine on the patio. As usual, Buster stole the show, diving into the sea whenever he got the chance.

My usual thanks to everyone for making it a very enjoyable week.



John Blight

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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