

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

August 2026

Contact Details

Chairman:	Brian Holmes
Meets Co-ordinator:	David Wells
Secretary	Charles Harrison
Treasurer:	Paul Ackroyd
Newsletter Editors:	Angela Leaman Hilary Pettit
LMC email address:	LMCmountaineeringclub@gmail.com

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

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
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

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

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

August Update

We now have 15 people of varying degrees of walking fitness confirmed for the meet, some staying in the hotel, some in B&B or self-catering apartments nearby. At time of writing, I believe there are still rooms available at Lingmell House B&B (if interested please book directly with the hotel and let me know).

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 Southwest 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

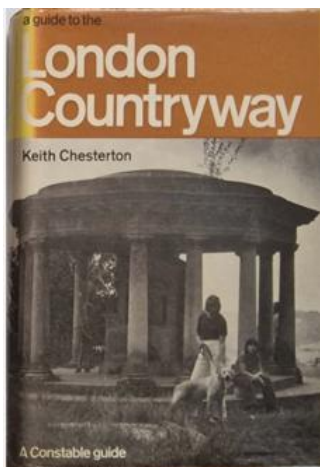
I've now confirmed the dates and location for the programmed Peak District Meet. We will base the meet in Hayfield, which is on the west side of the Peak District National Park, in the High Peak area. It is a pretty and historic village with direct walks available from the village - notably a 10 mile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

Sun 6 December - London Social: A Walk for Curious Wanderers



The LMC Christmas social will explore London's history through the curious oddities left behind. A green and leafy route will take us 3.5 miles from Westminster to Berkeley Square, through royal parks and Georgian squares.

En route we will decipher remnants of street furniture and explore the stories behind hidden corners. The walk will be followed by a meal at a nearby restaurant.

As restaurants will be busy in December, it would help if you could book your place by the end of October. Hope to see you then.

Contact: Angela Leaman

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

Opera and Mountains in Austria Tuesday 21 to Monday 27 July 2026

This was a complex multifaceted holiday which in true LMC fashion had people doing various things at various times in various places.

We had a sort of A Race Around Lake Konstanz competition in which Alyson and Hilary and Gerry and Rita hired electric bicycles in Konstanz and cycled the whole perimeter of the lake. They were not travelling together but met up in the evenings when staying in the same pretty lakeside towns, as well as overlapping at different points on the route. After four days they ended up back in Konstanz within minutes of each other by which time Paul and Kerstin had arrived. After they had spent a day visiting the Mainau gardens, which featured in the first of the Monty Don Rhineland gardens programmes, all six had dinner on the lovely terrace of Paul and Kerstin's hotel overlooking the lake.

Supper photo removed.

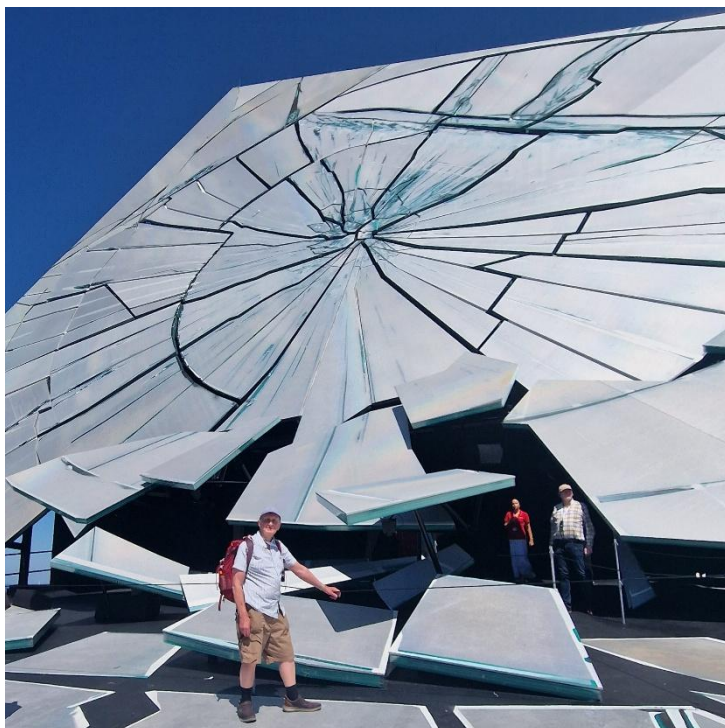
The following day all six boarded a ferry for a leisurely cruise down the German side of the lake to Bregenz. The weather was gorgeous.

Meanwhile, Marion and John had arrived in Munich for some sightseeing, opera and beer drinking.

Charles and Clare on the other hand had arrived in Zurich for sightseeing, travelling on the funicular railway and trying to find something affordable to eat.

On the Tuesday evening, we all assembled in Bregenz along with Rita's daughter, Hannah, who lives in Austria and had joined us for the trip. Having a German speaker proved useful. The Wednesday was free for people to variously visit the Zeppelin museum at Friedrichshafen, the exhibitions of Hundertwasser printmaking and Picasso ceramics in the nearby town of Lindau or just look around Bregenz and take the first of our cable cars for 360° view of the lake and the mountains.

Wednesday evening was focal point of our visit to Bregenz for the first night of La Traviata on the magnificent stage on the lake. Luckily it was a gorgeous evening and even at 11:00 at night we barely needed anything other than a light jumper. Universally we loved the music, played by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra no less, and the magnificent singing. Views on the staging were more varied. There was a lot of splashing around in the water and some staging which was for some done more for effect than to illuminate the story. But none of us would deny that it was an evening to remember.



We had a bonus which was provided the following evening when sitting in a restaurant in Bregenz. A German lady came up to us and offered us three tickets to the backstage tour of the opera stage the following morning. She described it as a gesture of friendship between the Germans and the British. So, Paul, Kerstin and Hannah were able to go and look backstage at the way in which the theatrical magic was created. Standing on the stage looking on the enormous auditorium and the imposing set above us was memorable.

On Friday we ascended via cars and a minibus up to the mountains to Damuls, an altitude of 2000 metres. We were warmly greeted by Claudia our host with whom we have stayed previously in her lovely family run hotel. (In fact, I think her family runs much of the village).



View from the hotel with some of our group heading off into the distance on an early evening walk

The weather forecast had rain closing in later in the weekend so we decided that Saturday was the day for the mountains and so we all ascended the chair lift.

Group photo removed

Thereafter, we split into two groups, one to do a horseshoe route up to the top and down the other side of the valley,



Climb every mountain

while the slower group ascended to about the same altitude but then returned the same route for refreshments at a delightful cow shack where we saw the largest white rabbit we have ever seen!

Group photo removed

On Sunday the promised storm had arrived. Although the rain was not very heavy it would not have been particularly pleasant for walking, but it was quite nice to see the mountains in a different perspective. We spent a pleasurable morning in the guest lounge doing jigsaws, reading and being entertained by a German mastermind game play by Alyson and Hannah. We learned several new German words including kakerlake, which needs to be entered into the LMC Dictionary of approved insults.

By the afternoon the weather had improved and after a pleasant lunch in the village we again split into two groups one doing a lower-level valley walk to a mountain café, while the smaller group visited the lovely little church and took another totally unnecessary round trip on the chair lift just for the fun of it.

On Monday we had to say goodbye to Claudia, her hospitality and excellent food, and returned to Bregenz for our various journeys home.

A brilliant holiday, fabulous weather, wide range of activities and excellent company.

Paul Ackroyd

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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