

# LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

## February 2026

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### 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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**From the Meets Co-ordinator**

### 2026 Meets Programme

The programme as it stands today is below. We have extended to early 2027 though these dates will be firmed up later. Details of the meets in Monmouth, Llangollen, Austria, Wasdale and Austria have been previously distributed, and Norfolk (June) is in this newsletter. It would be great to have a few more weekends – we do have some tentative suggestions for July or August which hopefully will be firmed up in the near future. However, we would really like to see a weekend in May and another in November, if anyone would like to volunteer! Also day walks, though these can be arranged at shorter notice. Please send any ideas to **David Wells (Meets Co-ordinator)**. The club needs meet organisers in order to thrive!

*Months available for weekend meets : May, November, February*

<b>LMC Meets &amp; Events Programme 2026</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Meet Leader</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Mon 23 February	<b>Elizabeth Line – Custom House to Stratford</b>	Marion Downie	Day Walk
Fri 6 – Sun 8/Mon 9 March	<b>Wye Valley Monmouth</b>	Angela Leaman	Weekend

Sat 7 to Sun 15 March	<b>Crickhowell Walking Festival</b>	Andy Johns	Not LMC. Book direct via the CWF website.
Sat 28 March	<b>Capital Ring – Streatham to Richmond</b>	Marion Downie	Day Walk
Fri 17 – Mon 20 April	<b>Llangollen</b>	Brian Holmes	Weekend
Sat 23 May	<b>Kent – Darent Valley with cultural diversions</b>	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
Fri 5 to Sun 7 June	<b>Norfolk – Wells Next the Sea</b>	David Wells	Weekend
Sat 20 to Sat 27 June	<b>The Wales Coast Path – Llyn Peninsula</b>	John Blight	Full Week – <b>Fully Subscribed</b>
Mid July	<b>Opera and Mountains in Austria</b>	Paul Ackroyd	Full Week – <b>Fully Subscribed</b>
Fri 11- Mon 14 September	<b>Wasdale Head (aka putting the Mountains back into LMC)</b>	Sarah Dixon	Weekend
October (Dates TBC)	<b>Peak District</b>	David Wells	Weekend
Sun 6 December (amended date)	<b>London Christmas Social - A Walk for Curious Wanderers</b>	Angela Leaman	Day Walk – more details to follow

<b>LMC Meets &amp; Events Programme 2027</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Meet Leader</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Sat 16 – Sun 17 January	<b>AGM and Annual Dinner – location TBC</b>	Angela Leaman	Weekend
March (dates TBC)	<b>Cotswolds</b>	Gerry Lynskey and Rita Rawson	Weekend
April (dates TBC)	<b>Peak District</b>	David Wells	Weekend

<b>From the Secretary: LMC members</b>
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At the 2025 AGM it was agreed that that a list of members be included in the newsletter at the start of the year. Here is the list of our current (30) members:

David Abbott, Paul Ackroyd, John Blight, Stephen Cogbill, John Deacon, Sarah Dixon, Marion Downie, Alan Dunworth, Barbara Ebdon, Rob Lewis, Linda Forman, Charles Harrison, Brian Holmes, Andrew Johns, Kirsty Johns, Robert Kell, Christopher Lawrence, Alyson Lawton, Angela

Leaman, Penny Leech, Gerry Lynskey, Andrew McGinn, Heather McGinn, Hilary Pettit, Rita Rawson, Teresa Siemaszko, David Wells, Nick West, Sheena West, Michael Whittaker

Welcome to new member Linda Forman and welcome back to Rob Lewis who has rejoined following the reunion last year.

## Meet Details – forthcoming events

### **Mon 23 February - Custom House to Stratford – 6 miles    Marion Downie**

Another Elizabeth Line walk for shorter days. These walks all come from ‘Exploring the Elizabeth Line’ by Jeff Lock.

Meet at Custom House Station (Elizabeth Line and DLR) at 11am. The walk is on paved surfaces and goes via Beckton District Park, the Greenway and the Olympic Park to Stratford.

The book only suggests refreshments in the Olympic Park so I suggest bringing something to eat. The café in Beckton Park was closed when the book was written and the website suggests that major investment for the park is being undertaken but I think finding a café will be unlikely.

If you are interested, please let me know.

**Contact:** Marion Downie

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### **Fri 6 – Sun 8/Mon 9 March – Wye Valley Monmouth – Angela Leaman**

#### **January Update**

For the first meet of the year, we will be staying in the small market town of Monmouth. 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. Evening meals will be booked at a local pub or restaurant. Nearer the time, if the weather forecast is good there is an option to extend the stay until Monday for 3 nights.

Our base will be 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 from £60 to £93 per night for a 2-night stay, depending on the level of flexibility. There is other accommodation in town, if furry friends want to come or you prefer to stay somewhere else.

I currently have 6 takers for this meet and if you would like to join us, please book your accommodation direct and drop me a line so I know you are coming.

**Contact:** Angela Leaman

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## **Sat 7 to Sun 15 March - Crickhowell Walking Festival – Andy Johns**

CWF booking went live on 1<sup>st</sup> December and, with two months still to go, over half the walk places have been sold and 21 of the 80+ walks are sold out, mainly hard and long ones, but a good spread of walks and areas still available. This year is our 18<sup>th</sup> Festival, and it is as popular as it was back in 2008! In all, we again have over 80 walks in nine days in and around the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, from 2 to 20 miles and up to 3,500 ft ascent at the top end. There's still loads of variety available. And relax – the 20-mile, 3500 ft walk is sold out.

This is not an LMC organised event, so you need to book your own individual walk places at [www.crickhowellfestival.com](http://www.crickhowellfestival.com), and your own accommodation. As many of you know, there is a handy Premier Inn in Abergavenny and several town pubs/B&Bs. Go to [www.crickhowellfestival.com/2025-gallery](http://www.crickhowellfestival.com/2025-gallery) for great images from March 2025 – only about ten drops of rain in the whole nine days. Whatever the weather in March 2026, we'll get many happy walkers and some very fine views. Time to banish winter blues.

**NB: Those attending Angela's Monmouth weekend meet 6-8<sup>th</sup> March, may like to stay on for a few days and join some Crickhowell Walking Festival Walks, as above .....**

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## **Sat 28 March - The Capital Ring - Streatham to Richmond Marion Downie**

This walk was scheduled for 21 June last year but was cancelled due to a heat wave. Subject to trains and transport working, I am proposing Saturday 28 March.

Stage 3 of the Capital Ring is from Streatham to Richmond (c.12 miles) with an opt out at Wimbledon after 5.5 miles. Meet at 10.30am at Streatham Common Station.

I am sure we will find places for refreshment during the day, but I suggest bringing a sandwich as I recall the café at Wimbledon Park being extremely busy.

If you are interested, please let me know.

**Contact:** Marion Downie

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## **Fri 17 to Mon 20 April – Llangollen – Brian Holmes**

### ***February Update***

There has been a good response to the Llangollen meet making it viable to secure the sole use of this superior hostel. For those who may consider booking nearer the time, there is one

double room available and sharing rooms with bunk beds. All have en-suite bathrooms. There is also scope to use nearby accommodation and join the group for self-catering and socialising.

Llangollen Hostel | Llangollen Holidays | Llangollen Hostel - En-suite Private Rooms, Llangollen, UK



Based in Llangollen (NE Wales), offering a range of spectacular hill walking and sight-seeing opportunities with stunning views above the attractive Vale of Llangollen. All accessible direct from our accommodation in the centre of Llangollen. We have use of a lounge, fully equipped kitchen and separate dining room and drying room together with parking provision.

A full choice of walks and excursions will be on offer. Guided full day walks with steady ascents on to higher ground on Saturday and Sunday. Route plans for less demanding, shorter, self-guided walks will also be offered. The programme will include visiting sites of archaeological interest and tourist attractions. A walk will also be offered on Friday afternoon.

The cost will be based on an equal share of the total cost for sole use of the Hostel. Depending on occupancy this will be in the range of £250 - £150pp for the three nights' accommodation. There will be an additional charge for self-catering breakfast based on an equal share of the cost of shop purchase by the organiser. The cost of accommodation will be confirmed at the time of being advised of the balance due which is required to be paid by 6<sup>th</sup> March and after which we are unable to offer any refund unless there is a substitution. Interest should be registered with the meet organiser, Brian Holmes advising room requirement (Double, single sole use or accept single sharing). A deposit of £50 per person is required at the time of booking.

Further information for accessing the hostel and parking arrangements, together with the detail for participating in the walk on Friday afternoon will be provided in the call for the balance to be paid. A full briefing of the programme opportunities will be given Friday evening. A reservation will be made for the full party to eat out at a local restaurant on Friday evening.

**Contact:** Brian Holmes

## **Sat 23 May – Kent Revisiting the Darent Valley – Paul Ackroyd**

I am intending to redo the Darent Valley walk, which was much appreciated last year, with differences. This time we will walk north to south, starting at the village of Eynsford.

We will make a relatively late start around about lunchtime. We will make our way to the Lullingstone Roman villa, which was closed last time we visited. I hope they will have completed their renovations. We will then proceed along the Darent Valley path past the Lullingstone and Shoreham to arrive in Otford in time for dinner at one of the lovely pubs there. After dinner, those who wish can attend the Sevenoaks Shakespeare production outdoors in the historic Archbishop palace in Otford. They are doing some sort of mashed up version of the Taming of the Shrew!

A linear walk of about 6 miles mainly flat.

This trip will be dependent upon trains running between Otford and Eynsford, and whether the Lullingstone Villa has indeed reopened. Updates will be provided in subsequent newsletters. To register your potential interest contact me.

**Contact:** Paul Ackroyd

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## **Fri 5 – Sun 7 June - Norfolk – Wells Next the Sea – David Wells**

It's a long time since the club has visited Norfolk – I believe 20 years or so, and there are fond memories of those events. The North Norfolk coast benefits from sand dunes, cliffs (up to the dizzy heights of The Beeston Bump at 63m or even Beacon Hill at 105m) but also very pretty countryside and coastal scenes. The resorts of Cromer, Sheringham and Beeston also feature on possible walking routes. The Norfolk Coast path, part of the English coast path, and the Peddars Way, follow the coast through Wells though there are pretty inland walks as well. There are also bus services along the coast, allowing linear walks. Stately homes such as Holkham Hall or Felbrigg Hall and a miniature railway from Wells to Walsingham provide alternatives to walking and pretty local pubs also feature.

I will plan 2 full days walks for Saturday and Sunday, though plenty of other options will be available. I will arrange dinners closer the time once we know numbers. Wells Next the Sea has a Tudor port and plenty of dunes between the village and the sea. The hotel is on the quay and the village has plenty of places to eat I understand.

I have a provisional booking at The Quay Rooms in Wells-next-the Sea for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June. This offers continental breakfast (included) or for those needing an English breakfast, there are cafes nearby. There is also a lounge offering tea / coffee and places to sit and eat. Even a tennis court!

Please make a booking directly with the Quay Rooms quoting LMC and let me know you are coming. Rates are £125 per night for single / small double or £135 for large double / triple.

Please ring Steve (owner). You can also book on booking.com and maybe other sites, although these may be more expensive and direct booking is preferred by the owner. They can also arrange a minibus to start or finish of walks if we wish, so a car should not be necessary once we are there.

**Contact:** David Wells

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**Sat 20 to Sat 27 June – Wales Coast Path – Llyn Peninsula – John Blight – *Fully subscribed***

**February update**

A plan to walk approximately 65 miles during the week from a single base. There are now 8 people booked for this meet, accommodation has been booked and is now *fully subscribed*.

**Contact:** John Blight

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**Mid 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

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**Fri 11 – Mon 14 September Wasdale Head (aka putting the Mountains back into LMC) – Sarah Dixon**

**January Update**

So far, we have 9 people confirmed for the meet, some staying in the hotel and some in a self-catering apartment. There is interest from one other person and there is availability of another self-catering apartment with one double room and one two single bedroom. It would be great if we could attract 2 or 3 more people so that we can book this.

It's a great starting point for lots of nice mountains including Scafell Pike, Great Gable and Pillar but also many 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

<b>Meet Reports</b>
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**Barnes Circular – 30 November 2025**

*Apologies to Alyson for not including this meet report until this edition. It arrived very promptly and it was agreed that it would appear in the January newsletter, which the editor completely forgot to do.*

A cloudless sky brought 10 of us plus Buster to meet for the circular walk from Barnes Station. A little local knowledge of railway bridge building enhanced the walk together with copious blue plaques on both sides of the river to entertain us as well as all the river activities.

We were truly blessed at Chiswick House, firstly by nabbing the only big table seating 10 in the cafe and then by 4 benches in the sun to enjoy our sandwiches outside the Camelia House. The walk took in a peak at Hogarth's house on one of the noisiest roads in London (hard to imagine it as countryside) before dropping back to the river to walk along to and then over the currently pedestrian only Hammersmith Bridge. Thereafter our course was towards Putney before turning off onto the Beverley Brook path, where thanks to Sarah, we found the old, overgrown and disused Barnes cemetery which I have wanted to find for ages and was as atmospheric as I had hoped.

*Photo removed.....*

Thankfully the engineering works meant that more trains were diverted through Barnes Station than normal which meant a speedy exit for the train travellers amongst us. A splendid pre-Christmas social walk and catch up.

Alyson Lawton

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## **LMC AGM and Annual Dinner 16 – 18 January 2026**

19 club members convened at Chiseldon House Hotel near Swindon for our annual dinner and AGM. A good proportion arrived on Friday evening for a convivial evening at the nearby pub, The Plough, where the food was reported to be excellent. The Plough is embedded in LMC history as a stopover for Friday supper in the 1980s, en route from Shell Centre to the Welsh mountains.

Swindon not offering much as a hiking destination, we swerved north-east on Saturday morning into Oxfordshire for a 9 mile walk along the North Wessex Downs. The walk started at the Uffington White Horse, an equine work of art carved into the chalk 3000 years ago. However, in the absence of a helicopter, not easy to see from the ground!

Further along the trail the LMC archaeologist pointed out another historical feature – a Bronze Age disc barrow burial mound. The next viewpoint took us into the 17<sup>th</sup> century with a lovely view of the hunting lodge at National Trust Ashdown Park.

The bottom of the hill provided another view of the lodge, unfortunately through a locked gate where we had hoped for a stroll through the park. Undeterred we found a different path before rejoining the ridge for the final and most impressive monument; Wayland's Smithy, a chambered long barrow for Neolithic burials dating from 3500 years BC. Considering the awful weather during January we were very lucky with a clear day, and there was time for tea and buns in the Ashbury Baking Bee and back at the hotel.

G&Ts securely in hand, the AGM kicked off promptly at 5.30 with a welcome from outgoing chairman David Wells, followed by the 2025 reports from the club's officers. Members were then pleased to elect Brian Holmes as our new chairman. Dinner was served in the Borelli room, followed by convivial nightcaps in the bar before retiring to bed.

Our luck with the weather ran out on Sunday. We didn't get wet but saw very little through the dense fog on our walk from Barbury Castle along the Rockley valley. Everyone agreed that the Chiseldon House Hotel was a comfortable and attractive base for the AGM, so we will have to return another year for the view!

Angela Leaman

*Photos removed .....*

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/> BMC Newsletter: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/newsletters>

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