

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

April 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 back to Darrell Wood who has rejoined the club following the reunion last year.

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
Fri 17 – Mon 20 April	Llangollen	Brian Holmes	Weekend
Sun 10 May	West Ruislip to Rickmansworth	Hilary Pettit	Day Walk
Sat 23 May	Kent – Darent Valley with cultural diversions	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
Fri 5 to Sun 7 June	Norfolk – Wells Next the Sea	David Wells	Weekend
Sat 20 to Sat 27 June	The Wales Coast Path – Llyn Peninsula	John Blight	Full Week – <i>Fully Subscribed</i>
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
Sun 27 September	Barnes Circular (Kew and Gunnersbury Park)	Alyson Lawton	Day Walk
October (Dates TBC)	Peak District	David Wells	Weekend
Sun 6 December <i>(amended date)</i>	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 – location TBC	Angela Leaman	Weekend
March (dates TBC)	Cotswolds	Gerry Lynskey and Rita Rawson	Weekend
April (dates TBC)	Peak District	David Wells	Weekend

Meet Details – forthcoming events

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 6th 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

Sun 10 May – West Ruislip to Rickmansworth – Hilary Pettit

Taken from a book on walks from the terminus stations of the Underground (by the same author as the Elizabeth Line walks) this 9 mile walk explores a large tract of open countryside north of Ruislip. It takes in Bayhurst Wood, which forms part of the Ruislip Woods Nature Reserve, where it follows some of the Hillingdon Trail to the Grand Union Canal. The walk then follows the Colne Valley walk along the canal to Rickmansworth where there are cafes and pubs for refreshments before homeward travel from the station.

There is an option to shorten the walk about halfway through with a bus from Harefield to Denham main line and Uxbridge underground stations.

Meet at 10.30 at West Ruislip tube station and please bring lunch with you.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Contact: Hilary Pettit

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

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

April Update

We currently have 4 attendees and we would welcome more. The Quay Rooms B&B has only one more room available if anyone else would like to attend. Please use the number starting 01328 below if you wish to book as Steve is currently unavailable.

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 5th and Saturday 6th 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

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

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

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

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. I will be able to check any planned engineering work impact on trains nearer the time.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Contact: Alyson Lawton

Meet Reports

Walking the Capital Ring Stage 3 – Saturday 28 March 2026

The third stage of the Capital Ring was 12.5 miles from Streatham Common Station to Richmond via Wimbledon. Five of us, John, Sarah, Hilary, Liz and I plus Buster, met at 10.30. The first section of the walk to Wimbledon Park Station involved quite a bit of road walking linking bits of Tooting Bec and Wandsworth commons. We were pleased to see that the John Dean's Estate Agency is still going strong in Balham and I thought it would be nice to include a photo of John from when we did the walk in June 2014.



The man himself - June 2014

We stopped around 12 for a coffee in the excellent and welcoming County Arms Pub situated in the shadow of the Victorian mass of Wandsworth prison. Lunch was eaten an hour later in Durnsford Road Recreation Ground. Shortly thereafter we said goodbye to John at Wimbledon Park Station.

The second half of the walk which took us through Wimbledon Park, Wimbledon Common and then Richmond Park and finally down to the river was much more pleasant and enjoyable, and Buster finally got a chance to have a run. We had about 10 minutes of heavy rain and then the

sun came out again, so extremely fortunate with the weather. We had a cup of tea just as we got the river and then it was a walk along the busy tow path to Richmond.

Marion Downie

Out Walking Reports and / or Photos

Crickhowell Walking Festival - Saturday 7 to Sunday 15 March 2026

CWF 2026 had it all. Conditions varied from thick mist to glorious sunshine, via sleet and snow, rain and strong winds to proper spring sun and gentle breezes – sometimes all within 30 minutes. Sometimes muddy at lower levels, but surprisingly good underfoot on the open fells. We put on 80 walks throughout the National Park, all of which were enjoyed by our walkers, especially with that extra fulfilment that comes from matching the elements. I led walks on the two wettest days, but we all had a good time and folk vowed to be back for more at CWF 2027.

We also organised four navigation workshops and three great evening talks, including one from a successful Everest climber (*"It's a Long Way Back Down"*) and another from one of our walk leaders who cycled 1,000 miles to central Italy in memory of his wife, raising funds for the cancer centre that cared for her.

And it's all for charity, with almost 100 volunteers giving their time, effort and expertise and supporting the local communities and businesses. About two months off now, then we'll be back in July to start designing next year's programme. Onward and upward!

www.crickhowellfestival.com: Make a note of the dates – Sat 6th – Sun 14th March 2027.

Andy Johns

...and the Crickhowell Walking Festival from a happy walker

Not a meet report...

A walk new to the CWF was blessed with good weather in a week of variable conditions. Three hardy ladies enjoying a leisurely swim in Keeper's Pond close by the top of Blorange provided sufficient stimulus for our group to start walking briskly!

Heading north provided a great set of views across the Usk valley as we circled around Gilwern Hill. A highly informative leader, supplemented by a few true local folk, provided an abundance of really fascinating information here and throughout the walk. The amazing Pwll Du Tunnel being just one feature to remember.

Heading south across marshy land found us arriving at the Whistle Halt Pub – once the famous terminus of the Pontypool and Blaenavon Heritage railway. Pub still in good working order but alas the trains now stop at Blaenavon.

From here a pleasant walk along the hill side with splendid views across the valley of the Afon Lwyd river and the town of Blaenavon into which we descended for yours truly to seek out the Heritage Centre with tea, cake and an abundance of information on this town which can boast more than 100 years of significant industrial activity. For me a fitting end to an enjoyable walk.

A big thank you to Andy and all those who make the walks such a success in CWF, I will be back!

Michael Whittaker

Other Events / Items . . . <i>None this time</i>
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Extra Elements: Books, DVDs, Films, other Walks / Climbs – views & comments . . . <i>If you've read any walking / mountaineering / travel books which you've enjoyed, please share.</i>
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Film : The North

This film has popped up in the future programmes of a couple of local independent cinemas and will be showing all over the country from the middle of the month.



It's a drama which follows two friends who meet up after a decade to hike the West Highland Way and Cape Wrath Trail. Having taken the same walk in their youth, the pair hope to rekindle their once-strong friendship by spending 30 days together in the majestic, raw beauty of the Scottish Highlands. It was shot entirely on the route of the walks and in chronological order.

As I haven't seen it yet, I can't actually recommend it, but it is billed as a slow burn story with beautiful scenery so sounds worth catching.

It seems to be showing for the odd night here and there at small venues and more details can be found in the link below.

[The North | In cinemas from Friday 24th April - Tull Stories](https://www.tullstories.co.uk/films/the-north/)
[Tullstories.co.uk/films/the-north/](https://www.tullstories.co.uk/films/the-north/)

Hilary

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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