

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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News & Notes

From the Committee . . .

COVID-19 Guidelines

Can we gently remind all members that COVID remains a part of lives & ask you to apply personal judgement & comply with any official guidance. Moreover, can we all be respectful to other members who may hold a different view on mask wearing & social distancing.

Happy New Year to you all. **We look forward to seeing a good number of you at our virtual-AGM-by-Zoom on 15th January** – AGM papers were circulated to all members on 7th January **& Andy will be sending out Zoom details this week.**

Thank you to most members who have already paid their 2022 subscriptions, or whose payments are on the way (big smile from the Treasurer). We hope the handful of members who have not yet renewed are looking forward to another year with LMC - we appreciate your support. **If you have not yet paid, please do make your subscription payments asap**, either online or by cheque. Full details are in the email & attachments sent from the LMC mailbox to all members on **16th December**.

There are also some members who, although they have paid their subs, have not yet returned their signed **Membership Renewal Form**. These forms are required from all of you to allow us to continue communicating with you under our updated privacy policy. The Membership Renewal Form was attached to the same 16th December email as a pdf document. **If you would like to receive either a Word version OR a paper copy of the Membership Form, please let Kirsty know – it can very easily be done. Thanks in advance!**

Next Newsletter: Please send copy for the next issue by **midday** on the **10th of the month**.

Provisional Meets & Events Programme 2022			
Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
Saturday 15 Jan	AGM / ZOOM		
Sun 13 Feb	Dorking to Merstham	Rob Kell	Day Walk - NDW
Sat 5-Sun 13 Mar	Crickhowell / CWF. . .		Walking Festival
Thu 7-Sun 10 Apr	Dartmoor	David Wells	Weekend
Fri 6-Sun 8 May	Hay-on-Wye	Rob Kell	Weekend
Sun 22 May	Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
June TBC	Wallingford to Henley-on-Thames	Charles Harrison	Day Walk
June TBC	Plymouth to Brixham	John Blight	SWCP
Fri 1-Sun 3 Jul	Trough of Bowland	Kirsty & Andy Johns	Weekend
Fri 12-Sun 14 Aug	Yorkshire	Sarah Dixon	Weekend
Fri 9-Sun 12 Sep	Langdale YHA	TBC	Weekend
Fri 7-Sun 9 Oct	Peak District	Paul Ackroyd	Weekend
Oct TBC	Plymouth to Brixham	John Blight	SWCP
TBC	Matlock / Dales	Paul Ackroyd	Weekend

Your club needs volunteers to devise & lead walks across the year so please continue to send me your ideas. **Bob**

Meets Details

Saturday 15 January 2022 – AGM – by ZOOM at 6pm

Sunday 13 February 2022 – NDW / Dorking to Merstham – Rob Kell

I will lead a 10 mile linear walk along the North Downs Way. This is a re-visit to a very picturesque walk with excellent views of the Surrey countryside. There is a train station at either end so I will be parking at Merstham railway station & taking a train to Dorking Deepdene to start the walk at circa 10.30am. I will check trains & confirm times closer to the walk. Please bring a packed lunch.

Saturday 5 - Sunday 13 March 2022 - Crickhowell Walking Festival

Online bookings for the Crickhowell Walking Festival are now OPEN, with over 85 walks plus evening events running over the nine days of the Festival. This is **not** an organised LMC activity: you make your own arrangements & book your own preferred walks & events. For information on cancellations & refunds, please read the 'Terms & Conditions' on the CWF website. For the full programme & further information, see www.crickhowellfestival.com & get your bookings

in. Walks continue to sell well: 26 out of 86 walks are already fully booked & about two thirds of places are sold overall.

As usual, the Abergavenny Premier Inn offers flexible room reservations (currently from £49 to £83 per room per night). A few nights are already fully booked so you need to make your reservations as soon as possible (or find flexible accommodation elsewhere given that the spectre of Covid is still with us!).

Thursday 7 – Sunday 10 April 2022 – Dartmoor – David Wells

Our previous effort at visiting Dartmoor in 2020 unfortunately fell victim to Covid lockdowns. Hoping that April will be more favourable, I am trying again at the same venue. The weekend meet (currently booked Thursday night to Sunday but with various permutations of the three days being possible) will be centred on Postbridge. [<https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/enjoy-dartmoor/places/postbridge>] where I've booked rooms at the East Dart Hotel <https://www.eastdarthotel.co.uk/>. Hotels are fairly scarce in the park so it would be good to get commitments soonest so I can adjust the booking as needed. Postbridge is in the centre of the park, close to the Prison (& its museum <https://www.dartmoor-prison.co.uk/> if the weather is inclement, which I'm sure it won't be!), as well as Widecombe in the Moor (famed for Widecombe Fair & Uncle Tom Cobley). Most importantly, there are some decent walks on the moors & around the tors straight from the hotel, with other options only a short drive away. There's even horse riding & hawking . . . The hotel offers B&B accommodation & also bar food (staff permitting . . . Currently they're a bit short!). There are a couple of other eating options within walking or short driving distance, along with a shop (at least) in the village. I have booked one twin room (they only have 1), 3 doubles & 2 singles for Thursday, Friday & Saturday nights. The cost is £42.50 per person per night B&B in double/twin, £45 in a single & £55 in single occupancy double room. Depending on demand, I can book 3 more double rooms, if still available. There is other accommodation nearby - though not much. I have paid a refundable deposit but am happy to settle with you all on arrival. So our actual accommodation requirement can be agreed, I am looking for commitments to the weekend. Please let me know ASAP if you would like to come along; your room preference (shared twin, double, single, single use of double room) & for which nights.

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 May – Hay-on-Wye – Rob Kell

Clearly the trauma runs deep as I have had no expressions of interest to recreate the infamous 2002 meet: indeed, no one has been able to source any historic meet reports or joining instructions to support my foolish endeavour. I suspect they were all burned . . .

Instead, I propose an 11 mile walk on the Black Mountain south of Hay on the Saturday & a 6 mile stroll along the river on the Sunday. There is no Premier Inn in Hay so I am investigating local B&Bs & hotels which presently are charging around £100 per night. I am open to extending this to a 3 day weekend if there is any interest to do so. Expressions of interest sooner rather than later are welcomed - so I can book accommodation.

Sunday 22 May – Kent – Paul Ackroyd

I am proposing to organise a circular day walk in Kent, starting & ending at Sole Street station.

From the station, at which there is a conveniently located pub for those who need early refreshment, we will walk south on the [Wealdway](#) then up onto the ridge where it intersects with the North Downs Way. Having walked through this delightfully wooded ridge, we descend into the valley then go up again into the [Cobham Deer Park](#) (not that I have ever seen any deer in it). Time to visit the impressive mausoleum, final resting place of the [Earls of Darnley](#), now in the hands of the National Trust. Thence on to the village of Cobham where there are two pubs where we will stop for refreshment before completing the short stretch back to Sole Street.

A delightfully varied walk almost entirely off road. About 9 miles with a couple of gentle ascents & descents. No refreshment apart from the pubs at the beginning & the end so packed lunch advised.

Trains from Victoria Station to Sole Street. Parking at the station.

Please let me know nearer to the date if you intend to come.

June 2022 TBC – Wallingford to Henley-on-Thames – Charles Harrison

This is a walk of approximately 14 miles, starting from Wallingford Market Place at 10am. Our route is initially by the River Thames then over farmland & through woods to reach Stoke Row. We can discover the fascinating history of the Maharajah's Well & adjacent cherry orchard before lunch at the Cherry Tree Inn. Afterwards, we will walk through more woods & along quiet lanes to reach Greys Court (National Trust) for tea & a look around the gardens (time permitting). From there it is a pleasant walk along the valley into Henley.

Wallingford can be reached by bus X39/X40 from Reading station, GWR; Henley-on-Thames is also on GWR; alternatively, bus X38 operates between Wallingford & Henley

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 October – Peak District – Paul Ackroyd

I am hoping to re-organise the Peak District weekend postponed from last year: based at the Premier Inn in Matlock with walking on Saturday & Sunday.

Premier Inn is currently advertising rooms (fully flexible) at £55 for 7th, £76 for 8th. These are likely to increase significantly as the dates get closer. If you are remotely interested in coming, I would suggest you make a fully flexible reservation soon. Options to reduce the cost include sharing or looking for cheaper accommodation elsewhere. If you wish to share either contact other members yourself or let me know & I will try to link people up to make a shared reservation. Please let me know when you have made your reservations.

<https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/derbyshire/matlock/matlock.html>

I trust this will be a good location for a meet. There are a wide range of walks available which should suit all tastes. There are also non-walking options such as visiting the ever splendid Chatsworth or some of the local historical / cultural attractions.

Matlock station is about a 15 mins walk from the Premier Inn for those wanting to use public transport. We shall need cars to get to the start of some of the walks so please let me know if you will be driving - also how many seats you are likely to have available.

There will be further details in subsequent newsletters but if you need more information, please contact me.

Meet Report[s]

None this time.

Out Walking Reports & / or Photos . .

Other Events / Items

Culture & Walking in Austria Anyone?- Paul Ackroyd –

Over the last few years, a few of us have attended the opera at the wonderful lake stage in Bregenz on the Austrian end of Lake Constance. Staying at a delightful little hotel with a charming hostess & excellent food, we combined this with a few days walking around the village of Damuls, an absolutely beautiful spot in the mountains. Most have then also added on a few days extra walking, cycling, sightseeing or relaxing somewhere in the region. This year I would like find some centre-based walking either in the Austrian Tyrol or in southern Bavaria.

I am keen to schedule this again, if possible. The opera this year is *Madame Butterfly*. The dates would be about 20th July when the opera starts & before the school holidays.

<https://bregenzerfestspiele.com/en/advanced-sale-2022>.

If you would like to come, please do email me & we can discuss further. The only pressing need is booking accommodation in Bregenz which gets very short in supply & expensive during the festival.

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.

None this time

- Extra Elements always welcome to Sarah -

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

END