

# LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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## Contact Details

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## News & Notes

### From the Committee . . .

#### From the Chairman

I would like to thank those who have spoken to me about committee roles & have offered their services. There are volunteers for both the Chair & the Membership Secretary to be proposed at the AGM. After excellent club service Bob has asked to step down as Meets Secretary at the AGM so we are in need of a volunteer. As before, please call or email me for a no-obligation chat.

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

## Meets & Events Programme

Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
Sun 20 Nov	Green Chain Plus	David Abbott	New Item
2023			
Sat 14 Jan	AGM & Annual Dinner	Angela Leaman	
Sat 17-Sun 25 Jun	W Bay to S Haven Point	John Blight	SWCP Week 9

**Your club needs volunteers to devise & lead walks** Owing to the high cost & low availability of accommodation, we are putting more emphasis on Day Walks this year. If you haven't put your name down to organize one, please consider doing so. **Bob**

## Meets Details

**Please contact [LMC@hillsandvalleys.co.uk](mailto:LMC@hillsandvalleys.co.uk) to contact meet organisers, or if you require any further info about the following events.**

### **Sunday 20 November – Green Chain Plus – David Abbott**

To celebrate the opening of the Elizabeth Line on Sundays (from 6 Nov) I propose a walk based on Abbey Wood station, the terminus, meeting at 1042! Travel via Farringdon, Tottenham Court Road or, sigh, Whitechapel . . .

We would visit the ruins of [Lesnes Abbey](#) (the 'Abbey') & its mulberry tree - perhaps founded in penance for the murder of Thomas Becket but closed in 1525 & dissolved. On to the Green Chain route past the Puginesque 'cathedral' of Bazalgette's [Crossness Pumping Station](#) (not open that day) to reach the Thames Path / England Coast Path (part of linking the Capital Ring & the London Loop), to [Erith](#), an historic port. The 'Running Horses', overlooking Riverside Gardens, offers Sunday lunches.

Returning on the Green Chain through the 'Abbey Woods', a local Nature Reserve, to the station. About 10km before lunch, half on the Thames bank & 5km after (before rain sets in?).

If I can interest you in this venture, or you would like a different day, please contact me.

### **Saturday 14th January 2023 - AGM & Annual Dinner / Marlborough – Angela Leaman**

I have 16 provisional bookings for the AGM & Annual Dinner in January. The Marlborough Premier Inn currently has vacancies (Flex £68) & dinner will be at the Roebuck pub which is 10 minutes' walk away. There is plenty of space at the restaurant therefore, if you would like to come & have not already been in touch, bookings will be open until Christmas.

## Meet Report[s]

### **Friday 7 to Sunday 9 October – Peak District – Andy Johns** (photos from Kirsty & Andrew)

After journeys which included torrential rain as we drove through the Midlands, eight of us gathered on Friday evening at the Premier Inn in Matlock. The assembled crew was Heather & Andrew, Rita & Gerry, Hilary, Alan, Kirsty & Andy. Supper was a great chance to catch up with each other – and in some cases, to meet each other for the first time. It also afforded the opportunity of tucking into culinary delights not often seen at home – gammon & eggs plus sticky toffee pudding to name a couple. Carbo-loading has always been a major feature of LMC weekends: this one was to be no exception!

Following the rain on Friday, we were delighted to find Saturday dawned with sunny intervals and a moderate breeze – weather which basically lasted for the whole weekend as you can see from the photos. Our Saturday walk was designed to take us back to old LMC haunts. The third ever club meet, in January 1976, was based at Bretton Youth Hostel so a chance to revisit the area was not to be missed. Starting from the historic Plague village of Eyam, we headed west across fields to Foolow with a brief halt outside the lovely church on the village green.

*Photo of us all outside the church in Foolow.*

Next it was time for some uphill, climbing to Bretton Moor. Here there was a chance to inspect the Youth Hostel (still going strong 46 years on from our first visit) then take in the wonderful panorama from the Barrel Inn, scene of many long and convivial evenings in the company of the hotel warden, Geoff Trickett.

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*The Barrel Inn on Bretton Moor - scene of many excellent LMC evenings in the past.*

After this we set off down Bretton Clough, a fine valley of mature oak, beech and birch woodland, admiring the lovely autumn colours with dappled sunlight. Bretton Clough led into the broader Highlow valley.

*Photo of the group above Highlow valley.*

Here we stopped for lunch, admiring the views across to the Dark Peak plus the gritstone edges of Stanage and Froggatt where some of us had sampled the rock-climbing in days gone by. The return route to Eyam took us up and over the open spaces of Eyam Moor then down through woods and fields to Eyam church, where we read about the heroic story of the village in the Plague outbreak of 1665-66. We then refuelled with ice creams and other delights in the village. All in all, a great day out: grand walking and scenery, superb autumn colours at just short of 10 miles with about 2000 ft. of ascent.

Kirsty had booked supper at a local pub - the Sycamore Inn - up the hill from the Premier Inn. Home-cooked fare in very generous quantities was the order of the day. Excellent pub standards like fish & chips plus chilli beef were followed by huge (even Hilary's 'small' version) portions of apple crumble and Bakewell tart before we rolled back down the hill, entertained by a magnificent firework display over in Matlock Bath.

Sunday gave us equally fine, if slightly cooler, weather. We headed west of Matlock to the delightful old village of Winster for a 4-mile circular walk to equally pretty Birchover then back. Again, we were treated to extensive views and lovely autumn colours. Some of the party

sought out extra sights like historic (no longer satanic) mills in the afternoon. All reflected on a first-class weekend as they headed home to face the bathroom scales on Monday morning!

### **Sunday 23 October – Chawton, Hampshire – Rob Kell**

Nine members were down for this meet but after some Met Office weather warnings & some torrential rain in Hampshire, this number was whittled down to five. In the spirit of a captain going down with his ship, I persevered: despite a drive through rain & flood I arrived at Chawton to find clear blue skies with David W, Michael, Heather & Andrew keen to walk.

The walk was a circular 11-mile (or 18km) route via Selborne. As well as Jane Austen's home, the village of Chawton included her brother's house plus her mother & sister are buried in the local church. The weather forecast promised a dry spell until 4pm so we skipped the village tour to press on with the walk.

#### *Group photo.*

We took the accurately named zig-zag path into Selbourne. This path was cut by Gilbert White & his brother in 1753 with the path ending at Gilbert White's House. White was a priest & a naturalist whose writings on the natural history of Selborne were keenly studied by Charles Darwin.

The church in Selborne had some "convenient" benches for our lunch stop. After settling down to eat, David & I heard a scream in the direction of our fellow walkers, then saw a collapsed bench with Heather, Andrew & Michael lying flat on their backs with their legs stuck up in the air. I briefly considered taking a photo but thought it wiser to check first that all were well. They were but declined my request to recreate the pose for the newsletter. Evidence of the rather thorough destruction of the bench is below.

#### *Photo of the collapsed bench.*

After the walk, David kindly emailed the Church confessing our sins: forgiveness was granted.

The afternoon was less eventful although we did have some navigational challenges around some works to lay water pipes.

Weather remained good. As we approached the car park, I foolishly said out loud how lucky we were with the weather - which of course prompted an almighty torrent of rain. After a successful day given the weather forecast, we all sprinted back to our cars.

A reasonable day all round. Given the interest, I am happy to lead this walk again in 2023.

### **Sunday 6 November – Wimbledon Common & Richmond Park – Alyson Lawton**

*Cancelled for the second time: deluge & thunder this time [searing heat the first time].*

*With only one walk proposed for November & none in December, unless you send content, there will be AGM info only in the December & January Newsletters. Ed*

Out Walking Reports and / 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.*

- Extra Elements to Sarah -

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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