

# LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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## News and Notes

### From the Committee . . .

#### **COVID-19 Guidelines**

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

#### **From the Chairman**

Can I please ask for volunteers for the Committee. In particular, we need a new Secretary to take over later this year. After excellent service, Kirsty will be stepping down in June. None of us should take the smooth running of the club for granted so please call or email me for a no-obligation chat.

As those of you who signed in will know, we had a healthy turnout for the replacement virtual AGM on Saturday 15th January, with 19 participants. Thank you to our outgoing Treasurer Alyson and welcome to Paul as our new Treasurer. AGM documents were circulated to Members on 29th January. Many thanks to Angela for offering to organise next January's AGM again in Marlborough. Fingers crossed: COVID issues will be behind us by then! As you will see from the Newsletters, we have a strong Programme of day walks and weekends for 2022: we look forward to seeing more of you during the year. Please contact our marvellous Meets Coordinator Bob with your offers and ideas for additions to the Programme.

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

<b>Provisional Meets and Events Programme 2022</b>			
<b>Date/s</b>	<b>Meet</b>	<b>Meet Leader</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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
Sun 24 Apr	Hambleden	John Blight	Day Walk
Fri 6-Sun 8 May	Hay-on-Wye	Rob Kell	Weekend
Sun 22 May	Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
<i>June TBC</i>	<i>Wallingford to Henley-on-Thames</i>	<i>Charles Harrison</i>	<i>Day Walk</i>
Sat 18-Sun 26 Jun	Plymouth to Brixham	John Blight	SWCP Week 7
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
Sat 10-Sun 18 Sep	Brixham to West Bay	John Blight	SWCP Week 8
Fri 7-Sun 9 Oct	Peak District	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

### **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**

The Crickhowell Walking Festival is running over 85 walks plus a variety of evening events, over nine days. This is not an organised LMC activity: you make your own arrangements and book your own preferred walks and events. For the full programme plus further information, see [www.crickhowellfestival.com](http://www.crickhowellfestival.com). For information on cancellations and refunds, please read the 'Terms & Conditions' on the CWF website. Walks continue to sell well: some are already fully booked. As usual, the Abergavenny Premier Inn offers fully flexible room reservations.

### **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.

### **Sunday 24 April – Hambleton – John Blight**

Day walk starting at 10.30 in the picturesque village of Hambleton. It's been a long time since we started a walk from here. Meet in the pay & display car park behind the Stag & Huntsman pub (post code RG9 6RP). Please bring a packed lunch. We may be able to stop for a drink in Turville. Approx 9 miles. This can be extended if we fancy it on the day. ***Please let me know if you plan on coming.***

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

Given accommodation challenges, I have made bookings at the Castle Hotel in Talgarth, which is 9 miles from Hay: [www.thecastlehoteltalgarth.com](http://www.thecastlehoteltalgarth.com). A single room is presently £95 per night. I have booked for the Friday & Saturday nights but plan to drive up early Friday & walk that day. Currently have 4 members on this meet. ***More are welcome but I ask that you make your own hotel booking.***

### **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

### **South West Coastal Path Weeks 7 & 8**

*The next two legs of this epic walk take us through Devon & into Dorset. Both these weeks will definitely go ahead: interest from two so far. Having settled on some dates, I would like to get accommodation booked, at least for the first week, as soon as possible. **Please let me know by the end of February if you would like to come on either or both weeks.** It's challenging walking but I know all of you who have joined me so far would agree it's well worth the pain!*

### **Saturday 18 to Sunday 26 June – SWCP Week 7 / Plymouth to Brixham – John Blight**

Plymouth to Brixham: 76 miles & approximately 13,200 feet of ascent. Taking seven days, this will be about 10.5 miles per day. I will look to book self-catering accommodation somewhere in the Kingsbridge / Salcombe area. In the past, it's worked well to have one base & use cars plus public transport to get to the start & finish points each day.

### **Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 September – SWCP Week 8 / Brixham to West Bay – John Blight**

Brixham to West Bay - 68 miles and approx. 13,300 feet of ascent. Accommodation in the Exmouth/Sidmouth area. Same arrangements as for week 7.

## 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 and / or Photos . .

### Sunday 6 February – Wheathampsted – Ed

As two out of the three people on this day walk were from LMC & the newsletter needed a



photograph, I thought to mention John B's Potters Bar Rambling Club 7.3 mile circular walk. The day dawned dark with rain deluging. Thankfully, by the time we set off, the sun was out. As [Wheathampsted](#) is interlaced with official footpaths, not surprisingly, we came across some of the many people out walking more than once.

Along part of the [Ayot Greenway rail trail](#) was wooded land with splendid views across the countryside from elevated sections. Crossing the golf course of [Brocket Hall](#), unexpectedly,

a line of possibly twenty roe deer skittered from left to right across our path – about 100 yards away. Three walkers, a runner & several groups of golfers didn't perturb them.

Just before reaching a sheltered horizontal log on which to have our lunch, we passed this unusual stump with a tree growing out of part of it. How typical: as we sat to enjoy our food, it began to rain! Luckily, this very light shower soon stopped & the sun was out for most of our return-leg along rather muddy paths, often alongside the picturesque River Lea. A pleasant Sunday walk & back home in time for the rugby!



## 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.***

### **Ramblers News**

Sarah D has suggested that members might be interested in some articles from her recent Ramblers member's newsletter, particularly information on the latest stretch of the England Coastal Path and a winter kit review. You can access these articles (plus others) at [www.ramblers.org.uk/news/](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/). They appear in the 'Latest News' and 'Walk Magazine' sections respectively. You don't need to be a Ramblers member or to register to see them.

### **The Dragon's Back - BBC iPlayer**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0010m99/the-dragons-back-race>

This programme tells the story of the Dragon's Back, an ultra-marathon from Conwy to Cardiff Castle running 380km & climbing 17.400 metres in six days. It's allegedly the toughest multi-day mountain race in the world, taking in Crib Goch, Snowdon Horseshoe, Cader Idris, the Elenith wilderness, Rhinogs, Plynlimon & the Brecon Beacons (pewh!). Some great footage of the places we like to visit albeit at a slightly slower pace! *Recommended by Angela*

**- Extra Elements always welcome -**

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

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