

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Volume 26 Issue 3 Mar 2022

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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 and, in due course, a new Chairman. After excellent service, both Andy & Kirsty have stepped down from the Committee: they do so with our thanks and best wishes. Paul Ackroyd has kindly volunteered to be Secretary on a temporary basis. None of us should take the smooth running of the club for granted so please call or email me for a no-obligation chat.

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

Provisional Meets and Events Programme 2022

Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
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	Kirsty & Andy Johns	Weekend - update
Sun 22 May	Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk

Sun 12 Jun	Wallingford to Henley-on-Thames	Charles Harrison	Day Walk - update
Sat 18-Sun 26 Jun	Plymouth to Brixham	John Blight	SWCP Week 7 - update
<i>July</i>			
<i>Fri 12-Sun 14 Aug</i>	<i>Yorkshire</i>	<i>Sarah Dixon</i>	<i>Weekend</i>
<i>August TBC</i>	<i>Chichester Marina to Ford</i>	<i>Charles Harrison</i>	<i>Day Walk - new</i>
<i>Fri 9-Sun 12 Sep</i>	<i>Langdale YHA</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>Weekend</i>
<i>Sat 10-Sun 18 Sep</i>	<i>Brixham to West Bay</i>	<i>John Blight</i>	<i>SWCP Week 8 - update</i>
<i>Fri 7-Sun 9 Oct</i>	<i>Peak District</i>	<i>Paul Ackroyd</i>	<i>Weekend</i>
<i>TBA</i>	<i>Trough of Bowland</i>	<i>Kirsty & Andy Johns</i>	<i>Postponed from July - see note below</i>

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

Meets Details

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 (and 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 and Uncle Tom Cobley). Most importantly, there are some decent walks on the moors and around the tors straight from the hotel, with other options only a short drive away. There's even horse riding and hawking . . . The hotel offers B&B accommodation and 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 and 2 singles for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The cost is £42.50 per person per night B&B in double/twin, £45 in a single and £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) and for which nights.

Sunday 24 April – Hambleden – John Blight

Day walk starting at 10.30 in the picturesque village of Hambleden. It's been a long time since we started a walk from here. Meet in the pay and 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 – Kirsty & Andy Johns for Rob Kell

There are 9 already booked for this meet. Because of personal circumstances, I cannot now attend so Andy & Kirsty have kindly volunteered to lead in my absence. I will keep my booking at the [Castle Hotel](#) in Talgarth until mid-April in case anyone else wants it.

Sunday 22 May – Kent – Paul Ackroyd

I am proposing to organise a circular day walk in Kent, starting and 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 and descents. No refreshment apart from the pubs at the beginning and 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.

Sunday 12 June – Wallingford to Henley-on-Thames – Charles Harrison

This is a walk of 15 miles, starting from Wallingford Market Place at 10am. Our route is initially by the River Thames then over farmland and through woods to reach Stoke Row. We can discover the fascinating history of the Maharajah's Well and look around the cherry orchard before lunch at the Cherry Tree Inn. Afterwards, we will walk through more woods and along quiet lanes to reach Greys Court (National Trust) for tea and visiting 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 and Henley.

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

South West Coastal Path Weeks 7 and 8

As I now have four people coming on the *Plymouth to Brixham* week in June, I have booked a cottage for us. If anyone else would like to come they will need to book their own accommodation. I also have three confirmed for *Brixham to West Bay* in September. Perhaps anyone else interested in this second week could let me know by the end of May.

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

Plymouth to Brixham: 76 miles and approximately 13,200 feet of ascent. Taking seven days, this will be about 10.5 miles per day. In the past, it's worked well to have one base and use cars plus public transport to get to the start and finish points each day.

Sunday in August TBC – Chichester Marina to Ford – Charles Harrison

This is a walk of 12 miles that follows the line of the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal (opened in 1822) from Salterns Lock (near Chichester Marina) to Ford. The first 2.5 miles to Hunston is still in water – this was built to a wider gauge and allowed ships to reach Chichester (the Ship Canal was a 1.5 mile extension north into Chichester which carried trade until 1906). The remaining part (from Hunston to Ford) was abandoned in 1855 but the line is still visible on the map so we can explore this more closely. The cafe at Chichester Harbour and a number of pubs along the route are available for refreshments.

There is a bus service (52 or 53) from Chichester Station (served by Southern) to Chichester Marina; Ford Station is also Southern.

So we can work out a suitable date, please contact me if you are interested in this walk.

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 and 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 and 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.

TBA: Weekend July 2023? – Trough of Bowland – Andy & Kirsty Johns

After thorough research into accommodation for the weekend, we have finally decided to postpone this meet [pencilled in for 1-3 July 2022]. It seems impossible to find accommodation in one place at any reasonable cost, including B&Bs, pubs or hotels. Many of the latter have no availability for all or part of the weekend. Premier Inn/Travelodge options are all quite some distance away from the preferred walking areas and also very expensive. We could all spread ourselves around 10 or so individual B&Bs in different places but that makes daily organisation more tricky and the usual walking/transport chats over breakfast with maps impossible! We considered (and researched) moving the weekend to Shropshire but found the same problem there. 'Staycation' is still with us this summer, it seems. We propose therefore to delay this weekend in this location until another time – probably next year! If anyone has alternative ideas for a replacement weekend area/venue in early July, they are encouraged to have a go and organise something, otherwise maybe a July day walk instead . . .

Meet Report[s]

None this time:

Rob's North Downs Way Day Walk Sunday 13 February was rained off as well as blown away!

Keep reading . . .

Out Walking Reports and / or Photos . .

Past times . . .



LMC AGM Charlbury, January 2014

Other Events / Items

None this time.

Extra Elements: Books, DVDs, Films, other Walks / Climbs – views and comments . . .

If you've read any walking / mountaineering / travel books which you've enjoyed, please share.

NEW - LMC Newsletters now available to view online

There is now a page on the LMC website where you can access 2022 LMC Newsletters. Personal email addresses and private phone numbers have been removed, which means that any Club member who wants to forward a Newsletter to someone outside the Club (e.g. to encourage new members) can now pass on Club news and the Club email contact to others without disclosing members' personal details. Over time, it will also provide easy historical access to Sarah's excellent Newsletters. To download, view and/or save a document: go to the new 'Downloads' page at <https://www.hillsandvalleys.co.uk/LMC/LMCdownloads.htm>. The

Newsletter will appear on the downloads page soon after the main Newsletter circulation to Members on the 10th of each month. *Kirsty*

BMC Discounts available to LMC members

The BMC now has a relationship with the YHA that provides discounted membership fees for BMC members. Usual cost is £20 per year (£15 direct debit) but BMC members can now get YHA membership for only £10 per year and for under 26 it's only £1. More details at www.thebmc.co.uk/yha.

For other BMC discounts available to LMC members (including holiday accommodation) see: <https://membership.thebmc.co.uk/StaticPage/Discounts>. *Kirsty*

Ramblers News

Don't Lose Your Way deadline set to be abolished: the 2026 deadline to register historic paths, already set to be abolished in Wales, is now to be removed in England. [Read more about this announcement](#). *Thanks to Sarah D for this update.*

Consultation on the Glover Landscapes Review – questions about off-roading

The Green Lanes Environmental Action Group (GLEAM) has brought to walkers' attention ongoing consultation by the Government on the Glover Landscapes Review. The consultation provides the opportunity to call for a prohibition of the use of ancient, unsealed Green Lanes by recreational motor vehicles. GLEAM says this chance is unlikely to arise again. As well as being essential access routes, Green Lanes are a historic and precious part of the rural landscape so they need protection. Motorbikes and 4x4s can often be destructive and intrusive, spoiling the enjoyment of these routes for walkers and others. ***Please do take part in the consultation, using your answers to call for an end to the use of recreational motor vehicles on Green Lanes***, particularly in protected landscapes such as National Parks and AONBs. GLEAM suggests that the relevant questions are 14-17 on the consultation document at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/future-landscapes-strategy/government-response-to-the-landscapes-review/>. See also GLEAM's website at <http://www.gleam-uk.org/>

NB: This consultation closes on 9th April 2022. *Kirsty*

[Please be aware: GLEAM also stands for: Gay and Lesbian Employees at Microsoft. *Ed*]

- Extra Elements to Sarah welcome -

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

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