

# LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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## Contact Details

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## News & Notes

### From the Committee . . .

#### From the Chairman

Angela has kindly volunteered to look after the LMC website. On behalf of the Club I would like to thank Kirsty for her excellent work running the site & we thank her in advance for supporting Angela in the handover.

Once again: can I please ask for volunteers for the Committee. In particular, we need a new Secretary &, in due course, a new Chairman. 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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

## Provisional Meets & Events Programme 2022

Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
Sun 24 Apr	Hambleden	John Blight	Day Walk
Fri 6-Sun 8 May	Hay/Talgarth	Kirsty & Andy Johns	Weekend - update
Sun 22 May	Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk - update
Sun 12 Jun	Wallingford to Henley-on-Thames	Charles Harrison	Day Walk
Sat 18-Sun 26 Jun	Plymouth to Brixham	John Blight	SWCP Week 7
Sun 17 Jul	Wimbledon Common & Richmond Park	Alyson Lawton	Day Walk - NEW

+Fri 12-Mon 15 Aug	Yorkshire	Sarah Dixon	Weekend - update
August TBC	Chichester Marina to Ford	Charles Harrison	Day Walk
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
TBA	Trough of Bowland	Kirsty & Andy Johns	Postponed -see below

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

## Meets Details

### 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 & 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 to Sunday 8 May – Hay / Talgarth– Kirsty & Andy Johns

Numbers have fluctuated but we currently have 10 people on this weekend, most booked into the Castle Hotel in Talgarth with a couple of people in the Tower Hotel. Suppers are all booked for 7pm in Talgarth, at the Castle Hotel on Friday & the Bridge End Inn on Saturday. As originally planned by Rob, we are intending to do an 11 mile (2500 ft of ascent) walk in the Black Mountains south of Hay on Wye on Saturday (but with a different starting point from the Ramblers route description circulated to participants on 7th March, which contained a few inaccuracies). On Sunday morning, we will do Rob's proposed shorter 6-mile stroll (700 ft of ascent) from Hay on Wye, probably finishing up along the river.

***If others are interested in joining us***, try your luck at the Tower Hotel B&B in Talgarth for accommodation then let us know if you require supper on Friday & Saturday evenings. The existing 10 participants are already included in supper bookings.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### Sunday 22 May – Kent – Paul Ackroyd

This day walk in Kent will go ahead - unless made impossible by unseasonable weather or invasion by Mr Putin.

We will start & end at Sole Street station – to accommodate those wishing to use public transport as well as motorists.

From the station, at which there is a conveniently located pub for those who need early refreshment, we walk due 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](#). 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.

There are trains hourly from Victoria Station to Sole Street. At present, the service seem to be running OK but will need to check again nearer the time. I suggest getting the 10.10 from Victoria (Bromley South 10.34) Arriving Sole Street at 11.01.

Easy Parking at the station (Cost £1). Please arrive by 11 to meet those coming by train. Please let me know 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 & through woods to reach Stoke Row. We can discover the fascinating history of the Maharajah's Well & look around the 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 & 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 & Henley.

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

### **South West Coastal Path Weeks 7 & 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 & 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 & use cars plus public transport to get to the start & finish points each day.

### **Sunday 17th July – Wimbledon Common & Richmond Park– Alyson Lawton**

Meet at 10:30 am at Wimbledon Park station. The route takes us over Wimbledon Common & then Richmond Park, ending at Richmond Station. It says it is 11km (7miles) but there is an option midway to catch buses if anyone wants to opt out.

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

### **Friday 12 to Monday 15 August - West Yorkshire & Yorkshire Dales (incorporating 3, 2 or 1 Yorkshire Peaks) – Sarah Dixon**

There will be a wide variety of West Yorkshire walks on offer, as well as a day trip for LMC to revisit the [Yorkshire 3 Peaks](#) - dependent on weather of course. It's a pleasant drive to the start points just over an hour from Thornton. I propose leading a 1-peak walk up Wherside via a route that gives views down to Dentsdale & passes 3 tarns for open water swimming (well I know Buster will go in). It is my favourite of the three, though less of a peak at the top – more a sustained ridge walk. The more energetic can tackle all three, or even two. Those of you who have completed the route in the past will find the paths & route-finding now much improved – no longer a need to wade through endless bog - also very well sign-posted.

The meet will be based in Thornton, near Bradford. I can offer two double & 1 twin, or two twins & one double (unless I manage to house Ukrainian refugees, which seems well-nigh impossible to organise). There are also local B&B's & Air B&Bs (e.g. Ashtree House B&B, 40 James St Air B&B – the latter is cheaper direct via me). For those of you who love Premier Inns, relax – there is one in Bradford. Please let me know if you can make it.

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

This is a walk of 12 miles that follows the line of the Portsmouth & 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 & 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 & 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 & 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.

### **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 & 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 & the usual walking/transport chats over breakfast with maps impossible! We considered (& researched) moving the weekend to Shropshire but found the same problem there. 'Stacycation' 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 & organise something, otherwise maybe a July day walk instead . . .

## **Meet Report[s]**

*None this time*

### **Crickhowell Walking Festival – 10 to 13 March 2022**

**10th March** – In the pretty little village of Llanfrynach just south of Brecon on the River Usk, the weather was dull but dry. A cheerful group of 15 - including Sarah D, Buster & me - set off across farmland, taking the direct route up the grassy slope of Cefn Cyff to be enveloped by the windy & wet low cloud which was to keep us company for most of the day.

Having reached Fan y Big & followed the rocky rim of Cwm Oergwm for a couple of miles east, we recalled the magnificent views to be had – on a clear sunny day! Claire & Geoff, a well-travelled & sociable couple, not only know the mountains well but even managed to keep us all following the same path!

Descending via Bryn, we dropped below the clouds then, in quite acceptable weather, made a diversion, en masse, to the Royal Oak Pencelli. Back to the start after 12 miles & 2600 ft of ascent.

**11th March** – The cloud was a little higher, leaving visibility restricted only by the rain which fell as we waited in the café in Talybont on Usk for other walkers who failed to show. So, we three, with our lead team of Gail & 'Dangerous' Dave, crossed the canal lock, ascended the steep slope of Tor y Foel, passing a field of Alpacas. A descent of the grassy slopes through fields of sheep to Llangynidr had the challenge of winds which, having been strong the day before, were now gusting up to 60mph such that the rain brought the roses to our cheeks!

The prearranged lunch stop at the New Inn at Bwlch provided excellent hot soup & sandwiches. Setting out again, it was up Allt yr Esgair by a field of deer & then down through the woodland on a narrow track meeting a herd of beautiful highland cattle who had clearly sought shelter from the weather up top!

Back to the start & the Star Inn where a drop of shandy was more than welcome after 12 miles & 2800 ft of ascent. Walk entitled: Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (of beer)!!

**12th March** – A rest day, comparatively speaking. Walking by the canal, visiting shops in Crickhowell & Abergavenny & not getting wet!

**13th March** – The Three Pens walk from Crickhowell is known to a number of LMC members: Pen Gloch-y-pibwr, Pen Allt-mawr & the rocky plateau of Pen Cerrig-calch. A dozen of us on this walk, including David & Sue who provided as much information about the area as one would wish for. Apart from a couple of showers, the weather was good & some of the views just what you want at the end of the week! The descent via Table Mountain is always fascinating in that it looks so dominant from below but so insignificant from the top of Pen Cerrig-calch. Back to the start after 10 miles & 2500 ft of ascent.

On reflection, a rather challenging week thanks to the weather in that terrain. Would I do it again? Ask me in a year's time!!

And on the 14th of March, the sun shone all day! **Michael Whittaker**

### Northumberland Photographs



*Atmospheric Dunstanburgh Castle*



*St Abb's from the north*

*With thanks to Kirsty & Andy*

### 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.*

### Make Do & Mend . . .

**Rohan** have launched a new repair service (zips, tears etc) to “give a new lease of life to your otherwise long-lasting Rohan clothing”. See <https://www.rohan.co.uk/servicecentre> (or the Email from Rohan on 12th March for those on their mailing list). **Kirsty**

### BMC 'Hiking Essentials' Zoom Sessions for hill walkers

See <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-hiking-essentials-sessions-spring-clean-your-hiking-skills> for a series of four one-hour 'Hiking Essentials' Zoom sessions being offered by the BMC between 27th April & 19th May. They include sessions on Emergency Skills (Wed 27th April) & Navigation (Wed 4th May), which might well be of interest to some of us. Cost per session is £5 to BMC members. Do take a look . . . **Kirsty**

- Extra Elements to Sarah -

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

END