

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Volume 26 Issue 5 May 2022

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News & Notes

From the Committee . . .

From the Chairman

Again, I am asking for volunteers for the Committee. In particular, we need a new Membership 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 **10th of the month**.

Provisional Meets & Events Programme 2022

Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
Sun 22 May	Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
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
Fri 12-Mon 15 Aug	Yorkshire	Sarah Dixon	Weekend
August TBC	Chichester Marina to Ford	Charles Harrison	Day Walk
Sat 10-Sun 18 Sep	Brixham to West Bay	John Blight	SWCP Week 8
Fri 23-Sun 25 Sep	Langdale YHA	Leader Required	Weekend - Update

Fri 7-Sun 9 Oct	Peak District	Paul Ackroyd	Weekend
Sun 23 Oct	Chawton, Hampshire	Rob Kell	Day Walk - NEW
TBA	Trough of Bowland	Kirsty & Andy Johns	Postponed -see below

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. At the AGM we mooted the idea of a meet in Langdale based on the YHA in Loughrigg <https://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-langdale>. 23rd-25th September has been reserved for this meet, **but we still need a leader.. Bob**

Meets Details

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 Wharfedale via a route that gives views down to Dentdale & 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 SWCP 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.

Sunday 23 October – Chawton, Hampshire – Rob Kell

I will lead a 18km (11m) circular walk from Chawton. This is just off the A31 south of Alton & is home to Jane Austen's House. There is a free car park in the village. The walk will start at 10:30am. Please bring a packed lunch. I can provide the route in advance if required.

Meet Report[s]

Thursday 7 – Sunday 10 April 2022 – Six finally make it to Dartmoor – David Wells

The meet had been two & a half years in the making - through COVID curtailments, ballots, cancellations - before finally rescheduling to a safe landing spot in early April. Six intrepid walkers made it to the East Dart Inn in Postbridge. This was not without incident, as Steve's knee, recovering after a surgical rebuild, failed to pass the warm up pre-meet walk on Thursday afternoon. The new hotel owners Ben & Karen, with experience in hairdressing, had taken title 6 weeks earlier, & were embarking on a 6 month work programme to refurbish the hotel. They were very pleased to welcome us as their only guests, as were their noisy dogs! They were somewhat aggrieved that the previous owners had retained the web site for the hotel & had walked off with our deposit, along with all the bedding! Also their chef had failed to show up - among other challenges. Dinner Thursday evening at the hotel was probably the best the microwave could produce given the staffing in the kitchen!

Friday was pretty grey & the weather forecast somewhat variable. Angela & Steve decided on a gentle amble to visit some 'stone rows' (prominent ancient features). This turned out to be a 9 hour slog over the wet moorland, though they did find the 'stone row'. Rob only arrived during the day so did a quick afternoon sprint up Sittaford Tor. So David, Sarah D & Charles headed off over Bellever Tor, with fine views west & a couple of fairly hazardous crossings of the Dart river over stepping stones, before heading to Two Bridges, carefully avoiding the pub. At that point, with the weather looking better, we decided to extend the planned 10 mile walk to take in Beardown Tor, Littaford Tor & the local gunpowder works. Of course, this resulted in walking through a combination of rain, sleet, hail & a decent bit of passing sunshine for a total of around 14 miles.



Sarah & Charles enjoying (not too much!) the stepping stones of the East Dart

We arrived back at the hotel to see sunshine, allowing a leisurely cream tea in the delightful hotel garden surrounded by the daffodils, joined there by Rob. For dinner we decided to try the microwave specials once more, the hotel being the only place in Postbridge, other than the village shop, allowed by the Duchy of Cornwall to serve food.

The following day looked better. Angela & Steve, with the knee not having enjoyed the 9 hour walk, were tempted by the local steam railway. The remaining 4 of us headed out over the hills to Widecombe-on-the Moor (famed for the story of Widecombe Fair & the death of Tom Pearce's horse . . .) via Corndon Tor & had a very enjoyable lunch on the green in Widecombe. We then headed back over Hameldown Tor & Beacon, via a spectacular stone circle & stone rows, past some more mineworkings, & taking in some great views, before



Hameldown Tor above Widecombe

arriving back at the hotel in time for another cream tea in the garden. After 18 miles we had earned it! Having exhausted the pleasures of the microwave, we dined a short drive away at the Warren Inn up on the moors: a very cosy spot which some remembered as the location for a LMC meet many years ago.

Sunday proved sunny & warmish again providing opportunity for a morning 7 mile walk around the pretty village of Manaton, with its great church & attractive village green. Some slight navigational issues meant a good half mile of hacking through the gorse & bracken, just to remind us to look at the map occasionally - but otherwise a great finish to the weekend before the journey home.

Splendid weekend & company; good to get back on the hills again. Will be interesting to see how the hotel evolves as the owners Ben & Karen hopefully realise their dreams.



Buster relaxing at Postbridge after the exertions

Sunday 24 April – Hambleden – John Blight

Three of us met up at Hambleden in the Chilterns for a 10 mile circular walk. We haven't met here for many years but Rob & I checked it out during a perfectly legal lockdown meet up last year. As you can see from the photo: April is bluebell time. Hambledon is "Midsommer Murders" territory: we passed a red plaque on a pub telling us which episodes featured the pub!



Next time:

Friday 6 – Sunday 8 May – Hay-on-Wye – John Blight

Out Walking Reports & / or Photos . .

You never know who will arrive by boat . . .

A chance encounter between LMC members on the Kennet & Avon canal. Thanks to David & Penny for the lift (& for demonstrating how locks work).

Angela & Stephen



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.

Where you can walk in England & Wales

I found this [latest article](#) in the Ramblers newsletter really interesting – & a relief, as I discovered where I had scaled walls to get to a local reservoir with *Keep Out Private Property* signs, I was, in fact, allowed to do so - so long as I didn't damage the wall. Good to know . . .

Sarah Dixon

- Extra Elements to Sarah -

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

END