

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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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**.

Meets & Events Programme 2022

Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
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
Sat 10-Sun 18 Sep	Brixham to West Bay	John Blight	SWCP Week 8
Fri 23-Sun 25 Sep	Langdale YHA	<i>Leader Required</i>	Weekend
Fri 30 September	Chichester Marina to Ford	Charles Harrison	Day Walk - Update
Fri 7-Sun 9 Oct	Peak District	Paul Ackroyd	Weekend
Sun 23 Oct	Chawton, Hampshire	Rob Kell	Day Walk

~~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

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.

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 Dentedale & 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.

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 30 September – Chichester Marina to Ford – Charles Harrison

Please let me know if you wish to come along.

This walk of 12 miles 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.

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]

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

Eight of us gathered at the Castle Hotel in Talgarth on the Friday evening for what was billed as the twentieth anniversary of Chris Lawrence's epic & infamous Hay-on-Wye meet. We were very pleased to welcome Rita & Gerry for the first, & hopefully, not the last time. Dinner was a slightly bizarre affair. The hotel's kitchen was the fish & chip shop next door! Chips & peas with everything. Nevertheless, most of us had a very tasty fish supper.

Saturday was a very fine day. We headed up to Gospel Pass for a ten mile circular walk starting with a climb up to Hay Bluff . . .

Photo of everyone on top of Hay Bluff....

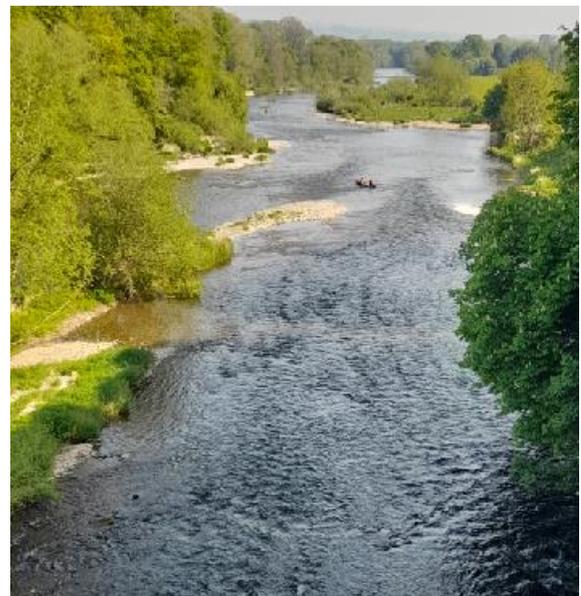
South East along Offa's Dyke, pausing for some cute pony photos . . .



then down to the village of Capel-y-Finn. Our return route took us along the picturesque Nant Bwch valley, up on to Lord Hereford's knob, (no tittering please!). It was then a short descent to Gospel Pass then back home for a well-earned drink. Dinner that night was a much more conventional pub meal at the Bridge Inn.

On Sunday, Marion went horse riding; the rest of us headed up to Hay-on-Wye for a six mile circular walk around the village. The River Wye was looking magnificent.

A perfect end to a perfect weekend.



Sunday 22 May – Kent – Paul Ackroyd

Disasters are so much more fun to write about & to read . . . so this meet report is going to be very dull. The day dawned bright & sunny, remaining so all day. The train from London arrived at Sole Street station on time, carrying David, Alyson & Hilary: Paul, John & two of Paul's friends

- another John plus Susan – having arrived by car were waiting. We set off in fine spirits across a field of sprouting peas to join up with the Wealdway across the chalky fields of the downs encountering the small hamlet of Luddesdowne. Here we passed the church & a house of striking architectural features. The house can be seen in the photo - in the distance between John & David.

Photo of all the walkers

It was agreed that this would make a suitable official residence for the LMC treasurer. A subsequent check of the bank account, however, revealed that its purchase would have to be delayed pro tem.

Dropping due south through fields of vines gave the opportunity for serious debate about the merits of English wines before making a short, sharp ascent to join up with the North Downs Way. This section, which runs along the ridge through delightful ancient forest, has featured in several previous LMC walks. About halfway along it had a conveniently positioned bench plus adjacent log which made a very good venue for a lunchtime stop. Once sustained, we completed the ridge, descending once more into the valley at the little settlement of Upper Bush. Here we left the North Downs Way. We headed north under the railway, up a slope in full sun but cooled by a gentle breeze, to reach the woodlands of Cobham Park.

From there it was but a short stretch to the Mausoleum, built by the 4th Earl of Darnley in the 1780s, now in the hands of the National Trust. Ironically, no burial ever took place there, possibly because the 4th Earl fell out with the Bishop of Rochester who may have refused to consecrate it. Since we were there on one of the Sundays when the National Trust had not deigned to open it to the public, we had to satisfy ourselves with debating its architectural merits, including a pyramid on top, plus a dry moat, from the outside.

On to the village of Cobham where the dilemma - which of the hostelrys to frequent - was solved by the simple expedient of stopping at the first. Once suitably refreshed, a well-timed departure walking through the churchyard & orchards brought us back to Sole Street just in time for the returning train.

So the weather was perfect, no one got lost or injured & no wrong turns were taken. A day out in the country doesn't come much better than this.

Next Time . . .

Friday 10 June – Wallingford to Henley-on-Thames – Charles Harrison

Out Walking Reports & / or Photos . .

None this time.

Other Events / Items

Update from Andy

Many thanks to all who have sent me their good wishes as I recover from the haemorrhagic stroke I suffered at the end of April. After a scary few days for both of us & an enforced very quiet start to May, I'm pleased to say that I'm pretty much back to full physical fitness. Kirsty has been wonderful throughout. Also, both the hospital & the in-community care have been good. The bleed was at the back of the brain on my right side. The residual problem I now face is partial loss of the left hand side of my visual field. It's improved a bit, but whether I can recover enough to drive again is anyone's guess. For now, when I read about what the damage might have been, I'm just happy to be bouncing around like Tigger.

Thanks to John Blight for taking on the Hay meet at short notice; also to Hilary & Marion for dropping in for a cuppa on the way home from Talgarth. I'm now in the middle of various tests & reviews after which I'll be hoping to see everyone at a meet before long. In the meantime, here I am with my boots on again for a walk at Coed Cefn, our local bluebell wood above Crickhowell. **Andy**

Photo of Andy in Coed Cefn

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 -

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

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