

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.

Welcome to new members

A warm welcome to new Midlands-based members Rita & Gerry, who came down to Talgarth for the Black Mountains LMC meet in May and happily enjoyed the occasion enough to want to join the Club! We look forward to meeting them again before too long.

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

Meets & Events Programme

Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
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 Sep	Chichester Marina to Ford	Charles Harrison	Day Walk
Fri 7-Sun 9 Oct	Peak District	Andy & Kirsty Johns	Weekend - Update
Sun 23 Oct	Chawton, Hampshire	Rob Kell	Day Walk
2023			
Sat 17-Sun 25 Jun	W Bay to S Haven Point	John Blight	SWCP Week 9 – New

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 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 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 – Andy & Kirsty Johns (for Paul Ackroyd).

Andy & I have offered to take over the ongoing organisation of this meet as there is a possibility that Paul may be otherwise occupied on theatrical matters down south . . .

We have already received a healthy expression of interest in this meet: eight people have booked into the Premier Inn, approx. a mile north of Matlock on the A6 (<https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/derbyshire/matlock/matlock.html>).

Matlock is a good base for walking in the eastern area of the White Peak. It has a fine selection of hills, dales, rivers & wooded areas. We can choose from these as we gather for the weekend, with a guideline of 10 miles & 1500 feet of ascent. Possibilities include Lathkill Dale or Eyam & Bretton Clough. The latter walk would take LMC back to its third ever meet, in January 1976, when we stayed at Bretton Youth Hostel, making merry in the Barrel Inn! There will, of course, be some driving to reach walk start points.

If you would like to come along (& haven't advised Paul or Kirsty), please let us know.

You are responsible for making your own accommodation reservations, either at the Premier Inn (Flex advised) or elsewhere. The Saturday rate at the Premier Inn seems to have gone up quite a lot in recent weeks – so get your bookings in soon!

We will be communicating further with all participants nearer the time. In the meantime, we will make table reservations in the coming weeks for suppers for us all on Friday & Saturday – please let Kirsty know if you do not want to be included in suppers on either night.

We look forward to another good weekend's walking in the Peak District.

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

This was a lovely day for a walk in a fairly quiet part of the Chiltern Hills. In the event, it was a solo effort but I'll describe the route in case any LMC colleagues find themselves in the area.

Starting in the Market Place, the route takes us over the Thames at Wallingford Bridge then south on the riverside path. After a short distance, you will see the Fleming Boathouse on



the far side (home to the Oxford University men's & women's boat clubs). The footpath leaves the river to continue south past Newnham Farm to join The Ridgeway at Mongewell.

At this point, it is worth taking a detour (to the right) to see the ruins of St John the Baptist Church – cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust: 'Although no longer used for regular worship, our churches remain consecrated & open to all'.

Across the water, you can see the Julius Gottlieb Gallery & Boathouse – one of three listed structures in the former [Carmel College](#) (along with the Synagogue & Auditorium):



The inside of the Gallery was used on the album cover for 'Hotshot' by the Pet Shop Boys:



Continuing south along The Ridgeway, the next stop is North Stoke (Midsomer Wellow in the episode 'Ring Out Your Dead'). Former residents include Michael Caine, Dame Clara Butt & Ian Gillan (with his guitar shaped swimming pool – no longer a pool but still visible on Satellite view).

We continue south via path & road to Littlestoke Manor then turn east to join [Swan's Way](#), a National Trail. The buildings on the right, just after Watch Folly, were home to Chiltern Park Aerodrome which closed in 2021. We continue ahead, crossing the A4074 to reach [Braziers Park](#) – childhood home of Ian Fleming & later Marianne Faithfull (Mick Jagger came to stay on his release from prison in 1967). We skirt the house then continue along Braziers Lane, up into the woods. Just before Garsons Lane we take the path on the right (flanked by two tree trunks). This drops down to join a crossing path which climbs up to Scot's Farm. Cross the road past a dilapidated barn then take the path on the left which will reach a road with a choice of two paths to [Stoke Row](#).





Stoke Row is a delightful village with an unexpected gem: the [Maharajah's Well](#) – this article on the BBC website tells of its interesting history. There are two places for refreshment: the [Cherry Tree Inn](#) & Stoke Row Store.

Head east out of Stoke Row then take the crossing path south through Bear Wood; at the parking area, head east between Greyhorne Wood & Plantation. At the bottom, turn south then east to reach the B481 at Satwell. Cross over & take the minor road opposite, turning right at the disused pub (a sad feature of this area) & head towards Greys Green. When you reach the cricket pitch, there is a path into the trees on the far side which is a short cut to [Greys Court](#) (& the Cowshed tea room).

Once fortified, head back to Rocky Lane, turning left to reach the road junction; cross over & turn right where you will find a footpath. At Greys Green, the path leaves the road to head down the valley past Pindars Wood, Ash Plantation & Lower Hernes then over Pack & Prime Lane & on into Henley.

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

We all arrived successfully at our well-appointed cottage in the small village of St Ann's Chapel near Burgh Island on Saturday afternoon & settled down to watch the Rugby Premiership final (shame about the result! No offence to Leicester supporters.) St Ann's Chapel will henceforth be known as the village with no pub, as it had shut down sometime between making the booking & our arrival. We were not deterred, finding two excellent pubs still within walking distance plus several more a short drive away. We even savoured the delights of Sarah's cooking & a take-away from "Cook.com", a new experience for me which I recommend.

This week we planned to walk about 73 miles covering 12,828 feet of ascent over seven days so, without further ado, we headed off to Plymouth to get started. Unfortunately, we hadn't realised the Plymouth marathon was being run on Sunday so we had to make multiple detours to get to our starting point. The first few miles took us round Plymouth's historic dockyards.



Deciding not to walk through the industrial areas, instead, we took the ferry to Mount Batten. Soon we were out into the countryside with some terrific coastal views.



We even came across some Dartmoor ponies who had strayed a bit far South.



One day we came across the strangest of sights: two birds nesting by the side of the coast path who were completely un-phased by dogs walking close by.



Buster was in his element all week, clearly enjoying the sea & sand. Anyone for a swim?



or maybe I can steal the meet-leader's lunch!



The end of the trip came around all too quickly in what had been a week of near perfect walking weather. Thanks to Alan, Sarah & Rob for their excellent company & for their photos. We four are all already signed up for week 8 in September. Any other last minute takers?

Out Walking Reports & / or Photos . . . *None this time*

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.

- Extra Elements to Sarah -

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

END