

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2023

Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
Fri 13-Mon 16 Oct	Sandown Isle of Wight	Hilary Pettit	Weekend
Fri 24-Sun 26 Nov	Wookey Hole/Mendips	Angela Leaman	Weekend - Update

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2024

Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
Sat 13/Sun 14 Jan	AGM & Annual Dinner Salisbury	Angela Leaman	Weekend
Thu 11-Sun 14 Apr	Exmoor	H & A McGinn	Long Weekend - FULL

LMC Meets Details

Friday 13 / Monday 16 October – Sandown Isle of Wight – Hilary Pettit

(Friday to Monday or choose to stay for Friday & Saturday nights only)

Following some very enjoyable weekends located in Newport, this meet will be based in Sandown to give us a chance to explore the coast & country walking on the east of the island. We currently have a select group of 4 people booked for this weekend, with 3 of us staying for all 3 nights. As at early September there is still accommodation available for anyone else who would like to join us, with the prices having increased slightly as shown below.

Accommodation will be in the relatively new Premier Inn on Sandown Seafront with its adjoining Cookhouse & Pub restaurant. Rooms are currently priced at a total of £257 fully flexible for the 3 nights or £210 standard (non-refundable), also £191 fully flexible for Friday & Saturday nights or £158 standard. Breakfast is charged separately. Please make your own booking & check that you are booking for the Premier Inn Seafront hotel on the Esplanade & not the Premier Inn Merrie Gardens also in Sandown but further out of town.

Travelling by public transport has proved to be easy for previous meets, with many opting to take the train to Portsmouth Harbour for an easy stroll to the Wightlink FastCat terminal for the service to Ryde. The Island Line train links Ryde with Sandown, with the hotel a 10 minute walk from the station. There are also direct bus options from Ryde to Sandown. It is possible to buy a ticket which includes all trains & ferry. As at the beginning of September, there are no planned engineering works during the weekend & no strike dates advised. If you are planning to bring a car for the weekend, please note that there is no free parking at the hotel, but there is chargeable parking at St John's car park which is a 5 minute walk away.

The final 2 days of the 9 day Autumn Isle of Wight walking festival are taking place but their programme will have no impact on our plans as they are either very short walks or at a different part of the island. There are plenty of options for walking: varying lengths from the doorstep or using local transport to go further afield.

Please let me know when you have booked & for how many nights.

Friday 24/Sunday 26 November – Wookey Hole & the Mendips – Angela Leaman -

Arrangements for the trip to the Mendips have been updated because the pub in Wookey Hole will be closed the weekend of 24-26 November. We have re-located to a hotel & B&B in a nearby village which has an open pub! At the time of writing rooms were still available. I have 8 bookings but if anyone else would like to come please get in touch for more details.

2024

Saturday 13 / Sunday 14 January 2024 – AGM & Annual Dinner – Angela Leaman

The 2024 AGM will be held at the White Hart Hotel in Salisbury. The hotel is a 17th century Grade II* listed building in the historic centre of Salisbury, opposite the cathedral. The AGM followed by dinner will be held in the private St Anne's suite in the hotel courtyard on Saturday evening.

This note is about arrangements for accommodation. The provisional booking to accommodate numbers likely to attend was held until Friday 30th June : these rooms have now been released. However, the hotel seems to have plenty of space: also there are other hotels in the centre of town if you wish to book nearer the time. We have preferential rates for a group booking as follows:

Standard double or twin: £83 - double or single occupancy

Compact double or single: £69 - single occupancy

Please call the hotel to make your booking quoting my name & LMC Mountaineering Club to obtain the discount group rate. Tel: 01722 327476

All rooms are ensuite; cancellation is free up to 28 days ahead, with a sliding scale closer to the event. The hotel has free parking. Check-in is from 3pm with checkout at 12pm. Rooms may be booked for either one or two nights.

I do hope you will be able to come. My foodie friends tell me the best place to eat in Salisbury is Anokaa, a contemporary Indian restaurant which sounds delicious & an option for Friday night!

There will be a walk from mid-morning on Saturday in the Wiltshire countryside. Sunday morning would suit a walk around Salisbury, taking in views of the cathedral across the water meadows (famously painted by Turner) & the ramparts of Old Sarum. Tourist attractions I can recommend are Arundells, Edward Heath's former home in the cathedral close & a tour of the cathedral spire (advance booking required).



Thursday 11 / Sunday 14 April 2024 – Simonsbath House Hotel, Simonsbath, Exmoor –
FULLY SUBSCRIBED - Heather & Andrew McGinn

Meet Report[s]

Saturday 9 / Saturday 16 September - Pooley Bridge/Martindale – Sarah Dixon

Buster's Big Week in the Lake District

Hello everybody. Angela has written this down for me because I'm a dog.

In September I organised a meet to Ullswater in the Lake District. Dogs don't shop so Marion volunteered to pick up the Sainsbury's 'Click & Collect' order, or more accurately the 'Don't Collect but Fetch it Yourself' service. With the larder & wine rack full plus my basket by the hearth, we settled into a rather glorious 18th century farmhouse in the valley of Martindale – a 20-minute drive up some vertical hairpins at the end of a single-track road.

Day one started beautifully sunny. Angela & Stephen, recovering from some extensive travelling & COVID, opted for an easier route from the back door for wildflowers & waterfalls. We all met up at a restored, historic sheepfold, with Sarah, Marion, John & myself having taken a higher route over High Dodd. By the time we arrived at our objective, Place Fell (657m), there were black clouds to the west with a weather warning for severe thunderstorms. Angela & Stephen opted to retrace their steps: some impressive thunder & lightning prompted a run down the valley in torrential rain. We carried on into the wind. The steep descent from Boredale Hause was challenging in the wet conditions. John called it a day but, buoyed by improving weather, I powered on up Hallin Fell with Sarah & Marion. After an ear-splitting clap of thunder directly overhead, I questioned the wisdom of enjoying the view next to a massively tall obelisk so we rushed down to the lake for a dip.

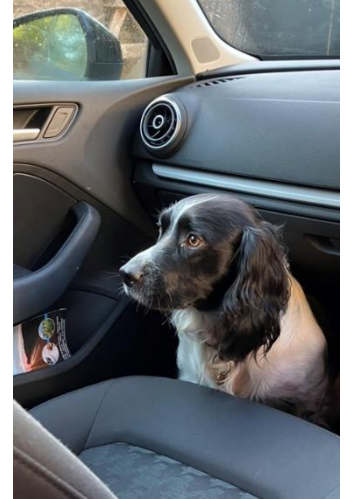


Photo: The Five Exploring Martindale

On Tuesday the cloud was down but we enjoyed a walk along the Ullswater Way to Glenridding. After a coffee stop & picnic lunch we caught the charming Ullswater 'steamer' back across the lake. MV Raven was built on the Clyde in 1889 being converted to diesel in the 1930s. Sarah & Angela took a detour for a second ascent of Hallin Fell, this time from the west, minus the thunder. Marion & Sarah rounded off the day with a swim from the secluded beach a short walk from the house.



I do use a keyboard sometimes (on the internet no-one knows you're a dog) but Sarah checked the weather. With sun forecast I decided to take the party to Haweswater. Angela was keen to visit the area having just read 'Wild Fell' (recommended). The book describes the challenges experienced by the RSPB managing two hill farms at the reservoir for nature, with a controversial reduction in sheep grazing. Marion was keen on High Street: Wainright recommended a 'beautiful & exhilarating' ascent up Rough Crag. It was a fabulous route with some intricate route finding up a series of rocky buttresses. With some modesty I think I succeeded in putting the M back into LMC!



Misty rain prevented a view from the summit however, returning over Harter Fell in clearing conditions, we had stunning views of our ascent route and along the length of Haweswater. Stats: 8 miles, 2618ft.

The next day we explored deeper into Martindale to climb Loadpot Hill (672m). High Street was on our right, but we turned left walking parallel to a Roman Road which follows the long ridge. An earlier period of occupation featured at Lord's Seat where I helped Stephen sniff out a stone circle. Returning home along the Ullswater Way I stopped for a chat with a group of children from the Outwood Bound School. Stats: 11 miles, 2171 ft.

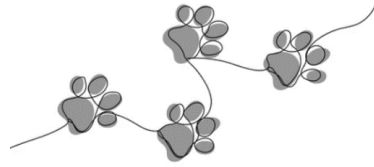
On Thursday Stephen continued his exploration of the archaeology of Penrith. With my interest in the arts, I was sorry to miss a random encounter at a neolithic henge with some long-distance Strolling Mummers (walking to the Isle of Wight).

Meanwhile Sarah, Marion & I enjoyed a walk from the farmhouse to High Raise via The Knott & Rest Dodd. Stats: 9 miles, 3291ft of ascent. At the same time John knocked off The Nab (576m). At the end of the day I finally persuaded Angela to join us for a swim, however Sarah & Marion were rather annoying keeping the ball.



Photo of intrepid swimmers...

The next day the weather broke & Angela & Stephen had to leave to continue their travels in Pembrokeshire. We paid a visit to Dalemain House followed by lunch at the Horse & Farrier. The meet ended on Saturday. After a terrific week, I was sad to say goodbye to my friends. However I hope to see everyone again soon.



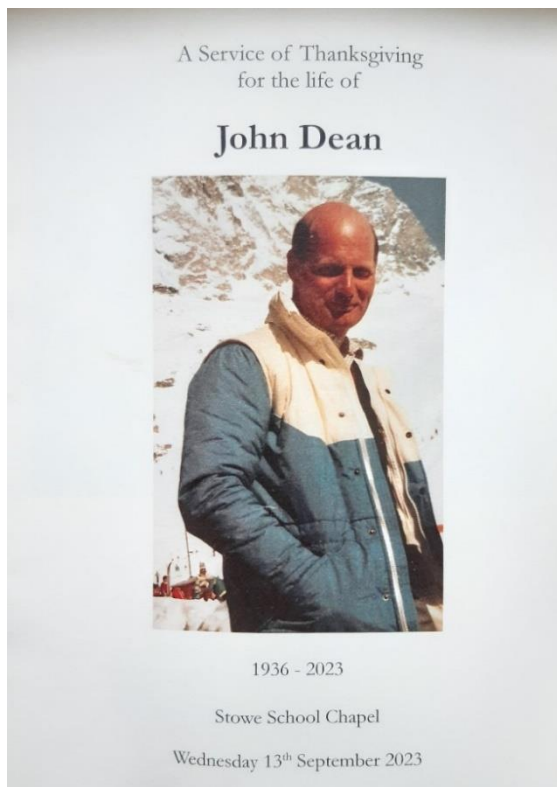
**Barking a sad goodbye from the farmhouse at Sandwick,
Martindale**



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

Other Events / Items . . .

John Dean's Memorial Gathering, 13th September 2023



As you know, we gathered together to celebrate John's life in the Chapel at Stowe School on Wednesday 13th September. There were 25 current and ex-LMC members present, to add to the 15 or so family plus other friends present so we did John proud! Thank you to all those who attended, also to those who sent personal memories and messages.

Tributes were paid to John by his nephews, David & Anthony, followed by Andy on behalf of LMC 'seniors' and Dorothy Dixon's daughter Lorna on behalf of the sons and daughters of original LMC members. Following the service, we had a congenial gathering with ample refreshments plus a good chance for chat and reminiscing amongst those present.

The event was a fitting tribute to John's generosity and friendship, and to his full and active life.

Kirsty

Calling all Shell Pensioners . . .

Some of you ex-Shell folk will already be members of the SPA (the Shell Pensioners Association) but, if not, we recommend you pay a one-off fee of £10 to join. SPA offers special member-only benefits including access to the SPA members-only website, information about planned events, an entertaining magazine 'SPA News' three times a year, eligibility to join a local SPA branch, and links to Third Party service providers offering discounts on products and services (such as insurance and leisure). Members are able to get in touch with each other through the SPA website. Updated information is regularly made available on State Benefits, taxation, energy subsidies, ATM scams and more. The SPA also runs a 'private' Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UKSPA/>) for chat and discussion with other SPA members. Members can also call the Shell Pensioner Programme for advice and guidance on a range of subjects.

Full SPA Membership is available to anyone who is in receipt of a Shell pension (or has an entitlement to a deferred pension) for a one-off payment of £10. There is no monthly or annual subscription. Go to <https://shellpensioners.org.uk/> then click on the 'Request to Join SPA' button at the bottom of the page. **Andy**

Michael Whittaker passed on the following:

Those who were at the Cockermouth meet in June 2019 will be sorry to hear that part of the Old Courthouse with the Honest Lawyer restaurant has collapsed into the river. Site of an enjoyable evening no longer there!

More at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-67045845>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-67051510>

Earlier [November 2021]: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-59239172>

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-

LMC Newsletter link to send to interest future possible members:

<https://www.hillsandvalleys.co.uk/LMC/LMCdownloads.htm>

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

END