

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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From the Chairman:

Wanted: Newsletter Editor

With deep regret, I have to announce that, after ten years of sterling service, Sarah Bulling has decided it is time to hang up her metaphorical boots & vacate the role of Newsletter Editor at the end of the year. I know how much we all value the newsletter - not just as a source of upcoming events & reports of the various day & weekend (plus longer) meets - but also the frequent articles loosely around the topics of walking . . . & gardening of course! For me it is always a pleasure to read & re-read: this is due to Sarah's efforts to stimulate contributions from others &, indeed, to add her own. The past newsletters also constitute the enduring history of club activities, hence forming a valuable record of what we have done, where we've been & the various events that have marked the club.

On behalf of all of us I'd like to thank Sarah for the dedication she has shown over many years.

With Sarah's departure, we need a successor to take on this role from January 2024. We can add the new Editor to the committee (formally at the January AGM) if desired but the role can also be filled outside the committee (as has been the case for Sarah).

Please would anyone who is interested in taking on the role of Newsletter Editor, let me know as soon as possible so we can arrange handover. Sarah assures me she is available to answer questions about the role.

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 24-Sun 26 Nov	Wookey Hole/Mendips	Angela Leaman	Weekend

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2024

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

LMC Meets Details

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 – arrangements being finalized by the end of November.

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]

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

After weeks of wondering whether rail strikes or engineering works would scupper our trip to the Isle of Wight, everything was running. Five of us made our way to Sandown for the Solent crossing, managing to avoid any of the forecast thunderstorms. The new Premier Inn is on the esplanade & most of us had rooms with fabulous views over the beach, *apart from David A (a last minute booking) who unfortunately had a view of a stone wall in the cliffs behind the hotel.* Alan, Paul, David A & I had time for a wander along the esplanade towards Shanklin on Friday afternoon, meeting up with David W for dinner in the hotel that evening.

Saturday morning greeted us with a fabulous sunrise over the sea. We all set off along the coast climbing up to Culver Down from where we had amazing views back towards Sandown; also across the island to the north & beyond to the mainland.



Looking east from Culver towards Sandown

Photo of group looking north from Culver towards the mainland

By the time we had investigated the WWII gun emplacements & the monument to the Earl of Yarmouth, in true LMC style, differing options for the rest of the day had emerged but we set off for Bembridge Windmill before picking up the Bembridge & Yar River Trail towards Brading.

The two Davids strode on ahead. They had cleared an empty field before a herd of young bullocks rushed into sight from the adjoining field behind the trees & stampeded towards the rest of us. It was very intimidating as it looked as though they weren't going to stop, but Alan's gift for cow-whispering somehow did the trick & they came to a halt, losing interest in us sufficiently to allow us to get to the gate.

After skirting the first airport of the weekend near Bembridge we arrived at Brading station where David A & Paul waited for trains. Paul got the train to Shanklin then, after a drink on the seafront, walked back to Sandown along the esplanade. David A had discovered a Steam & Beer Festival was happening (which had David's name written all over it!) so waited for a train in the opposite direction to take him to the station which links to the steam railway to take him to the festival. However, his train didn't turn up. With only every other train making the stop to link to the steam railway, David contacted the controller via the help point - who duly arranged for the next train to make the extra stop especially for him. Even though the driver hadn't been given the message from control, he was happy to oblige. David enjoyed his jaunt on the trains & the festival, although he was disappointed that there weren't more local beers to sample as most seemed to be from the mainland.

David W, Alan & I climbed up to Brading Down to a lunch spot with a view over the sparkling sea to the south of the island. Here we watched the comings & goings of light-aircraft at the Isle of Wight airport near Sandown. David W continued along the ridge onto Newport where he had been looking forward to tea & cake, only to arrive just after the teashops had closed for the day. He therefore trundled back to Sandown by bus before having better luck. Meanwhile, Alan & I circled back to Sandown, joining an old railway line through a nature reserve. We arrived in time for a drink on the sunny terrace at the pub round the corner from the hotel.

While relaxing before dinner, we watched the world go by from our rooms: we saw a few brave swimmers, as well as a group doing wild water walking, taking the route along the beach at chest level in the sea. Maybe we need to incorporate something similar at our next coastal meet! Dinner that night was at a chilly seafront restaurant in one of the few better maintained buildings. Many of its neighbours seemed abandoned, giving the place a feeling of having seen better days.

Sunday morning started with another beautiful clear sunrise. We all caught the bus towards Ventor - in the opposite direction to the previous day. A short steep climb took us up to the high point of the island on St Boniface Down. Here we circled the radio transmitters catching glorious views along the south coast before walking along the ridge of Luccombe Down.



On Luccombe Down

The way down was as steep as the way up but with a narrow path covered in very sticky mud through undergrowth to add to the fun. The relief at finding steep steps through the wood on the lower section meant that we missed the path we had planned to take towards the coast but we found an alternative route to take us down to Shanklin seafront. While most of us opted for a drink overlooking the sea, David W set off back to Sandown along the coast before starting his journey home, thus avoiding the engineering works on the mainland. The rest of us enjoyed a walk along the coast in what proved to be the last of the autumn sun followed by an excellent dinner that evening in Flanagan's pub near the hotel.

The weather had broken by Monday. We all had trouble-free trips home from what is often the greenest meet as everyone did all journeys by public transport. If the Lakes meet put the M back in LMC, then I think this did the opposite . . . although we did find a few of the high points on the island & some lovely spots for lunch!



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

Other Events / Items . . .

Guided London Walking Tours with Paul Talling . . .

<https://www.derelictlondon.com/guidedwalks.html>

**Derelict
London -
Photography,
Social History
and Guided
Walking
Tours**

Paul Talling is the author of *Derelict London, London's Lost Rivers & London's Lost Music Venues*. He also leads walks in the capital which explore this history – plus, in his own words, lots of tangents.

I have been on a number of the walks & can highly recommend them. If this is something you are interested in, subscribe to the newsletter to learn when the walks go on sale (tip: they sell out very quickly). **Charles**

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>

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