

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given, that the 24th Annual General Meeting of the LMC Mountaineering Club will be held at the **White Hart Hotel, 1 St John Street, Salisbury, SP1 2SD on Saturday 13th January 2024.**

Motions for debate, & nominations for Committee, must be received by me, at the email address below, no less than four days before the meeting. Motions received seven days before the meeting will be published with the agenda & arrangements will be made for all paid-up members to vote on these. A draft agenda is being circulated with this notice.

Charles Harrison

From the Treasurer:

2024 Subscriptions.

Subscriptions for 2024 are now due. The BMC has increased its membership to £23.90 (which includes the all-important insurance) so the committee has decided that next year's subscription will be £26 per person.

If you wish to remain a member, which we sincerely hope you do, please remit £26 by bank transfer. Payment should be made by the 31st December.

If anyone has any problems with these arrangements please contact the Treasurer.

Newsletter Editor Required

Your Newsletter is the source of upcoming events plus reports of the various day & weekend (plus longer) meets. Past newsletters also constitute the enduring history of club activities, forming a valuable record of what we have done, where we've been & the various events that have marked the club. Please would anyone who is interested in taking on this important role contact Chairman David ASAP. In the interim, copy for the January Newsletter should be sent to Angela.

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

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2024			
Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
Sat 13/Sun 14 Jan	AGM & Annual Dinner Salisbury	Angela Leaman	Weekend - Update
Tue 23 Jan	Paddington to Kings Cross	Marion Downey	Day Walk Elizabeth Line - NEW
Sun 11 Feb	Manor Park Circular Walk	Marion Downey	Day Walk Elizabeth Line - NEW
Sat 09/Sun 17 Mar	Crickhowell Walking Festival	Andy Johns	Not LMC - NEW
Tue 26 Mar TBC	Ealing Broadway to Hanwell	Marion Downey	Day Walk Elizabeth Line - NEW
Thu 11/Sun 14 Apr	Exmoor	H & A McGinn	Long Weekend - FULL
Sun 12 May	Spring Walk in Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk - NEW
Thu 13/Sun 16 Jun	Dolgellau	Charles Harrison	Long Weekend - New

LMC Meets Details

Saturday 13 / Sunday 14 January – 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.

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).

From Tuesday 23 January - Exploring the Elizabeth Line - Day Walks

I have been given a handy book called 'Exploring the Elizabeth Line' by Jeff Lock. Many of the walks are short which seems ideal for the shorter days of Winter.

With apologies to those members who are still working, I propose that we try a couple of these walks on a weekday as the Elizabeth Line doesn't always seem to be fully running at weekends. That said, other transport is often available & I am proposing a Sunday for the Manor Park Walk in February, as 'The Temple' only opens once a month.

Tuesday 23 January - Paddington to Kings Cross 5.5 miles

Meet at Paddington 11am at Platform 12 for a walk via Little Venice, Regent's Park & Camden Lock to Kings Cross.

Sunday 11 February - Manor Park Circular Walk 5 miles

Meet at Manor Park Station at 11am for a 5 mile circular walk taking in Wanstead Park & Alexandra Lake. A slight detour to City of London Cemetery (final resting place of Bobby Moore) is also possible. The Temple in Wanstead Park is open on this day & it promises:

- A history of the Park's Roman Villa, told through mosaics & other items from our museum collection
- A tale of Regency romance gone wrong, fit to rival the best period drama
- Statues which once stood throughout the Park
- A gift shop full of Forest-themed giftware for all ages
- Public toilets
- Friendly, knowledgeable staff on hand to answer all your questions

Tuesday 26 March tbc - Ealing Broadway to Hanwell 5.5 miles

Cafés are promised (by the book) en route but, as it is winter, I suggest bringing some emergency rations just in case.

If you are interested, please let me know. If dates don't work for you, also let me know as there is flexibility with the exception of Manor Park where the Temple only opens monthly.

Saturday 9 / Sunday 17 March - Crickhowell Walking Festival - Andy Johns

Come and banish those winter blues at the Crickhowell Walking Festival 2024! Online bookings for the 16th Festival are now OPEN. There are over 80 walks running over the nine days of the Festival: from 2 to 17 miles, plus valley strolls to demanding all-day routes on the high tops. Some new challenges are mixed in with old favourites, along with fresh special interest walks & evening events. ***This is not an organised LMC activity: you make your own local accommodation arrangements; also you book your own preferred walks & events.*** For information on cancellations & refunds please read the 'Guidance, Terms & Conditions' on the CWF website. For the full programme plus further information, see www.crickowellfestival.com – then make your bookings. Walks can sell like hot cakes – some become fully booked soon after bookings open. Please feel free to direct any pre-booking queries to Andy.

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

Sunday 12 May – A Spring Walk in Kent – Paul Ackroyd

We will meet in the Hosey Common Car Park TN16 1PL, close to Westerham at 11.00. Parking is free. We will then walk to the National Trust property of Emmetts Gardens where the Bluebell display is normally spectacular. After a stop for coffee, we will continue via Toys Hill - this was devastated in the 1987 storm but is now regenerating - to Chartwell, the home of Sir Winston Churchill, also run by the National Trust. There may be time to visit the house & gardens: it is normally very busy so pre-booking tickets may be required. Thereafter, we can either return to the cars or continue on to the attractive village of Westerham where there are some hostelrys which merit inspection.

A delightful walk of about 8 miles through undulating woodland & fields with very little walking on roads.

Refreshments are available at Emmetts Garden, Chartwell & Westerham although, for flexibility & to avoid crowds, a packed lunch is recommended.

The start point is not easy to reach by public transport. If you would like to come but have no access to a car, please let me know: I will probably be able to pick you up at Bromley South station.

Nearer the time, please let me know if you are intending to come.

Thursday 13 / Sunday 16 June - Dolgellau – Charles Harrison

This weekend will be based in Dolgellau which allows access to areas not visited by LMC for some years: notably Cadair Idris & the Rhinogs. There are also walks along the Mawddach Estuary at both high & low level (the Mawddach Trail is along a former railway line that runs next to the river). Here we can benefit from bus services which run from Dolgellau along both the north & south sides of the estuary.

There are historical sites in the vicinity: the Roman forts of Brithdir & Tomen y Mur (both on Sarn Helen, the Roman road that ran through mid-Wales); Castell y Bere built in 1221 by Llywelyn the Great; the Talylyn Railway, Bryneglwys quarry & Abergynolwyn village - all part of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales, a World Heritage Site since 2021.

Dolgellau has numerous places to eat &, currently, a good selection of accommodation (including the obligatory Shepherds hut!). If you would like to come along for all or part of this weekend, please book accommodation then let me know where you are staying & which nights.

Meet Report[s]

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

Change was the watch word for this meet. Originally booked for a stay at the Wookey Hole Hotel, a discovery that the village pub was closed mooted re-location to Wells (no parking) & finally to the Worth House hotel. Whereupon the pub in Worth changed hands & closed too! However, the delightful Sarah, owner of Worth House, saved the day by cooking a delicious

meal for us on Friday evening. We were joined by Alan staying in overflow accommodation up the road. Worth House was a great find with a cosy bar & memorable cheesy leek potatoes & fruit Pavlova.

Photo of eight of us at dinner at Worth House

Saturday morning was cold & frosty as our party of 8 drove steeply into the Mendip hills to the attractive village of Priddy. Another change when Marion noticed a 6-inch nail sticking out of Stephen's tyre. A swift change of walk leader ensued, as Stephen went in search of a garage & I desperately tried to remember the route he'd planned down Ebbor Gorge! A week earlier we'd done a recce to check the path was safe after some heavy rain. However, the ground had dried out & we started our descent under blue skies to explore the National Nature Reserve. Success followed with some communal map reading steering us to the gorge viewpoint, & a rendezvous with Stephen who had found a tyre shop. Re-ascending to the Mendips plateau, the walk ended with a meander around the huge neolithic mounds which form an impressive skyline – the Priddy Nine-Barrows.



View of Glastonbury Tor from the Mendip hills



Exploring Priddy Nine-Barrows

We walked in the frost to the Ring O' Bells in Wookey for our evening meal, Marion's neon pink hat lighting the way. A welcoming pub although perhaps a tad too enthusiastic from a noisy party on the next table.

Rain threatened on Sunday as Alan headed home and Andy & Kirsty took the opportunity to go birdwatching on the Somerset levels. The remaining party of 5 headed to Cheddar Gorge. It stayed dry & we had a lovely walk along the cliffs, followed by some delicious, toasted tea cakes in the Edelweiss café. A fine weekend enjoying an area the club has not visited before.

Photo at Cheddar Gorge

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

Other Events / Items . . .

Porthgain

We visited Porthgain during the April 2023 Pembrokeshire meet & had dinner at the Shed Bistro (see report in the May newsletter). At the time, we looked around at the derelict structures in this small harbour which spoke of an industrial past – including brickmaking as identified by David W.

Porthgain is the subject of an episode of 'Villages by the Sea' which tells its fascinating story: Villages by the Sea, Series 4, Episode 8 available on BBC iPlayer at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001sqhs/villages-by-the-sea-series-4-8-porthgain>

Charles Harrison

Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement Group

The Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM) has a new publication, *Calling Time on Off-roading*. It is a detailed analysis of the destructive impact that recreational 4x4s & motorcycles are having on the 6,000 miles of green lanes in England & the 1,000 miles in Wales, including in the national parks. GLEAM argue in *Calling Time* that all off-roading on green lanes should be stopped.

Calling Time is illustrated with photographs showing the reality of off-roading. It outlines the current position on off-roading taken by the UK government & the Welsh Assembly, namely that highway & national park authorities be encouraged to deal with off-roading by making greater use of current legislation. They argue that the current legislation is ineffective & that off-roading should be prohibited.

We hope you will find *Calling Time* of interest – please share it with other interested parties.

The document can be read at: <http://www.gleam-uk.org/news/calling-time-on-off-roading/> .

Find out more about GLEAM at: <http://www.gleam-uk.org> .

This information was posted recently by Patricia Stubbs for The Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement: I thought it worth sharing with LMC members. Kirsty J

Mountain Soundscape Research

We have received the following request from Dr Balandino di Donato, a Lecturer in Interactive Audio from the School of Computing, Engineering & the Built Environment at Edinburgh Napier University:

At Edinburgh Napier University, we are looking at people's experience of mountain soundscapes. This research project will contribute to a body of research that will be submitted for publication in the Journal of Alpine Research. I'm contacting you to ask about the possibility of sharing the survey among your members. We believe that their responses will be incredibly valuable to this research.

If you would be willing to contribute, or have any questions, this is the link to the survey:

<https://survey.napier.ac.uk/n/MountainSoundscape.aspx>

Charles Harrison'

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.

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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