

# LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Volume 27 Issue 3 Mar 2023

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

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2023			
Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
Sat 4-Sun 12 Mar	Crickhowell Walking Festival	[Andy Johns]	Not LMC - Update
Sunday 12 March	Crossness Sewage Pumping Station	David Abbott	Day Walk - Update
Sunday 2 Apr	North Warnborough to Fleet	Charles Harrison	Day Walk
Thu 20-Sun 23 Apr	Pembrokeshire	David Wells	Long Weekend
Sun 7 May	Coronation Walk, Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk - Update
May TBC	Hampshire	Christopher Lawrence	Day Walk
Sat 10-Sun 18 Jun	W Bay to S Haven Point	John Blight	SWCP Week 9
Fri 16 – Sun 18 Jun	Durlston Head to S Haven Point	John Blight	Weekend & SWCP celebration dinner
Sun 25 Jun	Winchester	H & A McGinn	Day Walk
Fri 7-Sun 8 July	Shropshire	Andy & Kirsty Johns	Weekend - Update
September TBC	South Downs	David Wells	Day Walk
Fri 8-Sun 10 Sep	Lake District	Sarah Dixon	Weekend
Fri 13-Sun 15 Oct	Destination TBA	Hilary Pettit	Weekend
Fri 17–Sun 19 Nov	Wokey Hole/Mendips	Angela Leaman	Weekend

## LMC Meets & Events Programme 2024

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

## LMC Meets Details

### **Crickhowell Walking Festival – Saturday 4th / Sunday 12th March Andy Johns [Not LMC]**

Another year's Crickhowell Walking Festival will be almost over by the time you read this: the last walks are taking place on Sunday 12th Feb. See [www.crickhowellfestival.com](http://www.crickhowellfestival.com) for any last minute bookings or more information.

### **Sunday 12 March – Crossness Sewage Pumping Station Open Day – David Abbott**

Currently there are a 'Few Tickets Left' on the Crossness Engine Trust website so it's worth a try - see pictures on <http://www.crossness.org.uk> if you have not already. The **Elizabeth line is not running on Sunday 12 March** (take 0927 train from London Bridge station instead, etc.).

Several of us with booked tickets are meeting at Abbey Wood station at 1000 to walk 4km there & after visiting are planning to walk the Thames Bank [as described in the February Newsletter] with the promise of a cafe open in Erith until 3pm (burgers, breakfasts, jacket potatoes & on up to shepherd's pie <http://www.tropicalcafeerith.co.uk>). Alternative returns from the Pumping Station (& later starts) are available if you follow a map . . .

### **Sunday 2 April – North Warnborough to Fleet – Charles Harrison**

This will be a walk of around 10 miles along the Basingstoke Canal from North Warnborough (the current limit of navigation) to Fleet. We can visit the ruins of Odiham Castle at the start & there are a couple of pubs en-route if refreshment is required.

North Warnborough can be reached by taxi from Hook station (South Western Railway); Fleet is on the same line. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

*Prior to this walk, I am planning to explore the route from the terminal basin (Basingstoke Wharf, now the Bus Garage) to North Warnborough. It is mostly filled in with the line severed by a number of roads but there will hopefully be items of interest. This will be a walk of around 7.5 miles so if anyone would like to join me, please get in touch.*

### **Thursday 20 / Sunday 23 April - Pembrokeshire – David Wells**

We now have 8 intrepid adventurers signed up for this meet & would welcome more. Most are in the Premier Inn though one is trying the City Inn, providing an alternative. I am planning on leading 3 walks – on Friday, Saturday & a shorter walk on Sunday - on the spectacular coast-path & the neighbouring hills; probably a day or two on coast path plus one on Preseli Ridge – all subject weather & usual arguments the night before . . . Nearer the time I will propose dinners for Thursday-Saturday evenings. Premier Inn in St Davids prices have risen

considerably: 3 nights for between £321 (standard) to £413 (fully flexible). Of course, other accommodation in the surrounding area will be available. Please let me know if you'd like to come along & where you've booked. Hope to see you there!

### **Sunday 7 May – Coronation Walk in Kent – Paul Ackroyd**

Since not many of us will have owned a pair of walking boots at the time of the last coronation - & goodness knows what state we will be in by the time of the next one - it seems appropriate for the LMC to mark the coronation of King Charles with a walk so I am scheduling the popular Ightham Mote to Knole Park circular walk for the middle of the coronation weekend. We will start at Ightham Mote circa 10.30 am (probably with coffee) then take the Greensand Way via One Tree Hill to the Knole ancient Deer Park. After stopping for lunch we will then proceed via Godden Green onto the wooded ridge then drop down back to Ightham Mote. Total distance of about 8 miles. Nice varied countryside with nothing too strenuous. Very little walking on roads. Hopefully the bluebells will be out.

There should be time to visit one or both of the splendid contrasting National Trust properties at Ightham Mote & Knole. Refreshments will be available at the National Trust properties but these tend to get very busy so I recommend bringing a packed lunch & supplementing with coffee, ice cream etc.

Parking is available (free for National Trust members) at Ightham Mote. It is not easy to reach by public transport so if you do not intend to come by car, please let me know so I can arrange to pick you up at Bromley South, Tonbridge or Sevenoaks stations.

If you do intend to come *please email me nearer the time.*

### **Saturday 10 / Sunday 18 June - SWCP Week 9 / W Bay to S Haven Point / Final Week**

#### **Friday 16 / Sunday 18 June / Final Weekend – John Blight**

With four people confirmed for the whole week I have booked a house in Weymouth, which is around the mid-point of the week's walk. The house is full so if anyone else wants to come for the whole week they will need to make other arrangements.

I would be delighted if anyone would like to join us for the final weekend, 16-18th June: the last hurrah!! This is the end of a 630 mile journey begun in 2015. The Saturday walk is from Durlston Head (car park at GR 034772 just south of Swanage) to South Haven Point (GR037867). Although it's about a 30 mile drive, it makes sense for everyone to stay in Weymouth so we can organise a celebratory meal together on the Saturday evening. Weymouth in mid-June is quite an expensive place. Premier Inn is currently offering rooms for 2 nights at £359 flex & £298.50 non-flex. There are plenty of cheaper options on Booking.com. As I've got quite a lot of organising to do for the whole week already, I would ask that you make your own accommodation reservations.

### **Friday 7 / Sunday 9 July – Shropshire – Kirsty & Andy Johns**

There are now 10 people booked on this weekend, with most staying at Mynd House in Little Stretton (& one at the Yew Tree a few miles away in All Stretton). Other folk are welcome to join us. Mynd House is now fully booked – but the Yew Tree, where Paul A is staying, may still have vacancies.

The Strettons make an ideal base for walking the Long Mynd itself, the Stiperstones area plus the tops to the east of the town & railway, including Hope Bowdler Hill & the striking hill fort summit of Caer Caradoc – a mountain range in miniature. Plenty of opportunities to vary, mix & match between about 7 to 12 miles – or more if you want!

If you have not already done so, **please let us know if you intend to join in, where you are staying & if you require supper on both nights**. Supper reservations for us all will be made shortly at the nearby Green Dragon & Ragleth Inn on Friday & Saturday nights, both within walking distance of Mynd House.

## **2024**

### **Thursday 11 / Sunday 14 April 2024 – Exmore – Heather McGinn**

The Simonsbath House Hotel, Simonsbath [www.simonsbathhouse.co.uk](http://www.simonsbathhouse.co.uk) we have used several times in Exmoor unfortunately is not available (at least not when we can make it) in 2023. Even 2024 has limited availability so I have asked them to hold for us the period Thursday, 11th April to Sunday, 14th April 2024 - three nights. Although the rooms are a bit dated, this is a lovely hotel with great food, lounge & bar. I would expect the cost to be around £95/day for full board, including packed lunches - but cost to be confirmed. The plan is for 2 long walks on Friday & Saturday, with a shorter one on Sunday. If you are interested in principle, please advise me ASAP of numbers attending & room type preferred.

<b>Meet Report[s]</b> <i>None this time . . .</i>
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<b>Out Walking Reports &amp; / or Photos . . .</b>
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### **Monday 27 February – Basingstoke to North Warnborough – Charles Harrison**

#### *Introduction*

This walk of about 7.5 miles is an exploration of the Basingstoke Canal from Basingstoke to North Warnborough. We start at Basingstoke Wharf (now the Bus Station) & follow the route of the closed section to the start of navigation near Odiham Castle then on to Swan Bridge at North Warnborough. The closed section was effectively severed by a collapse in the Greywell Tunnel with the line mostly lost but numerous clues of its previous existence can be found.

#### *History*

The 37 mile long [Basingstoke Canal](#) opened in 1794 connecting Basingstoke to Byfleet on the River Wey (plus an onward route to London via the River Thames). The canal had fallen out of use by 1950, becoming increasingly derelict. In 1966 the [Basingstoke Canal Society](#) was formed; in the early 1970s, Hampshire & Surrey County Councils purchased the then derelict canal. A partnership between the Councils & the Society allowed restoration work to start with 32 miles of the canal reopening in 1991.

## Route



We can follow the [Basingstoke Canal Heritage Footpath](#) to Basing House:

Leave Festival Place, passing Vue cinema & the Amphitheatre through the tunnel under the service road (see artworks) to reach Eastrop Park. Follow the path through the park to pass under two roads (Churchill Way East & the A339) then look for the path on the right which briefly follows the line of the canal before continuing straight on to reach Redbridge Lane. Turn left for a short distance before leaving the road at the entrance to Basing Lime Pits on the right hand side. The path continues on the edge of Basingstoke Common until the stile by the Red Bridge. Rejoin Redbridge Lane to reach Old Basing with [Basing House](#) on the right – the canal skirted its walls as can be seen in this picture (the structure in the wall is a dovecote). >>>>



Continue into Old Basing then turn right at The Crown to reach Old Basing Royal British Legion. Take the footpath on the left (opposite the clubhouse) turning right behind the houses then along the road to the church. Go right, passing over the remains of Church Lane Bridge to the road junction (take a short detour left to see a preserved section of dry canal at Cuckoo Bridge). Go straight down Belle Vue Road then left on Hatch Lane (passing the site of Hatch Lane Bridge where gardens extend into the dry canal bed on the left) to reach London Road at Hatch.

Cross London Road & follow the road behind The Hatch then right to cross the footbridge over the M3. Turn left to reach Mapledurwell then south on Tunworth Road to find the footpath east down to Frog Lane then up to the junction with the Andwell Drove track.

Go north over Little Tunnel Bridge to reach Greywell Road then east towards Up Nateley. There is water visible on the left hand side at the site of Penny Bridge (just past the Alpaca farm). This is the start of the 'in water' section of the canal – go through the gap in the hedge to proceed along the towpath. The first structure you reach is Brick Kiln Bridge.



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This part of the route finishes at the western portal of Greywell Tunnel. Follow the path up then to the right to reach a crossing track that will take you over the hill & down to Hook Road in Greywell. To rejoin the towpath, cross over to Deptford Road where the path on the left will take you to the eastern portal of Greywell Tunnel. >>>>>

The water is clear as chalk springs feed the canal at this location. A short distance along the canal is a line of white buoys that mark the limit of navigation. The canal then crosses the River Whitewater (a chalk stream) on an aqueduct just before Odiham Castle. The next feature is a lift bridge before you reach (another) Hook Road at Swan Bridge, North Warnborough – where there is a bus service to Hook & its station.



**OS Maps Online** (website: <https://explore.osmaps.com> or OS Maps App)

I have saved the route so it is visible online:-

Menu: Find Routes, Walk/Hike, All Routes – zoom in on Basingstoke Bus Garage & click on the pin which should bring up 'CHBasNwa' then View details.

## Other Events / Items . . .

### **Bruce Oakley**

Further to the item in last month's Newsletter & for those who knew Bruce the Wombat from many intrepid adventures in the early years of LMC, this is to report that a few of us (Paul & Judy Tolliday, Paul & Sarah Trimmer & ourselves) attended the memorial gathering for Bruce in Dunster on Saturday 25th February. Bruce & Sue had obviously become very well integrated into the community in Dunster since they moved there in 2016. Sue has received & will receive, a lot of support from local friends. The gathering was well attended, with much laughter along

with the sadness. There were spoken tributes from LMC friends, BNP Paribas colleagues plus the Dunster Bellringers (Bruce took up bell-ringing last year – he always was full of surprises!). There was also a fantastic display of many photos showing Bruce in all kinds of situations over the years – mainly from LMC days - with more recent ones from Sue & their local friends. Thanks to those who passed on tributes plus photos to us – they were much appreciated by Sue. **Kirsty & Andy**

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.*

### Reading Recommendations from Marion Downie

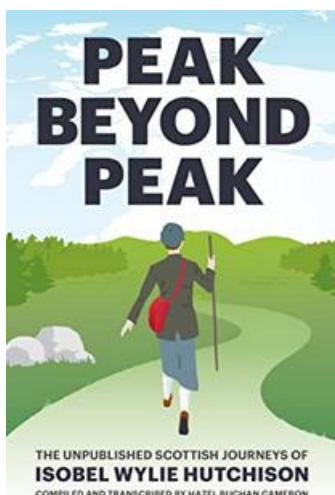
I have recently read two books to inspire us to get out on a long-distance walk or, alternatively, simply enjoying reading about someone else doing it.



#### **Landlines by Raynor Winn**

In this book, Raynor & her husband Moth, walk from near Cape Wrath all the way back to Cornwall with a little bit of cycling in the middle. A lovely easy read which is also inspirational. While it is a standalone book, I would recommend starting with *The Salt Path* about walking the South West Coast Path after they had been made homeless.

NB: Kirsty Reviewed *The Salt Path* in the March 2020 edition of the LMC Newsletter.



#### **Peak Beyond Peak: The Unpublished Scottish Journeys of Isobel Wylie Hutchison - Compiled & transcribed by Hazel Buchan Cameron (Taproot Press)**

This book was an unexpected treat. Isobel Wylie Hutchinson (1889 -1982) is described as 'botanist, traveller, poet & artist'. By her own request, she chose to be referred to as a 'traveller' rather than an 'explorer', yet she travelled to the Arctic in 1933 to collect plants for Kew as well as earlier trips to Iceland & Greenland, amongst many other places. Many of her articles were published in the National Geographic.

As the title implies, this book covers her Scottish journeys – as well as 'A stroll to London'.

- 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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