

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Volume 27 Issue 4 Apr 2023

Contact Details

Chairman: David Wells
Meets Co-ordinator: Angela Leaman
Secretary: Charles Harrison
Treasurer: Paul Ackroyd
Website: Kirsty Johns
Newsletter Editor: Sarah Bulling

LMC website address: <https://www.hillsandvalleys.co.uk/LMC/>

LMC email address: LMCmountaineeringclub@gmail.com

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
Weekday PM TBA	LOOP Mt Vernon	David Abbott	During next 2 weeks
Thu 20-Sun 23 Apr	Pembrokeshire	David Wells	Long Weekend
Sun 7 May	Coronation Walk, Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day Walk
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
Sat 9-Sat 16 Sep	Pooley Bridge/Martindale	Sarah Dixon	Week - Update
Fri 13-Mon 16 Oct	Sandown Isle of Wight	Hilary Pettit	Weekend - Update
Fri 17–Sun 19 Nov	Wokey Hole/Mendips	Angela Leaman	Weekend

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2024			
Date/s	Meet	Meet Leader	Comments
Sat 13 Jan	AGM & Annual Dinner Salisbury	Angela Leaman	Weekend

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 have been made for current participants at the Green Dragon & Ragleth Inn on Friday & Saturday nights, both less than 5 minutes' walk from Mynd House.

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

I have booked [Townhead Farmhouse](#) close to the south eastern edge of Ullswater & 5 miles from Pooley Bridge for 6 of us (all confirmed). There is also a farmhouse B&B nearby if anyone would like to join us on this meet: [Winter Crag Farmhouse](#). They have 3 rooms currently free all week. There is also a range of accommodation available in Pooley Bridge, about 5 miles away, so if anyone would like to join for the week or for a day or two, that should be possible. The prime target is High Street but there are lots of possibilities for walks straight out of the door & we can also take the ferry from Howtown to Glenridding or Pooley Bridge. & the lake is on our doorstep for an early morning dip. If you are interested please let me know

Friday 13 / Monday 16 October 2023 – Sandown Isle of Wight – Hilary Pettit

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

Following some very enjoyable weekends based 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.

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 £198 fully flexible for the 3 nights or £162 standard (non-refundable) & £132 fully flexible for Friday & Saturday nights or £109 standard. Breakfast is charged separately. Please make your own booking & check 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. I think it is possible to buy a ticket which includes all trains & ferry: nearer the time I will look at the best options to incorporate the likely walks for the weekend. I have planned the weekend from Friday to Monday as this is what many people decided to do on previous trips to the island. This might also manage to avoid any weekend rail engineering work which won't be announced for some time yet. I'm assuming / hoping train strikes will be a thing of the past by then. If you are planning to bring a car for the weekend, please note: 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.

Having decided on the venue for the weekend, I have just discovered that this weekend coincides with the final 2 days of the 9 day Autumn Isle of Wight walking festival. The programme for this has not yet been released so ***if you are interested in coming, I recommend securing accommodation as early as possible***. Nearer the time I will plan the walks to avoid any clashes with the festival: there are plenty of options from the doorstep, or using local transport to go further afield. Please let me know when you have booked & for how many nights.

2024

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

The cost for the meet is now confirmed at £95.00 pppn. This covers accommodation, 3 course dinner, full breakfast & packed lunch. Once a place has been confirmed, a deposit of £50 per person will be required, refundable *until 30/6/2023*. *After 30/6/23*, the hotel will open up reservations to the public & there will be no guarantee on availability or cost. The balance will be *due by 31/1/2024*.

The following members have signed up & paid their deposit: Heather & Andrew – double / Angela & Steven – double / Gerry & Rita – double / Kirsty & Andy - double / Marion D & Hilary P - Spinning wheel / John B – single / David W – single / Charles H - single

There is one room left in the main building for either a couple OR 2 singles to share; plus the Weavers Loft (consisting of a double bedroom, one single mezzanine room, a kitchen area & bathroom which can be seen on the hotel website) suitable for either a couple OR 2 singles to share.

We will walk about 9-12 miles, on Friday & Saturday with a shorter walk on Sunday morning.

If you are interested in joining this meet please let Heather know.

Meet Report[s]

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

What started as a push for the Elizabeth line in November qv became a successful visit to the open day at Crossness Sewage Pumping station (qv past newsletters). We arrived walking, assisted by a miniature railway. The cafe & displays were very crowded but we donned safety helmets (only a fixed number inside) then went to view the very large triple-expansion beam engines & pumps.

Photo of assembled walkers here

Here we are (thanks, Marion) outside in front of the former cricket pitch, which was on top of a covered sewage reservoir. It's all pretty pure now: it is processed elsewhere on the site. We then went on to admire the outside, the work of architect Charles Driver, who

designed railway stations wherever I go: Wellingborough, Battersea Park, Sao Paulo in Brazil, for example.

Past some classic cars we went onto the Thames Path which see-sawed up & down behind the flood barrier, affording excellent views at low tide of birds, ships & Purfleet Nature Reserve; also an incinerator of strange design, a document repository & logistic hubs for Tesco & Ocado. We carried on to Erith Pier, originally opened in 1842 for pleasure boat trips (like the Princess Alice). Target achieved, we returned from Erith station (1849, 'evidently the work of the South Eastern Railway's architect Samuel Beazley').

[Erith](#) (Wikipedia pronounces it 'eerith') owes its existence to the Thames. It was until the 1850s essentially a small riverside port, given prominence by [King Henry VIII](#)'s decision to open a naval dockyard there, approximately where the Riverside Gardens are now. Henry's famous warship, [Henri Grace à Dieu](#), was fitted out there in 1515.



William Cory Promenade along the River Thames frontage & Riverside Gardens

Mudflats on the Thames, with the [Queen Elizabeth II Bridge](#) in the far background



And that's what it looked like for us too.

Monday 3 April – North Warnborough to Ash Vale – Charles Harrison

Introduction

Unfortunately there were no fellow walkers for this meet so I opted to go on Monday when there is a bus service (number 13, hourly) from Hook Station (South Western Railway) to

Crickhowell Walking Festival 2023 – over for another year – Kirsty Johns

We are happy to report that CWF 2023 went very well, with 1400 walk-days booked over the nine days of the Festival. Wintry weather mid-week resulted in wonderful vistas



but icy conditions required last minute adjustments to a few high level walks on two days.

There are more photos at: <https://www.crickhowellfestival.com/2023-gallery-1>. The Festival is run entirely by volunteers with excess income from booking fees providing a welcome boost for the funds of the Crickhowell Resource Centre. In addition, a substantial amount of money (around £800) was raised for this year's charity, Wales Air Ambulance.

After a few months' well-earned respite, the organising team will start planning CWF 2024 (9th-17th March).

Other Events / Items . . .

Mystery photo – Who, When & Where? Send your answer/s to Kirsty.



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.

MOUNTAINEERING BOOKS . . .

We have received this kind offer into our LMC gmail account:

"I have a set of books on mountaineering collected in the 60s by my husband who was a rock climber. Would they be of interest to anyone in your club? I live near High Wycombe."

If anyone is interested, please email me & I will provide contact details.

Charles

- 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