

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
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	Heather & Andrew McGinn	Day Walk - Update
Fri 7-Sun 8 July	Shropshire	Andy & Kirsty Johns	Weekend
<i>TBC</i>	<i>Hampshire</i>	<i>Christopher Lawrence</i>	<i>Day Walk</i>
<i>September TBC</i>	<i>South Downs</i>	<i>David Wells</i>	<i>Day Walk</i>
Sat 9-Sat 16 Sep	Pooley Bridge/ Martindale	Sarah Dixon	Week
Fri 13-Mon 16 Oct	Sandown Isle of Wight	Hilary Pettit	Weekend
Fri 17–Sun 19 Nov	Wokey Hole/Mendips	Angela Leaman	Weekend

Please email LMC if you are interested in any of the above.

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2024

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

LMC Meets Details

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 GR034772 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.

Sunday 25 June – Winchester - Heather & Andrew McGinn

It will be a circular walk from Winchester – Cheesfoot Head – Owslebury – Winchester of approximately 12.5 miles, although there are some opportunities to make it bit shorter. Total ascent 1,450ft with some lovely views if the weather is good.

Given the length of the walk, we would like to start at 10:00. Finish will be 16:00-16:30. Start point is Petersfield Rd, Winchester (see below) where parking is easy on Sunday.



Please let us know if you would like to join us on this day walk.

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]

Thursday 20 / Sunday 23 April - Pembrokeshire – David Wells

Andy & Kirsty, Steve & Angela, John, Alan, Charles and David W made the trip to St Davids on a weekend conveniently sandwiched between the tourist hordes of Easter & the now three May long weekends. A new Premier Inn less than 10 minutes' walk from the teashops, pubs & historic sights of the town provided accommodation for most of us plus dinner on the first evening - after some confusion with the very welcoming & friendly staff about the meal package. Angela & Steve, having arrived a day early, had already scrambled around the burial chambers of Carn Lidi so had their bearings . . . & with the weather set fair for the weekend, lots of enthusiasm for what was to come.

The following morning, we all set off together under hazy sunshine on foot through St Davids where, after a bit of shaky navigation, we reached the coast path at St Nons chapel.

*Photo of the full party (minus photographer) at St Nons chapel
- having finally made it out of the town*

The coast stays fairly close to St Davids as it turns north, providing plenty of easy exit options to get back to town. We soon passed the small harbour of Porth Clais, where the first of several encounters with a group doing a geological field trip interrupted what was otherwise almost a deserted coastline. The walk continued with great views of St Brides Bay, Skomer & Ramsey Islands, the various small harbours & inlets. Andy & Kirsty led the way in bird watching, with frequent cries of 'gannet', 'chough', 'cormorant' showing the excitement felt! Of interest also were the porpoises (& a single seal) who came close to shore in the tidal run on day one, & were good enough to entertain us for our entire lunch break on day two.

No LMC group can stay together for long though: after lunch by the St Justinian life boat station, Andy & Kirsty peeled off, while the rest walked further up the coast to the tea shop at the spectacular but deserted White Sands Bay.

Photo of Whitesands beach with the tea shop finally in sight & Carn Lidi behind.

David then continued up to St Davids head while the others made their way back to the very small metropolis. St Davids is by far the smallest city in the UK: its history stretches back over 1500 years to before the life of St David himself. During the weekend most of us visited the ruined bishops' palace & the cathedral with its unusual sloping floor: the refectory also got high marks.

Dinner was a highlight at the maybe understated 'Shed' restaurant in the coastal old brick-making village of Porthgain – the restaurant is rated among the best fish restaurants in West Wales: it certainly lived up to its reputation.

The next day, under clear & warm sunshine, the team drove a few miles up to the unlikely named village of Harmony to tackle the coast path around Strumble Head with its lighthouse.



Spot Strumbles lighthouse!

Amazing views from the start with plenty more wildlife provided great entertainment for the party. After an enjoyable lunch admiring the porpoises . . .



. . . Once again the party split with the majority continuing to see the site of the last invasion of the UK (by the French in 1797) – being repelled (according to one story of the event) after a few days drunken revelry by a group of women in local dress. More evidence of seals with loud howling from across the bay. A great teashop at a woollen mill provided sustenance for all ahead of dinner at a local friendly pub in St Davids.

Day three was not so promising. With rain threatening (though not really arriving), while most headed home, David & Charles enjoyed 5 miles around the coastal path at Solva; Angela & Steve broke the journey with a beach walk near Cardiff . . . Overall a great weekend to an area which was new to many of us & where LMC has not been for many many years.

Sunday 7 May – Coronation Walk / Ightham Mote to Knowle, Kent – Paul Ackroyd

Five members of the LMC – Hilary, Alyson John, David A & Paul - assembled at Ightham Mote café on a grey day which looked to be the best day of the Coronation weekend weather-wise. Most opted for a coffee but in David's case, a bite of late breakfast after an early start. Paul's friends John & Susan also joined us.

Duly refreshed, we set off up the Greensand Way towards One Tree Hill where we were rewarded by magnificent shows of bluebells. This provided an opportunity for discussing the difference between the native English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides Brexiti**) with its darker colour, drooping head & flowers on one side of the stem plus lovely scent with the imported Spanish variety (*Hyacinthoides smallboats****) larger, more upright, flowers on all sides but with no smell. We reached One Tree Hill with no sign of deterioration in the weather & no rain, then pressed onto Knowle Park: the oldest surviving hunting Park of a previous Monarch.

Not fancying another coffee so soon, nor all the crowds we would have undoubtedly encountered in the cafe, we decided we could do without visiting the house. Instead, we walked down the Chestnut Walk (oddly named since there are no chestnut trees) & found a suitable fallen tree (perhaps one of the foresaid chestnuts) on which to have our lunch.

We continued along the park edge then on to the little hamlet of Godden Green. This is undistinguished except for a rather nice pub which we decided to frequent for a quick beer – photographic evidence of this unlikely event on an LMC walk . . .

Photo of refreshments in Godden Green.

Thereafter, we walked across the Wilderness Golf course then up onto the tree-lined ridge. A pleasant walk through the trees led us to the descent down to Stone Street, a hamlet which does not even have a pub now. From there it was a relatively short walk across the fields, through a lavender farm & back down to Ightham Mote. By this time the sun had come out & it was seriously warm. A delightful day was ended, as it had started, with refreshments in the café.

[*Hyacinthoides non-scripta / ** Hyacinthoides hispanica]

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

Other Events / Items . . .

John Dean

You will know, from Charles' interim email to members on 29th April, of the very sad death of our old friend, John Dean, peacefully at his home on 28th April following an unsuccessful battle with cancer. Although increasingly solitary since COVID, he received regular visits from long-standing LMC friends over the past year & his two London-based nephews organised his more recent home care arrangements. As well as his regular presence on the hills, we will remember him for his love of gardens, historic houses, holidays, reading & quizzes, also for his courtesy & generosity. He will be missed by all his friends.

We understand that a very small family cremation / interment took place in Essex on Tuesday 9 May. Information on a memorial will follow when we know more.

Photo of John with others at the start of the epic 14 Welsh Three Thousands , July 1982

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.

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

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