

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
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 Jul	Shropshire	Andy & Kirsty Johns	Weekend - Update
<i>May TBC</i>	<i>Hampshire</i>	<i>Christopher Lawrence</i>	<i>Day Walk</i>
Sun 3 Sep	South Downs	David Wells	Day Walk - Update
Sat 9-Sat 16 Sep	Pooley Bridge/Martindale	Sarah Dixon	Week
Sat/Sun 7/8 Oct	Brookwood-Weybridge	Charles Harrison	Day Walk - New
Fri 13-Mon 16 Oct	Sandown Isle of Wight	Hilary Pettit	Weekend
Late Nov Choice	Wookey Hole/Mendips	Angela Leaman	Weekend - Update

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 16 / Sunday 18 June / Final Weekend – John Blight

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 9 people booked on this weekend, with all staying at Mynd House in Little Stretton. Other folk are welcome to join us. Mynd House is now fully booked – but hopefully you will be able to find alternative accommodation.

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.

Sunday 3 September – South Downs – David Wells

Starting at 10am at Harting Down car park (south of South Harting on B2141), grid ref SU 790 181, the walk will be around 12 miles & will take in great views of the surrounding countryside from the height of the South Downs. Will pass over Telegraph Hill, through the beautiful village of Compton (shop, café) & visit the stunning but isolated St Huberts church at Idsworth. Views of Uppark (NT) during the walk. Should be a great day out in the early Autumn. Let me know if you'd like to come along.

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.

Saturday 7 or Sunday 8 October - Brookwood to Weybridge -

This is a walk of 11 miles from Brookwood along the Basingstoke Canal to the junction with the River Wey & then on to Thames Lock at Weybridge. [There is the option to join at Woking which would make it 7 miles.] The day will finish a short distance away at our Chairman's house for tea & cake plus (weather permitting) a canoe/SUP excursion on the Wey.

Brookwood & Weybridge stations are on South Western Railway: David is happy for people to park at his house then catch the train to the start point. Please let me know if you are interested & which day(s) you can make – we will go with the majority.

Friday 13 / Monday 16 October – 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.

Tue 21/Wed 22 OR Fri 24/Sat 25 Nov – Wookey Hole & the Mendips – Angela Leaman -

Sorry I had to move this meet by a week but the hotel was fully booked due to a local event. The Mendips around Wookey Hole are beautiful in the Winter: we can walk from the village to explore Ebbor Gorge & the Mendip hills. If you are into witches, you can explore the Wookey Hole Caves!

The proposal is to stay at the **Wookey Hole Hotel** (the witch answers the phone). Stephen & I have stayed there in the past &, while lacking olde worlde charm, it is good value & has a large car park. It is right in the middle of the village which is very pretty. I had hoped to have full details, but their pricing is proving as labyrinthine as the caves so I haven't been able to finalise things yet.

Weekend price for a double with breakfast will be max £88. However I noticed a mid-week break is cheaper - hence the choice of dates. If you would like to come on this trip, as a first step, please send me an email with:

- **The dates you can attend – weekend, mid-week or both**
- **Room type – double, single occupancy or share a twin. For the latter I can try to match people up**

I will then sort out options after which everyone can go ahead & make a booking. My understanding is that cancellation t&cs are generous, a few days before arrival.

Look forward to hearing from you.



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.

This note is about arrangements for accommodation. I have a provisional booking to accommodate numbers likely to attend held until **Friday 30th June** so recommend making your booking now before the rooms are released. However, the hotel seems to have plenty of space: also there are other hotels in the centre of town if you wish to book nearer the time.

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]

Next time:

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

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

Other Events / Items . . .

More Sad News

Spotted by Alan Dunworth in the Obituaries section of the Spring edition of *Shell Pensioners News*: the death of David Gossage (92) who died on 12th November 2022 [or, as the publication put it: "Gossage, David, 92 of Shell Int Exp & Prod BV died 12 Nov"].

David was an active member of the LMC in the 80s/90s. If anyone has any reminiscences or pictures of David, these could be included in a future newsletter.

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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