

# LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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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
Sun 3 Sep	South Downs	David Wells	Day Walk
Sat 9-Sat 16 Sep	Pooley Bridge/Martindale	Sarah Dixon	Week
Sat/Sun 7/8 Oct	Brookwood-Weybridge	Charles Harrison	Day Walk
Fri 13-Mon 16 Oct	Sandown Isle of Wight	Hilary Pettit	Weekend - Update
<b>Fri 24-Sun 26 Nov</b>	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

### 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. We currently have a select group of 4 people booked for this weekend, with 3 of us staying for all 3 nights. As yet, the prices for accommodation have not increased from those below.

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 will be released at the end of July 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.

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

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. If you would like to come on this trip, as a first step, please send me an email with: **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. The provisional booking to accommodate numbers likely to attend was held until Friday 30th June : these rooms have now been 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 –  
Heather & Andrew McGinn .  
**FULLY SUBSCRIBED.**

## Meet Report[s]



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

We finally made it! 630 miles, 114,907 feet of ascent & 54 days later we completed this epic challenge, averaging 11 2/3 miles with 2130 feet of ascent each day. My original intention was to do this in my first year of retirement, but, to quote the old retirement cliché, I simply couldn't find the time. Instead, we started in Minehead on 22nd June 2015 . . .

. . . and finished eight years later  
on 17th June 2023 at South Haven Point  
overlooking Poole harbour.



Out came a bottle of champagne & we drank a toast, much to the amusement of all the motorists queuing for the ferry across Poole harbour.

For the final week we based ourselves in a spacious house in Weymouth. Due to live firing on the Lulworth MOD ranges during the week, we had to do the section from Lulworth Cove to Kimmeridge on the first day then walk the rest from West Bay to south Haven Point in sequence - 72 miles in total. This Jurassic coast section contains some of the most impressive bays as well as the jagged chalk cliffs on the Isle of Portland.





I'd just like to say a big thank you to the nine LMC members who have accompanied me during the nine weeks (plus Buster of course). Thanks to Rob, Alan, David A, Marion, Bob, Paul, Sarah D, Angela & Stephen. We've all had a great time.

In case you thought that was the end of things, I'm looking into walking some of the Welsh coast path next year. The whole path is 870 miles so that would take another 12 years at the current rate! Perhaps a bit too ambitious? So we'll take it a week at a time. Cardigan to Machynlleth is also a 72 mile walk. Please keep that in mind for June 2024. More details to follow.

### **Sunday 25 June – Winchester - Heather & Andrew McGinn**

This was the last hot day, hitting 28C, before the temperatures decided to get a bit more sensible again. Heather & Andrew led the walk, with Michael & Charles joining. It was planned as a 12.5 mile, 1,425ft elevation, loop, but there were options to make shorter depending on how we all felt.

Michael was at the start point when Heather & Andrew arrived but Charles was stuck in traffic on the M3. Rather than waiting, it was decided that the three of us would walk the mile to the tiny hamlet of Chilcomb to meet Charles there. Timing was perfect (lucky) & we all arrived in Chilcomb within a few minutes of each other.

From Chilcomb there are two gentle climbs up to Cheesefoot Head, which is called the gateway to the 'South Downs Way', with great views including over to the Isle of Wight. This was the highest point of the walk. Here we made the decision that no shortcuts were necessary.

*Photo of the foursome at Cheesefoot Head.*

Next we walked down the Alan King Way to Baybridge, with some welcome shade along the route from various small copses & woods. This was our most distant point from Winchester. Turning down the Monarch's Way towards Owslebury we lunch on the village green under the shade of a huge tree. We had a bit of excitement on the way. Andrew was leading across a field with horses & an electric fence. All was fine as he held the plastic guard to unhook the wire but then he touched the metal gate beyond to open it & promptly got an electric shock. Anyway, we got through that & subsequent fences with no further incidents.

The offer of a quick pint after lunch at the Ship Inn, Owslebury, was declined. On we went towards Hazeley Down, joining the Pilgrim's Trail & passing the WW1 memorial to the London Regiment.

The final section was around St Catherine's hill, an old Iron Age fort, with views over Winchester, before descending to a very welcome drink at the Handlebar Café on the old railway line between Southampton & Alton. From here we strolled back along the banks of the Itchen to the cars – which, after a hot long walk, were good to see.

Charles declined the offer of a lift back to his car in Chilcomb, preferring to walk back & complete the route for himself.

*Photo of Michael's excellent personal shading*

*Next time:*

**Friday 7 / Sunday 9 July – Shropshire – Kirsty Johns & David Wells**

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

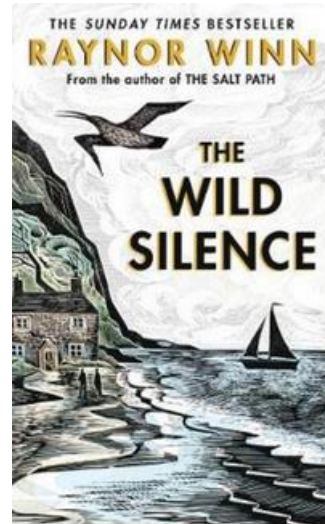
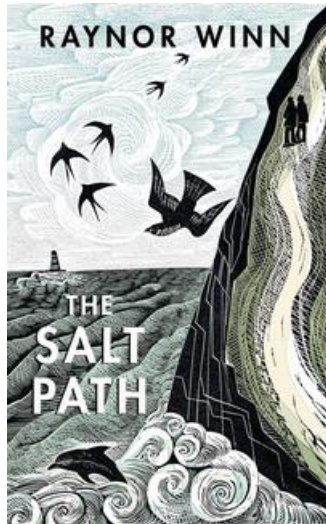
Other Events / Items . . .

### ***John Dean Memorial Gathering***

As per the email from Charles to members on 17th June, this is to remind you that a memorial gathering will take place for John on **Wednesday 13th September 2023, at 10.30 am, at The Chapel, Stowe School, Buckinghamshire MK18 5EH**. According to John's nephews, there will also be a "post-memorial cuppa" at 11.30 am" & all friends are welcome. It is unfortunate that the date coincides with Sarah's LMC week in the Lake District & with other folks' holidays but we hope as many as possible will be able to join us to pay our respects, in a place that meant a lot to John.

***Kirsty & Andy***





For those of you who have enjoyed reading books by Raynor Wynn [reviewed in earlier editions of this Newsletter] & missed *Private Passions* with Michael Barclay on Radio 3 Sunday 25 June, here is the link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001n25r>

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 a-

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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