

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 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 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 |
| Fri 24-Sun 26 Nov | 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 – Charles Harrison

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.

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]

Friday 7 / Sunday 9 July – Little Stretton, Shropshire – Kirsty Johns & David Wells

Nine of us journeyed to Little Stretton for an enjoyable return to the Shropshire hills (John B, Rita & Gerry, David A, Heather & Andrew, David W plus Andy & Kirsty). We gathered at Mynd House B&B on Friday evening, with David W delayed by traffic but joining later for a superb supper at the nearby Green Dragon. Used by LMC several times previously, Mynd House once again proved to be a great place to stay: it has been upgraded considerably since the new owners took over six years ago. Following a hearty breakfast the next morning, seven set off on various walks to suit inclination & fitness levels. Unfortunately Andy was not feeling great so he & Kirsty regretfully decided to head back home, leaving the meet in the competent (?) hands of David W. So it's over to David for the rest of the meet report . . .

For the Saturday walk, all seven attempted routes on the Long Mynd. Five of us, avoiding the road, walked the fields to Church Stretton, passing the visitor centre in the Carding Mill valley before hitting the climb while John & David A attempted the direct route from the B&B. Unfortunately John retired hurt but, to our surprise, the other six of us arrived simultaneously at the Pole Bank summit.

Photo of six at Pole Bank admiring the Orientation table (did we really see Cader Idris?)

From there, David A decided to continue at a leisurely pace, aiming to avoid the rain promised for the afternoon. The rest of us continued past the site of Pole Cottage (which sat in glorious isolation for over 100 years at 1700 ft before being demolished in the 1970s) then ate an enjoyable lunch by the glider club, before heading over the downs of Churchmoor Hill,

Photo descending over Churchmoor Hill

soon reaching Minton. At this point the heavens opened. While Gerry (& briefly Rita) took refuge in a still operational & highly convenient telephone box, the rest of us braved the downpour back to the hotel & some dry clothes having completed an enjoyable 12 miles. David A had timed it better & made it to the pub just before the rain! A delicious dinner two minutes' walk from the hotel at The Ragleth Arms (two pubs in 50 houses means the locals are well served!) followed.

The next morning saw some sunshine but threats of rain by lunchtime. David A & John decided to call a halt to walking & headed home. The remaining five of us drove cross-country for a 7 mile walk around the Stiperstones, tempted by the crags we had seen on the horizon on Saturday. Avoiding the large group of DoE campers by leaving the car park in the opposite direction, we had an enjoyable walk through old lead & baryte mines at 'The Bog'. Declining the attractions of the tea shop (too early after only 20 minutes' walking!), we returned through Shelve & Tankerville (some strange village names in these parts!) to reach the distinctive Devils Chair plus Manstone & Cranberry Rocks on the high ridge.

Photo of five about to climb to the Devils Chair

*Photo of David W and Gerry making it to the summit of Manstone Rocks
after a bit of scrambling!*

The rain stayed away, allowing a sunny (if windy) picnic on the tops before we headed for home at the end of a very enjoyable weekend. Thanks to Andy & Kirsty for arranging; just sorry they couldn't partake in all the fun!

Thanks to Heather for photographic evidence.

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

Other Events / Items . . . *None this time*

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 non-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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