

LMC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

March 2024

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Next Newsletter: Please send copy for the next issue to both editors
by **midday on the 10th of the month.**

LMC Meets & Events Programme 2024			
Date	Event	Meet Leader	Comments
Sat 09/Sun 17 Mar	Crickhowell Walking Festival	Andy Johns	Not LMC. Book direct via the CWF website.
Tue 26 Mar	Explore the Elizabeth Line: Ealing Broadway to Hanwell	Marion Downie	Day walk
Thu 11/Sun 14 Apr	Exmoor	Heather McGinn	Long weekend - FULL
Sun 21 April	Hambleden, Henley-on-Thames	John Blight	Day walk
Sun 28 April	Edgware, Highgate and London Railway Walk	David Abbott	Day walk
Sun 12 May	Spring Walk, Kent	Paul Ackroyd	Day walk
Fri 17/Sun 19 May	Peak District	David Wells	Weekend
Thu 13/Sun 16 Jun	Dolgellau	Charles Harrison	Long weekend
Sun 16/Sun 23 Jun	Wales Coast Path: Cardigan - Machynlleth	John Blight	Week/Long Distance Footpath
Sun 7 July	Guided London history walk + lunch	Angela Leaman + Kirstie Shedden (London City Guide)	Club social
Sun 4th August	Brookwood to Weybridge	Charles Harrison	Day walk

Fri 30 Aug / Sun 1 Sep	Ben Nevis	Marion Downie	Weekend (or longer)
Thu 12/Mon 16 Sep - tbc	Lake District	Sarah Dixon	Long weekend
Fri 18/Sun 20 Oct	Herefordshire and NE Black Mountains	Andy & Kirsty Johns	Weekend
Sun 10 Nov	Teddington to Chiswick	Charles Harrison	Day walk
Sat 14 Dec	Londinium – history walk and Christmas social	Marion Downie	Day walk + social
2025			
Sat 18 Jan	AGM and Annual Dinner	Angela Leaman	
Mar/Apr tbc	Yorkshire Dales	Angela Leaman	Weekend self-catering

LMC Meets Details

Sat 9 / Sun 17 March - Crickhowell Walking Festival - Andy Johns

As you read this, the Walking Festival will be underway. It's not too late to get involved for the remainder of the programme – you can check the Walks Programme at www.crickhowellfestival.com, and there will probably still be places available on some walks and evening events. See the February LMC Newsletter for more detail. Make sure to check the 'Guidance, Terms and Conditions' page on the website before you book. Any pre-booking queries, contact Andy.

Exploring the Elizabeth Line - Day Walks – Marion Downie

I have been given a handy book called 'Exploring the Elizabeth Line' by Jeff Lock. Many of the walks are short which seems ideal for the shorter days of Winter. With apologies to those members who are still working, I propose that we try a couple of these walks on a weekday as the Elizabeth Line doesn't always seem to be fully running at weekends.

Ealing Broadway to Hanwell – 5.5 miles – Tue 26 March

Meet at Ealing Broadway Station at 11am. The walk is on paved surfaces and gravel paths and goes via Pithanger Park, Perivale Park and Brent River Park Walk ending at Hanwell.

Cafés are promised (by the book) en route but I suggest bringing some emergency rations just in case. If you are interested, please let me know.

Contact: Marion Downie.

Sun 21 April – Day walk Hambleden, Henley-on-Thames – John Blight

I am planning a day walk on Sunday April 21st starting in the village of Hambleden, (in between Marlow and Henley-on-Thames). Meet in the pay and display carpark behind The Stag and Huntsman pub, postcode RG9 6RP ready for a 10.30 start. Please bring a packed lunch. We can stop for a drink in either Fingest or Turville. It will be between 9 and 12 miles depending on everyone's preferences and the weather. Please let me know if you are coming.

Contact: John Blight.

Sun 28 April - Edgware, Highgate and London Railway walk – David Abbott

[Edgware, Highgate and London Railway - Wikipedia](#)

A strung together collection of paths, nature reserves between Edgware and East Finchley which failed to become a part of the Northern Line. Suggested meet at Mill Hill Broadway station 11.00 for bus to Dryfield Road (stop L), about 5km to East Finchley, to admire Dollis Brook Viaduct. (If anyone wants to go on to the Highgate to Finsbury Park bit they can carry on ...). If you are thinking of coming, please let me know.

Contact: David Abbott.

Sun 12 May – A Spring Walk in Kent – Paul Ackroyd

A delightful walk of about 8 miles through undulating woodland & fields with very little walking on roads. We will meet in the Hosey Common Car Park TN16 1PL, close to Westerham at 11.00. Parking is free. We will then walk to the National Trust property of Emmetts Gardens where the Bluebell display is normally spectacular. After a stop for coffee, we will continue via Toys Hill - this was devastated in the 1987 storm but is now regenerating - to Chartwell, the home of Sir Winston Churchill, also run by the National Trust. There may be time to visit the house & gardens: it is normally very busy so pre-booking tickets may be required. Thereafter, we can either return to the cars or continue on to the attractive village of Westerham where there are some hostelrys which merit inspection.

Refreshments are available at Emmetts Garden, Chartwell & Westerham although, for flexibility & to avoid crowds, a packed lunch is recommended. The start point is not easy to reach by public transport. If you would like to come but have no access to a car, please let me know: I will probably be able to pick you up at Bromley South station. Nearer the time, please let me know if you are intending to come.

Contact: Paul Ackroyd.

Fri 17 / Sun 19 May - Peak District – David Wells

There is one room left at the pub if anyone would else would like to join this meet.

I am organising a long-awaited return to the Peak District (for me, at least 30 years later, am sure others have visited many times since!!). The Peak District National Park offers a large range of walks, from river walks along valleys such as Dovedale, walks around reservoirs and lakes, to the high and bleak moors such as Kinder Scout, the site of the 'great trespass' in 1932 which started the move to open access and national parks... The weekend will be centred at Bradwell,

which is close to Castleton and Edale, the start of the Pennine Way, and will offer walks possibly direct from the accommodation, but at most, only short drives away.

Accommodation has been booked at Ye Olde Bowling Green Inn in Bradwell, a delightful looking country pub in a small village in the centre of the park. The inn is under new management (so ignore the poor reviews which predate) and has a restaurant as well. Rooms are also available on Thursday and/or Sunday night for those who wish. I suggest those interested book directly by calling the inn (on 01433 627539) and quoting my name. First come, first served! Please let me know if you plan to come. Once the accommodation is full, there are other options available in/around Bradwell, including self catering, but likely 1-2 rooms per location - if you go for this option, please tell me where you're staying. I will plan a full day walk for Saturday and likely a slightly shorter walk on Sunday- depending on preferences of attendees. I will book dinners later for Friday (likely at the pub) and Saturday (to be advised).

March Update : There are now 8 people signed up for this weekend, some of whom are arriving on Thursday and a walk will be arranged for Friday for those interested.

Contact: David Wells.

Thu 13 / Sun 16 June - Dolgellau – Charles Harrison

This weekend will be based in Dolgellau which allows access to areas not visited by LMC for some years: notably Cadair Idris & the Rhinogs. There are also walks along the Mawddach Estuary at both high & low level (the Mawddach Trail is along a former railway line that runs next to the river). Here we can benefit from bus services which run from Dolgellau along both the north & south sides of the estuary. There are historical sites in the vicinity: the Roman forts of Brithdir & Tomen y Mur (both on Sarn Helen, the Roman road that ran through mid-Wales); Castell y Bere built in 1221 by Llywelyn the Great; the Talyllyn Railway, Bryneglwys quarry & Abergynolwyn village - all part of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales, a World Heritage Site since 2021. Dolgellau has numerous places to eat &, currently, a good selection of accommodation (including the obligatory Shepherds hut!). If you would like to come along for all or part of this weekend, please book accommodation then let me know where you are staying & which nights.

Contact: Charles Harrison.

Sun 16 / Sun 23 June – Wales Coast Path – John Blight Cardigan - Machynlleth

Following on from the epic South-West coast path journey, I'd like to start walking the Wales Coast Path this year. It's a lot longer – 870 miles – so it would take twelve years if we did a week a year. That might be a bit too ambitious so I would like to propose starting in Cardigan and working our way North up to, and including, Anglesey. That would be manageable in about four weeks. Who's up for it?



Week one will be a 72 mile stretch from Cardigan to Machynlleth, roughly 12 miles and 1900 feet of ascent per day. I've yet to work out each individual days' distances. I've chosen these dates so we can tack it on after Charles' Dolgellau weekend for those who want to do both. I will book an AirBnB type property somewhere convenient once I know how many people want to come. I'm guessing it will be in the Aberystwyth area. This will require a firm commitment fairly soon.

March Update: There is now a party of 4 for this meet and if anyone else is interested please let me know by 17 March.

Contact: John Blight.

Sun 7 July – “All Change at Kings Cross” – a guided history walk with lunch Angela Leaman

A guided walking tour (2 hours) exploring the history of Kings Cross followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Beginning at the iconic clock tower at King's Cross Station, the walk will be led by [Kirstie Sheddou](#), a qualified City guide and university friend of Stephen. More than just a gateway to other parts of the country, Kings Cross serves as a doorway to the past, ripe with untold stories and hidden facets. The walk will explore:

- **Reimagined Spaces: Modern Elegance Meets Historic Charm**
Wander through the labyrinth of streets and passages to encounter public spaces that have undergone a metamorphosis.
- **The Green Lungs: Squares, Parks, and Public Areas**
Far from mere decorative afterthoughts; communal grounds that promote artistic expression and social interaction.
- **Echoes of an Industrial Past**
Fascinating remnants from Kings Cross's industrial heyday - train sheds, gas holders, and other industrial edifices.
- **Landmarks: Chronicling Transformation**
Notable landmarks such as the British Library that exemplify the transformation of Kings Cross.

Please let me know if you would like to book a place.

Contact: Angela Leaman.

Sun 04 August - 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. 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.

Contact: Charles Harrison.

Fri 30 August / Sun 1 September – Ben Nevis (or longer) – Marion Downie

Way back in February 2020, I advertised my plan to have a weekend in Fort William to climb Ben Nevis and then Covid intervened. 2024 seems a good time to revive the plan and although I will plan it around the weekend of Saturday 31 August/Sunday 1 September to accommodate those who want to travel by sleeper, we can also extend the time either before or after. There are many other options for good walks in the area, particularly if we have enough cars.

Travel: train from London to Fort William, including a sleeper service from Euston, or fly to Inverness and hire a car (c. 70 miles) or take a train or bus. There is also a bus from Glasgow airport. Another option is to combine the weekend with a visit to Edinburgh for a bit of the Festival or Fringe.

Ben Nevis: Walk statistics for the Ben are 11 miles, 1,345m of ascent, taking 7 – 9 hours by the mountain path route (both up and down).

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are potentially interested and whether it would be for the weekend only or for a longer period, so that I can start looking at accommodation and planning logistics.

Contact: Marion Downie.

Thu 12 / Mon 16 September – Lake District – Sarah Dixon

Sarah Dixon would like expressions of interest from anyone who would like to join her for a long weekend in the Lake District in September. Dates have provisionally been set for a weekend in the middle of the month, but this is provisional. If you would like to come please contact Sarah asap to enable accommodation planning.

Contact: Sarah Dixon.

Fri 18 / Sun 20 October - NE Black Mountains and Herefordshire hills – Andy & Kirsty Johns

Our intention is to explore this corner of the Black Mountains in the Hay-on-Wye area, and/or areas such as the lower hills along the Herefordshire/Wales border and the Golden Valley. Distances are likely to vary between 8-12 miles, height gain between 1000-2000 ft. There is beautiful scenery all around, and autumn is a great time to see it at its best.

Please let us know if you might be interested in joining us on this weekend. We will hope to make a provisional reservation of accommodation soon (hopefully either B&B or pub), so some early indication of numbers and any preferred grade of walks would be useful.

Contact: Andy & Kirsty Johns.

Sun 10 November - Teddington to Chiswick – Charles Harrison

This is a walk of 7 miles from Teddington Lock along the River Thames to Strand-on-the-Green timed to coincide with the annual Draw-Off at Richmond Lock. This is when the weirs are left open to allow the river between Teddington and Richmond Locks to drain down at low water on each tide to allow for maintenance on riverside structures, providing a very different view of the river. The day will finish a short distance away at your Secretary's house for soup & bread.

Teddington station is on South Western Railway; in Chiswick, the options are South Western Railway, London Overground and the District Line Please let me know nearer the time if you are interested.

Contact: Charles Harrison.

Sat 14 December - Londinium – A Saturday Walk around Roman London – Marion Downie

This will be a stroll around the City, looking at some of the main Roman sites. The walk will be about 2.5/3 hours (allowing for lunch) but longer if we decide to stop at the Mithraeum or Amphitheatre (depending on demand). Meet at 11am outside the City Information Centre which is opposite St Paul's Cathedral on the route up from the Millenium Bridge.

Contact: Marion Downie.

March/April 2025 - Yorkshire Dales – Angela Leaman

Expressions of interest are sought for a self-catering trip to the Yorkshire Dales next spring. If you think you may interested let me know, so I can get a feel for numbers to find a house to rent for a long weekend.

Contact: Angela Leaman.

Meet Reports

Elizabeth Line: Canary Wharf to Greenwich on 11 February 2024



Due to the Elizabeth Line not running on this weekend on the Shenfield branch, the planned walk via Manor Park Station was postponed until such time as both the trains are running and the Temple in Wanstead Park is open.

Instead, five of us (Charles, Paul, John, Hilary and Marion) met at Canary Wharf and walked via Millwall Inner and Outer Docks, Mudchute Park and Millwall Park and the Thames foot tunnel to Greenwich. We stopped for lunch at the Maritime Museum before climbing up to the Observatory for a view back to Canary Wharf and the City.

The walk was only about 5 miles but it was fascinating seeing all the building development and the weather stayed fair (we even saw some very welcome sun). Hilary and I finished the day with a Highlights tour of the Maritime museum which we would highly recommend.

Photo in Mudchute Park - we loved the combination of sheep in the Mudchute Park Farm with the skyscrapers of Canary Wharf behind

Marion

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.

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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