

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Lent Term 2016

To new ramblers and returning members alike, welcome to the Cambridge University Rambling Club! We invite you to leave the city for a few hours this term to enjoy the surrounding countryside with us. The pace of our walks is generally easy, as our main aim is to relax and appreciate the local scenery. We sometimes stop at a village pub *en route*, but you should **bring a packed lunch (except for half-day rambles) and a bottle of water** anyway. Strong boots, waterproofs, and warm clothing are also recommended. Your only expense will be the bus or train fare (given below) and our **annual £1 membership fee**. There is no need to sign up in advance to join any of this term's walks – just turn up at the time and place given.

For more information and for photos of past events, please explore our website at www.srcf.ucam.org/curac.

Saturday, 16th January

“Big Skies and Wild Ponies”

20 km / 13 miles Contact: Pete

Disembarking near Anglesey Abbey, we shall walk on quiet back roads, tracks, and cycle ways to Wicken Fen (a National Nature Reserve). From there, we will ramble to Burwell over the flat fenland landscape - with big skies and lots of waterways. Parts of this walk will cover areas currently being converted back to wild fen by the National Trust. We may even have the opportunity to see the semi-wild Konik ponies that graze on the rough fenland!

Meet: 9:15 at the Drummer St bus station for the 9:25 bus to Newmarket

Return: Back to Cambridge by 18:37

Cost: £6.40 (Dayrider Plus)

Sunday, 24th January

“The Pitfall of the Pruning Poets”

21 km / 13 miles Contact: Pierre

From Welwyn Garden City, we pass through Sherrardspark Wood, and follow the Ayot Greenway (a dismantled railway) to Ayot St Lawrence, where the poet George Bernard Shaw lived (and died at the age of 94 of the internal injuries caused by the fall from a tree that he was pruning). After catching a glimpse of his home, Shaw's Corner (now a National Trust property), we continue past Kimpton Mill. We do not quite make it to Cuckolds Cross, but skirt Whitwell and St Paul's Walden and head along small country lanes towards Old Knebworth. Passing through Newton wood, we leave behind England's pleasant pastures and reach the dark satanic mills of Stevenage.

Meet: 8:30 in front of the railway station for the 8:55 train to Welwyn Garden City

Return: Back to Cambridge by 16:55

Cost: £11.50 (£7.60 with a Railcard/Groupsav)

Saturday, 30th January

“Linton Circular”

17 km / 11 miles Contact: Christopher

On this ramble we explore the undulating countryside south east of Cambridge. From Linton we first make for Hadstock, home of the oldest church door still in use in Britain. We continue on footpaths across fields to Ashdon and then head to Bartlow, where we'll encounter some impressive Roman tumuli, before returning to Linton.

Meet: 8:40 at the Drummer St Bus station for the 8:55 bus to Linton

Return: Back to Cambridge by 16:38

Cost: £6.40 (Dayrider Plus)

Saturday, 6th February

“Orwellian Cambridgeshire”

16 km / 10 miles Contact: Stephen

We'll take the bus to the village of Kingston, from where we'll climb gradually up the chalk ridge to its south. Reaching the top of the ridge, we'll continue along it to the east, with the Eversdens below us on one side and Wimpole Hall on the other, before reaching the "Clunch Pit" at Orwell, a former quarry known for its splendid views across three counties. From here we continue down towards the river Cam as the landscape flattens out, crossing the river near Malton Farm and continuing to the villages of Whaddon and Meldreth, from where we take the train home. There may well be time for a pub stop in Meldreth.

Meet: 10:35 at the Drummer Street bus station for the 10:50 bus to Kingston

Return: Back to Cambridge by 17:29

Cost: £6.10

Sunday, 14th February

“Nietzsche and a Tilted Knoll”

22 km / 14 miles Contact: Pierre

From Elsenham, we make our way along footpaths, bridleways and small country lanes to Cherry Green and thence to Hamperden End and Debden Green. Skirting Broadoaks Manor and its moat, we continue through Rowney Wood to Debden, before descending, past a chalk pit, towards Newport station.

A small chocolate prize will be awarded to the first person who guesses how the title of this walk is related to places on or near the route.

Meet: 8:30 in front of the railway station for the 8:51 train to Elsenham
Return: Back to Cambridge by 16:24
Cost: £9.30 (£6.15 with a Railcard/Groupsav)

Saturday, 20th February

“Newmarket and Beyond”

17 km / 11 miles Contact: Pete

After strolling through Newmarket (which is famous for horse racing), we will catch the bus to the village of Moulton. From there, we shall walk by footpaths and back roads through the lovely rolling hills of Suffolk. Beyond the villages of Gazeley and Dalham, we shall attain the great altitude of almost 100 metres – there we may enjoy views of the distant Fens, if the weather is clear.

Meet: 8:25 in front of the railway station for the 8:44 train to Newmarket
Return: Back to Cambridge by 17:39
Cost: £7.10 (£4.74 with a Railcard/Groupsav) and £2.90 for the bus

Saturday, 27th February

“Norfolk Coastal Walk”

17 km / 11 miles Contact: Angela

Starting the seaside resort town of Cromer, we initially head inland to Beacon Hill, the highest summit of Norfolk. Mountaineering gear will not be required, however, since this is lower than the top of any other county in Britain, standing at a mere 102 metres. Continuing back to the coast along a forest track, we arrive at Sheringham, another small seaside town. For the second half of the walk, we continue west of Sheringham along the coast path: you are advised to bring warm and waterproof clothes, as conditions may be windy. We return to Sheringham by bus from the village of Salthouse, then continue our journey back to Cambridge by train. We will probably have an hour in which to buy food, e.g. fish and chips, in Sheringham after the walk, while waiting for our train connection.

Meet: 7:55 outside the railway station for the 8:12 train to Cromer
Return: Back to Cambridge by 19:59
Cost: £17.80 (£11.87 with a Railcard/Groupsav) plus a couple pounds for the bus

Sunday, 6th March

“Horse, Hill and Stour”

22 km / 14 miles Contact: Stephen

We'll take the bus to the village of Horseheath, near the Suffolk border, and climb steadily through an open, gently rolling landscape to a high point near the remains of the 1940s air base of RAF Wrattling Common. From there we wind our way down into the Stour Valley at Little Thurlow, then passing the stately home of Great Thurlow Hall. We'll follow the hillside just above the river, passing several wooded spots noted for redwings, fieldfares and other winter birds. At Kedington we'll turn away to the west into the market town of Haverhill for the bus home.

Meet: 10:00 outside the Drummer Street bus station for the 10:20 bus to Horseheath
Return: Back to Cambridge by 19:30
Cost: £6.40 (Dayrider Plus)

Angela: ag768@cam.ac.uk
Christopher: cthomaso@gmail.com
Stephen: srk31@cam.ac.uk

Pierre: pah59@cam.ac.uk
Pete: pj17@waitrose.com