

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Michaelmas 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. You can also visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cambridgerambling.

Saturday, 8th October	“A Stroll to Grantchester”	9 km / 5.5 miles	Contact: Angela
<p>This easy afternoon walk will take us to two tranquil villages just outside Cambridge. From Great St Mary's Church, we will head to the river, where we will pick up a path to take us behind the Botanic Gardens. We'll then head back to Trumpington Road, which leads to the village of Trumpington. We'll then follow the winding country lane past Byron's Pool to Grantchester, where notable intellectuals of the early 20th century gathered for discussion and countryside inspiration. After stopping for refreshment at the village tea rooms or a pub, we will follow the footpath along the river back to Cambridge, <i>via</i> Newnham.</p>			
Meet:	13:00 outside Great St Mary's Church		
Return:	Back to the city centre by 17:00		
Cost:	Free!		
Sunday, 16th October	“Rambling to Waterbeach”	11 km / 7 miles	Contact: Angela
<p>While many people enjoy walking to Grantchester, far fewer realize that the other direction is equally delightful. Starting from Waterbeach, we'll make our way south along the river toward Cambridge, stopping in Milton Country Park for a picnic lunch. This section of the river meanders through miles of agricultural land and is characterized by wildflowers, swans-a-plenty, houseboats, and an interesting lock.</p>			
Meet:	11:00 in front of the railway station for the 11:22 train to Waterbeach		
Return:	Back to the city centre by 16:30		
Cost:	£1.90		
Saturday, 22nd October	“Baldock Odyssey”	21 km / 13 miles	Contact: Christopher
<p>Starting from Ashwell & Morden Station in the hamlet of Odsey, we cross the ancient track of Ashwell Street and then make a loop taking in Steeple Morden, Guilden Morden and Ashwell. In Ashwell we'll look for the source of the River Rhee, one of the tributaries of the Cam, before passing by the site of an Iron Age hill fort. We then head over undulating countryside to the market town of Baldock, located where the Great North Road and the Icknield Way cross and the site of a Roman settlement.</p>			
Meet:	09:40 in front of the railway station for the 09:55 train to Ashwell & Morden		
Return:	Back to Cambridge by 18:00		
Cost:	£7.00 (£4.60 with a Railcard/Groupsave)		

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Saturday, 29th October

“Wild Fenland, Wild Ponies” 20 km / 13 miles Contact: Herman

Disembarking near Anglesey Abbey, we shall walk on quiet back roads, tracks, and cycle ways to Wicken Fen (a National Nature Reserve). Wicken Fen is one of Britain’s oldest nature reserves and was the first one to be cared for by the Trust (since 1899). The National Trust is working on restoring the fenland between Wicken and the edge of Cambridge and so we may even have the opportunity to see the semi-wild Konik ponies (who are diligently doing that!) that graze on the rough fenland! Home to over 9,000 species (many of them beautiful birds), you may want to bring along your pair of binoculars. From there, we will ramble to Burwell over the flat fenland landscape - with big skies and lots of waterways. We will thence end our day at a quiet pub in this Burwell area for a well-deserved drink.

Meet: 09:15 at the Drummer Street Bus Station for the 09:25 bus to Newmarket

Return: Back to Cambridge by 18:37

Cost: £6.40 (Day Rider Plus)

Monday, 31st October

“Haunted Cambridge
Halloween Night Hike” 9 km / 6 miles Contact: Stephanie

On this ramble we will visit a selection of Cambridge’s haunted corners. Starting from the witch ducking site of Magdalene Bridge we’ll cross Midsummer Common (location of Cambridge’s Jack the Ripper style killing as well as being an ancient plague mass-burial ground) on our way to Abbey house, built on top of the demolished Barnwell Priory in the 16th century and haunted for centuries by a poltergeist nun. We’ll then continue to the Leper Chapel of St Mary Magdalene, dating from 1125 and the oldest complete surviving building in Cambridge, followed by Coldham’s Common under which lie the many victims of the bubonic plague of 1665. As this is a night hike you may wish to bring an electric torch and ghost repellent. Dressing up in Halloween costume is also encouraged!

Meet: 20:30 at Magdalene Bridge

Return: Back in the city centre by 23:30

Cost: Free!

Saturday, 5th November

“Shunning Stevenage” 22 km / 13.5 miles Contact: Pierre

Watton-at-Stone, we ascend the hills of Hertfordshire to leave Stevenage and its dark satanic mills to our left. Following footpaths and winding country lanes, we make our way to Ardeley. Continuing towards Clothall, we catch a glimpse of a windmill, and we pass the site of a Roman settlement on our way into Baldock.

Meet: 08:30 in front of the railway station for the 08:55 train to Watton-at-Stone

Return: Back to Cambridge by 16:55

Cost: £10.00 (£6.65 with a Railcard/Groupsave)

Saturday, 12th November

“The Dark Side of Essex” 12 km / 7.5 miles Contact: Pierre

From Great Chesterford, we set off on the Icknield Way along bridleways and ridiculously small country lanes. We pass through the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin at Strethall, a Grade I listed church dating back to the early 11th century. We then make our way to Littlebury Green and, after passing Green Wood, we descend towards Wendens Ambo and Audley End station. Since this is a night walk: you should bring an electric torch!

Meet: 19.00 in front of the railway station for the 19.21 train to Great Chesterford

Return: Back to Cambridge by 23.51

Cost: £6.90 (£4.55 with a Railcard/Groupsave)

Sunday, 13th November

“Royston Figure-of-Eight” 24 km / 15 miles Contact: Angela

From Royston Station we will walk through the town and up to Therfield Heath, an accessible open expanse of grassland on a bank with sweeping views to the north. We will skirt along the edge of the heath and then follow a track through patches of woodland and fields to Therfield village. From Therfield we will then loop down toward Friars wood before returning back to Therfield. We will then follow a path across the hills to the other end of the heath before walking along the upper part of that ridge back to Royston.

Meet: 09:25 at the railway station for the 09:45 train to Royston
Return: Back to Cambridge by 18:35
Cost: £4.50 (£3.00 with a Railcard/Groupsave)

Saturday, 19th November

“The Great Ouse: Mills, Meadows and Market towns” *13 km / 8 miles Contact: Stephen*

We'll take the bus to Huntingdon and traverse Port Holme, believed to be the largest flood-plain meadow in England, before crossing the Great Ouse into the former Roman town of Godmanchester. Continuing partly along a dismantled railway line, we'll rejoin the Great Ouse and follow it to Houghton, home to the river's oldest working mill. From there we thread our way between villages and riverbank, finally crossing Hemingford Meadow and reaching the unusual 15th century bridge at St Ives, from where we take the bus home.

Meet: 10:50 at the Drummer Street Bus Station for the 11.05 bus to Huntingdon
Return: Back to Cambridge by 17.22
Cost: £5.50 (£4.50 with a student discount)

Saturday, 26th November

“Chasing the Winter Sun” *13 km / 8 miles Contact: Herman*

This is the winter version of the successful expedition to Holkham Bay in April. We would be braving the winter weather on the sandy beach: the beach will be so empty that it will almost feel like Mars. The challenge is that we will need to try to get back to our bus stop by 15:46 or we will be in the dark! Extra layers are non-negotiable and an electric torch is recommended. If we are lucky, it may be snowing on the beach! A lovely, hearty pub dinner can be expected.

Meet: 8:15 outside the railway station for the 8:35 train to King's Lynn
Return: Back to Cambridge by 20:22
Cost: £13.90 (possibly less; investigation ongoing)

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