

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Lent Term 2017

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.

Sunday, 22nd January

“Christmas Calorie Burner”

30 km / 19 miles Contact: Angela

Starting from the market town of Biggleswade, we head through Sandy Warren and follow the Greensand Ridge Walk towards Gamlingay. From there, we will walk along the Roman Road, making our way to St Neot's railway station.

Meet: 07:35 outside the railway station for the 07:55 train to Biggleswade
Return: Back to Cambridge by 19:28
Cost: £8.67 with a Railcard/Groupsave

Sunday, 29th January

“The Pitfall of the Pruning Poets”

24 km / 15 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. Skirting Whitwell and St Paul's Walden, we head along small country lanes towards Old Knebworth. After passing through Newton wood, we leave behind England's pleasant pastures green and reach Stevenage.

Meet: 08.30 outside the railway station for the 08.55 train to Welwyn Garden City
Return: Back to Cambridge by 16.55
Cost: £7.75 with a Railcard/Groupsave

Saturday, 4th February

“Norfolk Coastal Walk”

23 km / 14 miles Contact: Ciarán

From Gunton railway station, we will make our way towards Mundesley through parks, paths, and country roads. Upon reaching the coastal path, which runs along the seaside, we will follow the cliff tops and promenade to Cromer.

Meet: 07.50 in front of the railway station for the 08.12 train to Gunton
Return: Back to Cambridge by 19:08
Cost: £9.95 with a Railcard/Groupsave

Sunday, 5th February

“Along River Ouse”

11 km / 7 miles Contact: Shuang Ning

Starting from the cathedral town of Ely, we will follow the Great River Ouse to the village of Littleport. Come along to wander in the fens, see colourful houseboats and feed squawking geese. Who knows, we may even find a Harley-Davidson statue at our destination.

Meet: 12.40 pm in front of the railway station for the 12.52 train to Ely
Return: Back to Cambridge by 17:15
Cost: £3.75 with a Railcard/Groupsave

Saturday, 11th February “Gipping Valley River Path - Part I” 26 km / 16 miles *Contact: Bálint*

Starting at Stowmarket, we follow the Gipping Valley river path along the river to Needham Market. On our way back, we traverse a rolling landscape to visit farmhouses, country halls, and small patches of isolated woodland.

Meet: 07:25 in front of the railway station for the 7:44 train to Stowmarket
Return: Back to Cambridge by 18:39
Cost: £10.70 with a Railcard/Groupsave

Saturday, 18th February “Great Chesterford 20 km / 12 miles *Contact: Christopher*
to Newport via Saffron Walden”

Starting in Great Chesterford, we head upstream along the River Granta (a tributary of the Cam) before climbing to almost 100m (!) on our way to the market town of Saffron Walden. We then walk through the grounds of Audley End before following the Harcamlow Way to the pleasant valley of Debden Water. From Debden Park we pass through Cabbage Wood and then descend to Newport.

Meet: 09:05 in front of the railway station for the 09:21 train to Great Chesterford
Return: Back to Cambridge by 16:51
Cost: £4.75 with Railcard/GroupSave

Saturday, 25th February “Hills and DNA 11 km / 7 miles *Contact: Herman*
Wandlebury to Cambridge”

Contrary to popular belief, Cambridge is not quite as flat as a pancake! The Gog Magog Hills lie just south of the city and it is from here that we start our ramble with some good views back over Cambridge. After descending the hill to Great Shelford, we walk along the DNA cycle path (whose green, blue, yellow and red stripes map out the A, C, G and T bases of the BRCA2 gene) to Long Road. It's then a short walk along Vicar's Brook and the River Cam back to the centre of Cambridge.

Meet: 13:05 at the Drummer Street bus station for 13:25 bus X13
Return: Back to Cambridge by 17:30
Cost: about £3.00

Sunday, 26th February “Windmills, Woods 20 km / 12 miles *Contact: Stephen*
and a Walden”

Here we explore the rolling hills of south-east Cambridgeshire and northern Essex, starting from the remains of Linton windmill, continuing via Bartlow and its Roman tumuli, to Ashdon and another windmill. The Harcamlow Way takes us on past Shadwell Wood nature reserve, historic Saffron Walden, and through the grounds of Audley End House. There may be time for a pub stop in Wendens Ambo before the train home.

Note: we will depart from the bus station, but arrive back at Cambridge railway station. It will be possible to join the bus on Hills Road rather than Drummer Street; e-mail Stephen for details.

Meet: 11.05 at the Drummer Street bus station for the 11.20 bus to Linton
Return: Back to Cambridge by 18.44
Cost: about £9.00 (£4.40 for the bus + £4.55 for train with Railcard/GroupSave)

Sunday, 5th March “Constable Country” 29 km / 18 miles *Contact: Angela*

Dedham Vale is an official “Area of National Beauty” bordering on the counties of Suffolk and Essex. It is often called Constable County after the artist John Constable who drew inspiration from this landscape. On this walk, we shall follow the Stour Valley Path through the vale, passing through rolling hills, small woodlands, and picturesque villages before following the moonlit (if we're lucky!) river valley back to Manningtree railway station.

Meet: 08:50 in front of the railway station for the 09:12 train to Manningtree
Return: Back to Cambridge by 22:24
Cost: £15.33 with Railcard/Groupsave

Saturday, 11th March

“Swinging in the Chilterns”

24 km / 15 miles *Contact: Ciarán*

After a brief walk through Hitchin, we will catch the Sapphire 101 bus towards Luton, arriving at Putteridge Bury ca. 09.45. We will walk up Warden hill (195 m) where everyone can marvel at Luton and head North from there to enjoy the vistas from the Sharpshoe clappers. Next we will head westwards across the Barton hills and its nature reserve and onto the Pegsdon hills where we should hopefully find a swing. The dizzying heights of Deacon hill (172 m) will be our last big hill before heading back to Hitchin station.

Meet: 08:15 in front of the railway station for the 08:30 train to Hitchin**Return:** Back to Cambridge by 18:30**Cost:** £8.35 with a Railcard/Groupsave**Sunday, 12th March**“A Sunday Stroll
in the Granta Valley”8 km / 5 miles *Contact: Stephanie*

From Whittlesford station we first visit the 12th century Duxford chapel, once part of the hospital of St John the Baptist and now in the care of English Heritage. We will then make our way through the village of Duxford (famous for its air museum) to Ickleton, once home to a Benedictine priory. Finally we will head to Great Chesterford via the site of a Roman villa for the train home.

Meet: 14.35 in front of the railway station for the 14.51 train to Whittlesford Parkway**Return:** 18.05 train from Great Chesterford, arriving back in Cambridge at 18.21**Cost:** £3.75 with a Railcard/Groupsave**Saturday and Sunday, 18th/19th March**“From Pier
to Pier”64 km / 40 miles *Contact: Herman*

This is a two-day expedition to the South Downs National Park where we would be walking from Brighton to Eastbourne, enroute hiking over heights which would afford great views of the English Channel and the Southern countryside. Resting in Alfriston at the end of Saturday, there is a guaranteed good pub dinner with good laughs and drinks. We would be seeing the best of the South Downs on Sunday - Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters - we should be in company of sheep throughout the rest of the walk to Eastbourne before returning to Cambridge. This will be a great walk and you are encouraged to raise money online for any charities of your choice for completing this great walk.

Sign up: Friday 10th February**Cost:** Transportation (£48.05) + Accommodation (£30 pp. sharing twin room)

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