

Cambridge University Rambling Club (CURaC)

Michaelmas Term 2017 Term Card

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. 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, 8th October (Herman – hml49@cam.ac.uk)

Freshers' Walk: "A Stroll to Granchester" (9 km / 5.5 miles)

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, via Newnham.

Meet: 12:30 outside Great St Mary's Church

Return: Back to the city centre by 16:30

Cost: Free!

Saturday, 14th October (Herman – hml49@cam.ac.uk)

Wild Fenland, Wild Ponies (20 km / 13 miles)

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)

Saturday, 21st October (Angela – ag768@cam.ac.uk)

Double Feature: Norfolk Broads and Norfolk Coast (21 km / 13 miles)

This week, we will explore a unique landscape in which the Norfolk Broads touch the sea. From Winterton-on-Sea, we will cut inland to walk along Martham Broad National Nature Reserve. After passing a windmill, we will continue along Horsey Mere, through Braydon Marshes, and back to the sea. During the final half of our ramble, we will follow the beach past Winterton Dunes Nature Reserve. Please bring an electric torch (flashlight), enough food for lunch AND dinner, and warm clothes (autumn beaches can be chilly!).

Meet: 8:50 in front of the Railway Station for the 9:10 train to Great Yarmouth

Return: Back to Cambridge by 22:31

Cost: £12.07 (with a Railcard/Groupsave) + £6.50 for the bus

Sunday, 22nd October (Herman – hml49@cam.ac.uk)

Fen Drayton Lakes: Watery Wonderland (9 km / 6 miles)

This short walk takes us to the Guided Busway between Cambridge and St Ives. Getting off Swavesey we will initially explore the small village and its historic buildings, before heading into the Fen Drayton Lakes Reserves. The scene is tranquil and serene and there will be birds spying on us (or the other way round!) We will end our walk with a well-deserved lunch at St Ives.

Meet: 09:20 at the Drummer Street Bus Station for the 09:34 B bus to St Ives

Return: Back by 13:30

Cost: £6.70

Saturday, 28th October (Christopher – cThomas0@gmail.com)

Through Wimpole Park (20 km / 12 miles)

From the village of Toft in the Bourn valley we head across fields to Great Eversden. From there we cross a low ridge and follow the Wimpole Way to Wimpole Park. This extensive estate surrounds the large stately home of Wimpole Hall, now a National Trust property. After exploring the parkland we exit the grounds along the grand Wimpole Avenue before taking the Harcamlow Way to Whaddon and continuing to Meldreth for the train home.

Meet: 09:35 at Drummer Street Bus Station for the 09:50 bus to Toft

Return: 17:11 train from Meldreth, arriving back 17:27

Cost: £2.60 for bus and £2.90 for train (or £1.90 with a railcard/groupsave)

Tuesday, 31st October (Stephanie – sgs30@cam.ac.uk)

Halloween Night Hike: The Haunted Chapel of Darkest Hertfordshire (16 km / 10 miles)

To mark All Hallows Eve this night hike takes us through dark fields and woods to the ruins of Minsden Chapel, once a resting place for pilgrims but long since abandoned and now haunted by a phantom monk, the ringing of stolen bells and the appearance of a ghostly cross on the wall, as well the ghost of the historian Reginald Hine. Note that as this is a night hike you may wish to bring a flashlight/electric torch. Dressing up in Halloween costume is also encouraged!

Meet: 17:40 at the train station for the 17:56 train to Hitchin

Return: 23:22 train from Hitchin, arriving back in Cambridge at 00:03

Cost: £7.35 railcard/groupsave

<p>Saturday, 4th November (Pierre – pah59@cam.ac.uk)</p> <p><u>Riverrun Brings us to Clavering Castle and Environs (24 km / 15 miles)</u></p> <p>From Newport station and along bridleways and winding country lanes, we head towards the earthworks, near the river Stort, of Clavering castle (which are all that remains of the former abode of one of Edward the Confessor's closest aides). We then continue to Ford End, circumventing Further Ford End, and thence past a succession of hamlets with improbable names, finally descending from the North Essex hills towards Wendens Ambo and Audley End.</p> <p>Meet: 09:00 at the train station for the 09:21 service to Newport Return: Back to Cambridge by 16.51 Cost: £4.75 (with railcard/groupsave)</p>	<p>Sunday, 5th November (Stephanie – sgs30@cam.ac.uk)</p> <p><u>The most scandalous and vile parish in the diocese (7 km / 4.5 miles)</u></p> <p>From Oakington we skirt Westwick Hall on our way to Histon, where we cross the Guided Busway and make our way to Girton village. From here we return to Oakington for the bus home via the Beck Brook and the graves of the "Oakington Martyrs", whose non-conformist activities in the 17th century lead to the bishop's above scathing description of the village.</p> <p>Meet: 09:05 at Drummer Street bus station for the 09:19 busway bus to Oakington Return: 11:41 bus from Oakington, arriving back in Cambridge at 12:01 Cost: £4.30 for the bus (Day Rider)</p>
<p>Saturday, 11th November (Angela – ag768@cam.ac.uk)</p> <p><u>Wrest Park (21+ km / 13+ miles)</u></p> <p>From the village of Clophill, we will cross over the River Flit and proceed into Warren Wood. From there, we will weave our way through the countryside, into the village of Siloe, and from thence into Wrest Park Estate. After taking several hours to explore the house and ground of this stately country home, we will make our way back into the countryside, weaving through the village of Pulloxhill before finally concluding our adventure in Barton-le-Clay. Please bear in mind that we will clock up additional miles while exploring the house, and we may finish our walk in the dark - this will be a big day! Please bring an electric torch (flashlight) and enough food for lunch AND dinner.</p> <p>Meet: 8:00 at Parkside Bus Stop 16 for the 8:10 bus (X5) to Bedford Return: Back to Cambridge by 21:10 Cost: £21.30 (bus) + £9.40 (house/estate)</p>	<p>Sunday, 12th November (Amelia – aje49@cam.ac.uk)</p> <p><u>Gentle autumnal walk from Newport to Debden (9 km / 6 miles)</u></p> <p>Starting from Newport station we walk along the Saffron trail passing a chalk quarry. Wander through the woods, pass the church to a nice lake and make our way back to Newport station.</p> <p>Meet 11:40 at Cambridge Train station for 11:51 train to Newport. Return 14:57 train from Newport arriving back at Cambridge at 15:19 Cost: £4.75 (with railcard/groupsave)</p>
<p>Saturday, 18th November (Herman – hml49@cam.ac.uk)</p> <p><u>Mills, Meadows and Market Towns (13 km / 8 miles)</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Meet: 10.30 at the Drummer Street Bus Station for the 10.45 bus to Huntingdon Return: Back to Cambridge by 17.30 Cost: £6.70</p>	<p>Sunday, 19th November (Stephen – srk31@cam.ac.uk)</p> <p><u>The Elmdon Elbow (14 km / 9 miles)</u></p> <p>From Audley End station we will quickly leave behind the hum of M11 traffic and meander north-west into the rolling hills and quiet lanes of the northern Essex borderlands. The area is primarily arable farmland, dotted with patches of woodland and picturesque villages. The largest of these, Elmdon, still bears remains of Norman fortifications. From Elmdon we will turn north-west and follow the Icknield Way, undulating all the way to Great Chesterford for the train home.</p> <p>Meet: 10.10 at Cambridge railway station for the 10.24 train to Audley End Return: Back to Cambridge by 16.19 Cost: £7.00 (£4.60 with railcard/groupsave)</p>
<p>Saturday, 25th November (Pete – pj17@waitrose.com)</p> <p><u>Ickworth House Parkland (20 km / 12 miles)</u></p> <p>Ickworth house is a large impressive 'Stately home' that now belongs to the National Trust and is surrounded by beautiful parkland including woodland, an obelisk and a little river.. There is a marked 7-mile walk within the park which will form part of our walk. We shall get to the park entrance by a short bus ride from the centre of Bury St Edmunds and we shall return by walking from the property to the railway station.</p> <p>Meet: 09.20 at the Train Station for the 09.44 Train to Bury St Edmunds Return: Back to Cambridge by 19.23 Cost: £11.00 (£7.25 with railcard/groupsave)</p>	

Contacts / Walk Leaders:

Herman (President): hml49@cam.ac.uk
Amelia: aje49@cam.ac.uk
Pierre: pah59@cam.ac.uk
Christopher: cthomas0@gmail.com

Stephen: srk31@cam.ac.uk
Stephanie: sgs30@cantab.net
Angela: ag768@cam.ac.uk
Pete: pj17@waitrose.com