

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Easter Term 2012

To new ramblers and returning members alike, welcome to the Rambling Club! We invite you to leave the city for a few hours this term to enjoy the surrounding countryside. The pace of our walks is generally easy, as our main aim is to relax. Your only expense is the bus or train fare, plus our £1 annual membership fee. Please bring a **packed lunch** (except for half-day walks) and a **bottle of water**. Strong shoes or boots, waterproofs, and warm clothing are also recommended. There is no need to sign up in advance for most of our walks – just turn up at the following places (unless otherwise stated): **Bus:** at the entrance to Drummer Street bus station, near the taxi rank. **Train:** in the main hall of Cambridge railway station.

All are welcome to our **pub meets** at 8 pm on Thursdays during term time (starting 3rd May) at The County Arms on Castle Street, when fellow ramblers will gather for tales from the trail!

For more information and photos of past events, check out our website at www.srcf.ucam.org/curac

<p>Saturday 28th April "Historic St Edmunds and Ickworth Park"</p> <p><i>Bury St Edmunds circular</i> 14 km / 9 miles Contact: Paul</p> <p>We will start by heading south through historic Bury St Edmunds passing the Theatre Royal, England's sole surviving Regency Playhouse. We will then follow St Edmunds Way, crossing Hardwick Heath before turning West towards Horringer village to explore Ickworth Rotunda and Park, a historic site first settled in the 1400s. After a couple of hours we will return to Bury St Edmunds to examine the remains of the Abbey, formerly the wealthiest Benedictine monastery in England. We will then head to the station to return to Cambridge.</p> <p>Meet: 09:25 at the train station for the 09:43 train to Bury St Edmunds Return: 17:56 train from Bury St Edmunds, arriving back at 18:39 Cost: £9.70, or £6.40 with a railcard, for the train, plus £10.40 for entrance to Ickworth Estate (free for National Trust members)</p>	<p>Sunday 29th April "A Short Wander along the Ouse" HALF DAY</p> <p><i>Littleport to Ely</i> 10 km / 6 miles Contact: Paul</p> <p>Leaving Littleport station we will follow the Fen Rivers Way along the Great Ouse, homing in on the beacon in the distance that is Ely Cathedral. We first pass the point where the River Lark meets the Ouse before encountering the river that drains Lower Woodhouse Fen. We will then cross the Ouse in the hamlet of Queen Adelaide before navigating back over the river on the outskirts of Ely. Finally, after passing Roswell Pits on the way into Ely, we will hopefully stop for tea and scones before arriving at the train station.</p> <p>Meet: 12:45 at the train station for the 13:05 train for Littleport Return: 16:58 train from Ely, arriving back at 17:15 Cost: £6.80, or £4.50 with a railcard</p>
<p>Saturday 5th May "Through Deepest, Darkest Suffolk"</p> <p><i>Moulton to Dullingham</i> 26 km / 16 miles Contact: David</p> <p>Starting by the medieval packhorse bridge in Moulton, we will head to Lidgate, a small Suffolk village, where the earthwork remains of a medieval castle are to be found. Here, there will be the opportunity to stop for lunch at an award winning 16th-century pub, or alternatively packed lunches can be eaten in the village. Crossing the border into Cambridgeshire, we will walk past Kirtling, where a splendid Tudor gatehouse still stands. Finally, we end the day by passing the end of the 12-kilometre long Anglo-Saxon earthwork known as the Devil's Dyke.</p> <p>Meet: 09:25 at the train station for the 09:43 train to Newmarket Return: 19:20 train from Dullingham, arriving back at 19:39 Cost: £8.00, or £5.90 with a railcard</p>	<p>Sunday 6th May "The Heights South-East of Cambridge" HALF DAY</p> <p><i>Great Abington to Linton</i> 10 km / 6 miles Contact: Heidi</p> <p>From our base camp of Great Abington (32m above sea level), we shall experience the Cambridgeshire novelty of a gentle uphill slope to Abington Park Farm (98m). Traversing south-east, we skirt the edge of Hildersham Wood before climbing to the second high-altitude point of Catley Park (105m). After a temporary descent, our walk across Great Chesterford Common takes us to the dizzying height of 116m above sea level, before our descent to the lower-altitude camp of Linton (42m) to catch the return bus to Cambridge (10m).</p> <p>Meet: 12:55 at the bus station for the 13:10 bus to Great Abington Return: 16:30 bus from Linton, arriving back at 17:02 Cost: £5.70</p>
<p>Saturday 12th May "Constable Country"</p> <p><i>Manningtree circular</i> 19 km / 12 miles Contact: Susan</p> <p>On this spring day we will ramble through the heart of the countryside that has long epitomized the English pastoral landscape thanks to John Constable's iconic paintings of the area. Beginning and ending in Manningtree, Essex, we will follow a circular route along either side of the River Stour, visiting bucolic villages along the way. We will be sure to see Dedham Vale and Flatford Mill (National Trust), both settings for some of Constable's paintings. Naturally, we will take the opportunity to visit one or more village pubs/tea rooms for refreshment.</p> <p>Meet: 09:25 at the train station for the 09:43 train to Manningtree Return: 18:55 train from Manningtree, arriving back at 20:39 Cost: £20.40, or £13.45 with a railcard</p>	<p>Sunday 13th May "Going for Gold"</p> <p><i>Tottenham to Central London</i> 20 km / 13 miles Contact: Pete</p> <p>This walk will take us along the Lea Valley and allow us to glimpse the Olympic Park, which will host the London 2012 Olympic Games in just a few months. Starting in Tottenham, we will follow the River Lea as it snakes through the Walthamstow reservoirs, classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which provide water for the residents of London and a haven for local wildlife. After crossing Hackney Marshes, we will walk on the Greenway alongside the 250-acre Olympic Park site which includes a newly created riverside garden. We will then follow the river into central London.</p> <p>Meet: 09:15 at the train station for the 09:32 train to Tottenham Hale Return: 18:11 train from London King's Cross, arriving back at 19:00 Cost: £22.00, or £14.50 with a railcard</p>
<p>Saturday 19th May HALF DAY "Reach, Swaffham Prior and the Devil's Dyke"</p> <p><i>Reach circular</i> 9 km / 5½ miles Contact: Valérie</p> <p>The first part of the route is along lanes and tracks between Reach and Swaffham Prior, both attractive villages. On the return leg, we'll walk along the top of the Devil's Dyke, a Dark Age earthwork from which there are tremendous views across the Fens.</p> <p>Meet: 13:10 at the bus station for the 13:25 bus to Reach Return: 15:48 bus from Reach, arriving back at 16:37 Cost: £5.70</p>	<p>Sunday 20th May: "Hadham Hall to Hertford Castle"</p> <p><i>Bishop's Stortford to Hertford</i> 26 km / 15 miles Contact: Alex</p> <p>Starting in the affluent town of Bishop's Stortford, we will walk through Hertfordshire's oldest and picturesque villages, including Little Hadham and Much Hadham. We will pass Hadham Hall, where Queen Elizabeth I stayed, and continue south along the valley of the river Ash. We pass through the Amwell Quarry Nature Reserve and the town of Ware (mentioned by Chaucer and Shakespeare) before reaching our final destination, historic Hertford Castle, sited in a pleasant town known for its independent boutiques and lack of chain shops.</p> <p>Meet: 09:15 at the train station for the 09:32 train to Bishop's Stortford Return: 18:55 train from Hertford East, arriving back at 20:23 Cost: £15.90, or £10.50 with a railcard</p>

Saturday 26th May

"London Sights: The Wonders of the Pressure Cooker"

Paternoster Square to Hammersmith 19 km / 12 miles Contact: Geoffrey

From the "money engine pressure cooker" of the City at Paternoster Square, we head towards the political hub of Westminster, passing the legal district of the Temple. After seeing Big Ben and Westminster Abbey, we go to Buckingham Palace, then through Green Park and Hyde Park to the museum district in Kensington, which contains some of the most expensive real estate in the UK. From Kensington we head through the posh suburbs of Hammersmith to the tube station, passing the Winton Capital management Hammersmith office, where I work on Fridays.

Meet: 09:25 at the train station for the 09:45 train to King's Cross

Return: 18:15 train from King's Cross, arriving back at 19:01

Cost: £22.00, or £14.50 with a railcard

HALF DAY

Sunday 27th May

"Life's a Beach"

Cambridge to Waterbeach 10 km / 6 miles

Contact: Pete

This short stroll along the Cam may be the perfect break from revision or thesis writing! It takes a familiar route along the river, starting at Magdalene Bridge and passing through Jesus Green and Midsummer Common before reaching Stourbridge Common. We will pass under the railway bridge and divert away from the river through the picturesque, if tiny, village of Fen Ditton. From here we pass Baits Bite lock, the starting point for the College "Bumps" rowing competition, and head on to Waterbeach, where we may stop for a quick pint depending on when our train is due!

Meet: 10:00 at Magdalene Bridge

Return: 13:07 train from Waterbeach, arriving back at 13:15

Cost: £2.50, or £1.65 with a railcard

Saturday 2nd June

"The Greensand Ridge"

Stewartby to Woburn Sands 24 km / 15 miles Contact: Matthew

This week we visit the Greensand Ridge of southern Bedfordshire. We will walk between two stations on the Marston Vale railway, one of two surviving sections of the former Varsity Line between Cambridge and Oxford. Starting alongside the lakes of Marston Vale Millennium Country Park, we first walk to Millbrook, where we enter an area of hilly woodland. Next we pass Woburn Safari Park, where we might catch a free glimpse of some exotic fauna. Finally we cross an area of sandy heathland to arrive at Woburn Sands for our train back to Bedford.

Meet: 08:45 at Parkside coach stop (bay 16) for the 09:00 coach to Bedford

Return: 17:42 train from Woburn Sands, then 18:25 coach from Bedford, arriving back at 19:30

Cost: £7.20 for students (bring ID), otherwise £9.45, for the coach, plus £4.70, or £3.10 with a railcard, for the train

HALF DAY

Sunday 3rd June

"The Grandeur of Audley End"

Audley End circular

10 km / 6 miles

Contact: Simon

This ramble explores the scenery around the 17th-century Audley End House in Essex. From Audley End station (actually in the village of Wendens Ambo), we head north-eastwards through the Audley End estate to the picturesque town of Saffron Walden. Those who are feeling energetic can extend the walk by one mile by following the longest turf maze in England, whilst others take a break and perhaps enjoy an ice cream. On our return to Audley End station, we take a different route through the estate, affording fine views of the house itself.

Meet: 13:15 at the train station for the 13:32 train to Audley End

Return: 17:24 train from Audley End, arriving back at 17:41

Cost: £6.10, or £4.05 with a railcard

Saturday 9th June

"The Fen Rivers Way"

King's Lynn to Downham Market and Cambridge

19 km / 12 miles or 76 km / 47 miles

Contact: Matthew

Continuing in the tradition of previous years, we again plan to walk the full length of the Fen Rivers Way in one day. This will provide a good warm-up for anybody hoping to complete the Varsity March two weeks later. We will take the last train from Cambridge to King's Lynn on Friday night, and walk overnight along the River Great Ouse to Downham Market. Sensible ramblers can return from Downham Market on the first train of the morning, while less sane members continue upstream all the way to Cambridge, arriving in the early evening. Please contact Matthew for more information if you wish to participate in this walk.

Meet: 00:00 (midnight, Friday night) at the train station for the 00:14 train to King's Lynn

Return: 06:09 train from Downham Market, arriving back at 06:44, or walk to Cambridge, arriving Saturday evening

Cost: £9.50, or £6.25 with a railcard

HALF DAY

Sunday 10th June

"A Deep Breath in Shepreth and Meldreth"

Shepreth circular

10 km / 6 miles

Contact: David

Today a short, relaxing stroll to celebrate the end of examinations or take a break from revision will be on the cards. We will begin our leisurely journey in Shepreth, travelling south through the flat fields of Cambridgeshire. Our path will then take us past the flocks of birds around the wildlife reserve of Fowlmere. Heading west to the twin towns of Melbourn and Meldreth, we'll join the (aptly-named) river Mel for a while. Finally, we will return to Shepreth, passing through the L-Moor nature reserve.

Meet: 13:35 at the train station for the 13:55 train to Shepreth

Return: 17:11 train from Shepreth, arriving back at 17:27

Cost: £4.20, or £2.80 with a railcard

Saturday 16th June

HALF DAY

"Slick 'wick Capers"

Hardwick to Cambridge

12 km / 7½ miles

Contact: Heidi

From Hardwick, we shall walk along the Callow Brook to Duck End before following the Beck Brook to the picturesque hamlet of Madingley. After passing through Madingley Wood we shall have the opportunity to visit the American Cemetery before returning to Cambridge via the West Cambridge Science Park.

Meet: 13:00 at the bus station for the 13:15 bus to Hardwick

Return: To the city centre around 17:30

Cost: About £2.00

Sunday 17th June

"The Ups and Downs of the North Downs"

Caterham to Westhumble

26 km / 16 miles

Contact: Simon

To mark the end of term we travel slightly further afield than usual to the North Downs, a range of wooded hills just south of London. From the leafy suburb of Caterham, we head south to join the North Downs Way, which we follow westwards for the rest of the walk. Towards the end of the walk we reach the summit of Box Hill (172m), giving fine views over the Mole valley.

Meet: 09:00 at the train station for the 09:20 train to Caterham

Return: 18:41 bus from Westhumble, then 19:24 train from Surbiton, arriving back at 21:00

Cost: £22.00, or £14.50 with a railcard

Saturday 23rd – Sunday 24th June

"The Varsity March"

Oxford to Cambridge

130 km / 81 miles

Contact: Matthew

The annual Varsity March is a mammoth two-day walk between Oxford and Cambridge, completed within 48 hours without any sleep. This year we again hope to raise money for two charities working with homeless people in Oxford and Cambridge, following donations in excess of £1400 last year. We also hope to be joined by Oxford University Walking Club. It will, of course, be possible to join or leave the walk at intermediate points if you do not wish walk the full distance, or if you want to support your friends for short sections. More details will be sent out by email nearer the time, but please contact Matthew if you would like more information.

The Rambling Club Committee:

Susan Raich: sar70@cam.ac.uk (President)
Pete Gallimore: pgj48@cam.ac.uk (Treasurer)
Heidi Russenberger: avsr2@cam.ac.uk (Secretary)
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