

# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Easter Term 2013

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 with us. The pace of our walks is generally easy, as our main aim is to relax and appreciate the local scenery and villages. 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 is the bus or train fare (given below), plus our £1 annual 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. Our meeting points (unless otherwise noted) are: **Bus**: at the entrance to Drummer Street bus station, near the *taxi rank / public toilets*. **Train**: in the main hall of the Cambridge Railway Station.

For more information and photos of past events, check out our website at [www.srcf.ucam.org/curac](http://www.srcf.ucam.org/curac)

<p><b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b> No Ramble</p>	<p><b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b> “A leisurely stroll along the Ouse” <i>St Neots Circular 15 km / 9 miles Contact: David</i> We begin our stroll by heading North following the banks of the Ouse. We pass by the nature reserve of the Paxton Pits, located close to Little Paxton (a village which is curiously much larger than Great Paxton). Our path then turns inland and we head through sleepy Southoe, skirting the edges of a nearby wood. We finally return to St Neots, crossing the River Kym next to one of the few remaining fords in Cambridgeshire. <b>Meet:</b> 09:15 at the Parkside coach stop (bay 16) for the 09:30 bus to St Neots <b>Return:</b> 14:22 bus from St Neots, arriving back at 15:00 <b>Cost:</b> £7.45 for a return ticket (£5.65 for students)</p>
<p><b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b> No Ramble</p>	<p><b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b> No Ramble</p>
<p><b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b> “Tramping through the field in Therfield” <i>Royston circular 17 km / 10.5 miles Contact: David</i> We cross Therfield Heath on the edge of Royston and then climb a wooded hillside, heading south towards Therfield village where we will stop for lunch. Having surveyed the most impressive views in the county, we continue south-east following the Chain Walk for a short distance. On reaching the village of Buckland, we turn due north towards Reed, and then gradually descend towards Royston following the Hertfordshire way. <b>Meet:</b> 10:10 at the Rail Station for the 10:30 train to Royston <b>Return:</b> 16:04 train from Royston, arriving back at 16:27 <b>Cost:</b> £5.90 (£4.00 with a rail card)</p>	<p><b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b> No Ramble</p>
<p><b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b> “Exploring the Old Mill” <i>Thurston to Pakenham Circular 12 km / 7.5 miles Contact: Christine</i> The highlight of this walk will be a visit to an 18<sup>th</sup> century working water mill. Flour is only ground here one day each month, but we'll still get a tour of the mill and its mechanics. There'll even be an opportunity to buy a little sack of stone-ground flour as a souvenir. Afterwards, we'll walk beside the scenic mill pond, which is home to the resident swans. We'll also look into the nearby topiary meadow to see what bush-figures are on display. (There should be, at least, a topiary crocodile.) Pakenham is the last village in Britain to have both an operating water mill and windmill, so we'll make haste down Thieves Lane to view the 5-storey tall windmill — and maybe get a chance to go inside. We'll visit the parish Church of St. Mary, which dates back to the year 1100, before returning to Thurston. <b>Meet:</b> 11:25 at the Rail Station for the 11:44 train to Thurston <b>Return:</b> 18:49 train from Thurston, arriving back at 19:39 <b>Cost:</b> £12.40 (£8.30 with a rail card); £3.50 admission; £1.80 for a 1.5 kg sack of flour</p>	<p><b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b> “The Amble, Scramble, Bluebell Ramble” <i>Knapwell Circular 11 km / 7 miles Contact: Christine</i> It is said that half of the world's bluebells grow in the British Isles. So this walk will visit two identified bluebell woodlands, in search of a bluebell carpet. If the ramblers are willing, each mile of this outing will be conducted in seven distinct walking styles: ambling, rambling, scrambling, meandering, wandering, hiking, and lolloping. We'll start with a short scenic amble through Knapwell Wood, and then continue on with a ramble to the next location. Once there, we'll scramble over the stream into Overhall Grove, which is a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). We'll meander to the badger viewing platform, and then begin a maze-patterned wander through bluebells. We'll hike over several rough trails and past quantities of yellow oxlips. Then we'll lollop back to the bus pick-up zone. <b>Meet:</b> 09:35 at the Bus Station (Stop D3) for the 09:50 bus to Cambourne <b>Return:</b> 13:36 bus from Cambourne, arriving back at 13:56 <b>Cost:</b> £5.70</p>

<p><b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>“Hadham Hall to Hertford Castle”</b>  <i>Bishop’s Stortford to Hertford 26 km / 15 miles Contact: David</i></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><b>Meet:</b> 09:00 at the train station for the 09:21 train to Bishop’s Stortford  <b>Return:</b> 18:39 train from Hertford East, arriving back at 20:08  <b>Cost:</b> £16.40, or £11.00 with a railcard</p>	<p><b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>No Ramble</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>  <b>To Be Confirmed</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>  <b>To Be Confirmed</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>  <b>“The Guided Busway and Anglia Support Partnerships on the Business Park in Huntingdon”</b>  <i>Huntingdon circular 21 km / 13 miles Contact: Geoffrey</i></p> <p>From Hinchingsbrooke Hospital we explore the modern Hinchingsbrooke Business Park and see Anglia Support Partnerships office and the luxury Marriot Hotel at the noisy and busy Spittals Interchange. After seeing the Business Park environment we go to the more attractive Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. From the Countrypark we then follow the River Great Ouse towards the village of Buckden. We go under the very busy A1 and then onto Grafham Water for a tasty and yummy Lakeside Lunch and then onto the to the village of Grafham. We then cross the busy A1 Great North Road at Brampton road overbridge. The A1 is a very boring dull road to drive on. We then head into the village of Brampton and then back to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital to get the Guided Bus back to Cambridge Bus Station. The length can vary from 12 to 14 miles, depending on how much of Grafham Water people would like to walk alongside.</p> <p><b>Meet:</b> 09:15 at the Drummer Street Bus Station Bay 12 for the 09:30 bus to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital  <b>Return:</b> 17:26 bus from Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, arriving back at 18:37  <b>Cost:</b> £6.00</p>	<p><b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>  <b>“A Bird in the Hand is Worth Two in the Bush”</b>  <i>Foxton to Shepreth 11 km / 7 miles Contact: Pete</i></p> <p>At the village of Foxton our adventure commences, We’re heading for Shepreth, over styles and fences! We’re going the long way, we’re not lost, don’t fear! We’re going to see all the birds of Fowlmere (Nature Reserve) So come along friends, for this ramble of joy, Come man, come women, come girl and come boy! We’ll have lots of fun, we’ll all have a blast, And if you hate poems, don’t worry - this is the last.</p> <p><b>Meet:</b> 09:00 at the train station for the 09:20 replacement bus to Foxton  <b>Return:</b> 12:34 replacement bus from Shepreth, arriving back to Cambridge at 13:02  <b>Cost:</b> £4.30 (£2.85 with a railcard)</p>
<p><b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b>  <b>“We’re off to the Strawberry Field!”</b>  <i>Needham Market Circular 13 km / 8 miles Contact: Christine</i></p> <p>This adventure begins at the Alder Carr Family Farm near Needham Market, where we’ll pick fresh strawberries for personal consumption. (Or you could pick cherries, blueberries, gooseberries, even leeks and garlic, if you’d prefer.) After looking around their farming operation — and taking time to pet the chickens and Pygmy goat — we’ll set off on the walk. We’ll follow the meandering River Gipping, past Needham Lake, until we reach Pippas Ford. Then, it’s off in a different direction, to the famous Baylham Fish Pond, and along the edge of the deep pit of the chalk quarry. Next, there’ll be a short detour into the depths of Priestley Wood, named after Joseph Priestley who discovered a gas called oxygen. We’ll loop back to Needham Market, a town that was decimated by the bubonic plague. And last of all, we’ll walk along The Causeway, the main path used to carry the plague victims out of the town and to the nearby Barking Church. Then we’ll depart by train.</p> <p><b>Meet:</b> 08:25 at the Rail Station for the 08:44 train to Needham Market  <b>Return:</b> 16:29 train from Needham Market, arriving back at 17:39  <b>Cost:</b> £14.70 (£9.80 with a rail card); price of the picked fruit (approx. £4.75 per kg of strawberries)</p>	<p><b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b>  <b>“Striding off into the sunset”</b>  <i>Cambridge to Hardwick 9 km / 6 miles Contact: David</i></p> <p>To celebrate the end to the examination period, we’ll walk to Coton and Hardwick, two small, rural villages just outside of Cambridge. As our path rises up into the hills, we’ll see the university library slowly shrink and vanish, being replaced by green fields and sweeping views across the nearby area. Unfortunately, it won’t be late enough to have a real sunset, but we can still symbolically turn our backs on the previous academic year as we march off into the west.</p> <p><b>Meet:</b> 13:40 at Great St Mary’s  <b>Return:</b> 16:40 bus from Hardwick, arriving back at 16:56  <b>Cost:</b> £3.90</p>
<p><b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b> <b>“The Varsity March”</b> <i>Oxford to Cambridge 130 km / 81 miles Contact: Steven</i></p> <p>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. 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 Steven if you would like more information.</p>	

### The Rambling Club Committee:

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