

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Easter Term 2014

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

Saturday 26th April	“Norfolk Coast: Part 2”	<i>Brancaster Staithe to Hunstanton</i>	<i>12 miles / 19 km</i>	<i>Contact: Angela</i>
<p>As a follow-up to the fabulous walk led by Matthew last term, we shall now tackle a more westerly section of the Norfolk coast. Starting from Brancaster Staithe, we'll follow the Norfolk Coast Path to Hunstanton. Initially, the coastline will be characterized by marshland. From Brancaster, the Norfolk Coast Path will lead us inland briefly, returning to the coast to cut through the Holme Dunes National Nature Reserve. As we conclude our walk, the sand dunes will be replaced by the famous Hunstanton cliffs, which are striped red and white.</p> <p>Meet: 08:15 at the train station for the 08:35 train to Kings Lynn Return: Train from King's Lynn, arriving back at 18:45 Cost: Train to Kings Lynn (return), £7.00; Bus to Hunstanton from Kings Lynn (return), £6.40; Bus to Brancaster Staithe (single), £2.40</p>				
Saturday 3rd May	“Around Wimpole Park”	<i>Orwell to Kingston</i>	<i>5 miles / 8 km</i>	<i>Contact: Oscar</i>
<p>Today we will explore the well-cultivated meadows of Wimpole Park, part of an estate centred around a Georgian stately home, now a National Trust property. We will then follow the Wimpole Way through an area of woodland overlooking the estate and will pass two large ponds. A track through large open fields will lead us to Kingston for the bus back.</p> <p>Meet: 13:50 at Drummer St Bus Station (Bay 4) for the 14:00 bus to Orwell Return: 17:08 bus from Kingston, arriving 17:38 Cost: About £3 each way</p>				
Sunday 11th May	“Hadham Hall to Hertford Castle”	<i>Bishop's Stortford to Hertford</i>	<i>26 km / 15 miles</i>	<i>Contact: David</i>
<p>Starting in the affluent town of Bishop's Stortford, we will walk through Hertfordshire's oldest and most 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. This walk was one of the nicest we led last year and is glorious in the spring sunshine.</p> <p>Meet: 09:10 at the train station for the 09:32 train to Bishop's Stortford Return: 18:25 train from Hertford East, arriving back at 19:41 Cost: £11.00 (£7.30 with a railcard)</p>				
Saturday 17th May	“Chiltern Nature Reserves”	<i>Stopsley to Great Offley</i>	<i>16 miles / 26 km</i>	<i>Contact: Matthew</i>
<p>This walk offers a tour of the Chiltern Hills in southern Bedfordshire. From Stopsley, on the edge of Luton, we climb to the summits of Warden Hill and Galley Hill, with fine views of the area. Continuing along the steep chalk escarpment of the Chilterns, we visit Sharpenhoe Clappers, Barton Hills, and finally the Pegsdon Hills Nature Reserve, before descending to Great Offley for our bus and train home.</p> <p>Meet: 08:15 at the railway station for the 08:30 train to Hitchin Return: 17:03 bus from Great Offley, then 17:47 train from Hitchin, arriving back at 18:28 Cost: £7.50 (£4.95 with railcard) for a return to Hitchin, plus about £4 for the bus</p>				
Sunday 25th May	“To Waterbeach and Back”	<i>Cambridge Circular</i>	<i>13 miles / 21 km</i>	<i>Contact: Angela</i>
<p>While many people enjoy walking to Granchester, far fewer realize that walking along the River Cam in the other direction is equally delightful. Starting from Great St Mary's church, we'll make our way east through the city, meeting up with the river after walking through Midsummer Common. From there, we'll follow a path along the Cam to Waterbeach. This section of the river meanders through miles of agricultural land and is characterized by wildflowers, swans-a-plenty, houseboats, and an interesting lock or two. After a short break in the village, we'll head back to Cambridge, passing by quaint cottages and pleasant gardens on the more residential side of the river.</p> <p>Meet: 10:00 at Great St. Mary's Church Return: 16:00 Cost: Free!</p>				

Saturday 31st May**“Thetford Forest”***Brandon to Thetford 12 miles / 18 km Contact: Christopher*

From Brandon we head into Thetford Forest, the largest lowland pine forest in Britain. After skirting Grime's Graves Neolithic flint mines we head south to Santon Downham and join the Little Ouse Path. We'll then explore Warren Wood with a possible detour to Thetford Warren Lodge, dating from the early 15th century, before rejoining the Little Ouse River. Passing the ruins of the priory, we emerge from the forest in Thetford where there should be time to examine Castle Hill, a motte and bailey structure with Iron Age fortifications, before heading home.

Meet: 09:55 at the train station for the 10:12 train to Brandon**Return:** 17:13 train from Thetford (or later depending on how long we want to look around), arriving back at 17:59**Cost:** £12.60 (£8.40 with a railcard)**Saturday 7th June****“Varsity March warm-up – The Fen Rivers Way”***King's Lynn to Cambridge 47 miles / 77 km, with shorter alternatives Contact: Matthew*

This long ramble follows the full length of the Fen Rivers Way, along the Great Ouse and Cam rivers from King's Lynn to Cambridge. The walk is scheduled two weeks before the Varsity March, giving an opportunity to prepare ourselves for the longer challenge. However, this warm-up is entirely optional, and anybody is welcome to take part, whether preparing for the Varsity March or not. If you prefer not to walk the full 47 miles, there are several possibilities to join us for shorter sections. We will leave Cambridge on the last train to Kings Lynn, after midnight on Friday night, and begin walking from King's Lynn at 1am. After three hours of darkness, the remainder of the walk will be in daylight, and we expect to reach Cambridge by around 7pm on Saturday evening. If you would like to join us for a shorter section of the walk, some possibilities would be: King's Lynn to Downham Market (12 miles, overnight); Littleport to Cambridge (23 miles, starting Saturday morning); Ely to Cambridge (17 miles, starting Saturday lunchtime). Please contact Matthew if you would like to take part in this walk, and especially if you plan to join us somewhere along the route.

Meet: 23:55 Friday night at the railway station for the 00:14 train to King's Lynn**Return:** If completing the full distance about 19:00**Cost:** £7.00 (£4.60 with railcard)**Sunday 8th June****“Through rolling hills and past an old church door”***Great Chesterford to Linton 6 miles / 10 km Contact: Oscar*

This easy walk will take us along a quiet track to the historic village of Hadstock with its half-timbered houses set on a village green. The parish church of St. Botolph is home to the oldest church door still in use in Britain. We will then continue along footpaths across undulating arable land to Great Chesterford.

Meet: 12:35 at the railway station for 12:51 train to Great Chesterford**Return:** 16:00 bus from Linton, arriving back at 16:30**Cost:** £5.30 (£3.50 with a Railcard) plus about £4 for the bus**Saturday 14th June****“Striding off into the sunset”***Cambridge to Hardwick 9 km / 6 miles Contact: David*

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.

Meet: 13:40 at Great St Mary's**Return:** 16:35 bus from Hardwick, arriving back at 16:55**Cost:** £4**Saturday 21st - Sunday 22nd June “The Varsity March”***Oxford to Cambridge 130 km / 81 miles Contact: Steven*

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.

The Rambling Club Committee:

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