

# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

## Lent Term 2008

Welcome back to the Rambling Club. Once again, we invite you to leave the city for a few hours this term, and 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, and we have tried to provide a mixture of walks of different lengths. We sometimes stop at a village pub en route, but **you should always bring a packed lunch and a drink** anyway. **Strong boots and waterproof 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 are:

Bus/Coach: At the corner of Drummer Street and Emmanuel Street.

Train: In the main hall of Cambridge Railway Station.

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January:

#### *“Over the Ouse to Earith”*

Swavesey circular

10 miles

Contact: Steven

We kick off this term with an exploration of the fens to the north-west of Cambridge. After leaving Swavesey via the site of a Benedictine Priory and examining the progress on Cambridgeshire's new Guided Busway we'll follow the River Great Ouse to Earith. This village marks the southern terminus of the Hundred Foot Washes, two of the major drainage channels of the fens that stretch in an almost perfectly straight line all the way to Denver Sluice in Norfolk. From here we'll turn south through the fens to the village of Over on our way back to Swavesey.

**Meet:** 10:30 at the bus station for the 10:45 bus to Swavesey.

**Return:** 16:00 bus from Swavesey, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:36.

**Cost:** Approximately £4.50 for the bus fare.

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January:

#### *“Wein and Weir”*

St Neots Circular

12 miles

Contact: Ling

Starting from St Neots, we walk to the River Great Ouse and along the beautiful Ouse Valley Way. When we spot the Wein and Weir, we'll stop at Offord Cluny and have our lunch. In the afternoon, we'll follow the Diddington Brook, visit the Diddington Park, and then head south to see the Medieval Village and Paxton Pits Nature Reserve before returning to St Neots.

**Meet:** 10:00 at the bus station for the 10:10 bus to St Neots.

**Return:** 16:17 bus from St Neots, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:55.

**Cost:** Approximately £4.50 for the bus fare.

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February:

#### *“The Traditional Pancake Ramble”*

West-of-Cambridge Circular

9 miles

Contact: Helen

We head out of Cambridge along the river to Grantchester, then walk across fields (and over the M11) to reach Barton, where we stop for lunch. Leaving Barton, we head north to the village of Coton and take a short diversion to visit the American Cemetery at Madingley, before returning on the Harcamlow way to Cambridge, where we'll make pancakes.

**Meet:** 11:00 outside Great St Mary's Church.

**Return:** 3pm-ish.

**Cost:** Free!

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February:

#### *Pub Meet, The Castle, 8pm*

Come and join us for a drink and a ramble of the conversational variety.

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February:

#### *“The Haunted Chapel of Darkest Hertfordshire”*

Hitchin Circular

11 miles

Contact: Steven

Leaving Hitchin along the River Purwell and Ash Brook, we make our way via Mill Hill to the ruined 14<sup>th</sup> century Minsden chapel, said to be haunted by a ghostly monk, the ringing of stolen bells and appearances of a glowing cross on the wall, as well as by the ghost of the historian Reginald Hine. Assuming we escape with our lives and sanity intact, we will continue to the village of Preston and return to Hitchin via Tatmorehills Lane.

**Meet:** 09:15 at the railway station for the 09:28 train to Hitchin.

**Return:** 15:47 train from Hitchin, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:27.

**Cost:** £9.00, or £5.95 with a railcard [Return to Hitchin].

For photos, the forum and more information about the club, have a look at our website: [www.srcf.ucam.org/curac](http://www.srcf.ucam.org/curac)

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February:*****“David’s Birthday Expedition”*****Oakham Circular****15 miles****Contact: David**

Slightly further afield than our usual excursions, but we see hilly countryside with rises of 200 meters. From Oakham we will walk through much-contoured farmland, and alongside several streams, to reach Braunston-in-Rutland. We will continue past the site of the mediaeval village of Brooke, including the ruins of a priory, before heading towards the edge of Rutland Water and so back to Oakham.

**Meet:** 07:45 at the railway station for the 08:04 train to Oakham.**Return:** 16:41 train from Oakham, arriving in Cambridge at 18:15.**Cost:** £18:60, or £12:30 with a railcard [Return to Oakham].**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February:*****“In the Name of Les Brading, Where are we?!”*****Ely Circular****11 miles****Contact: Sam**

From Ely station we follow the Fen Rivers Way Path and Kiln Lane to Thistle Corner. We then make our way to the village of Little Downham, where we hope to find the remains of the Bishops’ Palace, a site of potential archaeological interest (or of potential boredom, depending on what you hope to get from this ramble!). We’ll then return to Ely via Clayway Lane and the Hereward Way.

**Meet:** 10:30 at the railway station for the 10.44 train to Ely.**Return:** 16.14 train from Ely, arriving back in Cambridge at 16.31.**Cost:** £3.50, or £2.30 with a railcard [Return to Ely].**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February:*****Meal Out, followed by AGM*****Contact: Steven**

Details of our termly meal out at a nice restaurant in Cambridge will be sent out by email nearer the time. The meal will be followed by a short and informal AGM – your chance to get involved in the running of the club!

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March:*****“A Happy Spring Return to the Varsity Land”*****Shepreth to Ashwell****11 miles****Contact: Geoffrey**

From Shepreth we head to the village of Meldreth and then to Bassingbourn for lunch. From Bassingbourn we go to Litlington and on to Ashwell & Morden station to get the train back to Cambridge. This walk takes in a section of the Varsity March from Shepreth to Litlington. A walk to enjoy the countryside of South Cambridgeshire. A walk for everyone!

**Meet:** 09:40 at the railway station for the 09:55 train to Shepreth.**Return:** 16:00 train from Ashwell & Morden, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:27.**Cost:** £6.00, or £3.95 with a railcard [Return to Ashwell & Morden].**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March:*****“The Rambling Club go Mountaineering”*****Audley End to Great Chesterford****15 miles****Contact: Victoria**

Plans are afoot to scale the highest peaks of East Anglia. In the previously little-explored area known as "down near Audley End" are to be found the highest peaks in Cambridgeshire and Essex. The Rambling Club are to make a brave attempt to reach both summits within a single day. We will be climbing to a great height - 146m in Cambridgeshire and 147m in Essex - so please make sure that you are well-prepared, with plenty of warm clothing, emergency rations [N.B. there will be no pubs on route], ice axes, safety ropes etc.

**Meet:** 09:15 at the railway station for the 09:32 train to Audley End.**Return:** 16:59 train from Great Chesterford, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:21.**Cost:** £5.80, or £3.85 with a railcard [Return to Audley End].**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March:*****“A Trip to the Seaside (Well Nearly..!)”*****Manningtree Circular****14 miles****Contact: Holly**

From Manningtree we follow the Essex Way and Stour Valley Paths past Flatford Mill to reach the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Path. This will take us some way along the Stour Estuary before we head inland. We will then walk along the edge of Alton Water before heading through gently rolling and lightly wooded countryside back to Manningtree.

**Meet:** 08:30 at the railway station for the 08:43 train to Manningtree.**Return:** 16:59 train from Manningtree, arriving back in Cambridge at 18:39.**Cost:** £16.50, or £10.90 with a railcard [Return to Manningtree].**Easter Vacation Mailing List:**

If you are in Cambridge for all or part of the vacation and wish to receive information about informal out-of-term rambles, including a possible “March March March” (40 miles in a single day across the fens from the town of March to Cambridge), please email Steven.

**The Rambling Club is brought to you by:**

Steven Smith (Selwyn, sgs30@cam.ac.uk, President)  
 Ling Zhu (Fitzwilliam, lz256@cam.ac.uk, Treasurer)  
 David Kingle (Queens’, dak37@cam.ac.uk, Secretary)  
 Victoria Gregson (Christ’s, vhg21@cam.ac.uk, Archivist)

Holly Astley (Newnham, hma25@cam.ac.uk)  
 Helen Jordan (Churchill, hj243@cam.ac.uk)  
 Sam Cane (sam.d.cane@btinternet.com)  
 Geoffrey March (gem18@hotmail.com)

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