

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Lent Term 2011

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 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/Coach:** At the corner of Drummer Street and Emmanuel Street. **Train:** In the main hall of Cambridge Railway Station.

PUB MEETS: All are welcome to The Elm Tree (Elm Street, Cambridge) at 8 pm on Thursdays during term-time, when fellow ramblers will gather for tales from the trail!

THURSDAY, MARCH 10: *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEAL OUT* All ramblers are invited to a meal out followed by a general meeting and Committee elections. This is your chance to have a say in the running of the club or even become involved as a member of the Committee. Watch for emails from the club listserve for further details.

January

For more information and photos, check out our website at www.srcc.ucam.org/curac

<p>22nd “A trip to the coast with two rivers, a ferry and the Wash” King's Lynn to Sutton Bridge (14 miles / 22 km) Contact : Valérie</p> <p><i>Le monde appartient à ceux qui se lèvent tôt ! The world belongs to the people who get up early!</i> This ramble is adapted to the sunrise and sunset hours, so we will get plenty of light during the day should the sun be willing to shine! From King's Lynn we take the ferry across the River Ouse, and then follow the river to where it joins the Wash, a huge bay and estuary with vast mud and sand flats in which King John is reported to have lost his crown jewels in 1216. We then follow the Peter Scott walk along the edge of the Wash to meet the River Nene, which we will follow inland to Sutton Bridge for the bus back to King's Lynn.</p> <p>Meet: 08:15 at the train station for the 08:35 train to King's Lynn Return: 16:35 bus from Sutton Bridge, then pub time in King's Lynn, then 17:56 train from King's Lynn, arriving back at 18:44 Cost: £8.50 (£5.60 with a railcard) for the train [Return to King's Lynn], plus £2.30 for the bus, plus about 70p for the ferry</p>	<p>23rd “Traipsing to Trumpington and Beyond”  Cambridge Circular (6 miles / 9 km) Contact: Susan</p> <p>This easy afternoon stroll will take us to two tranquil villages just outside the bustling City Centre of Cambridge. From Great St Mary's Church, we will head down King's Parade and then to the river, where we will pick up a path to take us behind the Botanic Gardens, along some public allotment plots, and back to Trumpington Street, which leads to the village of that name. From Trumpington, we'll follow the winding country lane past Byron's Pool to the village of Grantchester, where notable intellectuals of the early twentieth century also gathered for discussion and countryside inspiration. After stopping for refreshment at the village tea rooms or a pub, we will follow the River Granta back to Cambridge, via Newnham.</p> <p>Meet: Outside Great St Mary's Church at 13:00. Return: Back to City Centre by 17:00. Cost: Free!</p>
<p>29th “Devil's Dyke” Swaffham Prior to Dullingham (11 miles / 17 km) Contact: Paul</p> <p>Starting in Swaffham Prior we will visit its two churches in one church-yard before walking past the site of a Roman Villa on the way to link up with the Dyke. We will walk along this impressive Anglo-Saxon earthworks through the Devil's Dyke Nature Reserve and the chalk landscape near Newmarket before reaching its end at the woodlands near Ditton Green. We will then follow the Icknield way to Dullingham to catch the train home.</p> <p>Meet: Bus stop at 9:10 for the 9:25 bus to Swaffham Prior Return: The 15:20 train from Dullingham, arriving into Cambridge at 15:39 Cost: Maximum of £4.00 for the bus [single to Swaffham Prior] plus £4.10 (£2.70 with rail card) for the train.</p>	<p>30th “In the Footsteps of Robbie Williams” Hitchin – Digswell (13 miles / 20 km) Contact: Simon</p> <p>We leave Hitchin along the River Purwell, then head south through the village of Little Wymondley and skirt the west side of Stevenage. In the afternoon we pass through Knebworth Park, the venue of numerous music festivals and concerts featuring artists ranging from Dire Straits to Genesis and Robbie Williams. We then continue through rolling wooded countryside to reach the village of Digswell for the train home.</p> <p>Meet: 09:40 at the railway station for the 09:55 train to Hitchin Return: 16:30 train from Welwyn North, arriving back at 17:27 Cost: £15.00, or £9.90 with a railcard [Return to Welwyn North]</p>

February

<p>5th “On Safari” Amphill to Bow Brickhill (14 miles / 22.5 km) Contact: Matthew</p> <p>This varied ramble will visit some attractive areas of parkland, forest and open fields along the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge. Starting from Amphill, we cross Amphill Park, which contains a memorial to the town's most famous resident, Katherine of Aragon. Following the ridge west through Lidlington and Ridgmont, we enter the grounds of Woburn Safari Park, where we might catch a free glimpse of some exotic fauna (bring binoculars!). Continuing across the deer park surrounding Woburn Abbey, we arrive at Woburn village. The next section of the Greensand Ridge Walk brings us to the high plateau of Bow Brickhill Heath, before descending steeply to Bow Brickhill station on the edge of Milton Keynes.</p> <p>Meet: 08:55 at Parkside coach stop (bay 16) for the 09:10 coach to Bedford. This is the Stagecoach X5 coach towards Oxford. Note that this coach stop is located on the side of Parkers Piece, near the police station, and NOT in the main Drummer Street bus station. Return: 16:54 train, then 17:45 coach from Bedford, arriving back at 18:55 Cost: Coach fare £6.75 for students (bring ID), otherwise £9.00, plus Rail fare £5.00 (£3.30 with rail card), plus about £3 for the bus.</p>	<p>6th “Anglesey Abbey and Mill”  Cambridge to Lode (7 miles / 11 km) Contact: Paul</p> <p>Meeting at Magdalene Bridge, we head east out of Cambridge along the river to Fen Ditton. Once there we head past the pub and part of Fleam Dyke to meet up with the Harcamlow Way. We then head north past Quy Mill, crossing the river at the stone bridge to arrive at Anglesey Abbey and Mill. After a couple of hours exploring the site, we head to the cross roads at Lode for the return bus to Cambridge.</p> <p>Meet: Magdalene Bridge at 9:50 for a 10:00 departure Return: 15:02 bus from Lode, returning to Cambridge at 15:25 Cost: Approximately £ 3.00 for the bus [Single from Lode] and £6.25 for entry to Anglesey Abbey Gardens and Mill.</p>
<p>12th “Chiltern Nature Reserves” Great Offley to Stopsley (16 miles / 26 km) Contact: Matthew</p> <p>This walk offers a tour of the Chiltern Hills in southern Bedfordshire, close to the route of the Varsity March. From Great Offley, we head north to the Pegsdon Hills Nature Reserve, and descend a chalk escarpment to Pegsdon village. Moving west, we follow the Chiltern escarpment through Barton Hills, Barton-le-Clay, and Sharpshoe Clappers. Returning south, we pass the summits of Galley Hill and Warden Hill (195m) on the edge of Luton, finishing on the main Luton-Hitchin road at Stopsley.</p> <p>Meet: 08:40 at the railway station for the 08:55 train to Hitchin. Return: 17:03 bus from Stopsley, then 17:51 train from Hitchin, arriving at 18:36 Cost: £9.50 (£6.25 with railcard) [Return to Hitchin], plus about £4 for the bus</p>	<p>13th “Wandering from Wandlebury Night Hike”  Wandlebury to Abington (6 miles / 10 km) Contact: Steven</p> <p>Starting from the iron-age hill fort at Wandlebury Country Park we will follow the old Roman Road to Copley Hill tumulus. From here we will continue across the countryside via Ash Grove and passing Babraham Hall, now home to the Babraham Institute for biomedical research. Finally we reach Abington where there should be time for a quick drink in the pub before catching the bus back to Cambridge. As this is a night hike you may find it useful to bring a torch!</p> <p>Meet: 18:55 at the bus station for the 19:10 bus to Wandlebury Return: 22:39 bus from Abington, arriving back in Cambridge at 23:02 Cost: £5.20 for the bus fare [Dayrider plus ticket]</p>

19th "Norfolk not-quite-such Madness"

Cromer to Blakeney or Hunstanton

(15 miles / 25 km or 45 miles / 72 km)

Contact: Steven

Today we'll be making a visit to the beautiful north Norfolk coastline, with an optional long extension that provides another chance to complete last year's 45-mile Norfolk Madness walk! Starting from Cromer we will make our way along the beaches and cliff tops, passing the seaside towns of Sheringham and Weybourne, until we reach Cley-next-the-Sea. From here the beaches give way to salt marsh, which we will explore as we continue to the village of Blakeney, complete with its 14th-century guildhall undercroft. From here the sensible Rambler is recommended to catch the Coasthopper bus back to Sheringham for the train home. The more foolish ramblers will continue into the night along the Norfolk Coast Path, stopping for dinner in Wells-next-the-Sea and reaching the finish in Hunstanton the following morning!

Meet: 06:15 at the train station for the 06:32 train to Cromer; **Return:** 17:08 Coasthopper bus from Blakeney to Sheringham, then 17:49 train, arriving back in Cambridge at 20:07. Or, 08:54 bus from Hunstanton to King's Lynn, then 10:28 train from King's Lynn, arriving back in Cambridge at 11:16 on Sunday.

Cost: £14.80, or £9.75 with a railcard [Return to Sheringham], plus a small amount for the bus. Those returning from King's Lynn will need a single to Cromer (£14.70, or £9.70 with a railcard) and a single from King's Lynn (£8.50, or £5.60 with a railcard).

26th "Sails and wings"

Hambleton, Egleton and Rutland Water (12 miles / 20 km)

Contact: Valérie

This ramble aims to (re-)discover the Rutland Waters area, which shelters a nature reserve famous for its birds. We leave the village of Oakham to circumnavigate the little peninsula of Hambleton. We then walk back towards Oakham before turning South and reaching the Egleton Natural Birds Reserve, which we may visit for about an hour before returning to Oakham for the train back home. (An afternoon permit costs £3.75 per adult and £1.50 per student). For more information, visit <http://www.rutlandwater.org.uk/index.html>.

Meet: 07:45 at the rail station for the 8:00 train to Oakham (via Peterborough), arriving at Oakham station at 09:21

Return: 15:43 train from Oakham, arriving back at 17:07 (or the 16:43 train, arriving back at 18:16, if we visit the bird reserve)

Cost: £24.00 [return to Oakham], or £15.85 with railcard, plus more to visit the reserve. *Advance or group train tickets will be cheaper.*

27th "Milton Country Park"

Cambridge Circular

(9 miles / 14 km)

Contact: Paul

HALF DAY

Starting at Magdalene Bridge, we will begin the ramble by exploring the heart of Chesterton en route to the Cambridge Science Park. After passing this industrial estate we will shortly arrive at Milton Country Park, where we will explore its parklands, pools and sun dial. We then head east towards the Cam, joining it just above Baits Bite Lock, thence following the Fen Rivers way back into Cambridge via Stourbridge Common.

Meet: Magdalene Bridge at 10:00 for a 10:10 departure

Return: We will arrive back into Cambridge at approximately 14:30

Cost: Free!!!

March

5th "Better Ten Years Late than Never"

Broxbourne to Walthamstow (15 miles / 24 km)

Contact: Simon

This ramble was originally scheduled for 3rd March 2001, but had to be cancelled due to the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak. Hopefully we will finally be able to complete it on the tenth anniversary. From Broxbourne, we pass briefly through the Lee Valley Park, then head south-east across the rolling countryside of south-west Essex. We then walk south through Epping Forest, an ancient royal hunting wood on the edge of London. We pass Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge in Chingford, then continue south to finish our walk on the edge of Walthamstow.

Meet: 09:10 at the railway station for the 09:32 train to Broxbourne

Return: Bus from Walthamstow, then 17:40 train from Tottenham Hale, arriving back at 18:40.

Cost: £14.70, or £9.70 with a railcard, for the train [Return to London Liverpool Street], plus £2.20, or £1.30 using an Oyster Card, for the bus.

Thursday evening, March 10th: Annual General Meeting; watch your email for further details about joining next year's Committee!

12th "To London's Third Airport the Scenic Way"

Audley End to Stansted Airport (18 miles / 29 km)

Contact: Geoffrey

From Wendens Ambo we head south to Newport and Widdington for some tasty Lunch in rural Essex. We then Journey across the M11 to Stansted Mountfitchet and then back across the M11 to the Modern World of New Motorway Slip Roads and to the Riba Award-winning 1991 Stansted Airport Terminal to catch the Brum diesel train to Cambridge. This Journey starts in the rural world of Essex to finish in the man-made Landscape around Stansted Airport.

Meet: 9:30 at the railway station for the 09:51 train to Audley End

Return: 18:25 train from Stansted Airport, arriving back in Cambridge at 18:58

Cost: £8.80, or £5.80 with a railcard [Return to Stansted Mountfitchet]

6th "Annual Pancake Ramble: Towering Tumuli and Tasty Treats"

Shelford to Cambridge (7.5 miles / 12 km)

Contact: Susan

HALF DAY

This year's Pancake Ramble, in addition to providing sweetened flatbreads at the end of the walk, will seek to prove that Cambridgeshire's topography is not, after all, as flat as a pancake. Beginning in Great Shelford, we will ramble our way northeast to the Gog Magog Hills, where we will explore the ancient tumuli and iron-age fortress at Magog Down and Wandlebury Country Park. After taking in the lookout from an overwhelming elevation of 70 metres atop Wormwood Hill, we will make our descent through some birdwatching meadows to the village of Cherry Hinton. From the site of its medieval mill, we will follow a footpath back into Cambridge, and the shops of Mill Road will signal our re-entrance into the metropole. We will then stop at a nearby kitchen to prepare and enjoy an afternoon pancake snack.

Meet: 11:35 for the 11:51 train to Shelford

Return: To Cambridge around 16:00, with pancake-eating to follow.

Cost: £2.50 or £1.65 with rail card [single to Shelford]

13th "Cambridge: Nooks and Crannies Scavenger Hunt"

Contact: Valérie

Please note that you **must register before the 5th March** for this unprecedented event! Email Valérie at valmalard@hotmail.fr indicating the names of your team's participants, or if you would like to be placed on a team.

HALF DAY

Have you always wanted to join a scavenger hunt but not wanted to spend money on it? Do you really know the secrets of Cambridge? Are you excited about the prospect of solving clues with a team and potentially winning a prize? If you answered "yes!" to any one of these questions, then you should join us for the Rambling Club's First Annual Scavenger/Treasure Hunt. Bring your good humour and your brains ;) and may the best team win!

Meet: Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge, at 13:00 for a 13.15 start

Return: Finish by 17:00

Distance: depends on how much you get lost

Cost: Free

19th "March March March!"

March to Cambridge

(31 miles / 50 km)

Contact: Steven

The March March March is a mammoth expedition across the Fens between the towns of March and Cambridge, originally invented by Jonathan Partington in 1979 and all completed within a single day in March! The Rambling Club have been running our own version of this walk for the past few years, but this year we will be joining up with the original inventors for their traditional March March March (<http://people.bath.ac.uk/masgks/march.html>) via the villages of Wimblington, Chatteris, Somersham and Earith.

The traditional route is 16 km (10 miles) shorter than the Rambling Club version and is expected to feature more pub stops, thus making it hopefully more accessible for anyone wanting to try their hand (or should that be feet?) at a long-distance walk in advance of the 81-mile Varsity March at the end of the Easter term. On the other hand for those wanting a shorter walk it will be possible to catch a bus back to Cambridge from places such as Chatteris (15 km), Somersham (24 km), Earith (28 km) and Willingham (35 km).

Meet: 8:45 at the train station for the 9:00 train to March; **Return:** Hopefully (!) arriving back in Cambridge by around 9 pm; **Cost:** £9.60, or £6.35 with a railcard

The CURAC Committee:

Susan Raich: sar70@cam.ac.uk, (president)

Paul Saines: pjs80@cam.ac.uk, (treasurer)

Matthew Ford: rambling@mtford.org, (archivist)

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