

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Lent 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 these 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, *near the Taxi Rank/Public Toilets*. This is the **Drummer Street** station.

Train: In the main hall of Cambridge Railway Station.

If you have further questions, check out our website at www.srcf.ucam.org/curac/

PUB MEETS: All are welcome to The Granta Pub (Newnham Rd) at 8 pm on Thursdays during term-time, when fellow ramblers will gather to share tales from the trail!

**** Watch out for this symbol, as it signals a half-day ramble.**

****SATURDAY, 19TH JAN.: "LARKING AROUND"** *Ely Circular* (8 miles / 13 km) *Contact: Heidi*

Leaving Ely, we set off along the River Ouse before turning off into a drove across Bedford Level to the River Lark. We follow the river south to Prickwillow, a tiny village north-east of Ely its own Fen drainage steam engine. From there we return to Ely along the Middle Fen Bank to catch the return train to Cambridge.

Meet: 08:50 at the Rail Station for 09:12 train to Ely

Return: Ely, 12:39 train back to Cambridge, arriving 12:59 **Cost:** £4.30 (£3.00 with railcard)

****SUNDAY 20TH JAN.: "THE WATER AND THE WINE"** *Hildersham – Linton* (6.5 miles / 10 km) *Contact: Simon*

We start this short ramble in Hildersham, situated on the River Granta, one of two tributaries of the Cam confusingly sharing the same name.

We head north out of the valley to join a Roman road which we follow to the south-east. We then return to the Granta and finish the walk in the village of Linton, passing Chilford Hall vineyard on the way.

Meet: 08:55 at the Bus Station for the 09:10 bus to Hildersham

Return: 12:30 bus from Linton, arriving back at 13:02 **Cost:** £5.70

SAT. 2ND FEB.: RAMBLING THE COUNTRYSIDE OF PRIDE AND PREJUDICE *Welwyn to St Albans* (23 km / 14½ miles)

Contact: Alex

We start this ramble by passing through Sherrardspark Wood towards Lemsford Nature Reserve and one of England's finest stately homes, Bocket Hall (the owner's infamous wife introduced the waltz to England and had an affair with the poet Lord Byron). We then walk from Symondshyde Great Wood towards the desolate Nomansland Common, where the 17th-century highwaywoman (the "Wicked Lady") preyed on lonely ramblers, and where an epic battle during the War of the Roses was fought. We then walk on the Hertfordshire Way until we get into the cathedral city of St Albans, where we can stop for a pint (or five) at the oldest pub in Britain. We may also have time to explore some of the Roman remains and visit the cathedral before catching the bus back.

Meet: 09:10 at the Rail Station for the 09:30 train to Welwyn North

Return: 18:50 bus from St Albans, then 19:27 train from Hatfield, arriving back at 20:27

Cost: £15.90, or £10.50 with a railcard, for the train, plus about £3.50 for the bus

****SUNDAY 3RD FEB.: PANCAKES AND FENS** *Waterbeach to Cambridge* (6 miles / 10 km) *Contact: Susan*

This ramble will follow the same route as October's Freshers' Ramble, in the opposite direction and on the opposite side of the river. Crossing the River Cam at Waterbeach, we shall make our way through fields of fenland (and the villages of Horningsea and Fen Ditton) as we trace the path of the winding Cam back into Cambridge. Once there, all ramblers will be invited to a local kitchen to prepare a sweet pancake snack in what promises to be the tastiest end to a ramble all term. Once we have indulged in our fill of pancakes, we will hold the Annual General Meeting and Committee elections.

Meet: 12:45 at the Rail Station for the 13:05 train to Waterbeach

Return: Back in City Centre by 16:30 **Cost:** £2.50, or £1.65 with a railcard; the pancakes will be free

SUNDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY, 6 PM: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Rambling Club will change over its Committee during the coming term. This is your chance to become more involved with the club! Please contact Susan or one of the other committee members to find out what being on the committee entails; it is generally low-commitment and very fun! If you would like to stand for a position or if you would like to attend, please contact Susan beforehand and she will let you know the venue.

SATURDAY, 9TH FEB.: "HILLS AND HERITAGE OF THE CHILTERN" *Flitwick to Harlington* 16 mi. / 26 km *Contact: Matthew*

After a coach ride to Bedford, we will make a short rail journey south to the town of Flitwick, named for the river Flitt. We will walk through the Flitwick Moor nature reserve on our way to Flitton, where we can visit the de Grey mausoleum, which houses 17 monuments from the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries. Access to the mausoleum is free of charge, and a ten-minute audio guide is available on the English Heritage website.

Leaving Flitton, we will walk around the edge of Wrest Park Gardens, hopefully with impressive views of Wrest Park House, home of the de Grey family for nearly 700 years. Next we head south to Barton Hills nature reserve, part of the Chiltern range of hills. We will descend steeply into the village of Barton-le-Clay, then climb again to Sharpenhoe Clappers, an impressive chalk escarpment crowned with the remains of an iron age hill fort. Finally we continue west through Sundon Hills Country Park and back to the railway at Harlington.

****SUNDAY, 10TH FEB.: "TEMPTING FATE!"** Harlow Mill to Bishop's Stortford (7.5 miles/12km) Contact: Pete

Navigation should be straightforward on this route – we will keep the river Stort in view as it snakes through the Hertfordshire countryside. From the train we will head into Harlow Marshes and pass the first of eight locks which allow narrowboats to navigate the river. After the small town of Sawbridgeworth we will return to the countryside, passing two nature reserves and relics from the riverside granaries and malshouses which once supplied London. We will catch the train home from the historic town of Bishop's Stortford.

Meet: 12.30 at the Rail Station for the 12.51 train to Harlow Mill

Return: 17.12 train, arriving back in Cambridge at 17.43 **Cost:** £12.80 (£8.45 with a railcard)

SATURDAY 16TH FEB.: "GUIDED TO PASTURES NEW" Sawtry to Old Hurst (12.5 miles / 20 km) Contact: Simon

On this ramble, we use the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway to visit an area north of Huntingdon previously unexplored by the club. From the village of Sawtry, we cross Sawtry Fen, then head south into more undulating territory, passing the disused medieval St. Andrew's Church in Wood Walton. We then continue along the edge of Wennington Wood and through the villages of Kings Ripton and Broughton to finish in Old Hurst.

Meet: 09:30 at the Bus Station for the 09:45 bus to Sawtry

Return: 17:04 bus from Old Hurst, arriving back at 18:10 **Cost:** £5.70

SAT. 23RD FEB.: "POSH LEAFY SUBURBIA BY THE RIVER THAMES" Hammersmith circular (8 mi. / 13 km) Contact: Geoffrey

From Hammersmith tube station we head south to the River Thames past the Michelin-starred River Kitchen Restaurant. We then walk along the Thames to Chelsea, one of the most expensive areas of London and the UK, and known for the Chelsea bun. We will have lunch by the Thames at Chelsea. We then turn away from the river and head to Pimlico and Belgravia, passing some grand mansions. Finally we head west back to Hammersmith along Kensington High Street, passing Kitchen W8, another well-known Michelin-starred restaurant. We go past the offices of Winton Capital, one of Europe's largest hedge funds.

Meet: 09:55 at the Rail Station for the 10:15 train to London King's Cross

Return: 16:15 train from London King's Cross, arriving back at 17:02 **Cost:** £22.00, or £14.50 with a railcard

SUNDAY 24TH FEB.: "MOUNTAINEERING: ESSEX STYLE" Audley End to Elsenham (11mi. / 18 km) Contact: David

We begin our walk at Audley End base camp. Having said goodbye to loved ones and prepared ourselves to leave behind our earthly possessions, we head south, climbing the first valley. We reach the first ridge and, leaving a supply depot, prepare to descend into Debden Valley. Forty metres below, we encounter Debden Water, an icy cold mountain stream which we will carefully follow, avoiding falling down its banks. After a majestic waterfall and high altitude dam, we again begin the ascent, this time to Mole Hall, the highest point on our expedition. Surveying the view, we traverse on, dipping below the ridge line shortly before we summit Henham; at this point, our trip becomes rather dangerous. Many alpinists, exulting in their successful climb, become lax and careless on the short drop into Elsenham and are swallowed up by crevasses. We shall thus carefully return to the train line, having seen sights equalled (it is said) only by the Himalayas.

Meet: 09.10 at the Rail Station for the 09.32 train to Audley End

Return: 16.51 train, arriving back in Cambridge at 17.22 **Cost:** £8.70, or £5.80 with railcard

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH: "OUTING TO ICKWORTH" Bury Circular (9 miles / 14 km) Contact: Heidi

We wander through Bury St Edmunds, passing its numerous churches and 11th-century cathedral, then continue to Hardwick. We continue through the countryside to the National Trust property of Ickworth, a Georgian Italianate palace situated in 70 acres of gardens (including an 18th-century rotunda) and a 13th-century deer park. The remainder of the day will be spent exploring Ickworth house and gardens, before returning to Bury St Edmunds for the return train.

Meet: 08:20 at the Rail Station for the 08:44 train to Bury St Edmunds **Return:** 16:57 train back to Cambridge, arriving at 17:39

Cost: £10.10 (£7.00 with railcard), plus £10.40 for entry to Ickworth (free for National Trust members).

SAT. 9TH MARCH: "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE CROMER" Sheringham to Cromer (11miles/18km) Contact: Pete

After leaving Sheringham on the Norfolk Coastal Path our first point of reference will be Beeston Hill, which offers great views back out to sea. We will ascend the highest point in Norfolk, Beacon Hill, before making our way into the town of Cromer, a Victorian favourite which hosted Oscar Wilde, Winston Churchill and many others. Depending on the tide, we will either walk along the beach or follow a cliff-top route to Overstrand, and explore the village and lighthouse before returning to Cromer for the train home.

Meet: 08.55 at the Rail Station for the 09.12 train

Return: 17.00 train, arriving back in Cambridge at 19.39 **Cost:** £16.60 (£10.95 with a railcard)

SUN. 10 MARCH: "HIGH UPON THE HILLS OF HERTFORDSHIRE" Welwyn Garden City to Hitchin (14 mi. /22 km) Contact: David

Leaving Welwyn, we head west through Sherrardspark Wood and along an abandoned railway. We then turn towards Hitchin, heading first to the sleepy village of Ayot St Lawrence where G. B. Shaw lived for nearly half a century. Continuing on, we pass the Kimpton Mill, still in operation over two centuries after construction. Our path then wends its way past what is thought to be the birthplace of the late Queen Mother and later a church used by both the Templars and Hospitallers. This brings our wander across the hills to an end as we come into Hitchin.

Meet: 09.10 at the Rail Station for the 09.28 train to Welwyn Garden City

Return: 17.54 train, arriving back in Cambridge at 18.33 **Cost:** £16.40 (£11.00 with a railcard)

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