

# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Lent 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](http://www.srcf.ucam.org/curac)

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January**      “While I was going to St Ives”      *St Ives Circular*      7.5 miles / 12 km      *Contact: David*

We start in the old market town of St Ives, famous for its most infamous inhabitant, Oliver Cromwell, its medieval bridge complete with a chapel, and its cameo in a well known nursery rhyme. We leave on a lazy stroll along the Ouse Valley Way, passing through the picturesque villages of Houghton, Hemingford Abbots and Hemingford Grey, before finally returning through the lovely, pastoral Hemingford Meadow.

**Meet:** 12:30 at the Drummer Street bus station (Bay 12) for the 12:45 bus to St Ives

**Return:** 17:30 bus from St Ives, arriving back at 18:07

**Cost:** £6

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January**      “On Safari”      *Amphill to Bow Brickhill*      15 miles / 24 km      *Contact: Matthew*

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 arrive at Woburn Safari Park, where we'll hopefully catch a free glimpse of some exotic fauna from a public footpath along the boundary fence. Continuing west across Aspley Heath, we reach a high plateau with views across Milton Keynes before descending steeply to Bow Brickhill station.

**Meet:** 08:15 at Parkside coach stop (bay 16 on the edge of Parkers Piece) for the 08:30 X5 coach to Bedford

**Return:** 16:54 train from Bow Brickhill to Bedford, then 17:56 coach to Cambridge, arriving back at 19:10

**Cost:** Three components: coach fare £7.50 for students (bring ID), otherwise £9.80; rail fare £3.70 for railcard holders, otherwise £5.60; bus fare about £4.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**      “Hills and Horses”      *Dullingham to Newmarket*      13 miles / 20 km      *Contact: David*

Our trek through the homeland of East Anglian horse racing begins in the village of Dullingham. We follow our path across the gently rolling landscape, passing through little woods and villages, while the stables and studs grow ever more densely packed as we start to near Newmarket. At the small hamlet of Kirtling, we encounter Tudor gatehouses and a rural churchyard, surrounded by sheep. And on the final approach to the station, our path commands sweeping views of north eastern Cambridgeshire.

**Meet:** 10:55 at the train station for the 11:12 train to Dullingham

**Return:** 18:01 train from Newmarket, arriving back at 18:25

**Cost:** £6.90 (£4.60 with a rail card)

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

To Be Confirmed

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February**      “Through rolling hills, hidden valleys and Debden Park”      *Newport to Audley End*      8 miles / 13 km      *Contact: Oscar*

Leaving Newport we will follow tracks over open hilltops and through woodland to Debden Park, an area of meadows by a lake and church. We will continue along the hidden valley of Debden Water, pass high open arable fields and follow a wooded stream towards Audley End. The landscape will be varied and easy with views of surrounding rolling hills.

**Meet:** 13:05 at the train station for the 13:21 train to Newport

**Return:** 16:51 train from Audley End, arriving back at 17:10

**Cost:** £6.90 (£4.55 with a rail card or £3.45 with a groupsave)

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**      “Five Miles From Anywhere No Hurry”      *Wicken to Ely*      8 miles / 13 km      *Contact: David*

Starting from Reach, we inspect the end of the Devil's Dyke, an immense Anglo-Saxon earthwork stretching kilometres. We then head up Reach Lode to Upware, where we stop for a late lunch in the “Five Miles From Anywhere No Hurry Inn”. We then walk downstream along the Cam and the Great Ouse for a little while, through the unique landscape of the fens, before we finally turn aside and end at Stretham.

**Meet:** 13:10 at the Drummer St bus station (bay 9) for the 13:25 bus to Reach

**Return:** 18:05 bus from Stretham, arriving back at 18:44

**Cost:** £6

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March****“Pancake Ramble 2014”***Cambridge Circular 7.5 miles / 12 km Contact: David*

This is the much-anticipated Annual Pancake Ramble, which takes place just before Mardi Gras/Pancake Day. Starting at Great St Mary's Church in the City Centre, we shall take the familiar route to Grantchester through the meadows and along the meandering River Granta. From there we follow the less-trodden path to the village of Barton, and from thence to Coton. After a loop around Coton Countryside Reserve, we will stop at a flat in the modern West Cambridge Site to enjoy a home-cooked pancake feast. It is a short walk back into the City Centre from there.

**Meet:** 12:00 outside Great St Mary's Church in the City Centre

**Return:** To West Cambridge Site by 16:00

**Cost:** Free; pancake meal included

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March****“The Rupert Brooke / Old Church Walk”***Shelford to Cambridge 13 miles / 20.5 km Contact: Jason*

On this ramble, we not only walk in the footsteps of Rupert Brooke, but we also explore the rivalry between the Great and the Little Shelfordians. Our outward journey is only a five minute train ride costing a whopping £1.85 with a rail card. Upon arrival in Shelford, we walk through the town to explore its large and impressive church, which was rebuilt in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It has a fine vaulted roof and internal gargoyles. Its mural of the Last Judgment depicts the devils dragging away the condemned. We then proceed west along the River Cam to Little Shelford, Hauxton, and Haslingfield before turning northward towards Grantchester. This takes us along the paths that Rupert Brooke made famous. The way is very flat, but features attractive open fields and views of the river. We also explore one of the oldest Norman churches in Cambridgeshire in Hauxton. When we arrive in Grantchester around 5pm, those who are interested can stop for a tippie or a quick Sunday dinner at the Rupert Brooke pub, before proceeding across Grantchester meadow and back into Cambridge. For those eager to get back to Cambridge they can simply walk across the Meadow and be home before 6pm. Including a drink or dinner, it should be a leisurely whole day affair getting back to our homes in central Cambridge around 7:30 or 8.

**Meet:** 12:30 at the Train Station for the 12:51 to Shelford

**Return:** Arriving back before 18:00 without drinks or (with drinks/dinner) before 20:00

**Cost:** £2 for transport, possibly more for drinks or dinner in Grantchester

***The Rambling Club Committee:***

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