

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Michaelmas Term 2009

Welcome to the Rambling Club. 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 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.

We also hold **weekly pub meets**; details of these are given in the weekly email sent to the mailing list. This is a good way to meet fellow walking enthusiasts, and everyone is welcome, whether you have been on a ramble or not!

<p>Saturday 17th October: <i>“Freshers’ Ramble 2009”</i> Cambridge to Waterbeach (10 km / 6 miles) Contact: Steven <i>This is a gentle afternoon stroll along the River Cam, ideal both for new members who want to learn more about the club and meet some fellow walking enthusiasts as well as for existing members who want to swap stories of their summer travels. After the walk we’ll stop briefly at the pub in Waterbeach before catching the train back to Cambridge.</i> Meet: 2pm on the Quayside next to Magdalene Bridge Return: 17:35 train from Waterbeach, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:44 Cost: £2.60, or £1.70 with a railcard [Single from Waterbeach]</p>	<p>Sunday 18th October: <i>“Republic of the Fens Reprise”</i> Swaffham Prior to Lode (16 km / 10 miles) Contact: Mary Jeddere-Fisher <i>After admiring its two churches in one churchyard, we leave Swaffham Prior and walk to the village of Reach, then up the aptly named Straight Drove to the hamlet of Upware, which in the mid 19th Century was proclaimed the Republic of Upware, and is home to the “Five Miles From Anywhere - No Hurry!” pub (which once upon a time had the slightly more normal name of the Lord Nelson). Leaving Upware, we walk along the River Cam, then along Lug Fen Drove to Lode, home to Anglesey Abbey, a former priory set in impressive grounds, now owned by the National Trust.</i> Meet: 10:10 at the bus station for the 10:25 bus to Swaffham Prior Return: 16:15 bus from Lode, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:39 Cost: £5 for the bus fare [DayRiderPlus ticket]</p>
<p>Saturday 24th October: <i>“English Heritage Tour”</i> Audley End to Elsenham (21 km / 13 miles) Contact: Helen <i>We return to one of the rambling club’s favourite areas for a walk which passes two properties looked after by English Heritage: Audley End (a grand stately home) and Prior’s Hall barn (a medieval barn). Along the way we’ll also pass three churches, a waterfall and lots of woodland. We’ll also cross a contour line about 75 times - so if you’re already bored of the dead flat fens around Cambridge this might give you some welcome relief!</i> Meet: 09:35 at the train station for the 9:51 train to Audley End Return: 15:52 train from Elsenham, arriving in Cambridge at 16:21 Cost: £7.90, or £5.20 with a railcard [Return to Elsenham]</p>	<p>Sunday 25th October: <i>“Sloe Gathering Ramble”</i> Cambridge circular Contact: Gillian <i>Our first gathering ramble of the year! Today we’ll be on the look out for sloes (which look a lot like plums), as we walk along the river Cam toward Grantchester. Apparently sloes are best picked after the first frost, so this should be prime gathering time! If all goes to plan, we’ll use the sloes to make sloe gin, and possibly sloe jam, depending on how adventurous we’re feeling afterwards.</i> Meet: 10:00 outside the main entrance to St John’s College Return: Mid-afternoon Cost: Free!</p>
<p>Saturday 31st October: <i>“On Safari”</i> Amphill to Bow Brickhill (22 km / 14 miles) Contact: Matthew <i>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.</i> 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 from Bow Brickhill to Bedford, then 17:45 coach to Cambridge, arriving back at 18:55 Cost: £13-£17 depending on railcard and student status</p>	<p>Sunday 1st November: <i>“Traces of the Fens”</i> Cottenham to Histon (13 km / 8 miles) Contact: Steven <i>Today we’ll be exploring the countryside to the north of Cambridge. From Cottenham we follow the New Cut water channel to the village of Rampton, and then take Reynold’s Drove to Longstanton. Here we pick up the Pathfinder footpath that takes us on to Oakington, before making our way via Westwick and Meadow Farm to Histon for the bus home.</i> Meet: 11:15 at the St Andrew’s Street Stop S4 (corner of St Andrew’s Street and Emmanuel Street, note change from usual meeting place) for the 11:30 Citi7 bus to Cottenham Return: 16:19 bus from Histon, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:42 Cost: £5 for the bus fare [DayRiderPlus ticket]</p>
<p>Tuesday 3rd November: <i>Meal Out at the Tram Depot, 7pm</i> Contact: Steven We’re planning to hold this term’s meal out at the Tram Depot pub on Dover Street (off East Road). Meet just outside the pub at 7pm.</p>	
<p>Sat 7th November: <i>“Saxon Walls, Roman remains, Castles and Horses”</i> Burwell to Dullingham (18 km / 11 miles) Contact: David <i>Starting from Burwell we pass the foundations of a medieval castle and then walk to Reach, which was once a small Roman port. From there, we get on the beginning of the Devil’s Dyke, a 6th century Anglo-Saxon defensive dyke and one of the best preserved fortified lines in the country. We will walk along the top of dyke, which is two storeys high in many places, and look across a landscape full of Roman and Saxon remains and, depending on the day, the horses of the Newmarket racing track. We follow the dyke for its entire 8 mile length and at its end walk through the villages of Stetchworth and Dullingham to get the train at Dullingham.</i> Meet: 09:15 at the bus station for the 09:30 bus to Burwell Return: 15:20 train from Dullingham, arriving back in Cambridge at 15:41 Cost: £4 for the bus [Single to Burwell], plus £3.80 (or £2.50 with a railcard) for the train [Dullingham to Cambridge]</p>	<p>Sunday 8th November: <i>“Drains and Drovers”</i> Ely Circular (19 km / 12 miles) Contact: Mary Flook <i>From Ely station we will wander out into the Fens, passing by the cathedral and sundry other ancient edifices. Without the need for flying broomsticks, we’ll visit Witchford and then set off on a tour of the local farmland -using the drains and droves as suitable landmarks and hoping for kind weather that means their properties will be unnecessary! Skirting round Coveney and Little Downham, we will head back into Ely - hopefully early enough that anyone wishing to visit the cathedral in passing may do so.</i> Meet: 09:50 at the station for the 10:05 train to Ely Return: 15:17 train from Ely arriving back in Cambridge at 15:36. Cost: £4, or £2.65 with a railcard [Return to Ely] Entry to the cathedral (optional): £5.50</p>

For photos and more information about the club, have a look at our website: www.srcf.ucam.org/curac

<p>Sat 14th November: “Towards the next County on the Varsity Way” Shepreth to Ashwell & Morden (19 km / 12 miles) Contact: Geoffrey <i>From Shepreth railway station we head to Meldreth to admire the very busy A10 trunk road. We then join the Ickniel Way Path to Litlington for some lunch. After going to Litlington we head to Steeple Morden, the last village in the county, and then to the rather remote Ashwell & Morden Station for the train back to Cambridge. This walk will take in the rolling countryside of South Cambridgeshire and the pretty villages along the way to Ashwell.</i> Meet: 09:40 at the train station for the 09:55 train to Shepreth Return: 16:00 train from Ashwell & Morden, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:27 Cost: £6.50, or £4.30 with a railcard [Return to Ashwell & Morden]</p>	<p>Sunday 15th November: “Ickniel Way Circular” Linton Circular (9 km / 6 miles) Contact: Mary Jeddere-Fisher <i>Taking the bus from Cambridge we will head to Linton. Picking up the Ickniel Way we will climb to one of the highest points in the area. We will then return through Hadstock, past a church, and then on to a windmill before returning to Linton.</i> Meet: 09:55 at the bus station for the 10:10 bus to Linton Return: 14:30 bus from Linton, arriving back in Cambridge at 15:02 Cost: £5 for the bus fare [DayRiderPlus ticket]</p>
<p>Thursday 19th November: “Victoria & Laurence’s NIGHT HIKE” <i>You’ve been to Paris, been to Rome, but have you been to Barton by moonlight? Seen the fabled Grantchester illuminations? The university radio telescopes by starlight? See all these things (possibly) and more (maybe) with the ex-presidential travelling circus night hike. (Led by ex-presidents that is. All ramblers welcome). As this is a NIGHT HIKE it may well be DARK so all ramblers should bring a TORCH. Also bring a small toy (they don’t get out much and anyone with a toy gets FREE cake).</i> Meet: 7pm by Great St Mary’s Church (west end, opposite the Senate House) Return: To the Granta (Newnham Road) by closing time Cost: Free!</p>	<p>Cambridge Circular (14 km / 9 miles) Contact: Steven</p>
<p>Saturday 21st November: “In Search of Chestnuts” Cambridge Circular Contact: Gillian <i>A local walk in the countryside around Cambridge, where, if we’re lucky, we’ll be able to find some chestnuts while we’re out. Chestnuts taste great roasted, so if we find any, we’ll have a go at cooking them when we get back.</i> Meet: 10:00 outside the main entrance to St John’s College Return: Mid-afternoon Cost: Free!</p>	<p>Sunday 22nd November: “A Sandy Stroll” Sandy to Biggleswade (18 km / 11 miles) Contact: David <i>Starting from Sandy in Bedfordshire we join the Greensand Ridge Walk, heading through the villages of Beeston and Northill. We then pass through Palmer’s Wood to Old Warden. After lunch we walk through Warden Warren and east to the village of Broom, continuing until we reach Biggleswade for the train home.</i> Meet: 09:40 at the train station for the 09:55 train to Sandy (via Hitchin) Return: 16:17 train from Biggleswade (via Hitchin), arriving back in Cambridge at 17:27. Cost: £12, or £7.90 with a railcard [Return to Sandy]</p>
<p>Saturday 28th November: “Exploring the Lark Valley” Bury St Edmunds Circular (16 km / 10 miles) Contact: Barney <i>Today’s ramble takes us to the Suffolk cathedral town of Bury St Edmunds, named after King Edmund the Martyr who was buried here in 869 AD in the now ruined abbey. After making our way through the town past the abbey and the cathedral, as well as the ‘Pillar of Salt’ (the first internally illuminated road sign in the country), we’ll be exploring the area to the south of Bury St Edmunds, including the valley of the River Lark. The route takes in part of the St Edmund Way, a long-distance path running right across Suffolk.</i> Meet: 09:25 at the train station for the 09:43 train to Bury St Edmunds Return: 15:55 train from Bury St Edmunds, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:41 Cost: £11.30 train fare or £7.45 with a railcard [Return to Bury St Edmunds]</p>	<p>Sunday 29th November: “Guided or Unguided: Walking in a Watery Wonderland” Fen Drayton Lakes (or Fenstanton) to St Ives (16 km / 10 miles) Contact: Helen <i>We hope to try out the new guided busway from Cambridge to St Ives, getting off at the stop in the middle of the Fen Drayton Lakes nature reserve, provided, of course, that the busway is open by then! More details will be sent out by email nearer the time, to confirm our mode of transport, and when and where to meet. If it turns out we have to travel by “normal” bus, we’ll have a short stroll to reach the lakes. From here, we’ll walk along the River Ouse and pass through several villages to reach Houghton, where we cross the river. We pass Houghton Mill, a working 18th Century watermill, then follow the Ouse Valley Way to the ancient market town of St Ives. There will be the option of some well-earned tea and cake in the River Tea Rooms before we catch the (un)guided bus home.</i></p>
<p>Sat 5th Dec: “From Constable Country to Container Shipping” Manningtree to Shotley Gate (26 km / 16 miles) Contact: Matthew <i>Our last ramble of the term takes us to the mouth of the River Stour, on the Essex and Suffolk coast. Soon after leaving Manningtree, we pass the picturesque 18th century buildings of Flatford Mill, immortalised as a subject of John Constable’s paintings. Continuing downstream from the mill, the Stour estuary widens rapidly to a mile-wide tidal channel. As the tide recedes from its peak shortly after 1pm, we follow the Stour and Orwell Walk around the estuary towards Harwich Harbour. We finish at Shotley Gate, with stark industrial views of Felixstowe Port, the UK’s busiest container terminal.</i> Meet: 08:00 at the railway station for the 08:12 train to Manningtree, changing at Ely and Ipswich. Return: 16:12 bus from Shotley Gate to Ipswich, then 17:16 train to Cambridge, arriving back at 18:41. Cost: Rail fare £17.10, or £11.30 with a railcard (return from Cambridge to Ipswich, and single from Ipswich to Manningtree), plus £2.70 bus fare.</p>	<p>Sunday 6th December: (No Ramble). Have a good Christmas vacation and we hope to see you again next term!</p>

The Rambling Club is brought to you by:

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For photos and more information about the club, have a look at our website: www.srcf.ucam.org/curac