

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Michaelmas Term 2010

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 at 8 pm on Fridays during term-time, when fellow ramblers will gather for tales from the trail!



We will lead many short half-day walks for those who can't spare a whole day rambling – look out for this sign.

October

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| <p>9th “Freshers’ Ramble to Waterbeach”</p> <p>Cambridge to Waterbeach (10 km / 6 miles) Contact: Steven</p> <p>HALF DAY</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Meet: 2 pm 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>10th “Following the Hoofprints of Medieval Kings”</p> <p>Bishop's Stortford to Sawbridgeworth (17 km / 11 miles) Contact: Simon</p> <p>For those preferring to start the term with a longer walk, this ramble visits the rolling wooded countryside of north-west Essex. After a short walk east from Bishop's Stortford, we enter Hatfield Forest, a medieval royal hunting forest, and stop there for lunch next to the lake. We then continue south through the forest before heading west to Sawbridgeworth, ending with a short stretch along the River Stort.</p> <p>Meet: 11:15 at the railway station for the 11:32 train to Bishop's Stortford Return: 17:34 train from Sawbridgeworth, arriving back in Cambridge at 18:19 Cost: £9.70, or £6.40 with a railcard [Return to Sawbridgeworth]</p> |
| <p>16th “Medieval Halls and Healing Springs”</p> <p>Bar Hill Circular (14.5km/ 9 miles) Contact: Anitha</p> <p>Starting from Bar Hill, we first walk to the village of Boxworth, via Lolworth and Yarmouth Farm. From Boxworth, we follow the footpath to Knapwell to have our lunch at Overhall Grove. There we will visit the Red Well, whose water was supposedly responsible for several miraculous healings in the Middle Ages! In the afternoon, we will follow the Thorofare Lane to the beautiful medieval village of Childerley and will pass by Childerley Hall, Moat and Chapel before walking through Dry Drayton en route back to Bar Hill.</p> <p>Meet: 10:25 at the Bridge Street bus stop (opposite Café Rouge) for the 10.39 bus to Bar Hill Return: 16:40 bus from Bar Hill, arriving back in Cambridge (Bridge St) at 16:57 Cost: £3.40 [Stagecoach Dayrider]</p> | <p>17th “Freshers’ Ramble to Grantchester”</p> <p>Cambridge Circular (9 km / 5.5 miles) Contact: Susan</p> <p>HALF DAY</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 gardens, 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 footpath along 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>23rd “Outing to the Ouse”</p> <p>St Neots Circular (11km/ 7 miles) Contact: Anitha</p> <p>HALF DAY</p> <p>We head east out of St. Neots past Monks Hardwick and Fox Holes and then walk north towards Toseland. From here we turn west again to Great Paxton before heading back into St. Neots down the Great Ouse river.</p> <p>Meet: 12:55 at Parkside bus station for the 13:10 bus to St Neots (<i>NOT Drummer Street!</i>) Return: 16:50 bus from St Neots, arriving in Cambridge at 17:25 Cost: £5.90 for bus fare (£4.45 with coachcard)</p> | <p>24th “Breckland Antiquities”</p> <p>Thetford to Brandon (14.5 km / 9 miles) Contact: Matthew</p> <p>This ramble takes us across Thetford Forest, the largest lowland pine forest in Britain and one of the Rambling Club's favourite destinations. But before we enter the forest, we will visit the 25-metre-high Castle Hill in Thetford, an impressive Iron Age motte and bailey structure. Proceeding west along the Little Ouse river we head deep into the forest, soon reaching Thetford Warren Lodge, another defensive construction built circa 1400 by the Prior of Thetford. Eventually we emerge from the forest in the small town of Brandon, where we take the train home.</p> <p>Meet: 10:30 for the 10:46 train to Thetford Return: 15:55 train from Brandon, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:32 Cost: £10.00, or £6.60 with a railcard [Return to Thetford]</p> |
| <p>30th “Stour Estuary and the North Sea”</p> <p>Mistley - Harwich (22 km / 14 miles) Contact: Simon</p> <p>This term we return to the Stour Estuary, but following the opposite side as our walk there last year. From Mistley, we head east along the Essex Way, passing an RSPB reserve on the south shore of the estuary. We then turn southwards across the Harwich peninsula to reach the North Sea. Finally, we follow the sea into the historic port town of Harwich, where we will hopefully be able to get some fish and chips before the train home.</p> <p>Meet: 08:25 at the railway station for the 08:43 train to Mistley Return: 18:03 train from Harwich Town, arriving back in Cambridge at 20:40 Cost: £18.50, or £12.20 with a railcard [Return to Harwich Town]</p> | <p>31st “Halloween Night Hike: The Ghosts of the Minsden Chapel”</p> <p>Hitchin Circular (18 km/ 11 miles) Contact: Steven</p> <p>HALF DAY</p> <p>Leaving Hitchin along the River Purwell and Ash Brook we pass through the village of St Ippollyts on our way to the ruins of the 14th century Minsden Chapel, originally a resting stop for pilgrims and now said to be haunted by the ghosts of a monk, a murdered nun and the historian Reginald Hine as well as by the ringing of stolen bells and a glowing cross on the wall. We will then make our way through Hitch Wood and the village of Preston before returning to Hitchin via Tatmorehills Lane, Priory Park and Hitchin Hill. As this is a night hike, be sure to bring a torch and some food for dinner!</p> <p>Meet: 16.40 at the train station for the 16.56 train to Hitchin Return: 23.21 train from Hitchin, arriving back in Cambridge at 00.25 Cost: £9, or £5.95 with a railcard [Return to Hitchin]</p> |

November

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| <p>6th “Cambridge Commons” </p> <p>Cambridge to Cherry Hinton (8 km / 5 miles) Contact: Matthew</p> <p>This walk provides an opportunity to explore some of the outlying regions of the City of Cambridge, rarely seen by the student population. We begin on Bridge Street at Magdalene Bridge, following the Cam downstream past Midsummer Common and the boathouses. At Stourbridge Common we leave the river, and cross the railway next to the Leper Chapel, Cambridge's oldest surviving building. Next we turn south from Newmarket Road, passing the Abbey Stadium, home to Cambridge United Football Club. Skirting the edge of Coldham's Common, we reach the 'big' Sainsbury's on Coldham's Lane. Finally we walk alongside a series of flooded chalk pits to arrive on Cherry Hinton high street for the bus back to Cambridge city centre.</p> <p>Meet: 14:00 on the quayside next to Magdalene Bridge Return: C1 or C3 bus from Cherry Hinton, arriving back by 16:30 Cost: About £2 for the bus</p> | <p>7th “Into Thetford Forest”</p> <p>Brandon Circular (16 km / 10 miles) Contact: Susan</p> <p>From Brandon, we will head through Thetford Forest to the village of Weeting where we will examine the remains of a twelfth-century castle. We will then skirt along the edge of Grime's Graves Neolithic Flint Mine, passing yet deeper into the forest as we carry on. After a lunch stop at Santon Downham, we'll catch the Little Ouse Path, which will take us along the river back to Brandon.</p> <p>Meet: 10:30 at train station for the 10:46 train to Brandon Return: 16:55 train from Brandon, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:32 Cost: £9.90 (£6.55 with railcard) [Return to Brandon]</p> |
| <p>13th “Journey along the Great Ouse”</p> <p>St Neots to Huntingdon (16 km / 10 miles) Contact: Paul</p> <p>Starting in St Neots near the river we will be following the Ouse Valley way along the river all the way north to Huntingdon. After crossing the Ouse at the outskirts of St Neots we pass through Paxton Pits nature reserve and on to Buckden marina. Passing by Brampton we then leave the river at the outskirts of Huntingdon, giving us an opportunity to look at Nun's Bridge and Hichingbrooke house, before reaching the train station where we will catch the bus home.</p> <p>Meet: Parkside Bus Station at 9:20 for the 9:40 X5 to St Neots Return: 15:10 bus from Huntingdon, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:22 Cost: £5.20 [Stagecoach day rider plus]</p> | <p>14th “Sloe Gin Ramble” </p> <p>Kings Hedges to Waterbeach (6.5 km / 4 miles) Contact: Matthew</p> <p>Following the success of last year's sloe collecting expedition to Grantchester, we will again make some sloe gin using freshly picked blackthorn berries. This year our harvest will be from the north of the city, on the Akeman Street Roman road between Kings Hedges and Landbeach. Finishing our walk at Waterbeach, we will take a train back to Cambridge and go to a local kitchen for preparation of the gin infusion, which should be ready to drink after a few weeks. There will be an opportunity to buy gin en route.</p> <p>Meet: 13:05 at St Andrews Street bus stop S1, for the 13:15 C1 bus Return: 16:07 train from Waterbeach, arriving in Cambridge at 16:18 Cost: £2.60, or £1.70 with a railcard, plus bus fare</p> |
| <p>20th “To London’s Third Airport the Scenic Way”</p> <p>Audley End to Stansted Airport (29 km / 18 miles) Contact: Geoffrey</p> <p>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 the man made Landscape around Stansted Airport.</p> <p>Meet: 9:30 at the railway station for the 09:51 train to Audley End Return: 16:25 train from Stansted Airport, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:58 Cost: £8.40, or £5.55 with a railcard [Return to Stansted Mountfitchet]</p> | <p>21st “West Cambridge and the Coton Reserve” </p> <p>Hardwick to Cambridge (13 km / 8 miles) Contact: Paul</p> <p>Hopping off the bus at Hardwick, we walk south through the heart of the village and past its church and moat remains before heading east on the Port Way. After safely skirting the edge of the local rifle range, we reach the village of Coton where we will spend some time exploring the Coton Countryside Reserve. After enjoying this new reserve we will cross the M11 and pass the West Cambridge site and the New Cavendish labs. We then continue into town passing over the Cam and ending our walk outside Great Saint Mary's Church.</p> <p>Meet: Drummer Street Bus stop at 9:40 for the 9:57 Citi 4 bus to Hardwick Return: Great St Mary's, Cambridge, around 2:30 Cost: £3.40 [Stagecoach dayrider]</p> |
| <p>27th “A Lark in the Park”</p> <p>Kennett to Bury St Edmunds (29 km / 18 miles) Contact: Steven</p> <p>From Kennett station we will make our way across Kentford Heath and through some woodland to the villages of Herringswell and Tuddenham. From here the Icknield Way and the Lark Valley Path takes us through Cravenham Fen Heath Nature Reserve, over Temple Bridge and on to West Stow Country Park where we pass a reconstructed Anglo-Saxon village. Continuing on the Lark Valley Path and the St Edmund Way we skirt the King's Forest and then follow the River Lark into Bury St Edmunds for the train home.</p> <p>Meet: 08:25 at the railway station for the 08.43 train to Kennett Return: 16:55 train from Bury St Edmunds, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:39 Cost: £11.30 for the train, or £7.45 with a railcard [Return to Bury St Edmunds]</p> | <p>28th “Winter Wander in the Fens”</p> <p>Ely circular (16 km / 10 miles) Contact: Simon</p> <p>After following the River Great Ouse out of Ely, we walk east along the Hereward Way, named after the 11th-century leader of the local resistance to the Norman Conquest. After passing through the village of Prickwillow, we follow the River Lark for short distance, before returning to the Great Ouse. As the light fades across the bleak Fens, the illumination of Ely Cathedral will provide a beacon, guiding us to the warmth of one of Ely's tea shops. You may wish to stay in Ely for the Advent Procession service which will be taking place in the cathedral at 6pm.</p> <p>Meet: 10:30 at the railway station for the 10:46 train to Ely Return: 17:12 train from Ely, arriving back to Cambridge at 17:32 (or later if you stay for the Advent service) Cost: £4.00, or £2.65 with a railcard [Return to Ely]</p> |

December

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| <p>4th – 5th “Tour de Trigs”</p> <p>This year the Rambling Club will again be taking part in the national Tour de Trigs walking and navigation competition, a 50-mile continuous walk though the countryside of North Oxfordshire, South Warwickshire and South Northampton completed in under 24 hours in teams of three. More details and sign-up information will be sent out by email, but if you would like to take part please be sure to let Steven know by 24th October at the latest so that we can sort out teams, entry forms and transport.</p> |
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The CURAC Committee:

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

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

Steven Smith: sgs30@cam.ac.uk, (vice president, secretary, webmaster)

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