

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Michaelmas 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. The pace of our walks is generally easy, as our main aim is to relax. There is no need to sign up in advance for our walks – just turn up at the time and place given. Your only expense is the bus or train fare, plus our £1 annual membership fee. Please bring a **packed lunch** (except for half-day walks) and a **bottle of water**. Strong shoes or boots, waterproofs, and warm clothing are also recommended.

All are welcome to our **pub meets** at 8 pm on Thursdays during term time (starting 6th October), when fellow ramblers will gather for tales from the trail! Please see the weekly e-mail newsletter or check the website for details of the venue.

For more information, and photos of past events, check out our website at www.srcf.ucam.org/curac

<p>Saturday 8th October “Freshers' Ramble to Waterbeach”</p> <p><i>Cambridge to Waterbeach</i> 10 km / 6 miles Contact: Steven</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, and for existing members who want to swap stories of their summer travels. At the end of the walk we'll stop briefly at the pub in Waterbeach before catching the train back to Cambridge.</p> <p>Meet: 14:00 on the Quayside, next to Magdalene Bridge Return: 17:35 train from Waterbeach, arriving back at 17:44 Cost: £1.20</p>	<p>Sunday 9th October “Hills of Hertfordshire”</p> <p><i>Baldock to Stevenage</i> 19 km / 12 miles Contact: Simon</p> <p>After a loop to the north-east of Baldock we will stop for elevenses overlooking Weston Hills Tunnel, about which a sermon will be provided. We then follow the Hertfordshire Way southwards across rolling hills and wooded parkland. We will enter Stevenage on the north side, and pass through the Old Town, formerly a staging post on the Great North Road, on our way to the station.</p> <p>Meet: 09:40 at the train station for the 09:55 train to Baldock Return: 16:17 train from Stevenage, arriving back at 16:54 Cost: £11.00, or £7.25 with a railcard</p>
<p>Saturday 15th October “Nature Reserves, Naturism and Earls”</p> <p><i>Burnham Overy to Wells-next-the-Sea</i> 18 km / 11 miles Contact: Simon</p> <p>This walk in North Norfolk begins by passing through the Holkham National Nature Reserve, firstly skirting some salt marshes, then continuing along the dunes above Holkham Beach, which has featured in various films and TV programmes, and also has a naturist section. In the afternoon we will explore the grounds of Holkham Hall, home of the Earl of Leicester, before continuing to the harbour town of Wells-next-the-Sea for the bus home.</p> <p>Meet: 08:15 at the train station for the 08:35 train to King's Lynn, then the 09:30 bus to Burnham Overy Staithe Return: 16:10 bus from Wells-next-the-Sea, then 17:56 train from King's Lynn, arriving back at 18:44 Cost: £15.30, or £10.10 with a railcard</p>	<p>Sunday 16th October “Rambling to Grantchester”</p> <p><i>Cambridge circular</i> 9 km / 5½ miles Contact: Susan</p> <p>This easy afternoon stroll will take us to two tranquil villages just outside Cambridge. From Great St Mary's Church, we will head to the river, where we will pick up a path to take us behind the Botanic Gardens, and back to Trumpington Road, which leads to the village of that name. We'll then follow the winding country lane past Byron's Pool to Grantchester, where notable intellectuals of the early 20th century 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 back to Cambridge, via Newnham.</p> <p>Meet: 13:00 outside Great St Mary's Church Return: Back to the city centre by 17:00 Cost: Free!</p>
<p>Saturday 22nd October “Along the Greensand Ridge”</p> <p><i>Amphill to Sandy</i> 28 km / 17 miles Contact: Matthew</p> <p>Today's walk follows part of the Greensand Ridge walk, which runs for 40 miles across Bedfordshire. Heading east from Amphill, once home to Henry VIII's first wife, Katherine of Aragon, we pass through the village of Maulden, whose churchyard contains a 17th century mausoleum. Continuing through Clophill with its ruined church, we reach Chicksands Wood, one of the largest ancient woodlands in Bedfordshire. Oak timbers from the wood were used in the building of Ely Cathedral. We proceed northeast across rolling fields and further patches of woodland to reach the River Ivel at the Roman settlement of Sandy, where there will be an opportunity to visit Caesar's Camp, a nearby hill fort.</p> <p>Meet: 09:20 at Parkside coach stop 16, near the police station, for the 09:30 coach to Bedford (this is the X5 service towards Oxford) Return: 18:06 train from Sandy, then 18:25 coach from St Neots, arriving back at 19:00 Cost: About £15, or £12 with a student discount and railcard</p>	<p>Sunday 23rd October “The Deep South”</p> <p><i>Shepreth to Great Shelford</i> 13 km / 8 miles Contact: Valérie</p> <p>Right in the middle of the fields, on this short walk we'll see some small villages to the south of Cambridge: Shepreth, Foxton and Great Shelford. The ramble finishes at Great Shelford, from where you can take the train back to Cambridge. However, if the weather is nice or you feel like walking a bit more, you'll have the possibility to walk back to Cambridge following the DNA path.</p> <p>Meet: 09:40 at the train station for the 09:55 train to Shepreth Return: 14:12 train from Shelford, arriving back at 14:19 Cost: £6.40, or £4.25 with a railcard</p>
<p>Saturday 29th October “Across England's Smallest Historic County”</p> <p><i>Oakham to Stamford</i> 22 km / 14 miles Contact: Matthew</p> <p>After a quick visit to the 12th century Great Hall of Oakham Castle, we head east along the Hereward Way to join the northern shore of Rutland Water. Hopefully we will enjoy fine views across this reservoir, which is one of the largest artificial lakes in Europe, and is an important wildfowl sanctuary. After lunch on the side of the lake, we continue through Empingham and across fields into the Lincolnshire town of Stamford, which is home to numerous medieval stone buildings and churches.</p> <p>Meet: 08:40 for the 09:00 train to Oakham Return: 16:59 train from Stamford, arriving back at 18:16 Cost: £24.00, or £15.85 with a railcard</p>	<p>Monday 31st October – Halloween Night Hike “Uncovering the Ghosts of Hertfordshire”</p> <p><i>Knebworth to Hitchin</i> 18 km / 11 miles Contact: Steven</p> <p>On this most haunted of nights, we invite you to join us for a tour of some of Hertfordshire's dark and ghostly corners. We first visit the grounds of Knebworth House, haunted by a Yellow Boy whose appearance foretells a violent death. Later we will stop at 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. Finally, assuming we still have our lives and our sanity intact, we head north through the village of St Ippolytts to Hitchin. As this is a night hike, you may wish to bring a torch and some food for dinner. Dressing up in Halloween costume is encouraged but not essential!</p> <p>Meet: 17:40 at the train station for the 17:55 train to Knebworth Return: 23:50 train from Hitchin, arriving back at 00:29 Cost: £13.00, or £8.60 with a railcard</p>

<p>Saturday 5th November “Remember, Remember, the 5th of November”</p> <p><i>Stow-cum-Quy to Cambridge</i> 10 km / 6 miles <i>Contact: Steven</i></p> <p>To mark Guy Fawkes Night, today's ramble aims to finish on Midsummer Common in Cambridge in time for the city council's impressive firework display! Starting from the village of Stow-cum-Quy (whose name apparently means 'The stony or holy place next to the high ground where there are cows') we will head back towards Cambridge, passing through the village of Teversham and skirting around Cambridge Airfield to reach Cherry Hinton. We then cross Coldham's Common before arriving in central Cambridge where we aim to have dinner in a local pub before heading on to Midsummer Common to watch the fireworks which start at 7.30pm.</p> <p>Meet: 14:10 at the bus station for the 14:25 bus to Stow-cum-Quy Return: To Cambridge around 17:30 Cost: Approximately £3-4 for the bus. The fireworks are free although a £1 donation is suggested</p>	<p>Sunday 6th November “Crossing the Line”</p> <p><i>Blackheath to Central London</i> 19 km / 12 miles <i>Contact: Pete</i></p> <p>If you're itching to escape the Cambridge bubble, why not take the chance to visit the big city this weekend! We will start the ramble in Blackheath, and cross the wide-open heathland to reach Greenwich. We will stop for lunch near the Royal Observatory, the site of the Prime Meridian line denoting 0° longitude, which offers stunning views of the rest of the route. After passing the Cutty Sark, we will use the Greenwich Foot Tunnel to cross under the Thames and emerge north of the river. We will join the Docklands Light Railway for a swift journey through the Isle of Dogs to Canary Wharf. From here we will join the Thames Path, which will take us along the banks of the river past some of the Capital's most famous landmarks including Tower Bridge, and in to the heart of the City.</p> <p>Meet: 09:05 at the train station for the 09:20 train to London King's Cross Return: 18:12 from London King's Cross to Cambridge, arriving back at 19:01 Cost: £22.00, or £14.50 with a railcard</p>
<p>Saturday 12th November “Hemisphere Hopping”</p> <p><i>Somersham to Longstanton</i> 15 km / 9½ miles <i>Contact: Valérie</i></p> <p>Following a section of the “Pathfinder” long distance walk south from Somersham, starting on the Greenwich Meridian we'll spend the morning in the eastern hemisphere, visiting Colne and Bluntisham, before hopping over into the western hemisphere for the afternoon to visit a Benedictine Priory and 'Amen Corner.'</p> <p>Meet: 08:30 at the bus station for the 08:45 guided bus to Somersham Return: 14:44 bus from Longstanton, arriving back at 15:17 Cost: Approximately £6 for the bus</p>	<p>Sunday 13th November “Sloe Gin Ramble”</p> <p><i>Waterbeach to King's Hedges</i> 6½ km / 4 miles <i>Contact: Matthew</i></p> <p>This year we again offer you the opportunity to make sloe gin using freshly picked blackthorn berries. From Waterbeach, we'll head west to Landbeach, then along the Akeman Street Roman road where we'll collect our sloe harvest. From King's Hedges, in the northern suburbs of Cambridge, we will take a bus back to the city centre and go to a local kitchen for preparation of the gin infusion. The gin should be ready to drink after a few weeks. There will be an opportunity to buy gin in Cambridge at the end of the walk (bring ID if necessary).</p> <p>Meet: 12:50 for the 13:05 train to Waterbeach Return: 16:09 bus from King's Hedges, arriving back at 16:26 Cost: £2.40, or £1.60 with a railcard, for the train, plus about £2 for the bus</p>
<p>Saturday 19th November “To Paternoster Square – Part 1: The More Rural Part”</p> <p><i>Harlow to Enfield Lock</i> 19 km / 12 miles <i>Contact: Geoffrey</i></p> <p>From Harlow Town station we head south along the Lea Valley Park along the River Lea to the village of Lower Nazeing. This will be the last rural hamlet before the outer reaches of London. After Lower Nazeing we continue in the Lea Valley for lunch at Waltham Abbey next to the M25 and the outer limits of Greater London. We cross the very busy M25 near Waltham Cross, then cross the Lea Valley near Enfield. The M25 might even resemble a car park. This walk from rural Essex into the outer reaches of the London suburbs is the first part of a two-term walk. Join us next term for the second part, which will end up at the financial muscle of Paternoster Square, next to St Paul's Cathedral, walking past the Olympic Park in Stratford. There could even be a drink at Paternoster Square.</p> <p>Meet: 09:10 at the train station for the 09:32 train to Harlow Town Return: Bus from Enfield Lock, then 16:49 train from Enfield Chase, arriving back at 18:29 Cost: £15.00, or £9.90 with a railcard, for the train, plus £2.20 for the bus</p>	<p>Sunday 20th November “Celebrating Yule – Anglo-Saxon Style”</p> <p><i>Bury St Edmunds circular</i> 26 km / 16 miles <i>Contact: Simon</i></p> <p>This is your chance to visit the reconstructed Anglo-Saxon village at West Stow, which today is offering free entry as part of their annual Yule Fest. Leaving Bury St Edmunds on the Lark Valley Path, we follow the River Lark to Culford where we pass through the landscaped grounds of Culford School. We then rejoin the River Lark for a short section before arriving at West Stow Anglo-Saxon village, which according to their website will be offering "craft stalls, live traditional music and festive cheer," as well as free entry to the village, to mark the pagan winter festival of Yule. After our visit, we will return to Bury St Edmunds via the King's Forest and the villages of Ingham and Timworth. Please note that part of the return journey will be in darkness, so you may find it useful to bring a torch.</p> <p>Meet: 10:55 at the train station for the 11:12 train to Bury St Edmunds Return: 19:41 train from Bury St Edmunds, arriving back at 20:26 Cost: £9.20, or £6.10 with a railcard</p>
<p>Saturday 26th November “In the Footsteps of Heroes”</p> <p><i>Shepreth to Cambridge</i> 14 km / 9 miles <i>Contact: Pete</i></p> <p>On this afternoon ramble, we will explore some of the villages in the South Cambridgeshire countryside. We will take the same route as the final stretch of the epic Varsity March, an 81 mile continuous walk from Oxford to Cambridge. Thankfully, such stamina won't be required for this abridged version! From Shepreth, we will head north, skirting the wildlife park and crossing the Rhee, a tributary of the river Cam. We will pass through the picturesque villages of Barrington and Haslingfield on our way to Grantchester, where we join the river Cam itself. This will lead us into Cambridge city centre and Great St Mary's Church, the final destination of the Varsity March and this walk!</p> <p>Meet: 12:40 at the train station for the 12:55 train to Shepreth Return: To Cambridge by 17:00 Cost: £3.90 or £2.60 with a railcard</p>	<p>Sunday 27th November “Into Thetford Forest”</p> <p><i>Brandon circular</i> 16 km / 10 miles <i>Contact: Susan</i></p> <p>Today we will ramble through a variety of landscapes: through rural farmland, across shire-like hillocks, into forest woodland, and along the bank of a winding river. For added fun, will see a medieval castle and the site of a prehistoric flint mine along the way. From Brandon, we will head through Thetford Forest to the village of Weeting, where we will examine the remains of a twelfth-century noble residence. We'll then skirt the edge of Grime's Graves Neolithic Flint Mine. After lunch, we'll pass ever deeper into the forest. At Santon Downham, we'll join the Little Ouse Path, which will take us along the river back to Brandon. Time will probably allow for a stop at the village pub before catching our return train.</p> <p>Meet: 9:50 at train station for the 10:05 train to Brandon Return: 17:00 train from Brandon, arriving back at 18:15 Cost: £10.80, or £7.15 with a railcard</p>

The Rambling Club Committee:

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