

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Michaelmas Term 2012

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. 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. There is no need to sign up in advance for most of our walks — just turn up at the following places (unless otherwise stated): **Bus**: at the entrance to Drummer Street bus station, near the taxi rank. **Train**: in the main hall of Cambridge railway station.

All are welcome to our **pub meets** at 8pm on Thursdays during term time (starting 4th October) at The Granta on Newnham Road, when fellow ramblers will gather for tales from the trail!

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

Saturday 6th October "Freshers' Ramble to Waterbeach" <i>Cambridge to Waterbeach</i> 10 km / 6 miles Contact: Susan This is a gentle afternoon stroll along the River Cam, ideal for new members who want to learn more about the club and meet some fellow walking enthusiasts. Existing members are welcome to come and 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. Meet: 11:45 at the Quayside, next to Magdalene Bridge Return: 15:35 train from Waterbeach, arriving back at 15:44 Cost: £2.50 (£1.65 with a rail card)	HALF DAY	Sunday 7th October "Essex Hillsides" <i>Elsenham to Audley End</i> 21 km / 13 miles Contact: Susan This ramble offers the chance to enjoy some slightly hillier and woodier countryside than that found immediately outside of Cambridge. Beginning in Elsenham, we will soon spy the fine prospect of Ugly Green. Moving north from there, we will pass by Rickling Hall, reaching Quendon in time for lunch. Continuing northwards through the county parish of Wicken Bonhunt, we will briefly salute the River Cam before turning towards Wendens Ambo and our destination, Audley End Station. We will have the opportunity to patronize one or more of the local pubs en route. Meet: 09:30 at the train station for the 09:51 train to Elsenham Return: 16:58 train from Audley End, arriving back at 17:19 Cost: £8.30 (£5.50 with a rail card)
Saturday 13th October "Water, Water, Everywhere!" <i>Waterbeach circular</i> 28 km / 17 miles Contact: Heidi On this watery walk, we explore the natural and man-made water ways of the Cambridgeshire fens! From Waterbeach we follow the River Cam northwards, before heading east to Wicken Fen nature reserve. The Fens include 8020 species of plant, fungi, and animal, including konik ponies, hares, herons, and marsh harriers. We may be luck enough to spot some as we wander along the banks of the Wicken and Reach Lodes. On reaching Reach, we will turn south-west to cross the Swaffham-Bulbeck Lode, before returning to the Cam to retrace our steps for the final few kilometres to Waterbeach. Meet: 08:20 at the train station for the 08:35 train to Waterbeach Return: 16:35 train from Waterbeach, arriving back at 16:44 Cost: £2.60 (£1.80 with a railcard)	HALF DAY	Sunday 14th October "Rambling to Grantchester" <i>Cambridge circular</i> 9 km / 5½ miles Contact: David 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 20 th 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. Meet: 13:00 outside Great St Mary's Church Return: Back to the city centre by 17:00 Cost: Free!
Saturday 20th October "Croydon and the Hatleys" <i>Croydon circular</i> 10 km / 6 miles Contact: Valérie Leaving Croydon, we are passing through the site of the medieval village of Clopton (we'll need to have some imagination then). We'll make our way to many Hatleys: Hatley Park, Hatley St George, East Hatley and complete with St Denis' church and a big blue bird. We'll then stroll nicely and gently to the bus back home, and may even have some time to have a picnic en route. Meet: 08:00 at the Drummer Street bus station (bay 4) for the 08:10 bus to Croydon Queen Adelaide Return: 13:11 bus from Croydon, arriving back at 14:00 Cost: £7.10	HALF DAY	Sunday 21st October "I Cam, I Saw, I Rambled" <i>Linton to Audley End</i> 19 km / 12 miles Contact: Alex We begin the adventure in Linton and walk through Hadstock, where we pass under the oldest door still in use in Great Britain since AD 1020. We head towards the villages of Great and Little Chesterford, walking alongside the River Cam. We then walk through the town of Saffron Waldon, which has a bustling market square situated below the ruins of an impressive castle. After consuming pints of local ale in one or two of town's many historic public houses, we walk (or stumble) to Audley End Station, passing by the manor house, for the return home. Meet: 09:45 at the Drummer Street bus station (bay 8) for the 10:10 bus to Linton Return: 18:24 train from Audley End, arriving back at 18:41 Cost: £8.30

Saturday 27th October "Through The Mill"

Huntingdon circular

19 km / 12 miles Contact: Pete

This pleasant walk will take us alongside many bodies of water, from natural rivers and water meadows to flooded gravel pits. We will start near Huntingdon's medieval bridge and converted mill and follow the park out of town alongside the Great Ouse. The walk will take in Hartford marina before reaching the picturesque villages of Wyton and Houghton. After a visit to the tranquil water meadows we will visit Houghton mill, the oldest operating example on the Great Ouse and a good spot for refreshments. After refuelling, we will head for home via Godmanchester nature reserve.

Meet: 09:30 at the Drummer Street bus station (bay 12) for the 09:45 bus to Huntingdon

Return: 17.33 bus from Huntingdon, arriving back at 18.37

Cost: £5.70 (Dayrider Plus)

Sunday 28th October – Halloween Night Hike "The Spooks of Thetford Forest"

Brandon circular

16 km / 10 miles Contact: Susan

Beginning and ending in the haunting town of Brandon, this nighttime ramble is not for the faint of heart! In anticipation of All Hallow's Eve, we will ramble through spooky Thetford Forest, along the oozing river Little Ouse, through the prehistoric site of Grimes Graves Flint Mines, and past the decrepit ruins of Weeting Castle. If we do not get too lost in the dark, there will be time for a creepy pint in the pub before catching the train home. Be sure to bring along a packed dinner, a torch, and any ghost repellent you might have. Fancy dress is optional but encouraged.

Meet: 15:30 at the train station for the 15:52 train to Brandon

Return: 22:44 train from Brandon, arriving back at 23:22

Cost: £11.50 (£7.60 with a rail card)

Saturday 3rd November "The Ouse Valley Way"

Roxton to Boxton

20 km / 12 miles Contact:

Matthew

Starting in Roxton, about 20 miles to the west of Cambridge, we will follow the River Great Ouse upstream to the county town of Bedford. On the way we pass Great Barford with its fifteenth century bridge, and also Willington, where we might stop for refreshments at a log cabin tea room next to the river. On our way into Bedford, we will visit Priory Country Park, an area of lakes maintained for boating and fishing, as well as an important habitat for wildlife such as otters. From Bedford town centre, we will return to Cambridge on the X5 coach.

Meet: 09:15 at the Parkside coach stop (bay 16) for the 09:30 coach to Roxton (specifically the X5)

Return: 15:55 bus from Bedford, arriving back at 17:00

Cost: £7.20 for students (ID required) otherwise £9.45

Sunday 4th November "A Saw Point"

HALF DAY

Sawston to Great Shelford

13 km / 8 miles Contact: Pete

After arriving in the village of Sawston, we will pass St Mary's church and glimpse Sawston Hall, whose recent uses have included a base for the US air force and a movie filming location. We will head out to the small village of Babraham, home to the famous bioscience research facility. Here we will pick up the trail of the river Granta before diverting north towards Copley Hill. Our return will take in Wandlebury Country Park, an Iron-Age Hill Fort in the Gog Magog Hills. A gentle descent via Stapleford will lead us into Great Shelford and the bus home.

Meet: 12:05 at the Emmanuel Street bus station (stop E1) for the 12:20 bus to Sawston

Return: 17:29 bus from Great Shelford, arriving back at 18:02

Cost: £3.70 (Dayrider)

Saturday 10th November "Along Devil's Dyke"

HALF DAY

Dullingham circular

12 km / 7½ miles Contact: Simon

This short walk explores the countryside south of Newmarket. We head east from Dullingham station, through the village of Stetchworth. We then quickly reach Devil's Dyke, an Anglo-Saxon earthwork, which we will walk along for a short distance. We continue in a loop to the south through fields and woodland, returning to the station through Dullingham village, where there may be time for a quick stop at the pub.

Meet: 09:25 at the train station for the 09:43 train to Dullingham

Return: 13:20 train from Dullingham, arriving back at 13:39

Cost: £5.40 (£3.55 with a railcard)

Sunday 11th November "Bar (Hill) Crawl"

19 km / 12 miles Contact: David

We begin our journey from Bar Hill, leaving behind the arid urban Tesco and shopping centre in search of some peace; first on our way is Lolworth, a town whose name is laughable. Later, we pass south to Overhall Grove, site of some of the best preserved elm forest in Cambridgeshire. This leads us into Knapwell, a millennium old town known mainly for the medicinal properties of the local spring. Further along we pass Childerly Hall, a Tudor building where Charles I was held under house arrest by Cromwell at one point. We then return to Bar Hill via the pub in Dry Drayton.

Meet: 09:15 at the Emmanuel Street bus station (stop E4) for the 09:30 bus to Bar Hill

Return: 14:31 bus from Bar Hill, arriving back at 14:57

Cost: £3.70 (Dayrider)

Saturday 17th November

"Norfolk in a Nutshell"

Norwich to Surlingham 15km / 9 miles or possibly Contact: Susan circa 19 km / 12 miles

We ramble through the best of Norfolk; from its ancient capital, Norwich, along the beautiful River Yare, to the peaceful Surlingham Broad. We hope to find plenty of chestnuts on the way, which are delicious roasted. We head into the medieval centre of Norwich to visit its cathedral and pass through Elm Hill, a beautiful lane regularly used as a filming location, most recently for Stardust. After walking beside Norwich's Norman castle and 15th century Dragon Hall, we then head out of Norwich along Boudica's Way, which commemorates the ancient Queen of the Iceni. After Norwich, we head along the picturesque River Yare, which we follow all the way to Surlingham, passing by Whitlingham Broad and the Kirby Marshes along the way. On reaching our destination, we'll (hopefully) stop to gather plenty of chestnuts. A brilliant pub, good bird watching, and lovely river walks mean we'll have lots to do before we catch the bus back to Norwich and walk the short way back to the station.

Meet: 08:00 at the train station for the 08:12 train to Norwich
Return: 16:09 bus from Surlingham and 17:35 train from Norwich, arriving back at 18:59
Cost: £18.50 (£13.25 with a railcard)

Sunday 18th November

"Therfield Circular"

HALF DAY

Royston circular 13 km / 8 miles Contact: Heidi
Heading south from Royston, we skirt the edge of Therfield Heath and head along the ancient Icknield Way to Therfield, a small village of pre-Anglo Saxon origins. If the weather is clear, we might be able to glimpse Ely Cathedral. Passing through the village, we pass Therfield Church (13th century origins, but largely rebuilt in the 19th century), Tuthill manor (16th century), and the remains of a motte and bailey castle. Leaving Therfield, we walk downhill to Therfield Heath, whose tumuli and barrows indicate the presence of the area's earlier inhabitants, before returning to Royston.

Meet: 08:45 at the train station for the 08:55 train to Royston
Return: 12:37 train from Royston, arriving back at 12:54
Cost: £6.00 (£4.00 with a railcard)

Saturday 24th November

"From One Pressure Cooker to Another in the Money Engine"

Paternoster Square to Canary 13 km / 8 miles Contact: Geoffrey Wharf

From Paternoster Square we head through the "financial engine of Europe", going past investment banks like Deutsche Bank and top legal firms like Linklaters, a destination for many Cambridge graduates. We then enter Tower Hamlets and head to the Tower of London, where we see some history mixed in with finance and services. We pass Tower Bridge and follow the River Thames into the Docklands, passing many renovated warehouses along the river, then follow Limehouse Cut past Limehouse Basin. After having lunch by the Thames, we head to the second pressure cooker called Canary Wharf. We do a circle of the wharf and take in its newest addition. We end the ramble at Cabot Square Park at Canary Wharf and then head for the Jubilee Line back home to Cambridge.

Meet: 09:55 at the train station for the 10:15 train to King's Cross
Return: 16:15 train from King's Cross, arriving back at 17:01
Cost: £22.00 (£14.50 with a railcard)

Sunday 25th November

"Annual Sloe Gin Ramble"

HALF DAY

Waterbeach to King's Hedges 6.5 km / 4 miles Contact: Matthew

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, a Roman road where we'll collect our sloe harvest. From King's Hedges, in the northern suburbs of Cambridge, we will take the Guided Busway back to the city centre, where one of our members will provide hospitality 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 from Sainsbury's at the end of the walk, but you MUST bring ID if you wish to do so.

Meet: 12:50 at the train station for the 13:05 train to Waterbeach
Return: 16:01 bus from King's Hedges, arriving back at 16:12
Cost: £2.50 (£1.65 with a railcard) plus about £2.50 for the bus

The Rambling Club Committee:

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