

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Michaelmas Term 2013

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

Saturday 12th October “Freshers’ Ramble to Waterbeach” *Cambridge to Waterbeach 10 km / 6 miles Contact: David*

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.

Meet: 14:00 on the Quayside, next to Magdalene Bridge

Return: 17:35 train from Waterbeach, arriving back at 17:44

Cost: £1.70 (£1.20 with a railcard)

Sunday 20th October “Rambling to Grantchester” *Cambridge circular 9 km / 5.5 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 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.

Meet: 13:00 outside Great St Mary's Church

Return: Back to the city centre by 17:00

Cost: Free!

Saturday 26th October “Rambling over a lot of Water” *Southend-on-Sea Circular 15 km / 9.5 miles Contact: Christine*

Today we'll walk to the end of the world's longest pleasure pier. It's a 2.68 mile round-trip, so we'll spend a significant portion of the afternoon's ramble walking with water below us. There's even a pier railway to take the less able-bodied ramblers from one end to the other (ticket price £4.00). Before stepping off of the old wood and iron pier back onto dry land, you'll have the opportunity to Adopt a Plank. Next, we'll walk around the resort town of Southend-on-Sea and along the sandy beach and coast before ending up at a seaside restaurant right before the sun sets.

Meet: 8:44 at the train station for the 9:04 train to London Liverpool Street

Return: 18:59 train from Southend Central, arriving back at 21:51

Cost: £27.30 (£18.20 with a rail card or £13.65 with group save tickets); £2.00 pier admission for students or £3.50 for non-students

Thursday 31st October “Uncovering the Ghosts of Hertfordshire” *Knebworth to Hitchin 18 km / 11 miles Contact: David*

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!

Meet: 17:40 at the train station for the 17:55 train to Knebworth

Return: 23:47 train from Hitchin, arriving back at 00:27

Cost: £14.00 (£9.40 with a railcard)

Sunday 10th November “Into Thetford Forest” *Brandon Circular 16 km / 10 miles Contact: Susan*

From Brandon, we shall head through Thetford Forest to the village of Weeting where we'll examine the remains of a twelfth-century noble residence, Weeting Castle. After skirting along the edge of Grime's Graves Neolithic Flint Mine and stopping at the park for 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. We will warm over a drink in the village pub before catching our return train.

Meet: 10:30 at the train station for the 10:48 train to Brandon

Return: 17:44 train from Brandon, arriving back at 18:22

Cost: £12.00 (£7.90 with a rail card)

Sunday 17th November “The £7 Ramble” *Unknown route Approx. 11-16 km / Contact: Christine 7-10 miles*

To paraphrase the thoughts of Plato, “Spontaneity is what makes an autumn stroll charming.” The time has come to put this advice into practice. First, we'll spend £7 each on a rail ticket to anywhere. (Rail card discounts, group save tickets, and vouchers will make this more fun.) Then we'll land at the destination station and begin a route to an area of suspected interest, based on spontaneous, impromptu, last-minute direction choices. If things go according to (no) plan, we'll see some nice sights without being burdened and limited by following a route. In the end, we'll see where the £7 takes us.

Meet: 10:07 at the train station

Return: Hopefully arrive back in Cambridge at about 15:07 (+/- 2 hours)

Cost: £7.00

Sunday 24th November

“Through The Mill”

Huntingdon circular 19 km / 12 miles Contact: David

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 pass 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: £6 (Dayrider Plus)

Saturday 30th November

To Be Confirmed

The Rambling Club Committee:

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