

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Michaelmas Term 2014

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 11th 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: £1.20 Group Save/Railcard (£1.70)

Saturday 18th October “Vistas, fields and a spot of lunch” *Royston circular* 13 km / 8 miles *Contact: Oscar*

From Royston Station we will walk through the town and up to Therfield Heath, an accessible open expanse of grassland on a bank with sweeping views to the north. We will skirt along the edge of the heath and then follow a track through patches of woodland and fields to Therfield village. We could stop at the Fox and Duck pub, which serves food. From Therfield we will follow a path across the hills to the other end of the heath and we will walk along the upper part of that ridge back to Royston.

Meet: 12:15 at the train station for the 12:30 train to Royston
Return: 17:38 from Royston to Cambridge arriving back at 17:55
Cost: £2.65 Group Save/Railcard (£4 full fare)

Sunday 26th October “Rambling to Grantchester” *Cambridge circular* 9 km / 5.5 miles *Contact: Angela*

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!

Friday 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: 17:10 at the train station for the 17:25 train to Knebworth
Return: 23:38 train from Hitchin, arriving back at 00:28
Cost: £9.60 Group Save/Railcard (£14.40)

Saturday 8th November “Through Wimpole Park” *Toft to Meldreth* 19 km / 12 miles *Contact: Christopher*

From the village of Toft in the Bourn valley we follow the Wimpole Way through Kingston to reach Wimpole Park. This extensive estate surrounds the large stately home of Wimpole Hall, now a National Trust property. After exploring the parkland's woodland and gently rolling hills, we exit the grounds along the grand Wimpole Avenue before taking the Harcamlow Way to Whaddon and continuing to Meldreth for the train home.

Meet: 09:35 at Drummer Street Bus Station for the 09:50 bus to Toft
Return: 16:10 train from Meldreth, arriving back at 16:29
Cost: £4 for bus and £2 Group Save/Railcard for train (£2.90)

Sunday 16th November “A gentle, varied ramble to a
windmill and a museum of old
England” *Linton circular* 9 miles / 14 km Contact: Oscar

This walk will take us across rolling hills and past old English country houses along a mixture of open and enclosed paths and tracks. We will pass under and over two dismantled railways on the way. We will stop at Ashdon windmill, which is undergoing restoration. We can either have a picnic or stop at the Rose and Crown pub in Ashdon village, which serves cooked lunches (or both). We will also visit Ashdon Village Museum, home to a display of local objects relating to old English country life.

Meet: 10:10 at Drummer St bus station for the 10:20 bus to Linton

Return: 16:56 bus from Linton arriving back at 17:30

Cost: £6.20 Dayrider Plus

Sunday 23rd November “Into Thetford Forest” *Brandon Circular* 16 km / 10 miles Contact: Susan

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 will then skirt along 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.

Meet: 10:30 at train station for the 10:52 train to Brandon

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

Cost: £8.25 Group Save/Railcard (£12.50)

Saturday 29th November “Norfolk Coastal Walk – Holkham
Beach” *Brancaster Staithe to Wells-next-the-Sea* 19 km / 12 miles Contact: Angela

Hopping off the Coasthopper at Brancaster Staithe, we'll walk east via the Norfolk Coast Path. Along our way, we'll pass through coastland characterized by marshes, sand dunes, and beaches. In particular, we'll visit Holkham Beach – reputed to be one of the finest sandy beaches in the UK. We'll stop here to eat a picnic lunch and collect a few shells, returning to the Coast Path for our last few miles to Wells-next-the-Sea.

Meet: 08:15 at the train station for the 08:35 train to Kings Lynn

Return: 18:35 train to Cambridge arriving back at 19:22

Cost: £13.40 Group Save/Railcard (£15.70)

The Rambling Club Committee:

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