

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Lent 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 our walks – just turn up at the time given, at the following places: **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 8 pm on Thursdays during term time (starting 19th January) at The County Arms on Castle Street, when fellow ramblers will gather for tales from the trail! On **Thursday 1st March**, the pub meet will be replaced by a meal out followed by our **Annual General Meeting**, which is your chance to have a say in the running of the club or even become involved as a member of the committee. Watch our weekly e-mail newsletter for details of the time and venue.

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

<p>Saturday 21st January HALF DAY “Meadows, Mills and Market Towns” <i>Huntingdon to St Ives</i> <i>13 km / 8 miles</i> <i>Contact: Steven</i> From the market town of Huntingdon we first cross Portholme Meadow, famous for being the largest meadow in England as well as a home to many rare plants and, in bygone days, a centre for early aviation. After reaching the Roman town of Godmanchester, we follow the Ouse Valley Way across Westside Common to Houghton Mill, the last working watermill on the Great Ouse. Our route then takes us through the pretty villages of Hemingford Abbots and Hemingford Grey, and finally across the meadows (assuming they're not flooded!) to the pretty market town of St Ives with its historic Chapel Bridge. Meet: 12:15 at the bus station for the 12:30 bus to Huntingdon Return: 16:55 bus from St Ives, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:32 Cost: £5.40</p>	<p>Sunday 22nd January “On the Tracks of the Romans” <i>Digswell to St Albans</i> <i>23 km / 14½ miles</i> <i>Contact: Simon</i> We start this ramble by passing through Sherrardspark Wood, then walk along the Ayot Greenway, which follows the course of a dismantled railway line, to the picturesque village of Wheathampstead. We then pass through the town of Harpenden on our way to join the River Ver. Finally we follow the river and the Roman Watling Street southwards into the cathedral city of St Albans, known in Roman times as Verulamium. We will hopefully have time to explore some of the Roman remains and visit the cathedral before catching the bus back. Meet: 09:10 at the train station for the 09:28 train to Welwyn North Return: 16:41 bus from St Albans, then 17:27 train from Hatfield, arriving back at 18:27 Cost: £15.90, or £10.50 with a railcard</p>
<p>Saturday 28th January HALF DAY “A Morning Stroll on the Suffolk Border” <i>Kennett circular</i> <i>13 km / 8 miles</i> <i>Contact: Steven</i> From Kennett station on the eastern edge of Cambridgeshire, we first visit the secluded Kennett church and the tiny hamlet of Kennett Cottages before crossing into Suffolk and making our way across Kentford Heath to the little village of Herringswell. From here we follow the Icknield Way and Green Lane to Red Lodge, from where we cross back into Cambridgeshire to catch the train home from Kennett. Being a morning walk, there will be no lunch stop. Meet: 08:25 at the train station for the 08:43 train to Kennett Return: 12:06 train from Kennett, arriving back at 12:39 Cost: £7.90, or £5.20 with a railcard</p>	<p>Sunday 29th January “The Grandeur of Audley End” <i>Great Chesterford to Audley End</i> <i>16 km / 10 miles</i> <i>Contact: Paul</i> After getting off the train at Great Chesterford station we will head east before following the River Cam south and crossing Rowley Hill. We then head south to reach Saffron Walden on our way to Audley End House. We will spend a couple of hours exploring the gardens and outbuildings of this English Heritage site (the House itself is closed for the winter). After enjoying tea and scones in the tea room, we will head south, passing Shortgrove moat and wood, before reaching Wendens Ambo on our way to Audley End station. Meet: 09:35 at the train station for the 09:51 train to Great Chesterford Return: 16:58 train from Audley End, arriving back at 17:21 Cost: £6.10, or £4.05 with a railcard, for the train, plus £8.70 (£7.80 for students; free for EH members) for entry to Audley End</p>
<p>Saturday 4th February HALF DAY “Freshers’ Ramble – Return Journey” <i>Waterbeach to Cambridge</i> <i>14 km / 8½ miles</i> <i>Contact: Simon</i> This walk begins at the end point of our traditional Freshers’ Ramble in October, but follows an alternative route back to Cambridge, first heading north along the River Cam to Bottisham Lock. We then turn south through fields, following a route east of the Cam, passing through the village of Horningsea before rejoining the river at Baits Bite Lock. Finally we re-enter Cambridge along the river via Chesterton, Midsummer Common and Jesus Green. Meet: 09:15 at the train station for the 09:35 train to Waterbeach Return: To the city centre around 13:00 Cost: £2.50, or £1.65 with a railcard</p>	<p>Sunday 5th February “Chiltern Nature Reserves” <i>Great Offley to Stopsley</i> <i>18 km / 11 miles</i> <i>Contact: Matthew</i> This walk offers a tour of the Chiltern Hills in southern Bedfordshire, close to the route of the Varsity March. From Great Offley, we head north to the Pegsdon Hills Nature Reserve, and descend a chalk escarpment to Pegsdon village. Moving west, we follow the Chiltern escarpment through Barton Hills, Barton-le-Clay, and Sharpenhoe Clappers. Finally we arrive in the picturesque village of Streatley, for our bus home. Meet: 09:40 at the train station for the 09:55 train to Hitchin Return: 16:54 bus from Streatley, arriving back in Cambridge at 18:54 Cost: Approximately £16, or £13 with a railcard</p>
<p>Saturday 11th February HALF DAY “Two Mills and a River East of Cambridge” <i>Stow-cum-Quy to Bottisham</i> <i>10 km / 6½ miles</i> <i>Contact: Valérie</i> We walk out west from Stow-cum-Quy, passing an old water mill, before joining the river. We will then follow Quy Water and later Little Wilbraham River eastwards across the fens towards another old mill and later on the small village of Little Wilbraham, before heading north to Bottisham. Meet: 08:50 at the bus station for the 09:05 bus to Stow-cum-Quy Return: 12:37 bus from Bottisham, arriving back at 12:57 Cost: £5.40</p>	<p>Sunday 12th February “Exploring Essex: Public Footpaths and Public Houses” <i>Elsenham to Audley End</i> <i>21 km / 13 miles</i> <i>Contact: Susan</i> 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 Ugley 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. Following the Harcamlow Way path, we will have the opportunity to patronize one or more of the local pubs en route. Meet: 09:35 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, or £5.50 with railcard</p>

<p>Saturday 18th February “To Paternoster Square – Part 2: The Urban Part”</p> <p><i>Enfield Lock to Paternoster Square</i> 28 km / 17½ miles <i>Contact: Geoffrey</i></p> <p>From Enfield Lock station we follow the more urban section of the River Lea south to Tottenham Hale and then past the Olympic Park at Stratford with its collection of striking modern venue designs. We pass some reservoirs as well. We can have lunch at Tottenham Hale or at the Olympic Park. After passing the Olympic Park we head to Limehouse Cut. From there we head to the Tower of London, then into the Money Pressure Cooker of the city. We end in the heart of the financial bubble at Paternoster Square. At the end there will be a boot clean near to One Paternoster Square to clean off any historic mud on the way from Shepreth. There will be a drink in Paternoster Square as well.</p> <p>Meet: 08:45 at the train station for the 09:04 train to Enfield Lock Return: 18:58 train from London Liverpool Street, arriving back at 20:08 Cost: £14.70, or £9.70 with a railcard</p>	<p>Sunday 19th February “Annual Pancake Ramble”</p> <p><i>Fulbourn to Cambridge</i> 14 km / 9 miles <i>Contact: Susan</i></p> <p>This ramble takes us on a tour of the flatlands just outside of Cambridge. We begin in the charming village of Fulbourn, before heading out along the Little Wilbraham River to Teversham. After passing Cambridge Airport, we return to an urban setting as we approach Cherry Hinton. A path along a quarry reservoir will then take us to Mill Road, beloved to Cambridge residents for its cafés and food shops. There will be no occasion to stop for refreshment, however, as a treat awaits us once we arrive in the city centre. Those who wish to celebrate the flatness of our surroundings are welcome to move on to a local kitchen, where we will prepare a pancake snack – the delicious end to a ramble all term!</p> <p>Meet: 10:15 at the bus station for the 10:30 bus to Fulbourn Return: To the city centre around 15:30 Cost: Approximately £2.50</p>
<p>Saturday 25th February “Along the Fleam Dyke”</p> <p><i>Balsham to Fulbourn</i> 11 km / 7 miles <i>Contact: Valérie</i></p> <p>We start in Balsham, a village with an historic church dating back to the 13th century, and take a northerly route onto the Harcamlow Way. We then proceed in a north-westerly direction along the ancient defensive earthwork of Fleam Dyke, crossing our fingers not to be attacked when passing by a place called The Ambush, and carrying on through some woodland. After crossing the A11, we continue over Mutlow Hill and through a nature reserve on our way to Fulbourn.</p> <p>Meet: 10:25 at the bus station for the 10:40 bus to Balsham Return: 15:05 bus from Fulbourn, arriving back at 15:55 Cost: £5.40</p>	<p>Sunday 26th February “Affairs of the Hertfordshire hills”</p> <p><i>Royston circular</i> 14 km / 9 miles <i>Contact: Pete</i></p> <p>This afternoon excursion into Hertfordshire will take in some of the gentle hills south of Royston. Our route out of town will let us see the modern take on a historic intersection, between Ermine Street, built in Roman times to link London with York, and Icknield Way, said to be the “oldest road in Britain”. We will head south up to Therfield Heath, offering some nice views back into Cambridgeshire. On the way back, we will see how the Jubilee Wood has developed since it was planted to commemorate the Queen’s Silver Jubilee 35 years ago.</p> <p>Meet: 12:40 at the train station for the 12:55 train to Royston Return: 17:38 train from Royston, arriving back at 17:55 Cost: £5.80, or £3.85 with a railcard</p>
<p>Saturday 3rd March “Chalk it up to experience”</p> <p><i>Hunstanton circular</i> 18 km / 11 miles <i>Contact: Pete</i></p> <p>This walk will take in a highlight of the Norfolk coastline, the distinctive stratified chalk and limestone cliffs of Hunstanton. We will make our way through the Victorian town to the seafront where the cliffs and beach will offer refreshing views and a bracing walk. We will then divert inland to Holme-next-the-Sea and Ringstead, where we can call in on the Ringstead Downs, a wildlife park set in chalk grassland which is home to many locally important species. Depending on our timing and the weather, we may glimpse the sun low over the sea when returning to Hunstanton – a rare opportunity on the east coast of England!</p> <p>Meet: 09:20 at the train station for the 09:35 train to Kings Lynn, then the 10:30 bus to Hunstanton Return: 17:30 bus from Hunstanton, then 18:35 train from Kings Lynn, arriving back at 19:21 Cost: £9.50, or £6.25 with a railcard for the train, plus £5.40 for the bus</p>	<p>Sunday 4th March “From the Bronze Age to the Era of DNA”</p> <p><i>Wandlebury to Cambridge</i> 14 km / 9 miles <i>Contact: Paul</i></p> <p>Hopping off the bus in the heart of the Gog Magog Hills, we make our way to the Wandlebury ring, which are the remains of a Bronze Age fort. We will then explore the Wandlebury Country Park including the Wandlebury House stable block, before heading through the downs on our way to Stapleford. Heading north, we will link up with the strands of the DNA trail to reach Trumpington and subsequently follow Vicar’s Brook into Cambridge.</p> <p>Meet: 09:55 at the bus station for the 10:10 bus to Wandlebury Return: To the city centre around 14:30 Cost: Approximately £3.50</p>
<p>Saturday 10th March “The eastern limit of Britain”</p> <p>Starting in the Suffolk town of Lowestoft, we begin by visiting Ness Point, the most easterly point in the UK. Leaving the industrial landscape of Lowestoft behind us, we head north along the beach to a more rural stretch of coastline. Passing Corton Cliffs, we eventually arrive at the attractive seaside resort of Gorleston-on-Sea. Leaving the beach, we follow the River Yare into Great Yarmouth, where we’ll stop at a pub on the seafront before our train home.</p> <p>Meet: 08:55 at the train station for the 09:12 train to Lowestoft Cost: £16.00 or £9.90 with a railcard</p>	<p><i>Lowestoft to Great Yarmouth</i> 17 km / 11 miles <i>Contact: Matthew</i></p> <p>Return: 18:17 train from Great Yarmouth, arriving back at 20:08</p>
<p>Saturday 17th March “March March March!”</p> <p><i>March to Cambridge</i> 66½ km / 41 miles <i>Contact: Steven</i></p> <p>The March March March (http://www.marchmarchmarch.org.uk/) is a mammoth walk across the Fens between the town of March and Cambridge, all completed within a single day (in March). Once again, this year we hope to join up with the original inventors of this epic expedition for a truly unforgettable experience! This year we plan to following a longer route via the bird-watching hub of Welney, which provides a unique opportunity to fully experience the vast open grandeur of the Fens, the dead-straight Old Bedford River and the floodwaters of the Ouse Washes Nature Reserve, as well as the chance to challenge yourself with a walk of epic proportions! We plan to stop for at least one pub meal in Welney (lunch) or Earith (dinner) but please be sure to bring some food and a drink yourself as well. For those preferring a slightly shorter ramble, there will be options to return to Cambridge from Welney (12 miles), Mepal (21 miles) and Rampton (34 miles).</p> <p>Meet: 07:45 at the train station for the 08:00 train to March Cost: £10.20 for the train, or £6.75 with a railcard [Single to March], unless you think you might want to leave the walk partway through in which case you should get a Return to March (£11.60, or £7.65 with a railcard). If you plan to do the whole walk and can book your ticket in advance you can get an Advance Single to Peterborough (which is valid via March) for £6.50, or £4.30 with a railcard.</p> <p>Return: Hopefully(!) arriving back in Cambridge not too long after midnight</p>	

The Rambling Club Committee:

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