

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Easter Term 2015

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:** under the awning at the Drummer Street bus station.
- **Train:** outside the front of the Cambridge Railway Station.

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

Saturday, 25th April "In Search of a Castle" 17 km / 11 miles Contact: Angela

From King's Lynn, we'll stroll across a nature reserve and through a small wood. We'll then take a detour to explore Castle Rising Castle and its earthworks. After reveling in the glory of one of the best preserved medieval keeps in England, we'll then wind our way back to the city.

Meet: 08:25 in front of the railway station for the replacement bus service to King's Lynn

Return: 18:30 train from Kings Lynn, arriving back at 20:20

Cost: TRANSPORTATION £6:40 GroupSave/Railcard (£8.9 without) + CASTLE £3.30 with student card (£4.00 without)

Saturday, 2nd May "The Chiltern Hills:
A Joint walk with the OUWC" 19 km / 12 miles Contact: Christopher

This week we venture a bit further afield for a joint walk with the Oxford University Walking Club in the Chilterns, slightly more hilly terrain than usual. From the market town of Wendover we head south west on the Ridgeway National Trail and ascend Coombe Hill where we'll hopefully be rewarded with good views. Skirting Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence, we continue along the Ridgeway through undulating woodland. We then pass Grim's Ditch and Little Hampden before descending to Great Missenden along the South Buckinghamshire Way. N.B. Because we are travelling further away from Cambridge than usual, the cost will be more and the return time is approximate.

Meet: 08:00 in front of the railway station for the 08:15 train to London King's Cross

Return: 17:49 train from Great Missenden, arriving back around 20:00, or later

Cost: £23.15 GroupSave/Railcard (£35.10 without)

Saturday, 9th May "Along the Ash" 13 km / 8 miles Contact: David

We will walk through Hertfordshire's oldest and most picturesque villages, including Little Hadham and Much Hadham. We begin at Hadham Hall, where Queen Elizabeth I stayed. We proceed on by the stream, following the valley as it gets broader and deeper. With a bit of luck, the sun and flowers will be out; when they are, this is arguably the nicest walk near Cambridge.

Meet: 12:00 at the train station for the 12:21 train to Bishop's Stortford

Return: 16:38 bus and train from Hunsdon, arriving back at 17:51

Cost: £7.00 GroupSave/Railcard (£10.50 without)

Sunday, 17th May "A Nice Walk Ruined" 23 km / 14 miles Contact: Stephen

We'll walk south from Thurston into Rougham woods, hopefully catching a glimpse of the overgrown ruin of Rougham Hall, a stately home which was hit by a German bomb in 1940 and has been abandoned ever since. We continue through the villages of Rougham and Bradfield St George, then onwards through fields and woods, before joining the path of the dismantled railway through the Whelnethams, before entering hillier territory and joining the St Edmund Way to reach the historic market town of Bury St Edmunds with its famous ruined Abbey. There should be a little time to explore Bury, including the ruins. (If there's demand to stay longer and sample more of Bury, some of us might take a later train home, such as the 19.41.)

Meet: 10:45 in front of the railway station for the 11:12 train to Thurston

Return: 18:24 train from Bury, arriving back at 19:15

Cost: £8.70 GroupSave/Railcard (£13.20 without)

Sunday, 24th May "Ditches, Dykes, and Dullingham" 21 km / 13 miles *Pierre*

Starting from the hamlet of Dullingham, we walk along Devil's Dyke, an earthwork of Anglo-Saxon origin, and thence over rolling hills, through fields and meadows, and onward to the village of Kirtling and its Tudor tower. Through a more wooded area, we head back to Dullingham, where, time permitting, we stop at a pub before taking the train back to Cambridge.

Meet: 08:50 in front of the railway station for the 09.12 train to Dullingham

Return: arriving back by 17:28

Cost: £3.15 GroupSave/Railcard (£4.80 without)

Saturday, 30th May "Woburn Safari Park" 17 km / 11 miles *Contact: Matthew*

This week we will visit the wooded hills of Bedfordshire's Greensand Ridge, and we will hopefully get a free glimpse of some exotic animals in Woburn Safari Park. Beginning at Woburn Sands, we climb the slopes of Aspley Heath, where some remains of the Danesborough Iron Age hill fort can be seen. After a lunch stop in Woburn village, we meander through the Woburn Park estate with its deer park (home to 1,200 deer) and safari park. The footpath through the safari park passes in close proximity to many of the animal enclosures. Leaving the safari park, we return to the fields and head to Ridgmont for our train home.

Meet: 08:55 at Parkside coach stop (bay 16 on the edge of Parkers Piece) for the 09:10 coach to Bedford. This is the Stagecoach X5 coach towards Oxford.

Return: 17:07 train from Ridgmont to Bedford, then 17:56 coach to Cambridge, arriving back at 19:10.

Cost: £8.15 coach fair for students with ID (£10.70 without) AND £3.45 GroupSave/Railcard train fare (£5.20 without)

Saturday, 6th June "The Fen Rivers Way" 77 km, 47 miles *Contact: Matthew*

This long ramble follows the full length of the Fen Rivers Way, along the Great Ouse and Cam rivers from King's Lynn to Cambridge. The walk is scheduled two weeks before the Varsity March, giving an opportunity to prepare ourselves for the longer challenge. If you prefer not to walk the full 47 miles, there are several possibilities to join us for shorter sections. We will leave Cambridge on the last train to King's Lynn, after midnight on Friday night, and begin walking from King's Lynn at 1am. After three hours of darkness, the remainder of the walk will be in daylight, and we expect to reach Cambridge by around 7pm on Saturday evening. If you would like to join us for a shorter section of the walk, some possibilities would be: King's Lynn to Downham Market (12 miles, overnight); Littleport to Cambridge (23 miles, starting Saturday morning); Ely to Cambridge (17 miles, starting Saturday lunchtime). Please contact Matthew if you would like to take part in this walk, and especially if you plan to join us somewhere along the route.

Meet: 23:55 Friday night in front of the railway station for the 00:14 train to King's Lynn

Return: about 19:00, if completing the full distance

Cost: £4.93 GroupSave/Railcard (£7.40 without)

Saturday, 13th June "North Norfolk Coast" 17 km / 11 miles *Contact: Oscar*

The North Norfolk Coast is one of the most spectacular landscapes in this part of England, make sure you see it while in Cambridge! The sea deposits sediment on the beach, which then gives way to dunes, areas of pine forest and finally marshland, all home to different flora and fauna. We will walk through all these areas at a leisurely pace. Taking a picnic is recommended, though there are places to stop for food in Wells, Burnham Overy Staithe and Burnham Deepdale.

Meet: 08:15 in front of the railway station for 08:35 train to King's Lynn

Return: 17:34 bus from Burnham Deepdale, arriving back at 19:22

Cost: £10.90 GroupSave/Railcard (£16.60 without)

Saturday, 20th - Sunday, 21st June "The Varsity March" 130 km / 81 miles *Contact: Stephanie*

The annual Varsity March is a mammoth two-day walk between Oxford and Cambridge, completed within 48 hours without any sleep. Once again this year we will be raising money for Jimmy's Cambridge and the Oxford Gatehouse: two charities which work with homeless people in Oxford and Cambridge. We also hope to be joined by Oxford University Walking Club. It will, of course, be possible to join or leave the walk at intermediate points if you do not wish walk the full distance, or if you want to support your friends for short sections. More details will be sent out by email nearer the time, but please contact Stephanie if you would like more information.

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