

# Cambridge University Rambling Club

## Michaelmas 2023 Termcard

If you are new, hello and welcome to Cambridge University Rambling Club! We run walks of around 10-30km around the countryside of East Anglia and occasionally further afield. Details and contacts for all the walks are included below. You do not need to sign up in advance to come on any of this term's walks. Simply turn up at the meeting point at the given time (the meeting point is usually outside the front of the train station or at Drummer Street bus station where the buses are used).

You should bring a packed lunch (unless stated otherwise) and a bottle of water. Strong boots and waterproofs are also recommended. As we move later into term warm clothing will likely be necessary and you may wish to carry a torch in case it gets dark (the walk description should say if this is likely). Your only expense will be the bus or train fare (given below) and our annual £1 membership fee. Usually for trains all tickets will be purchased by the walk leader/another committee member to utilise the Group Save discount then everyone can pay them back on the train journey.

If you have any questions, email the club's president (Kiarn Turner) at [rambling@cambridgesu.co.uk](mailto:rambling@cambridgesu.co.uk) or the relevant walk leader (emails below):

Walk Leaders:

Kiarn ([kt506@cam.ac.uk](mailto:kt506@cam.ac.uk))

Benjamin ([bm515@cam.ac.uk](mailto:bm515@cam.ac.uk))

Christopher ([cet34@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cet34@cam.ac.uk))

Balint ([dratini0@gmail.com](mailto:dratini0@gmail.com))

### **Fresher's Ramble: Red Meadow Hill, Barton & Grantchester**

1: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Distance: 16km / 10mi

Walk Leader: Kiarn ([kt506@cam.ac.uk](mailto:kt506@cam.ac.uk))

A local walk to begin the year exploring some of the countryside around Cambridge. We head west from the city centre to and along the Coton footpath past fields and the West Cambridge site and on to the Coton countryside reserve. We walk through the nature reserve before climbing Red Meadow "Hill" (only 45m above sea level) where we will have lunch with a great view over the city. We then continue across Barton Firing Range (or around it if in use on the day) and a meadow to the village of Barton. More fields and meadows take us to Bourn Brook which we then follow before heading through the village of Grantchester then back along the River Cam/Granta to Cambridge.

Meet: 11:15 at Great St Mary's Church (leave at 11:30)

Return: Back in city centre ~16

Cost: Free

### **For the Continent: Mistley to Harwich on the Essex Way**

2: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Distance: 22km / 14mi

Walk Leader: Benjamin ([bm515@cam.ac.uk](mailto:bm515@cam.ac.uk))

From Mistley we head east along the Essex Way, passing an RSPB reserve on the south shore of the Stour Estuary. In Wrabness we take a brief look at Grayson Perry's House for Essex. We then turn southwards across the Harwich peninsula to reach the North Sea. Walking along the beach on the promenade we eventually reach the historic port town of Harwich, from which ferries to the continent leave. We can enjoy Harwich's quaint old town centre before taking the train back.

Meet: 08:30 at the railway station for the 08:47 train to Mistley

Return: 18:26 train from Harwich Town, arriving back in Cambridge at 20:41

Cost: £19.85 with Railcard/GroupSave [day return to Harwich Town]

### **Great Chesterford to Newport via Elmdon**

3: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Distance: 20km / 12mi

Walk Leader: Christopher ([cet34@cam.ac.uk](mailto:cet34@cam.ac.uk))

On this ramble we explore some of the undulating countryside south of Cambridge. Starting in Great Chesterford we take the Icknield Way Path to Strethall and then follow the ridge east to Elmdon, reaching a height of over 125m with good views towards Cambridge. We then head south past Bridge Green to Arkesden before following the Harcamlow Way to Newport.

Meet: 9:35 at the Railway station for the 9:50 to Great Chesterford

Return: Back in Cambridge around 17:20

Cost: £6.10 (return to Newport with Railcard/GroupSave)

### **Thetford Forest & Grimes Graves**

4: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Distance: 15km / 9mi

Walk Leader: Kiarn ([kt506@cam.ac.uk](mailto:kt506@cam.ac.uk))

A circular walk exploring Thetford Forest, the UK's largest lowland pine forest at around 190km<sup>2</sup>, created after the first world war as a timber reserve. We start from Brandon station, heading along the road a short distance before entering the forest. We make our way through the forest to Grimes Graves, a neolithic flint mine (hopefully using paths that actually exist this year). We then continue through the forest, cross the railway by Santon Warren and head back along the Little Ouse river to back to Brandon station.

Meet: 10:05 at the railway station for the 10:20 to Brandon.

Return: Back in Cambridge by 16:47

Cost: £8.35 (Cambridge to Ely return + Ely to Brandon return)

**Spooky nighttime walk unrelated to any holidays 4 days prior (cancelled due to leader illness)**

5: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Distance: 14km / 9mi

Walk Leader: Balint ([dratini0@gmail.com](mailto:dratini0@gmail.com))

Leaving Cambridge on the Coton footpath, we first make our way to Coton and then to the American military cemetery at the top of Madingley Hill. We then continue to Madingley Hall, which, on spookier nights might be haunted by the ghost of Lady Ursula Hynde as well as by a ghostly party and a young man with a decaying face. Assuming we escape without being bewitched, we will then return to Cambridge via Madingley Road.

Meet: 19:15 at Great St Mary's

Return: Back in Cambridge by midnight

Cost: Free

**The Church of Cold Christmas**

6: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Distance: 22km / 14mi

Walk Leader: Benjamin ([bm515@cam.ac.uk](mailto:bm515@cam.ac.uk))

From Roydon station we follow the Harcamlow Way through the rolling hills of Hertfordshire. After crossing the River Ash and some smaller streams we reach the tiny hamlet of Cold Christmas, allegedly named after an unusually cold Christmas. We then investigate the nearby remains of Little St Mary's church, which was abandoned in 1853 and is said to be haunted. Hopefully we continue our walk heading west, eventually traversing the beautiful grounds of Woodhall Park until we reach the river Beane, a tributary of the more famous Lea (or Lee). From here it is just over a mile to Watton-at-Stone for the train back.

Meet: 09:00 at the train station for the 09:20 service to Roydon

Return: Back in Cambridge by 17:41

Cost: £9.55 with Railcard/GroupSave [by buying day return ticket to Hertford (any)!]

**Milton Country Park from Waterbeach**

7: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Distance: 11km / 7mi

Walk Leader: Balint ([dratini0@gmail.com](mailto:dratini0@gmail.com))

Starting from Waterbeach, we'll make our way south along the river toward Cambridge, stopping in Milton Country Park for a bit of a wander, as well as a picnic lunch. Finally, we make our way back to Cambridge along the Cam, a section filled with houseboats and punctuated by multiple locks.

Meet: 10:45 at the railway station for the 11:03 train to Waterbeach.

Return: Back to the city centre by ~16.

Cost: £1.65 (single to Waterbeach)

## Portholme, Houghton Mill & St Ives

8: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Distance: 13km / 8mi

Walk Leader: Kiarn ([kt506@cam.ac.uk](mailto:kt506@cam.ac.uk))

This walk follows the River Ouse through Huntingdonshire from Huntingdon to St Ives. First we see Huntingdon's Castle Hill, though like in Cambridge, nothing remains of the castle itself. We then traverse Portholme, the largest floodplain meadow in England before heading through Godmanchester and across its eastside common to the river. We head along the river, crossing by Houghton Mill, a national trust owned historic mill thought to be from the 17<sup>th</sup> century (though there has been a mill in this vicinity for over a millennium). We briefly part with the river to cross Houghton meadows nature reserve before following the river for the last little stretch to St Ives.

Meet: 9:55 at Drummer Street bus station for the 10:05 X3 to Huntingdon.

Return: Back in Cambridge ~16

Cost: £4 (single to Huntingdon, single back from St Ives busway)

## Chiltern Hills: Ivinghoe Beacon, Pitstone & Ringshall

9: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Distance: 17km/11mi

Walk Leader: Kiarn ([kt506@cam.ac.uk](mailto:kt506@cam.ac.uk))

Unfortunately the original walk planned for this week to Matlock has had to be postponed due to train strikes on 2<sup>nd</sup> December affecting EMR services. Since most are not affected this walk in the Chiltern Hills will take place instead with the original walk taking place later this academic year.

We begin from Tring Station, joining the Ridgeway footpath ascending through some fields and woodland then over Pitstone Hill at around 200m. We then follow the Ridgeway further, descending a bit before heading up the Ivinghoe Beacon, one of the most notable hills in the Chilterns at 233m with a great view over the surrounding landscape. We then follow the ancient Icknield Way to the village of Ringshall then through more woodland at Pitstone Common. We pass through the village of Aldbury on the way back to the station. [You may wish to bring a light for this walk as it may start to get dark towards the end.](#)

Meet: 8:05 at the railway station for the 8:24 to London **(This is earlier than I said previously as the non-stop train to London seems to have ceased to exist on Saturday)**

Return: Back in Cambridge by 19:51 (probably 18:40)

Cost: £28.20 (travelcard to Harrow & Wealdstone + return from H&W to Tring)