

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Easter Term 2009

Welcome back to the Rambling Club. Once again, we invite you to leave the city for a few hours this term, and 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, and we have tried to provide a mixture of walks of different lengths. We usually stop at a village pub en route, but **you should bring a packed lunch and a drink** anyway as occasionally a walk doesn't pass a pub, or we find that a pub is closed. Strong boots and waterproof 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 (apart from the Varsity March at the end of term) – just turn up at the time and place given. Our meeting points are:

Bus/Coach: At the corner of Drummer Street and Emmanuel Street.

Train: In the main hall of Cambridge Railway Station.

<p>Thursday 23rd April: <i>Pub Meet, The Granta, 7pm</i> Contact: David Come and join us for a drink and a ramble of the conversational variety. Turn up any time from 7pm onward and look for the group with the sheep!</p>	
<p>Saturday 25th April: <i>"Wandering around Wandlebury"</i> Wandlebury Circular (10 km / 6 miles) Contact: Mary Jeddere-Fisher <i>A short walk through the Wandlebury country park set in the Gog Magog Hills. The walk will take in a roman road and the remains of an Iron age Hill fort known as the Wandlebury Ring.</i> Meet: 12:45 at the bus station for the 13:00 bus to Wandlebury Return: 16:20 bus from Wandlebury, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:40 Cost: £5 for the bus fare [Return to Wandlebury]</p>	<p>Sunday 26 Apr: <i>"Multum in Parvo: England's smallest historic county"</i> Oakham to Stamford (22 km / 14 miles) Contact: Matthew <i>Heading eastward from Oakham along the Hereward Way, we soon reach the shore of Rutland Water. Our route follows the full length of this impressive reservoir, popular for birdwatching, angling, watersports, and of course, rambling. We stop for a brief drink at Empingham, just below the reservoir dam, then continue southeast across open countryside to Tinwell. Finally, the banks of the River Welland lead us into the centre of Stamford.</i> Meet: 10:45 at the train station for the 10:56 train to Oakham Return: 18:00 train from Stamford, arriving back in Cambridge at 19:08 Cost: £20.50, or £13.55 with a railcard [Return to Oakham]</p>
<p>Saturday 2nd May: (No ramble)</p>	<p>Sunday 3rd May: <i>"Fleam Dyke"</i> Linton to Fulbourn 16 km / 10 miles Contact: David <i>From Linton we will first scale Rivey Hill on our way to Balsham, where we join the start of Fleam Dyke, an Anglo-Saxon defensive earthwork. We then walk along the dyke to Fulbourn where we will catch the bus home.</i> Meet: 10.55 at the bus station for the 11.10 bus to Linton Return: 16:51 bus from Fulbourn, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:45 Cost: £5 for the bus fare</p>
<p>Saturday 9th May: <i>"Epping Forest Ramble"</i> Cheshunt Circular (20 km / 12.5 miles) Contact: Gillian <i>Today we will be visiting the historic Epping Forest, a favourite hunting spot for Henry VIII and Elizabeth I back in Tudor Times - Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge is still standing. The forest is thought to have first been given it's legal status as a royal forest right back in the 12th Century by Henry III. Full of ancient woodland, Iron Age embankments, and more, we will be exploring it via a circular walk from the nearby town of Cheshunt, passing through some beautiful lakes and waterways on the way, and following the King George reservoir on the way back.</i> Meet: 09:15 at the train station for the 09:32 train to Cheshunt Return: 16:18 train from Cheshunt, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:21 Cost: £12.30, or £8.10 with a railcard [Return to Cheshunt]</p>	<p>Sunday 10th May: <i>"Outing to the Ouse"</i> St Neots Circular (10 km / 6 miles) Contact: Mary Flook <i>A gentle afternoon stroll through the countryside around St Neots. First following the banks of the River Great Ouse before heading out to explore the fields outside. Buses turn up every half hour, so there's no rush!</i> Meet: 12:55 at the bus station for the 13:10 bus to St Neots Return: 16:47 bus from St Neots, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:10 Cost: Approximately £6 for the bus fare [Return to St Neots]</p>
<p>Thursday 14th May: <i>Meal Out in Grantchester</i> Contact: Steven We're planning on taking advantage of the long summer evenings by holding this term's meal out a short stroll away in Grantchester. Steven will be sending out an email containing further information nearer the time.</p>	
<p>Saturday 16th May: <i>"Forests, Rivers and Castles (well, one of each)"</i> Brandon Circular (16 km / 10 miles) Contact: Steven <i>We first visit the ruins of Weeting Castle before making our way through the forest to Hockwold cum Wilton. From here we join the Little Ouse River, which we then follow back towards Brandon for the train home.</i> Meet: 12:00 at the train station for the 12:12 train to Brandon Return: 17:20 train from Brandon, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:58 Cost: £9.50, or £6.25 with a railcard [Return to Brandon]</p>	<p>Sunday 17th May: <i>"Moats and Molehills Reprise"</i> Horseheath Circular (22 km / 14 miles) Contact: Mary Flook <i>On this trip we'll be aiming to go through several scenic villages, including West Wickham, Withersfield and Castle Camps, past moats and woods, and up and down many Cambridgeshire "hills". This may also be a round trip in time, as we go back to the medieval remains at Castle Camp and back past the dismantled railway. And hopefully the weather will be slightly more friendly than last time this walk was attempted!</i> Meet: 08:55 at the bus station for the 09:10 bus to Horseheath Return: 16:23 bus from Horseheath, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:10 Cost: £5 for the bus fare [Return to Horseheath]</p>
<p>Saturday 23rd May: (No ramble)</p>	<p>Sunday 24th May: <i>"Exploring the well-charted district of Audley End"</i> Great Chesterford to Newport (18 km / 11 miles) Contact: Steven <i>A return to one of the club's favourite rambling areas! We first visit the villages of Stretthall and Littlebury Green and then continue through some gently rolling countryside to Audley End. We will then follow the Beachy Ride track and the Harcamlow way to Newport.</i> Meet: 10:35 at the train station for the 10:51 train to Great Chesterford Return: 15:55 train from Newport, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:19 Cost: £6, or £3.95 with a railcard [Return to Newport]</p>

<p>Saturday 30th May: “Hilltop Spectacular” Shepreth to Royston (19 km / 12 miles) Contact: Geoffrey <i>From Shepreth we head to the village of Meldreth and then along the Ickniel Way path to Bassingbourn for some lunch. Next we head to the very pretty village of Therfield, from where you can get a good view of Cambridgeshire towards Cambridge. It is some of the highest ground near to Cambridge. After visiting Therfield we head to Royston to catch the train back to Cambridge.</i> Meet: 09:40 at the train station for the 09:55 train to Shepreth Return: 16:36 train from Royston, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:54 Cost: £5, or £3.30 with a railcard [Return to Royston]</p>	<p>Sunday 31st May: (No ramble)</p>
<p>Saturday 6th June: “The Fen Rivers Way” King’s Lynn to Downham Market or Cambridge (19 km / 12 miles, or 80 km / 50 miles) Contact: Mary Jederre-Fisher / Barney <i>A walk along the River Ouse from Kings Lynn to Downham Market, with an optional mad extension! Heading out of King’s Lynn we will pick up the Fen Rivers Way. This takes us along the river and through the villages of Wiggshall St Germans, Wiggshall St Mary Magdalene and Stowbridge, before we reach Downham Market. Here the sensible rambler can take the train back to Cambridge, while for the more crazy rambler (and anyone wanting to try out a long walk ahead of the Varsity March) there will be the opportunity to continue along the Fen Rivers Way all the way back to Cambridge!</i> Meet: 09:15 at the train station for the 09:33 train to King’s Lynn Return: 17:09 train from Downham Market, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:44. Those walking all the way back to Cambridge will (hopefully!) return early Sunday morning... Cost: £8.50, or £5.60 with a railcard [Return to King’s Lynn]</p>	<p>Sunday 7th June: “Republic of the Fens” Swaffham Prior to Lode (16 km / 10 miles) Contact: Helen <i>After admiring its two churches in one churchyard, we leave Swaffham Prior and walk to the village of Reach, then up the aptly named Straight Drove to the hamlet of Upware, which in the mid 19th Century was proclaimed the Republic of Upware, and is home to the "Five Miles From Anywhere - No Hurry!" pub (which once upon a time had the slightly more normal name of the Lord Nelson). Leaving Upware, we walk along the River Cam, then along Lug Fen Drove to Lode, home to Anglesey Abbey, a former priory set in impressive grounds, now owned by the National Trust.</i> Meet: 10:10 at the bus station for the 10:25 bus to Swaffham Prior Return: 16:15 bus from Lode, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:39 Cost: £5 for the bus fare [Return to Swaffham Prior]</p>
<p>Monday 8th June: “Elderflower Ramble” Contact: Gillian <i>As exams are (probably) over, and the sun is (hopefully) shining, we're planning an extra ramble this week, or more accurately, a search for elderflowers in and around Cambridge, followed by elderflower cordial making later in the afternoon, ready for the Rambling Club punting trip on Thursday!</i> Meet: 10:30 outside St John’s College for setting off soon after Return: sometime between early afternoon and early evening, depending on how successful our search is and whether you stay to make cordial. Cost: Probably £0, but bring some money just in case we decide to catch a bus (though if we do, we won’t be travelling far).</p>	
<p>Thursday 11th June: Midnight Punting Trip to Grantchester Contact: Helen / Mary Flook <i>Starting in the early evening, we’ll head down to Grantchester by punt, stopping in the meadows for a picnic along the way. After a quick drink at the pub in the village we’ll then punt home by moonlight. A unique Cambridge experience! More details will follow nearer the time, but please contact Helen or Mary Flook if you would like to help with the catering or can provide a cheap punt!</i></p>	
<p>Saturday 13th June: “White Cliffs and Castles” Kearsney to Dover and Deal (30 km / 19 miles) Contact: Matthew <i>With an early start from Cambridge, this ramble takes us down to the Kent coast, supposedly within sight of France on a clear day. For the first nine miles, we make a loop across the hills west of Dover, passing the ruins of St. Radigund’s Abbey and the Dover Western Heights fortifications. We pass through town centre of Dover, then continue for ten miles along the famous White Cliffs through St. Margaret-at-Cliffe, Kingsdown, and finally Deal. If you would prefer a shorter walk or a late start, Dover Priory station is conveniently located near the halfway point; please let Matthew know in advance if you would like to join us there.</i> Meet: 05:30 at the train station for the 05:45 train to King’s Cross Return: 18:01 train from Deal, arriving back in Cambridge at 21:35 Cost: £41 or £27.05 with a railcard [Return to Deal]</p>	<p>Sunday 14th June: “Barney’s Short Sunday Special” Thetford to Brandon (14 km / 9 miles) Contact: Barney <i>After yesterday’s epic expedition, we return to Thetford Forest for a somewhat shorter Sunday stroll. Leaving Thetford on the St Edmund Way via the ruins of the priory, we will follow the Little Ouse River into the forest to explore Warren Wood. We will then make our way through the woods to Santon Downham and finally to Brandon for the train home.</i> Meet: 12:30 at the train station for the 12:46 train to Thetford Return: 17:55 train from Brandon, arriving back in Cambridge at 18:32 Cost: £9.60, or £6.35 with a railcard [Return to Thetford]</p>
<p>Saturday 20th – Sunday 21st June The Varsity March 130 km / 81 miles Contact: Steven <i>The annual Varsity March is a mammoth two-day walk between Oxford and Cambridge, completed in under 48 hours without any sleep! Many people do not join us for the whole epic hike, but turn out to support their friends for short sections. More details will be sent out by email nearer the time, but please talk to any of the committee members if you would like more information.</i></p>	

The Rambling Club is brought to you by:

Steven Smith (Selwyn, sgs30@cam.ac.uk, President)
David Klingle (Queens’, dak37@cam.ac.uk, Vice President)
Mary Jeddere-Fisher (Churchill, mj329@cam.ac.uk, Treasurer)
Mary Flook (Clare, mf328@cam.ac.uk, Secretary)
Matthew Ford (rambling@mtford.org, Archivist)

Helen Jordan (Churchill, hj243@cam.ac.uk)
Gillian James (St John’s, gfgj2@cam.ac.uk)
Barney Stratford (barney_stratford@fastmail.fm)
Geoffrey March (gem18@hotmail.com)

For photos and more information about the club, have a look at our website: www.srcf.ucam.org/curac