

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RAMBLING CLUB

Lent 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 sometimes stop at a village pub en route, but **you should always bring a packed lunch and a drink** anyway. **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, **except the March March March**. Our meeting points are:

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

Train: In the main hall of Cambridge Railway Station.

Sunday 18th January: *"Getting lost in Saffron Walden"* **13 km / 8 miles** **Contact: Sam**
Audley End to Great Chesterford

From Audley End station we head to Saffron Walden on a path that should give us good views of Audley End stately home. Once in Saffron Walden, we can visit both the circular turf maze on the Common (which with a path length of almost 1 mile is the largest example of its type in the world, and should offer anyone who doesn't think the walk is long enough the chance to cover a bit more distance by going round it a few times...) and the hedge maze in the recently restored Victorian Bridge End Gardens. After finding our way through the maze, we'll then continue to Little Chesterford and so on to Great Chesterford for the train home.

Meet: 10:00 at the train station for the 10:15 train to Audley End

Return: 15:48 train from Great Chesterford, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:04

Cost: £5.80, or £3.85 with a railcard [Return to Audley End]

Saturday 24th January: *"Devil's Dyke"* **18 km / 11 miles** **Contact: David**
Swaffham Prior to Dullingham

We plan to walk the whole length of Devil's Dyke, an impressive Anglo-Saxon earthwork. After admiring Swaffham Prior's two churches in one churchyard, we walk to Reach, where Devil's Dyke begins. We soon leave the Fens and follow the dyke through the open chalk landscape near Newmarket, then pass through woodland to arrive at Ditton Green, where the dyke ends. After a quick drink in the pub to celebrate, we walk on to Dullingham for the train home.

Meet: 09:45 at the bus station for the 10:00 bus to Swaffham Prior

Return: 15:20 train from Dullingham, arriving at Cambridge train station at 15:39

Cost: Approx. £5 for the bus [Single to Swaffham Prior], plus £3:80 (or £2:50 with a railcard) for the train [Dullingham to Cambridge]

Sunday 1st February: *"An Iron age hill-fort, several moats and a lot of pubs!"* **15 km / 9 miles** **Contact: Mary Jeddere-Fisher**
Sawbridgeworth Circular

We head out along the river Stort, passing several weirs and locks before we reach the remains of the iron age Wallbury hill fort. From here we leave the river and head up to some 'hills', passing several small villages: Spellbrook, Allen's Green and Perr Green, each with a pub (but do still bring your lunches with you!) After passing a couple of moats we descend back to the river and to Sawbridgeworth.

Meet: 10:15 at the train station for the 10:32 train to Sawbridgeworth

Return: 15:34 train from Sawbridgeworth, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:19

Cost: £9.70, or £6.40 with a railcard [Return to Sawbridgeworth]

Saturday 7th February: *"A very long way from Oxford: Settlements along the Varsity highway"* **22 km / 14 miles** **Contact: Geoffrey**
Shepreth to Ashwell

From Shepreth we head to Meldreth, and then along the long Icknield Way to Litlington, where we stop at the village church for lunch. After lunch we make a return to the Icknield Way which we follow to Ashwell Village to see the start of the River Cam at Ashwell Springs. Leaving Ashwell, we head south to some hills with a view of South Cambridgeshire. After the view we head to Ashwell and Morden Station to get the return train to Cambridge. This walk takes in the settlements of the near end section of the well known tough walk called the Varsity March.

Meet: 9:40 at the train station for the 9:55 train to Shepreth

Return: 16:00 train from Ashwell and Morden, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:27

Cost: £6.50, or £4.30 with a railcard [Return to Ashwell and Morden]

Sunday 15th February:***“Thetford Forest: A Fitting Foray for February”*****Thetford Circular****21 km / 13 miles****Contact: Helen**

Leaving the historic town of Thetford and heading in a north-westerly direction, we join the St Edmund way and follow the Little Ouse River through the impressive Thetford Forest. At Santon Downham we stop for a picnic lunch before heading back towards Thetford, taking a route deeper into the Forest.

Meet: 10:30 at the train station for the 10:46 train to Thetford**Return:** 16:47 train from Thetford, arriving back in Cambridge at 17:32**Cost:** £9.60, or £6.35 with a railcard [Return to Thetford]**Saturday 21st February:*****“Pancake Ramble 2: Flipping Wild”*****West-of-Cambridge Circular****15 km / 9 miles****Contact: Barney**

As a new take on the traditional pancake ramble, this year we'll stop to make pancakes en route, carrying everything we need to do so with us! We head out of Cambridge along the river to Grantchester, then walk across the fields to reach the village of Barton. Leaving Barton, we head north and soon find an ideal spot to make (and eat) pancakes! When we're done, we walk on to the village of Coton, before returning on the Harcamlow way to Cambridge.

Meet: 11:30 outside Great St Mary's Church**Return:** About 4pm**Cost:** Free!**Thursday 26th February:*****Meal Out and AGM*****Contact: Helen**

Details of our termly meal out at a restaurant in Cambridge will be sent out by email nearer the time. The meal will be followed by a short and informal AGM – your chance to get involved in the running of the club!

Sunday 1st March:***“8 miles, 117 metres and 33 Acres”*****Linton Circular****13 km / 8 miles****Contact: Mary Flook**

We'll pass some fishponds and a moat before heading south out of Linton, climbing gently to a height of 117m. Then we descend towards Hadstock, past the 'Thirty-Three Acre Covert' and return into Linton on the 'Chalky Road,' a part of the Icknield Way.

Meet: 09:50 at the bus station for the 10:10 bus to Linton**Return:** 15:30 bus from Linton, arriving back in Cambridge at 16:02**Cost:** £5 for the bus fare [Return to Linton]**Saturday 7th March:*****“March March March”*****March to Cambridge****65 km / 41 miles****Contact: Steven**

This is the Rambling Club's version of the walk of the same name originally invented by some Cambridge mathmos in the 1970s. Dubbed by some as the most boring walk on the planet, this mammoth expedition offers a unique opportunity to fully experience the vast open grandeur and isolation of the fens, the unforgettable dead-straight Old Bedford River and the full length of the Ouse Washes Nature Reserve, as well as the chance to challenge yourself with a walk of a truly impressive scale! More details, options for only walking part of the distance, and sign-up information will be sent out by email nearer the time, but please talk to Steven if you would like more information.

Meet: 06:40 at the train station for the 06:56 train to March**Return:** Hopefully (!) arriving back in Cambridge shortly before midnight...**Cost:** £8.90, or £5.90 with a railcard [Single to March]**Saturday 14th March:*****“The Beautiful Broads”*****Wroxham to Acle****15 km / 9 miles****Contact: Gillian**

We'll be going further afield for our last ramble of term to The Broads, a beautiful area of rivers and lakes in Norfolk. Although thought for many years to be a natural feature of the landscape, they were discovered in the 1960s to be products of early peat excavations from the Roman Times and Middle Ages. We'll be visiting various lakes, and following the River Bure South-East, from the small town of Wroxham, to Acle, from where we'll return to Cambridge, via Norwich. We plan to stop for a pub lunch during the day.

Meet: 07:55 at the train station for the 08:12 train to Wroxham**Return:** 16:27 train from Acle, arriving back in Cambridge at 18:11**Cost:** £20.30, or £12.85 with a railcard [Return to Norwich, Single from Norwich to Wroxham, Single from Acle to Norwich]**The Rambling Club is brought to you by:**

Helen Jordan (Churchill, hj243@cam.ac.uk, President)

Mary Jeddere-Fisher (Churchill, mj329@cam.ac.uk, Treasurer)

Mary Flook (Clare, mf328@cam.ac.uk, Secretary)

Sam Cane (sam.d.cane@btinternet.com, Archivist)

Steven Smith (Selwyn, sgs30@cam.ac.uk)

David Klinge (Queens', dak37@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