



# NatHistFest

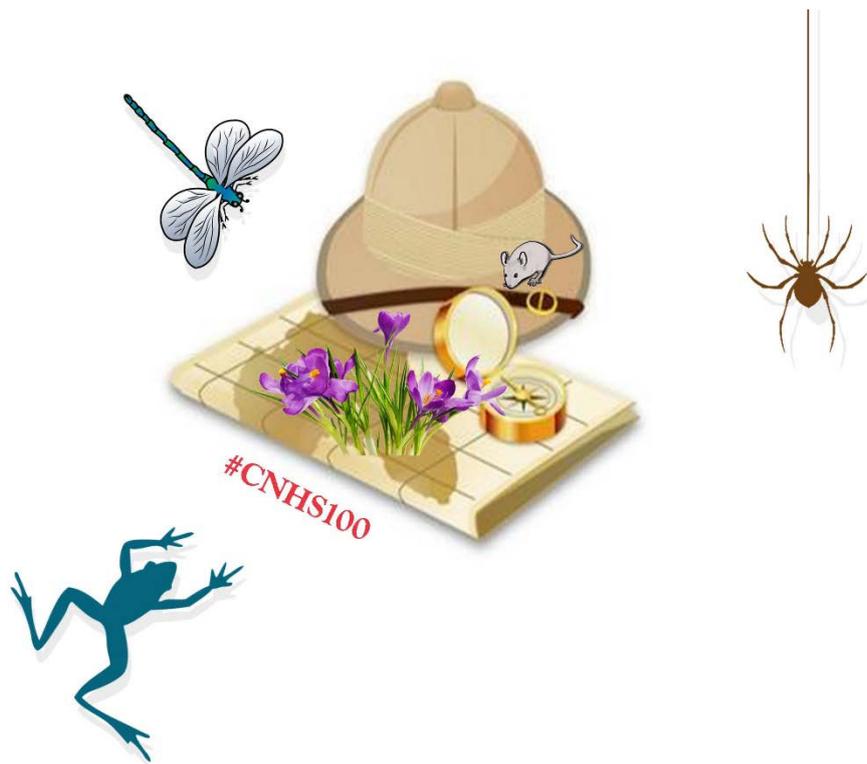
## 2019



### *The 100<sup>th</sup> Conversazione and Annual Exhibition on the wonders of the natural world*

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 10:00 am - 5:00 pm



***Directory of Exhibitors £1***

*Cambridge Natural History Society  
(1857 – 2019)*

# Welcome to the NatHistFest the 100<sup>th</sup> Conversazione and Exhibition

The Conversazione is the annual exhibition of the Cambridge Natural History Society. This is the largest exhibition of its kind in Cambridge, and covers all traditional aspects of natural history as well as modern biology and conservation.

'Conversazione' is an Italian word, roughly translated as 'at home'. It usually means a social event expressed as an exhibition by members of a society. The CNHS Conversazione evolved out of the meetings of the Society, which at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century consisted of lectures, preceded by displays of specimens shown by members and discussed by the audience. The first Conversazione was held in 1913 but no meetings were held during the First World War. On the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1921 it was held in the Zoology Department and this tradition has continued every year to the present day.

Exhibitors are as varied as their exhibits: local naturalists, artists, conservation groups, members of the University and many others. Everyone is welcome!

We hope you enjoy the Society's annual 'at home', and invite you to come again next year. If you are interested in joining the Society, you will find more information at the Society's display.

*Kevin Hand, President, Cambridge Natural History Society*

Donations towards the costs of staging  
the Conversazione are gratefully received.

**[www.cnhs.org.uk](http://www.cnhs.org.uk)**



## **A message from Sir David Attenborough**

*Many congratulations to you all on reaching your 100<sup>th</sup> Conversazione – a truly inspiring and prestigious event.*

*I joined the Cambridge University Natural History Society in 1945 as soon as I arrived in Cambridge as an undergraduate at Clare College. In those days the Society was divided into sections. Each was devoted to one particular aspect of natural history, and I was delighted when eventually I was appointed Secretary of the Microbiological Section. I cannot pretend that at the time I had a particular interest or expertise in this side of the Society's activities but then that was the excitement of belonging to the Society. It introduced you parts of the natural world that you barely knew existed. Long may it continue to do so for those who are lucky enough to be its members.*

*Best wishes*

*David.*

**March 2019**

# Directory of Exhibitors

*Exhibitors are listed alphabetically with information about their activities as well as about their displays. We hope this is useful.*

## **ACE Cultural Tours**

<http://www.aceculturaltours.co.uk>

*Natural history and wildlife tours* [enquiries@aceculturaltours.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aceculturaltours.co.uk)

ACE Cultural Tours presents selected highlights of our forthcoming natural history and wildlife tours, to destinations including Borneo, South Africa, and Tasmania.

ACE Cultural Tours is the UK's longest running cultural tour operator, with over 60 years of experience.

## **Adeline**

## **STUDENT DISPLAY**

*In the Bornean garden*

When one thinks of Borneo, images of the rainforest and its iconic species might come to mind: orangutans, proboscis monkeys, rafflesias etc. This overlooks some of the more commonly seen but equally fascinating species living on the island. This exhibit aims to provide an introduction to some of these species.

## **Dr Harriet Allen**

[hda1@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hda1@cam.ac.uk)

<https://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/makingthelynx/>

*Biodiversity of Mediterranean montado (wood pasture) landscapes*

Poster describing work of assessing the biodiversity importance of montado (wood pasture) landscapes in Portugal. These are traditional multi-use landscapes supporting a rich flora and fauna, including the Iberian lynx.

## **Sir David Attenborough**

*A message of support*

**BTO (British Trust for Ornithology)**

[www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

Rob Pople, BTO Regional Rep (Cambridgeshire)

[info@bto.org](mailto:info@bto.org)

*Make your garden count*

Find out about BTO's weekly Garden BirdWatch survey and how telling us what you see in your garden can count towards science. Pick up advice on how to attract wildlife into your garden.

Our vision is of a world inspired by birds and informed by science. We harness the skills and passion of birdwatchers to advance our understanding of ornithology and produce impartial science for everyone's benefit.

**Dr Clarke Brunt**

[clarke.brunt@viridis.net](mailto:clarke.brunt@viridis.net)

*Wildlife in my garden*

<http://www.viridis.net>

As well as the cacti, succulents, carnivorous plants etc. often exhibited in past years, my garden is home to all kinds of wildlife, from nesting swifts, other birds, and honeybees, to hedgehogs, frogs and toads. I'm showing photos I've have taken.

**Sam Buckton**

*Leaf Miners and moth-trap intruders*

**Butterfly Conservation Cambridgeshire & Essex branch**

Louise Bacon / Vince Lea

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/cambridgeshire-and-essex-branch>

*Butterfly Conservation Cambridgeshire & Essex branch*

**Cam Valley Forum**

<https://camvalleyforum.uk>

*Action for the conservation of the River Cam.*

What the Cam Valley Forum does and how we have tried to eliminate Floating Pennywort from the Upper River.

## **Cambridge & Peterborough Amphibian and Reptile Group (CPARG)**

Steven Allain/Helen Moore/Aunald Jopling/Mark Goodman

<https://groups.arguk.org/cparg>

[candparg@gmail.com](mailto:candparg@gmail.com)

### *Cambridgeshire's amphibians and reptiles*

Cambridgeshire hosts a wide range of habitats for our native amphibians and reptiles that can be found throughout the county. Our exhibit aims to highlight these species, where you find them and what to do if you do come across them in the wild. We'll also be highlighting how you can help these animals in your local area and how to get involved.

CPARG is a local grassroots amphibian and reptile conservation group. As a volunteer-run group we provide training, conduct surveys, liaise with planning authorities and consultancies, organise talks and give presentations. Our aims are to increase awareness of reptile and amphibian conservation priorities and to map the distribution of each species within the county.

## **Cambridge Astronomical Association**

[www.caa-cya.org](http://www.caa-cya.org)

Paul Mardon

Brian Lister

[btlister@btinternet.com](mailto:btlister@btinternet.com)

### *Cambridge Astronomical Association*

### *Cambridge Young Astronomers*

Cambridge Astronomical Association (CAA) & Cambridge Young Astronomers (CYA) cater for all levels of interest in astronomy from absolute beginners to experts, young and old. We aim to make astronomy interesting and fun with monthly speakers, public observing sessions, loan telescopes, newsletters, library, courses, and more.

## **Cambridge City Council**

### *Local Nature Reserves*

A display demonstrating projects being undertaken on the City's Nature Reserves.

## **CCF Marine & Cambridge University Marine Conservation Society**

<http://www.cambridgeconservationforum.org.uk/marine-conservation>

[ccfMarine@gmail.com](mailto:ccfMarine@gmail.com)

*CCF Marine*

*Cambridge University Marine Conservation Society*

The work of CCF Marine (the marine subgroup of Cambridge Conservation Forum) and the university's new student Marine Conservation Society.

## **Cambridge Conservation Volunteers**

[www.ccv.org.uk](http://www.ccv.org.uk)

John O'Boyle

[oboylejm@hotmail.com](mailto:oboylejm@hotmail.com)

*Coppicing, hedgelaying and grassland management*

We are a small group of volunteers who provide practical help to maintain biodiversity on nature reserves in and around Cambridge. Our tasks include coppicing, hedgelaying, grassland management and control of invasive plant species. Local work parties are held on most Sundays with residentials at more distant sites.

## **Cambridge Flora Group**

Jonathan Shanklin

*Cambridgeshire plants - Going down or up?*

## **Cambridge Moth Group**

Annette Shelford

[Nettifernets@gmail.com](mailto:Nettifernets@gmail.com)

*Moth recording in Cambridge City*

An overview of new volunteer moth-trapping projects in the city which have been inspired by the NatHistCam survey and encourage people to develop an interest in moths and get involved in moth trapping and recording. There will be a chance to meet some night-flying pollinators with live moth specimens to investigate and identify.

We are a newly established network of volunteers who are keen to raise awareness and love of moths. Many of us run moth traps in private gardens, but we are also working together to establish regular moth recording programmes in a variety of settings around the city where

moth data is scarce or non-existent. We welcome new volunteers who live in the city full time or during their time in Cambridge at university who wish to start trapping or simply want to learn more.

## **Cambridge Natural History Society**

<http://www.cnhs.org.uk>

Cambridge Natural History Society is open to everyone interested in Natural History. Talks cover a wide variety of topics, and there are exhibitions, excursions and field studies, and social events. Joining the Society gives you opportunities to meet people with shared interests and access to local experts.

*Welcome to Cambridge Natural History Society*

*A history of the Cambridge Natural History Society by C Raven*

*The Cambridge Natural History Society a century ago* written by Henry Tribe with photos provided by Jonathan Shanklin

*The Conversazione – early exhibitions* Monica Frisch & Henry Tribe

*The Ditton Meadows survey 2008* Jonathan Shanklin

*The flora of Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits 2009* Jonathan Shanklin

*Coton Countryside Reserve 2010 survey* Jonathan Shanklin

*The Backs survey 2011* Jonathan Shanklin

*Trumpington Meadows field study 2012* Jonathan Shanklin

*Great Kneighton field study 2013* Jonathan Shanklin

*West Cambridge field study 2014* Jonathan Shanklin

*Coe Fen field study 2015* Jonathan Shanklin

*Grantchester Meadows field study 2016* Jonathan Shanklin

*Coldham's Common field study 2017* Jonathan Shanklin

*CNHS Ditton Meadows field studies 2018* Jonathan Shanklin

## **Cambridge Past Present and Future**

[www.cambridgeppf.org](http://www.cambridgeppf.org)

Ed Wombwell

[ecology@cambridgeppf.org](mailto:ecology@cambridgeppf.org)

*Conservation in Cambridge*

See our conservation work and projects across our sites and with local partners, as well as how to get involved.

We are the local charity that cares about the Cambridge area and its

green landscapes. We are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the green setting of Cambridge for people and nature. We provide public access to and enjoyment of Wandlebury Country Park, Coton Countryside Reserve, Cambridge Leper Chapel, Bourn Windmill and Hinxton Watermill.

**Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association**

[www.cbka.org.uk](http://www.cbka.org.uk)

Sandra Chapman

*A day in the life of a honey bee*

This exhibit highlights the importance of honey bees in pollination and shows how honeybees interact by using a virtual hive. The queen bee, drone bees, nurse bees and foraging bees will all be shown and there will be honey!

Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association is a charity, promoting beekeeping to the public and providing advice and assistance to beekeepers.

**Cambridgeshire Bird Club**

[www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](http://www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

[chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

Louise Bacon / Vince Lea

*The activities of Cambridgeshire Bird Club*

**Cambridgeshire Geological Society**

[www.cambsgeology.org](http://www.cambsgeology.org)

[www.fenedgetrail.org](http://www.fenedgetrail.org)

[info@cambsgeology.org](mailto:info@cambsgeology.org)

*Cambridgeshire's Geology*

Find out about the hidden geology beneath your feet from fossils of giant marine reptiles to the microscopic skeletons of trillions of algae and the remains of glacial lakes, deserts and volcanoes.

*The Fen Edge Trail*

A journey across a landscape and time: from the Lincolnshire border to the Suffolk border: explore the landscape heritage of the Cambridgeshire Fen Edge.

The Cambridgeshire Geological Society promotes interest in the geology of Cambridgeshire, the UK and worldwide and carries out local geoconservation activities.

**Cambridgeshire Mammal Group**

[www.cambsmammalgroup.co.uk](http://www.cambsmammalgroup.co.uk)

[cambsmammal@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmammal@gmail.com)

*The work of the Cambridgeshire Mammal Group*

The exhibit shows the work of the Group in conservation, monitoring and surveying of Cambridgeshire's wild mammals - these range from the smallest Harvest Mice through Badgers and Otters up to Muntjac and Red Deer.

The aims of the group are to survey and monitor and thus help to conserve wild animals throughout the county, to promote the public awareness of "their" wild mammals, to train its members and the public in mammal related matters, and to provide help and advice to whoever needs it.

**Cambridgeshire Moth Group**

[vc29@elymoths.org.uk](mailto:vc29@elymoths.org.uk)

*Moth recording in v.c.29*

**Amelie Carter-Tribe**

*The wonderful world of Woodlice*

**Meg Clarke**

*Sketching in Hayley Wood*

**Dr Gavan Cooke**

[gavan.cooke@anglia.ac.uk](mailto:gavan.cooke@anglia.ac.uk)

<http://drgmcooke.co.uk/index.php/cephalopod-citizen-science/>

*Cephalopod Citizen Science*

Although well studied in some scientific disciplines (e.g. neuroscience, aquaculture, animal physiology, ethology), the wild behavioural ecology and fisheries/conservation status of many cephalopods (octopuses and the like) remain a mystery. Compelling evidence suggests that cephalopods can suffer and feel pain. As a result, they are protected in some parts of the world in a scientific context, but no guidance exists on

wild animal welfare. Unlike marine mammals, marine fish, sharks and crustaceans, cephalopods damage very easily and become exhausted when pursued by divers who are used to interacting with animals that have evolved for fast and or long periods of swimming. Furthermore, reports exist of local scale extinction of species once very common (e.g. the Common Cuttlefish *Sepia officinalis* in parts of Devon, UK). Citizen science is becoming a more widely used tool to fill gaps where little funding exists.

**Countryside Restoration Trust**     [www.countrysiderestorationtrust.com](http://www.countrysiderestorationtrust.com)

Vince Lea     [info@countrysiderestorationtrust.com](mailto:info@countrysiderestorationtrust.com)

*Larks on the rise at Lark Rise Farm*

We will look at 140 acres of land farmed by the CRT for the 20 years. Through a combination of crop mosaics and less intensive land management, we have seen an increase in many farmland birds. Skylarks are one species to benefit and we will show how we have achieved this.

**Dr Frances Dipper**     [frances.dipper@sustenergy.co.uk](mailto:frances.dipper@sustenergy.co.uk)

*The marine world*

[www.marinedipper.co.uk](http://www.marinedipper.co.uk)

A display of fascinating finds from the ocean collected over many years from seashores in UK and around the world including shells, flotsam and jetsam, pressed seaweeds, sharks teeth, ray egg cases and much more. Plus my two latest marine natural history books for children and adults (signed copies available for sale).

**Brian Eversham**

*Cambridgeshire Elms*

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/cladoniophile/collections/72157668491324707/>

Sell & Murrell's Flora (2018) gives a new classification of British elms, raising the species count from 2-5 species to 62. Eleven of these were described new to science from Cambridgeshire, and at least 35 have been recorded from the county. The exhibition will feature specimens of some of the more distinctive and restricted species.

## **Leah Fitzpatrick & Lauren Rouse**

## **STUDENT DISPLAY**

### *Undercover Discover – skin and bone*

Want to hold the tooth of the largest shark that's ever lived? Or feel how soft a skunk's fur is? Come join Leah and Lauren with their collection of over 100 different natural history specimens for you to explore!

Undercover Discover is for both children AND adults, come say hi!

## **Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook**

[www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk)

[general-secretary@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk](mailto:general-secretary@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk)

### *Cherry Hinton Brook – a wildlife haven*

Information about Cherry Hinton Brook, and the role of the Friends in keeping it a clean and pleasant environment

## **Friends of Histon Road Cemetery**

[www.histonroadcemetery.org](http://www.histonroadcemetery.org)

[friendsofhistonroadcemetery@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:friendsofhistonroadcemetery@yahoo.co.uk)

Lesley Dodd, Rod Mulvey, Paola Filippucci

### *Friends of Histon Road Cemetery*

Discover Histon Road Cemetery, a Grade II\* listed Victorian cemetery in north Cambridge and a place of remembrance, history and nature managed for wildlife by our Friends group, alongside Cambridge City Council. Join us to find out more about this lovely place and help look after it!

Histon Road Cemetery provides an important haven for wildlife and is managed with this in mind. We hope you will agree this is a special place and that you will join us as a "Friend" to help keep it that way!

## **Friends of Stapleford Parish Chalk Pit**

<http://www.staplefordonline.com/Stapleford-Cambridge-community-groups/stapleford-green-spaces>

John O'Boyle

### *Stapleford Chalk Pit – chalk grassland flora and Roman snails*

Stapleford Parish Pit is one of many former small quarries that form a network of chalk grassland fragments important for maintaining wild

populations of flowers and associated invertebrates. The exhibit describes significant plant species and a population of Roman snails in addition to its history and management.

The Friends group aims to encourage chalk grassland species by practical management including scrub clearance and grass cutting. Guided tours of the pit are held to increase awareness of the importance of this site in the wider context.

## **Monica Frisch**

*My Conversazione exhibits*

A look back at the, mostly botanical, topics of my displays at the Conversazione since 2007.

*Cambridge botanists in action*

Photographs of botanists 2010 – 2014.

## **The Great Fen**

<http://www.greatfen.org.uk/>

*About the Great Fen*

## **Harrold-Odell Country Park**

[www.hocp.co.uk](http://www.hocp.co.uk)

Richard Dowsett

[Richard.dowsett@bedford.com](mailto:Richard.dowsett@bedford.com)

[Richarddowsett55@btinternet.com](mailto:Richarddowsett55@btinternet.com)

*Charcoal Burning*

Photographic explanation and artefacts of small scale charcoal making for drawing and other artwork.

*Honey from Harrold-Odell bee hives*

*Willow weaving*

Examples of willow-woven items with opportunities to have a go.

Harrold-Odell is a popular country park in the Great Ouse valley managed on traditional lines with a vibrant educational programme.

## **Mr Chris Heron**

<https://cheetah.org>

*Three weeks with Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia*

Information about the Cheetah, the work of the Cheetah Conservation

Fund and the three weeks I spent working with them in Namibia in February 2018. A little on plants and insects I photographed there and on other less-well-known cat species worldwide.

Although I am not officially representing them, I will be providing leaflets supplied by the Cheetah Conservation Fund who work closely with local communities in Namibia and elsewhere to conserve the cheetah and its habitat and to reduce losses of livestock to cheetahs and other predators.

## **Roger Horton**

*Notable trees in and around Cambridge*

Photographs of ten trees taken every month for a year in and around Cambridge. Inspired by images on Twitter!

## **Huntingdonshire Fauna & Flora Society**

<http://www.hffs.org.uk>

Dr Pat Doody

[jp.doody@ntlworld.com](mailto:jp.doody@ntlworld.com)

*Recording plants and animals in Huntingdonshire and the Soke of Peterborough*

A laptop will display the work and some of the publications of the Society. There will be literature, including copies of the recently published *Orchid Flora of Huntingdonshire and the Soke of Peterborough*, available for purchase. Priced at £20 it has 133 pages, many full colour photographs of the orchids, their habitats and other illustrations, distribution maps and tables. There is a discount for members of the Society.

Founded in 1948 the objective of the Society is to promote the study, conservation and recording of wildlife throughout Huntingdonshire and Peterborough.

Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/288750741769891/>

## **Conor Jameson**

*Looking for the Goshawk*

TALK ONLY Friday 5 pm

Conor Jameson works for Birdlife International and is the author of *Looking for the Goshawk* (first published 2013)

## **Bob Jarman**

*The Arbury Estates – from Grizzled Skippers to Short-eared Owls.*

The Arbury Estates in the north of Cambridge are high density housing developments. Building began in the 1950's and continues today with Darwin Green. There are no local nature reserves - just one small protected archaeological site. But, there is a legacy of wild life interest and exciting observations.

*The Lesser Redpoll – one of our rarest breeding birds in Cambridgeshire.*

The Lesser Redpoll is often a forgotten breeding bird in Cambridgeshire. It's a species of northern temperate forests and its demise is probably due to global warming.

*Wildlife of a farm on the edge of the City*

In recent years the agricultural management of the NIAB's Trials Ground (a private site) on the northern edge of Cambridge has included steps to improve its wildlife. As a result, Red Listed birds have increased, new orchid and butterfly species have established. Part of the site has now become the Darwin Green housing project.

## **Jesus College**

<https://mothsjc.wordpress.com/>

Rhona Watson

[wildlife@jesus.cam.ac.uk](mailto:wildlife@jesus.cam.ac.uk)

*Jesus College - Biodiversity*

An ongoing project to investigate and record wildlife biodiversity in Jesus College, Cambridge.

## **Anita Joysey**

*The fungal life of a log for the fire*

A photographic record

## **Dr Gwenda Kyd**

Facebook: [cambridgebach.flowerremedies](https://www.facebook.com/cambridgebach.flowerremedies)

*Oaks (Quercus spp.) - Nature's Ancient Corkers*

Oaks symbolise strength and longevity and this is reflected in many of their uses, including in ship-building and furniture-making. But this isn't the limit of their importance...historically-important inks, herbal

medicines and environmentally-friendly bottle closures are all derived from oaks. This exhibit will show some of these uses and the science behind them.

## **Shirley Lowe**

### *Storytelling*

Sit down, relax, and enjoy a story! Stories old and new from around the world.

## **Magog Trust**

[www.magogtrust.org.uk](http://www.magogtrust.org.uk)

[admin@magogtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@magogtrust.org.uk)

### *The wildlife and habitats of the Magog Down*

Display boards and information about the Magog Trust and how to get involved with this special area for conservation, informal recreation and restoration.

The Magog Trust is a small charity owning 160 acres of chalk downland and woods in Stapleford Parish. The Trust's objectives are to encourage and conserve wildlife and provide an area for recreation for residents of nearby villages.

## **Gill Mallett (GEM Jewellery)**

### *The wonder of crystals*

Crystals are classified according to their shapes and symmetry into seven different crystal systems. Diagrams to show the crystal axes and the angles at which they intersect will be shown together with models and examples from natural gemstones.

## **NatHistCam**

<http://www.nathistcam.org.uk>

Mark Hill

[nathistcam@gmail.com](mailto:nathistcam@gmail.com)

### *Natural History of Cambridge*

Two posters with a broad description of the project will be supplemented by recent newsletters. A laptop will show our excellent website, which is managed by Monica Frisch.

**Nature in Cambridgeshire** <http://www.natureincambridgeshire.org.uk>

*Nature in Cambridgeshire*

*Nature in Cambridgeshire* is published annually. The first volume appeared in 1958, and the newly published Volume 61 will be available for sale at £7.50. Back numbers can also be purchased.

Nature in Cambridgeshire publishes papers and reports on the natural history of Cambridgeshire, mainly “old” Cambridgeshire which excludes the former county of Huntingdonshire. Louise Bacon has taken over as commissioning editor, following on from Henry Arnold who edited it for the previous 18 years.

**NIAB**

[www.niab.com](http://www.niab.com)

Sandra Chapman

[Sandra.chapman@niab.com](mailto:Sandra.chapman@niab.com)

*A 100 years of NIAB*

*Rhizoctonia: a soil borne pathogen*

*A display of edible exotic mushrooms*

Edible exotic mushrooms grown in the UK. Edible exotic mushrooms are highly valued by the connoisseurs of food and in Asia a plethora of them are consumed on a daily basis. This exhibit focuses on the most popular exotic mushrooms prized for their taste, texture and nutritional qualities.

Pam Butler

*The identification of weeds and crop seeds*

The identification of weeds and crop seeds found in the UK. This exhibition highlights the different characteristics of seeds used for identification purposes. Purity and germination tests are carried on seed lots to ensure they are of a high standard and this exhibition shows how these tests are carried out.

The mission of NIAB is to provide independent science-based research and information to support, develop and promote agriculture and horticulture; helping the industry to fulfil its potential in supplying food and renewable resources, while respecting the natural environment. The official seed testing station is part of NIAB.

**Roger Northfield**

*Aren't insects wonderful*

**John O'Boyle**

[oboylejm@hotmail.com](mailto:oboylejm@hotmail.com)

*Cambridge Science Park – an A-Z of trees*

A selective gallery of trees on the Cambridge Science Park. This display shows the range and diversity of trees on the Science Park, almost one for each letter of the alphabet.

**Cathy Parker**

*Postcards of painting inspired by local landscapes (for sale)*

**Chris Preston & Mark Hill**

[moh@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:moh@ceh.ac.uk)

*Cambridgeshire's Mosses & Liverworts*

With nearly 70 year of intensive recording, we can document changes in the flora of mosses and liverworts. Calcicoles have declined. Epiphytes have increased. The flora is dynamic with many species appearing and then vanishing. We shall exhibit some living mosses. Our 2019 Cambridgeshire flora will be offered for sale.

Cambridgeshire's mosses and liverworts are recorded mainly from October to March, when we make fortnightly excursions to all parts of the county. Beginners are welcome. Let Mark Hill know if you would like to be on our mailing list.

**Stewart Rosell**

**STUDENT ENTRY**

*Genetics studies on Wolbachia*

[sr18@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sr18@cam.ac.uk)

In March 2018 we established a weekly moth survey at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. It now involves more than 10 enthusiastic volunteers from the city and universities who are learning about moths together, and has supported a genetics study involving 2nd year undergraduate students. Come and talk to us to find out more!

**Saving Albania's vultures**

Lesley Dodd / Kevin Hand

Facebook @savingAlbaniasvultures

*Help us save the cuckoo horse!*

Dedicated to protecting the last remaining vultures and birds of prey in Albania, through research, practical action and getting people excited

about them! Support our work with a donation through [www.acefoundation.org.uk](http://www.acefoundation.org.uk) – and tell your friends!

Vultures are the bird species in greatest crisis in the world and the crash in their numbers has devastating effects on the ecosystem, including for human beings, as disease spreads without Nature's cleanup squads. In trying to rescue the birds' environment, we are trying to rescue our own.

## **Jonathan Shanklin**

*Biodiversity at the British Antarctic Survey*

*Diaries from the First World War*

*The liverworts of Cambridge*

## **Shepreth Wildlife Park**

<https://sheprethwildlifepark.co.uk/>

*Shepreth Wildlife Park and conservation*

## **Small-life Supplies**

[www.small-life.co.uk](http://www.small-life.co.uk)

Dorothy Floyd

[emma@small-life.co.uk](mailto:emma@small-life.co.uk)

*Insect Cages*

Provide the perfect home for your insects. From large airy cages to small hatching boxes, we create and manufacture cages to suit every insect. We also sell stick insects and caterpillars. Our insects are safe and harmless, as are our eucalyptus plants. Everything is produced in the UK.

## **Dick Tomkins**

*Wild life and public good*

## **Tree-Ring Unit, Department of Geography**

Dr Alan Crivellaro

[alan.crivellaro@gmail.com](mailto:alan.crivellaro@gmail.com)

*The colourful world of wood anatomy*

A gallery-display of gorgeous colour photographs of wood anatomy. This exhibition is a lush journey into the extraordinary micro-anatomy of vascular plants from all over the world.

## Henry Tribe

*Items from the CNHS archives*

The great scrapbook: reviews 1895 – 1909

The Cambridge Natural History one of 18 volumes published between 1895 & 1909

The Report and Register of Members 1908 - 1928

*My CV: My Conversazione exhibits since 1953*

*Life at two thousand magnification: The world of microbes*

*Life at two million magnification: The world of molecules*

*White shoots on thistles and white spots on jade plants*

## U3AC (University of the Third Age Cambridge) Naturalists' Group

Olwen Williams

[olwenw@gmail.com](mailto:olwenw@gmail.com)

U3A Cambridge provides educational and social opportunities for people no longer in full-time employment. The Naturalists' Group meets weekly in term time.

*A natural history quiz*

Paul Rule

[paul.rule@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.rule@btinternet.com)

*Diatoms*

Diatoms live in glass houses! They produce 20% of the earth's Oxygen. Each time they divide, they get smaller and smaller, until sex is the only answer!! Come and see the splendid variety and patterns of these remarkable uni-cellular organisms.

Jill Newcombe

[j.newcombe@phoncoop.coop](mailto:j.newcombe@phoncoop.coop)

*Earthworms*

A presentation demonstrating Earthworms, their behaviour and ecological importance

1. Eating the dead bits of plants that fall to the ground
2. Recycling the nutrients back into the soil, so helping new plants and vegetables to grow
3. Helping to drain and aerate the soil, which helps to prevent flooding
4. Being food for lots of other animals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and other invertebrates.

Mary Wheeler

[mary.wheater@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.wheater@btinternet.com)

*Pooters and Spipots*

Are you interested in bugs or mini-critters? Let us show you how to make a "pooter" to catch them without hurting them and a "spipot" to (gently!) hold them still, while you look at them.

Olwen Williams

[olwenw@gmail.com](mailto:olwenw@gmail.com)

*Snails*

Snails are regarded by gardeners with loathing! However, they are fascinating creatures and can be handled and watched with interest: sensory organs on stalks, no legs, a foot that engulfs the mouth and stomach (gastropods!) and a wonderful variety of shell colours and patterns.

**University Museum of Zoology**

[www.museum.zoo.cam.ac.uk](http://www.museum.zoo.cam.ac.uk)

[umzc@zoo.cam.ac.uk](mailto:umzc@zoo.cam.ac.uk)

*The University Museum of Zoology and its upcoming events*

**Sophie Upton**

**STUDENT ENTRY**

*Discovering moths*

**Danny White & Emma Francis**

[daw76@cam.ac.uk](mailto:daw76@cam.ac.uk)

*Reptiles & invertebrates from around the world highlighting conservation & education*

Showing a selection of animals from our own personal collections of over 50 animals. From snakes to scorpions, to small geckos to monitor lizards to inspire the next generation of herpetologists. Also talking about some animals within the collection that need conservation.

**Wildlife Sound Recording Society**

[www.wildlife-sound.org](http://www.wildlife-sound.org)

Tony Fulford

[tonyfulford@gmail.com](mailto:tonyfulford@gmail.com)

*Recording Wildlife Sounds*

Posters describing the various techniques used to capture wildlife sound and the uses to which these recordings are put. There will be displays of equipment and the chance to hear the sounds of a variety of wildlife

(mostly birds) both broadcast from loudspeakers and through a “request system” for visitors to listen to sounds of their choice through headphones.

The Wildlife Sound Recording Society aims to promote both technical excellence in recording the sounds of wildlife and the understanding of their acoustic communication. The Society organises workshops and competitions and produces an informative printed journal and a much-loved “sound magazine” (on CD) of members’ recordings.

### **Wildlife Travel**

[www.wildlife-travel.co.uk](http://www.wildlife-travel.co.uk)

Chris Donnelly

[wildlife-travel@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:wildlife-travel@wildlifebcn.org)

*Wildlife holidays supporting conservation*

More than just a wildlife holiday... discover a new world

Whether the unique wildlife of Galápagos, the rich birdlife of the Danube Delta, the stunning wildflowers of the Mediterranean or the natural history of Britain’s coastline.... there is much more to a wildlife holiday than a species list. Supporting conservation and a wide range of wildlife are guiding principles for us.

### **Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

<http://www.wildlifebcn.org>

Becky Green & Iain Webb

[Rebecca.green@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:Rebecca.green@wildlifebcn.org)

*The Wildlife Trust in Cambridge*

Come and discover the work we do in the Cambridge area: find out about our nature reserves at Trumpington Meadows, Cherry Hinton and beyond, as well as other conservation work we do. We’ll also be showcasing the important work carried out by our volunteer groups, and the amazing events we run.

Matt Hayes

*Research for conservation*

## **The *Sophora* Tree**

Visit the Society's tree a fine specimen of *Sophora japonica* planted in 1957 to mark the Society's centennial year. Leave the laboratory, cross Downing Street, and enter the courtyard opposite the Zoology Department. The *Sophora* tree is on your right in the centre of the lawn.

**The University Zoology Museum** has reopened after five years' closure for refurbishment. The Finback Whale skeleton can now be seen hanging in its new gallery and there is a new gift shop and café.

## **Acknowledgements**

The *Conversazione* is entirely dependent on the goodwill and co-operation of many people and the Society would like to thank everyone who has given their time and effort to the event, whether as a volunteer, or as an exhibitor. In particular, thanks are due to the Department of Zoology for allowing us to use the zoology laboratory, Jacek Zalewski and Danny White for helping the event to run smoothly and for letting us use microscopes and other equipment, and Lesley Dodd, Monica Frisch, Paul Mardon and other members of the Society for organising the event.

## **Membership**

CNHS membership is open to anyone with an interest in natural history. Both the public and members of the Universities play important roles in the activities of the society. Recent events have included talks on a wide variety of topics, field trips and surveys, as well as our annual exhibition.

For a small membership fee, you will be able to attend all of our activities and will be kept informed of forthcoming events by termly programme cards and regular emails.

*Join today at the Society's display. A membership form can also be downloaded from our website or email [membership@cnhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@cnhs.org.uk)*

**[www.cnhs.org.uk](http://www.cnhs.org.uk)**

## PROGRAMME OF TALKS

This year to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Conversazione, CNHS are introducing a series of 10-minute talks by exhibitors, to reflect the original aim of the event, developing conversations between all with an interest in natural history. Debate is welcomed!

### Friday 12 April

- 2:00 pm**    **The Life of Snails** Olwen Williams
- 2.30pm**    **The Cambridgeshire Bird Club** – Vince Lea
- 3:00 pm**    **Insects and Reptiles from around the World – with live examples!** Danny White, Cambridge University Zoology Dept
- 4:00 pm**    **Charcoal Burning** – Richard Dowsett, Warden, Harold-Odell Country Park
- 5:00 pm**    **Looking for the Goshawk, and other stories – special guest, author Conor Jameson, Birdlife International**
- 6:00 pm**    **CNHS AGM** – all Members welcome
- 6.30pm**    **Drinks Reception** for Members and Exhibitors, with a welcome from **Sue Marchant from BBC Radio Cambridgeshire**

### Saturday 13 April

- 11:00 am**    **Cambridgeshire's Amphibians and Reptiles** – Steve Allain, CPARG
  - 11.30am**    **The Countryside Restoration Trust** – Vince Lea
  - 12:00 pm**    **The Trees of Cambridge Science Park** – John O'Boyle
  - 12:30 pm**    **I had to explain what a Badger was to a visitor and I've never been the same since** – Leah Fitzpatrick
  - 1:00 pm**    **Wildlife Sound Recording** – Tony Fulford, Wildlife Sound Recording Society
  - 1:30 pm**    **Albania, Land of Eagles, and the Egyptian Vulture** – Kevin Hand, President, CNHS
  - 2:00 pm**    **Recording Plants and Animals in Huntingdonshire and Peterborough** – Hunts Flora and Fauna
  - 2:30 pm**    **Putting Moths on the Map** Stewart Rosell and Sophia Upton
  - 3:00 pm**    **Oaks – Nature's Ancient Corkers** – Gwenda Kyd
  - 3:30 pm**    **The World of Diatoms** – Paul Rule, CU3A
  - 4:00 pm**    **The Wonder of Crystals!** – Gill Mallett
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