

Conversazione

***95th Annual Exhibition: showcasing
the environment and wildlife***

2014



Directory of exhibits 50p

***Cambridge Natural History Society
(1857 – 2014)***



www.cnhs.org.uk

Friday 13th June
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday 14th June
10:00 am - 5:00 pm



Welcome to the 95th Annual Conversazione

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 20th 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 12th 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 on the back of this programme, and at the Society's display.

Dr Mark Hill, President, Cambridge Natural History Society

Small donations towards the costs of staging
the Conversazione are gratefully received.

Before you leave, please sign the visitors' book...

Directory of Exhibitors

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

Action for Swifts

<http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com>

Contact: Dick Newell

Email: actionforswifts@gmail.com

"Action for Swifts" is an informal group of around eight people who "care about Swifts", and try to do practical things to help them.

Examples include putting up nestboxes, some in church towers; and giving advice on swift nest-places to planners and architects.

Contact us by email or via the website if you want to be involved.

Action for Swifts

Posters describing Swift nest-boxing projects will be displayed, as well as information about Swifts. We will have examples of nest-boxes and attraction call systems on display.

Carry Akroyd

www.carryakroyd.co.uk

Carry Akroyd, Artist of landscape change and wildlife

Carry Akroyd is an artist who lives near Oundle and specialises in landscape and wildlife. She has written and illustrated the book *Natures powers & spells – Landscape change, John Clare and me.*

She is cover artist of *The British Wildlife Collection*, and has illustrated birds in *Tweet of the Day*.

Anglia Ruskin University Wildlife Society

Contact: russell.waldron@student.anglia.ac.uk

Students active in conservation

Showing how students are engaging and learning how to survey, conserve and be involved in local natural history projects.

British Antarctic Survey

Biodiversity management

British Cactus & Succulent Society (Cambridge Branch)

www.viridis.net/cactus/cambcss.html

Local contact: Dr Clarke Brunt

Email: clarke.brunt@viridis.net

The local branch holds monthly meetings (in Great Shelford) with a talk; plant sales; a competitive exhibition of members' plants; and the chance to meet fellow enthusiasts.

Cacti and succulent plants

The Cactaceae family comprises around 100 species of plants native to north and south America. Growers often have other 'succulent' plants which aren't cacti, coming from all parts of the world. There is a remarkable diversity of forms, usually involving a swollen stem, and accompanied by the reduction or absence of leaves. I'll be exhibiting a selection from my greenhouse – whatever is looking nice at the time. I should have some spare plants for sale.

Clarke Brunt

Email: clarke.brunt@viridis.net

Carnivorous plants and other bizarre adaptations in the plant world

Carnivorous plants grow in areas short of nutrients, and supplement

their diet by trapping insects. The exhibit will include specimens of *Sarracenia* (Pitcher Plant), *Darlingtonia* (Cobra Lily), *Dionaea* (Venus' Fly Trap), *Pinguicula* (Butterwort), and others. I grow most of them outside, standing in trays of rainwater – they stay outside even in winter, which was no problem at all in winter 2013/14 but they have survived far harder winters too. I should have some spare plants for sale.

Butterfly Conservation Cambridgeshire & Essex branch

www.cambs-essex-butterflies.org.uk

Email: info@cambs-essex-butterflies.org.uk

Working for the conservation of butterflies and moths across the county

Our work protecting and monitoring butterflies and moths.

Cambridge Bryophyte Excursions

<http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/bbs/meetings/mtgsloc.htm>

Mark Hill and Chris Preston

Cambridgeshire mosses and liverworts

Mosses are found on gravestones, on roofs, on pavements, in woods, in arable fields, and in lawns. Liverworts are much rarer in Cambridgeshire, but are morphologically more diverse. We show examples of both, together with an introduction to the Cambridgeshire bryophyte recording group. Each year, the Cambridgeshire local group of the British Bryological Society holds 12 field meetings between October and March. Bryophyte recording is an excellent 'winter sport' for naturalists.

Huntingdonshire excursions are arranged by Mick Burton, and 'old' Cambridgeshire (VC 29) excursions by Mark Hill (2010-2014) and (2000-2009) Chris Preston.

Cambridge Conservation Forum

www.cambridgeconservationforum.org.uk

Contact email: chair@cambridgeconservationforum.org.uk

Cambridge Conservation Volunteers

www.ccv.org.uk

Local contact: Louise Bacon Email: louise.bacon2@btinternet.com

Cambridge Conservation Volunteers carry out practical reserve management on local sites of wildlife importance

The longest running practical conservation volunteers group

Cambridge Natural History Society

www.cnhs.org.uk

The Society is open to everyone interested in Natural History - including zoology, botany, ecology, entomology, palaeontology, conservation and the environment. Talks cover a wide variety of topics, and there are exhibitions, excursions, field studies and an annual dinner. We also have links with other local groups such as the Cambridge group of the Wildlife Trust and the Magog Trust. Joining the Society gives you opportunities to meet like-minded people and access to local experts. There is an email list if you would like advance notification of events. Members receive a programme card and newsletter three times a year.

Welcome to the Cambridge Natural History Society

Great Kneighton and other field studies

The Conversazione: A Brief History 1907 - 1989

A History of The Cambridge Natural History Society from 1857 to 1957 (Charles E Raven)

The Cambridge Natural History Society One Century Ago

Cambridge Past, Present & Future

www.cambridgeppf.org

Wandlebury Ring, Gog Magog Hills, Babraham, Cambs CB22 3AE

Cambridge Past, Present & Future is a local conservation charity which aims to enhance and protect the green spaces and historic buildings in its care. These include Wandlebury Country Park and Coton Countryside Reserve, which are managed for wildlife and public access. CPP&F also owns and protects several historic properties including Barnwell Leper Chapel, Bourn Windmill and Hinxton Watermill. These have regular open days through the summer months.

The work of Cambridge Past, Present and Future

An exhibition about our sites and our project work.

Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Conservation of the Fen Orchid

This is a joint project between CUBG, Plantlife and Norfolk Wildlife Trust, looking at the reproductive biology and cultivation of the Fen Orchid (*Liparis loeselii*) to inform the conservation of this Schedule 8 plant.

Cambridgeshire Bird Club

www.cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk

Email: chairman@cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk

Contacts: Louise Bacon & Vicki Harley

Cambridgeshire Bird Club aims to promote the study, enjoyment and conservation of the county's birds.

The activities of your county bird club

Cambridgeshire Flora Group

Cambridgeshire Geology Club

www.cambridgeshiregeologyclub.org

Email: ken_rolfe@hotmail.com

Telephone: 07777 678685

Ecology and landscape of the fen edge

Cambridgeshire Mammal Group

www.cambsmammalgroup.co.uk/

Peter Pilbeam

Email: info@cambsmammalgroup.co.uk

The aims of the Group are to survey and monitor and thus help to conserve wild mammals throughout the county.

The work of the Cambridgeshire Mammal Group

The exhibit shows some of the work of the Group in the 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.

Sandra Chapman

A collection of weed seeds

Bill Clark

Contact email: bill@wandleburyring.org.uk

'Route and Branch'

Bill Clark will be selling his book 'Route and Branch'.

Countryside Restoration Trust

www.countrysiderestorationtrust.com

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook

www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

membership@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

Cherry Hinton Brook – A wildlife haven

Information about Cherry Hinton Brook, its flora and fauna and the role of the Friends in keeping it a pleasant habitat for many species.

Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke

www.frrfd.org.uk

email frrfdjin@freebie.net

The Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke were set up to raise money for these leaflets and information boards. We also pay skilled contractors to increase the areas of chalk grassland flowers and for bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

Monica Frisch

Botanising in Cambridgeshire

Photographs of people looking at plants and some of the interesting things we have found, mostly in Cambridgeshire, over the last five years.

Monica Frisch and Meg Clarke

Hayley Wood and its plants through the seasons

Monica Frisch and Meg Clarke have been exploring Hayley Wood, particularly the flora, on a monthly basis for 5 years. The exhibit will share some of their findings in relation to 6 species, and celebrate the wood in all its diversity as it changes through the seasons.

Michaela Hofmann

String pulling in Western scrub jays

Roger Horton

Hugh Neville Dixon and his Botanical Collection in Cambridge

House Sparrow Survey of Cambridgeshire

Contact: Bob Jarman

email: bobjarman99@btinternet.com

House Sparrow Survey of Cambridge

Results of a House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Survey of Cambridge between January – March 2013 and January – March 2014. The exhibit shows and contrasts the distribution of “active nests” and estimated breeding population in all 14 local government electoral Wards.

Huntingdonshire Flora and Fauna Society

www.hffs.org.uk

Email: walkpeg@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman: Peter Walker

Telephone: 0148390191

The Society exists to promote the study, conservation and recording of wildlife within the old county of Huntingdonshire VC31 and the Soke of Peterborough. To further these aims the society holds meetings, workshops and field trips within this area. The Society publishes the results of these studies and activities, in reports and special publications.

The activities of Hunts Fauna and Flora Society

Display about the society and a new orchid project using photos illustrations etc. mounted on boards; Power-point program on a laptop leaflets and display books etc.

Shirley Lowe

Contact email: shirleylowe@hotmail.com

Fantastic Fables for Families

Storytelling - For centuries stories have been told, often to explain what's happening in the world around us. But are they true? Or are the true stories even more extraordinary than those from the imagination...

Magog Trust

www.magogtrust.org.uk

littletrees@mac.com

Restoration of Chalk Grassland

Photographic display of the history and restoration of Magog Down.

Nature in Cambridgeshire

www.natureincambridgeshire.org.uk/index.html

Emails can be sent to us via the website.

Vicki Harley & Louise Bacon

Nature in Cambridgeshire is an annual journal covering all aspects of natural history in the county. Every issue covers a variety of topics and includes articles, short notes and book reviews, and is published to coincide with the Conversazione.

The independent annual Natural History Journal for Cambridgeshire

Acquire your 2014 edition and back issues today!

Roger Northfield

Aren't insects wonderful?

Hilary Pounsett

email: h.pounsett@gmail.com

British Emperor Silk Moth (female!)

Richard Preece

The Rev. Leonard Jenyns and his Fauna Cantabrigiensis

Documents and items relating to the Rev. Leonard Jenyns and his *Fauna Cantabrigiensis*, which the Ray Society published in 2013.

Colour Illustrated Field Guide to Land Snails

The Conchological Society, in partnership with the Malacological Society, the Natural History Museum and the University Museum of Zoology Cambridge, has just published a 12-page illustrated guide to the land snails of the British Isles which covers all known British and Irish species and 11 hothouse aliens.

RSPB

Bees and wasps on RSPB reserves

Contact: Rosie Earwaker

Keri Russell

Contact email: keri.russell@student.anglia.ac.uk

All things great and small

A collection of various animals.

Life through a lens

Various natural history photographs.

Jean Sinclair

Contact: jeandsinclair@ntlworld.com

'Tek 'em some Yorkshire snails'

Moving from Cambridge to Leeds in 2013 has led to discoveries, such as Rodley Nature Reserve, after visiting harvest mice in Cambridge, posting photos on Facebook, meeting artist, partner and daughter there to collect painting to take to a mountain race, as they all liked the reserve and it's very near my new home.

Jonathan Shanklin

Liverworts in Cambridgeshire

Zoology flowers

Henry Tribe

Life at million-fold magnification

A model showing how glucose is taken apart in our cells and its energy used to charge the cell's batteries, and an introduction to the superb molecular art of Prof David Goodsell.

The ermine moth on bird cherry in Jesus Green

Back to normal this year. Small nests of cocoons, shown, are scattered thinly over the trees.

Henry Tribe & Peter Gladders

Sporulation of the ash die-back fungus, *Chalara fraxinea*

Small cup fungi (apothecia) growing from the blackened petioles of last year's ash trees which fell on to the woodland floor.

UK Ladybird Survey / Anglia Ruskin University

www.ladybird-survey.org

Local contact: Peter Brown email: peter.brown@anglia.ac.uk

Life Sciences Dept., Anglia Ruskin University, East Road,
Cambridge CB1 1PT

Ladybirds of the UK

Britain has more ladybirds that you might think, with 47 species! The UK Ladybird Survey and Anglia Ruskin University introduce visitors to some of these species. Visitors are invited to record ladybirds online or via a free app (iRecord Ladybirds) so that we can learn more about their distribution and ecology.

University of the Third Age (U3A) Naturalists Group

Local contact: Olwen Williams olwenw@gmail.com

U3A provides educational and leisure activities for those who are no longer in full-time employment.

What's in your garden? Friend or foe?

A chance to look at various different invertebrates, in pots and jars, and through a microscope.

Would you like to exhibit at next year's Conversazione? If so, then please sign the visitors' book and indicate that you would like details. Information about the Conversazione 2015 will be sent out by Christmas. Contact: exhibition@cnhs.org.uk

The *Sophora* Tree

Visit the Society's tree, illustrated on the cover, 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 closed for refurbishment but will reopen in 2016 with new galleries and displays.

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: Professor Michael Akam for allowing us to use the zoology laboratory, Neal Maskell for helping the event to run smoothly, and Monica Frisch and other members of the Society for organising the event.

For more information about the Society visit our website

www.cnhs.org.uk

Cambridge Natural History Society 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, joint meetings with the Wildlife Trust, field trips and surveys.

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, or fill in the form below and send it to:
Dr H.T. Tribe, 198 Gilbert Rd, Cambridge CB4 3PB

Membership application form

Name (Capitals please)

Full address:

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.....

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Telephone

Email

I would like to join Cambridge Natural History Society.
I enclose a cheque (made payable to Cambridge Natural History Society) to cover my subscription for (*please circle*):

1 Year
(£6.00)

3 Years
(£14.00)

Life
(£100)

Signed

Date