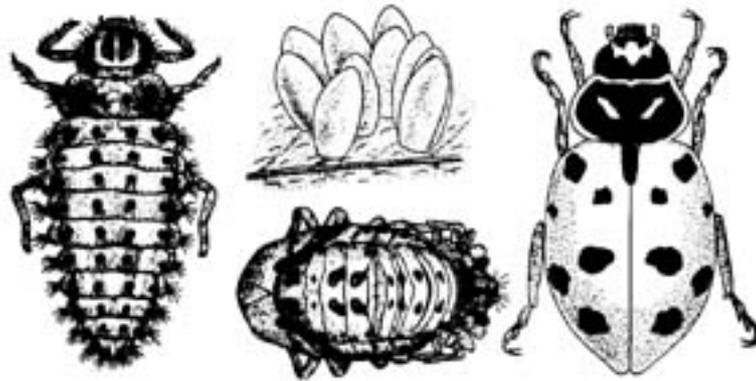


Conversazione

86th Annual Public Exhibition of Natural History



*Cambridge Natural History Society
(1857 – 2005)*

*Saturday 18th &
Sunday 19th June 2005
11:00 am - 4:00 pm*

Programme 50p



www.cnhs.org.uk



Welcome to the 86th 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 the environmental sciences.

'*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, schools, 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, which is near the Museum entrance to the lab.

Dr Toby Carter, 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...

Numbers correspond to the floor plan on the last page.

1. Cambridge Natural History Society

Toby Carter, CNHS. A chance to learn about and join the society.

2. CNHS on the Web

Jon Shanklin, CNHS. Some of the CNHS web pages and a history of the Conversazione.

3. Exploring the Coton Footpath

Jon Shanklin, CNHS. There are an amazingly large number of different flowering plants that grow in the two kilometre grid square through which the footpath runs. The CNHS has been surveying the area over the last three years.

4. Madingley Slip Road - a county protected road verge

Jon Shanklin, CNHS. The County Council have over 90 protected road verges, which are designated because of their botanical interest. One of these is the slip road off the A428 at Madingley.

5-6. Yeasts

Henry Tribe. Yeasts are specialised microscopic fungi which typically exist as individual cells. We look at wine-yeast cells and then investigate what is inside them, this revealing an astonishing complexity.

8. Discover Science

Lynne Harrison, Institute of Continuing Education. Information describing the varied programme of scientific courses run by the university for the general public through the region.

9-10. Harlequin Ladybird Survey

Peter Brown, Biological Records Centre. Poster Displays and Ladybird samples featuring the alien Harlequin ladybird and native ladybird species.

Don't forget to sign the visitor's book as you leave

- 11-12. Cambridge Green Belt and City Greenways Project**
Naomi Brooks, Cambridge Green Belt and City Greenways Project. An overview of the work of the project in and around Cambridge and opportunities for local people to become involved in conservation projects in their local patch.
- 13. Cards, Flowers and Fossils**
Jon Shanklin, CNHS. Examples from a collection begun at junior school.
- 14. Natural History Diaries**
Jon Shanklin, CNHS. Natural History diaries from the time of the Great War illustrate the interests of a natural historian 90 years ago.
- 15. Observing Comets**
Jon Shanklin, British Astronomical Society. Comets are fascinating relics from the birth of the solar system.
- 16. Stratospheric changes over Antarctica**
Jon Shanklin, British Antarctic Survey. Measurements of ozone and temperature over Antarctica began at Halley station in 1956. These observations led to the discovery of the ozone hole in 1985 and continue today.
- 17-20. Insect Life**
Dorothy Floyd, Small-Life Supplies. See our giant Malaysian and New Guinea stick insects and also the 22cm long new Thailand stick insect! We will be selling these together with stick insect cages, posters and caterpillar kits.
- 21. Local Nature Reserves in Cambridge**
Ellis Selway, Cambridge City Council. Local Nature Reserves are for people and wildlife. Come along and discover what the eight reserves in Cambridge have to offer.
- 23. Giant African Land Snails**
Megan Lee. A collection of snails.

24-25. The Work of the Cambridgeshire Badger and Otter Group.

Peter Pilbeam, Cambridgeshire Badger and Otter Group. Poster display with artefacts and leaflets to demonstrate the work of the group related to badgers, otters and other mammals in the county.

27-28. Flora and History of Magog Down

Lucy Evans, Magog Trust. Display of flora development on reclaimed arable land with notes on its recent and distant history.

29. Nature in Cambridgeshire

Jane Bulleid, Nature in Cambridgeshire. Cambridgeshire's local natural history journal; published once a year, contains articles on all aspects of Cambridgeshire's natural history.

31. Snail shells - colours and patterns

Philip Pugh, APU. How, and indeed why, snails decorate their shells with intricate and often beautiful colour patterns which they cannot see themselves and often keep hidden in a plain brown envelope!

32. Mammal Bones prepared for teaching

Ben Garrod, APU. Some British mammal skeletons prepared for teaching and study.

33. Life Sciences at Anglia Polytechnic University

Toby Carter and Philip Pugh, APU. Information about the environmental degree courses available to study in the Department of Life Sciences at APU.

34. Toys and the Micro-world

Toby Carter and Philip Pugh, APU. Views of the microscopic world with an electronic toy.

35. Carnivorous Plants and other bizarre adaptations in the plant world.

Clark Brunt, CNHS. Plants have evolved to grow in many difficult situations. Carnivorous plants grow in areas short of nutrients, and supplement their diet by trapping insects.

- 36. Cacti & Succulents - Desert Plants**
Paul Hoxey, British Cactus & Succulent Society. A selection of cacti & other succulent plants adapted to grow in the arid regions of the world.
- 37. Fossils**
Emma Ormond, APU. A collection of fossils.
- 38. Urban Foxes in Cambridge**
Toby Carter, APU. An update of fox sightings in Cambridge.
- 39-40. Devil's Dyke Restoration Project**
James Fisher, Devil's Dyke Restoration Project. All the latest information on the project which aims to restore Devil's Dyke to its former glory to the benefit of wildlife and archaeology.
- 41-42. Bats in Cambridgeshire**
Sabine Totemeyer, Cambridgeshire Bat Group. A wide range of information available on bats, sound recordings, bat droppings and you may even get to see a bat.
- 44-45. Cambridge Preservation Society (Wandlebury Country Park and Coton Countryside Reserve)**
Jon Gibbs, Cambridge Preservation Society. Cambridge Preservation Society Sites (Wandlebury Country Park and Coton Countryside Reserve) and their management.
- 47. Promoting conservation around the world-but also people's livelihoods**
Ken Richard, Fauna & Flora International. Display and publications.
- 48. Climate Change-what can we do?**
Ken Richard, Cambridge Friends of The Earth. Exhibit, leaflets and letters to sign to MPs.
- 52. Bumblebees and Wasps**
Henry Berman. What social bee or wasp is that?

- 53. Opportunities for volunteers to assist with scientific research projects**
Jo Darlington, Earthwatch. Posters of some current projects, and how to apply.
- 54. Organic Gardening and the Preservation of Old Varieties of Fruits and Vegetables**
Jo Darlington, Henry Doubleday Research Association. Leaflets and posters on the topic of organic gardening.
- 55-56. Supporting People Using the Cam**
L. Bradford, Cam Valley Forum. A display of the results of recent projects supporting farmers along the river Cam.
- 57-58. How sustainable is our countryside?**
John Terry, Countryside Restoration Trust. Scoring the performance of the Trust farms for environmental care, resource use and economic and social aspects.
- 59-60. Water voles on the Ouse Washes and a new development!**
Debbie Mckenzie, The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Welney water vole survey 2004 plus plans and details of the new visitor centre at WWT Welney.
- 61. Biological Recording in Cambridgeshire**
Louise Bacon, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biological Records Centre. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biological Records Centre has just been set up to encourage biological and natural history recording in the county through existing groups and new routes. We also hope to be able to make Natural History data more accessible.
- 62. Cambridge Conservation Volunteers**
Louise Bacon, Cambridge Conservation Volunteers. The CCV carry out practical work on Nature Reserves around the Southern half of the County and sometimes beyond. Join us and help benefit local wildlife by doing something practical.

- 63-64. Cambridgeshire Bird Club**
Louise Bacon, Cambridgeshire Bird Club. The activities of the Bird Club include promoting the watching and study of birds in the County.
- 65. Madingley Toad Rescue**
William Seale. A display board describing what is involved in helping amphibians across the road at a large breeding site near Cambridge.
- 66. Wildlife sounds and sound recording**
William Seale. A display board with questions and answers about the huge variety of wildlife sounds and details on some of the techniques available to record them.
- 68-70. Insects etc.**
Roger Northfield, Department of Zoology. A selection of live insects.
- 71-74 Fascinating Fungi**
83-87. *Helene Davies, Melbourn Mushroom Club.* An exhibit of mounted photos, fresh fungal specimens and dried material.
- 78-80. Current Optical Research**
Fred Allen, Cambridge Exploratorium. Cheap digital microscope photography and exotic diodes as light sources..
- 88. Time is Running Out**
Richard Parr. Should we let the great big world keep burning whilst it's turning round and round?
- 91. The Honey Bee and Products from the Hive**
John Witter, Cambridgeshire Beekeepers Association. Live honeybees in an observation hive, examples of comb building, beekeeping tools and products including hive products for sale.
- 92. Shell Origami**
Samuel Innes. Some original origami designs.

93. Darwin Correspondence Project

Rosemary Clarkson, The Darwin Correspondence Project. Four panels outlining the work of the project and highlighting the breadth and scientific importance of Darwin's correspondence - a selection of books.

97-98. Creatures Great and Small

St Ivo Entomology and Natural History Society. Reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates of many kinds and mammals from around the world; a collection cared for by young people.

100. The Tea Table

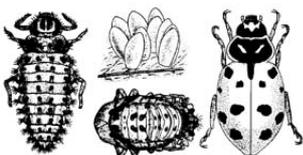
Tina Tribe, CNHS. Refreshments and home made cakes.

The Zoology Museum.

Come and visit us during the *Conversazione*.
We are open all day Saturday.

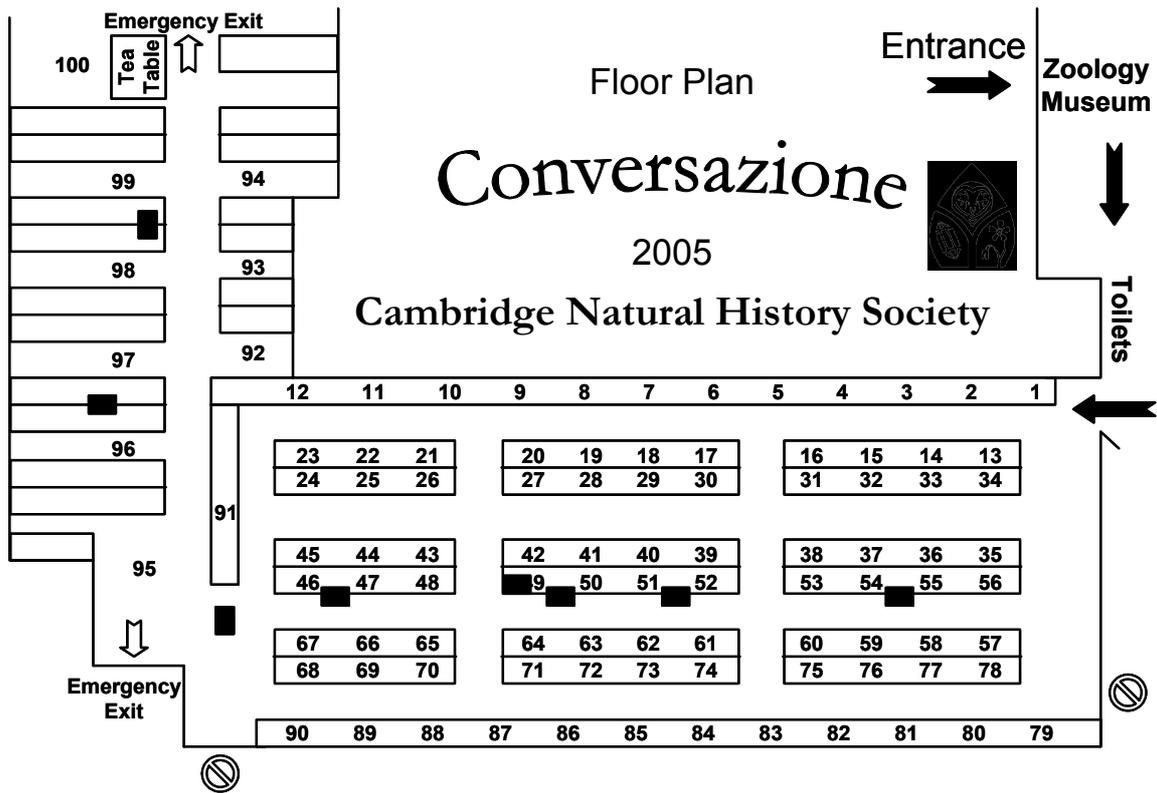
..... plus last minute extras.

NOTES



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 *Conversazione 2006* (June 17th-18th) will be sent out by Christmas.

Contact: Exhibition@snhs.org.uk



Why not Visit ...

The University Zoology Museum is open to the public on Saturday. It is considered to be one of the finest zoological museums in the country, with outstanding displays of specimens from insects to elephants. There is also the chance to view some of the original specimens collected by Darwin on his HMS Beagle voyage.

The Finback Whale

You can't miss it. Over 21 metres long, and weighing in at 80 tonnes when alive, this is the skeleton of one of the largest creatures alive today.

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.

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 of their time and effort to the event, whether as a volunteer, or as an exhibitor. In particular, thanks are due to: Professor Malcolm Burrows for allowing us to use the zoology laboratory, Roger Northfield and Peter Barlow for helping the event to run smoothly, the Department of Life Sciences at APU for contributing towards the cost of the event, Emma Ormond for organising the event and Cambridge Sustainable City for their support.

For more information about the Society why not 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 and field trips.

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.

Join today at the Society's Display, or fill in the form below and send it to:

Dr HT Tribe, 198 Gilbert Rd, Cambridge CB4 3PB



.....
Membership application form

Name (Capitals please)

Full address:

.....

.....

.....

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	3 Years	Life
(£3.00)	(£7.50)	(£50)

Signed

Date

The AGM of the Cambridge Natural History Society will be held in the Elementary Laboratory of the Zoology Department at 4.15pm on Saturday the 18th of June. All are welcome to attend.