

# Conversazione

*93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Exhibition: showcasing the  
environment and wildlife*

**2012**



*Cambridge Natural History Society  
(1857 – 2012)*



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

*Friday 15th June  
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Saturday 16th June  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm*



# Welcome to the 93<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 on the back of this programme, and at the Society’s display, which is near the Museum entrance to the lab.

Professor Inigo Everson, 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

*This year exhibitors are listed alphabetically and we have given a bit more information about their activities as well as about their displays. We hope this is useful.*

*Numbers correspond to the floor plan on the last page.*

**67 Berman, Henry**

***Bumble Bees & Wasps & friends***

**64 Brearley, Josephine**

14 Topcliffe Way, Cambridge CB1 8SH. Telephone: 01223 245421

***Oxborough Hythe County Wildlife Site***

This 12-hectare pastureland with scrub County Wildlife Site consists of various soil types overlying chalk and supports a great variety of wildlife. The exhibit tells you about some of the wildlife, displays some photos and shows some samples of rocks and plants and skeletons found there.

**15 British Cactus & Succulent Society (Cambridge Branch)**

[www.viridis.net/cactus/cambcss.html](http://www.viridis.net/cactus/cambcss.html)

Local contact: Dr Clarke Brunt      Email: [clarke.brunt@viridis.net](mailto: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 1,000 species of plants, native to north and south America. Growers often also have other 'succulent' plants which aren't cacti, coming from all parts of the world. Cacti and other succulent plants have evolved to grow and survive in the desert regions of the world. There is a remarkable diversity of forms, usually involving a swollen stem to store water, and accompanied by the reduction or absence of leaves to minimise water loss. I'll be exhibiting a selection from my greenhouse - whatever is looking nice at the time.

**24/25 BSES Expeditions (British Schools Exploring Society)**

[www.bses.org.uk](http://www.bses.org.uk) Email: [info@bses.org.uk](mailto:info@bses.org.uk) (national contact)

BSES Expeditions, at RGS, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.

Telephone: 0207 591 3141 (national office)

Cambridge contact: Jean Sinclair      Email: [jeandsinclair@ntlworld.com](mailto:jeandsinclair@ntlworld.com)

Since 1932, BSES has been running adventurous and scientific expeditions to remote Arctic, tropical and sub Antarctic regions, involving young people (Young Explorers) and leaders.

***Science and Adventure on BSES Expeditions***

Since the first expedition led by George Murray Levick (a member of Scott's 1910-1913 Antarctic expedition) when 8 boys from public schools went to Arctic Sweden, BSES has widened its scope to include state educated males and females. Display covers 80 years of expeditions, concentrating on East Greenland 1983, Svalbard 1987, South Greenland 1992, British Columbia 1993 and Footsteps of Shackleton (Chile, Falklands & South Georgia)

2003/3, of which I was a member, and forthcoming expeditions to Oman (Jan 2013), Norway, Namibia and India (all summer 2012).

**16 Brunt, Clarke**

[www.viridis.net/](http://www.viridis.net/)

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

***Carnivorous Plants and other bizarre adaptations in the plant world***

Plants have evolved to grow in many difficult situations. Carnivorous plants grow in areas short of nutrients, and supplement their diet by trapping insects. Specimens of some of the carnivorous plants which I grow. *Sarracenia* (Pitcher Plant); *Darlingtonia* (Cobra Lily); *Dionaea* (Venus' Fly Trap); and others. I grow most of them outside, even in winter, and this winter was quite hard for them, so some are only just starting into growth.

**31 Butterfly Conservation Cambridgeshire and Essex branch**

[www.cambs-essex-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.cambs-essex-butterflies.org.uk) Email: [info@cambs-essex-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:info@cambs-essex-butterflies.org.uk)

Working for the conservation of butterflies and moths across the county

***Conserving butterflies***

**61 Cambridge City Council**

[www.lnr.cambridge.gov.uk](http://www.lnr.cambridge.gov.uk)

Contact: Victoria Smith

Telephone: 07577 283762

***Cambridge's Local Nature Reserves***

The exhibit shows where our Local Nature Reserve are, what goes on there, and gives information about the new sites which are soon to be designated as Nature Reserves. Also some nature themed games and some interesting items found on the sites such as nests, badger skulls, feathers, fossils etc. Lastly an opportunity to volunteer on the sites and what this entails.

**41/42 Cambridge Conservation Volunteers**

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

Local contact: Louise Bacon

Email: [louise.bacon2@btinternet.com](mailto:louise.bacon2@btinternet.com)

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

***50 years of practical conservation work in Cambridgeshire and beyond***

A look back at our first 50 years of existence with all sorts of things from our archives.

**22/23 Cambridge Natural History Society**

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

Foyer ***The Cambridge Natural History Society***

Foyer ***The Conversazione***

23 ***The History of the Society and Conversazione***

22 ***The Backs Survey***

Results from the CNHS field study of the Backs in 2011.

39/40 **Cambridge Nesters**

The national nest recording scheme of the BTO

Local contacts: Louise Bacon & Carl Barimore

Email: carl.barimore@tiscali.co.uk

***Discover the scientific value of nest recording***

Cambridge Nesters promote the safe collection of bird nest recording to a wider audience and show its wider role in understanding our changing bird populations.

44/45 **Cambridge Past, Present & Future**

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

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

***Wandlebury's Palette – colours in nature***

41/42 **Cambridgeshire Bird Club**

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

Email: chairman@cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk

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

***Find out more about Cambridgeshire Bird Club***

13/34 **Cambridgeshire Mammal Group**

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

Email: info@cambsmammalgroup.co.uk

***The work of the Cambridgeshire Mammal Group***

50/51 **Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership**

***Partnership Working on Local Projects***

27/28 **Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre**

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

Email: Jane.Andrews-Gauvain@cperc.org.uk OR Louise.Bacon@cperc.org.uk

The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridgeshire CB23 6DH.  
Telephone: 01954 713572

***Recording Wildlife near You***

**48 Darwin Correspondence Project**

[www.darwinproject.ac.uk/](http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/)

Contact: Rosemary Clarkson                      Email: [darwin@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:darwin@lib.cam.ac.uk)

Darwin Correspondence Project, Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR. Telephone: 01223 333008

The Darwin Correspondence Project is dedicated to publishing the definitive edition of letters to and from Charles Darwin (1809-1882). Begun in 1974 by Frederick Burkhardt and Sydney Smith, it has to date produced nineteen out of thirty projected volumes.

***A poster display about the work of the Darwin Correspondence Project***

**46 Disney, Henry**

***Correct identification of specimens from forensic cases***

**59 Fauna and Flora International**

[www.fauna-flora.org](http://www.fauna-flora.org)

***Conserving Endangered Species – You can help***

**36 Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook**

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

Contact: David Brooks: 01223 244528 Email: [davidbrooks@btinternet.com](mailto:davidbrooks@btinternet.com)

***The activities of Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook***

Our objectives include raising public awareness about the importance of the Cherry Hinton Brook for wildlife, observing and monitoring the wildlife along the Brook and in the surrounding area, improving the area as a home for wildlife, and working with other organisations with similar interests.

**37/38 Friends of the Roman Road & Fleam Dyke**

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

The Friends were set up in 2001 to protect and enhance the rare chalk grassland flowers of these SSSIs by raising money, running work parties, recording species and promoting interest in two marvellous local wildlife sites.

**52 Hall, Ronald**

***Roger Argentine, Tudor Alchemist***

**87 Hedwig, Berthold**

[www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/zoostaff/hedwig.htm](http://www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/zoostaff/hedwig.htm)

Email: [bh202@cam.ac.uk](mailto:bh202@cam.ac.uk)

Telephone: 01223 336603 (work)

Department of Zoology, Downing St, Cambridge CB2 3EJ

***Cricket sounds and communication***

The exhibit will demonstrate different species of crickets which use acoustic signals for communication and mate attraction: The males sing by rubbing their wings and the females walk towards the singing males. We will have a microphone to record and display their song patterns and will demonstrate a track ball system used to analyse cricket walking and orientation behaviour.

**60 Huntingdonshire Flora and Fauna Society**

The Society exists to promote the study, conservation and recording of the wildlife by the encouragement and publication of research, the holding of meetings and other such activities as may forward the purposes of the Society within the County.

***The activities of Hunts Fauna and Flora Society, the county Natural History Society***

**33 Lepidoptera Breeders Association**

Mr Jason Wright, 1 Crown Cottage, Swaton, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 0JR

Email: [themothman@homecall.co.uk](mailto:themothman@homecall.co.uk)

***Farming tropical butterflies***

The LBA supports the farming of tropical butterflies and moths in their native countries. The mounted specimens are sold in the UK. Such preserved insects help in such areas of genetics, understanding distribution for future conservation, and education.

**65/66 Morgan, Seth (Year 4 school pupil, age 8 ¾)**

***Insects in resin-dence***

I have been collecting insect specimens from around the world for nearly two years. This is a great opportunity to have a fascinating close-up of some spectacular bugs.

**26 Nature in Cambridgeshire**

[www.natureincambridgeshire.org.uk/index.html](http://www.natureincambridgeshire.org.uk/index.html)

Emails can be sent to us via the website.

Vicki Harley, c/o Museum of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EJ. Telephone: 01954 250340

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*.

***Cambridgeshire's independent annual Natural History Journal***

Acquire your 2012 edition and back issues today!

**88-90 Northfield, Roger**

*Insects are wonderful!*

**17-19 Small-Life Supplies**

www.small-life.co.uk

Email: emma@small-life.co.uk

Station Buildings, Station Road, Bottesford Notts. NG13 0EB.

Telephone: 01949 842446

*Let's keep insects*

You can see our new metal MIC cage which is ideal housing for the large New Guinea and Australian stick insects (we'll bring these insects too). And wait till you see the live Proscopids! And how about enjoying releasing our British Vapourer caterpillar and pupae kits in your garden?

**20 Stop the EU from Banning Pets**

Station Buildings, Station Road, Bottesford Notts. NG13 0EB.

Telephone: 01949 842446

Email: les@small-life.co.uk

*Stop the EU from banning pets*

The EU is about to consider a ban on "alien species", which could threaten any pet that is not native to Britain. Pressure groups are requesting exemptions for animals that pose no threat to the British ecosystem. Our campaign is to lobby MEPs to make tropical stick insects exempt.

**53 Taylor and Francis**

*Sample journals*

**Tribe, Henry**

**10 *A root system from a drainpipe: who is the culprit?***

Circumstantial evidence suggests that the honeysuckle, *Lonicera perichlymenum*, was responsible for the extensive root system which blocked a four-inch pipe over a length of some three metres. Can we prove it?

**11 *Nano-natural history or life at two million magnification: photosynthesis***

Models are made of the remarkable protein molecules which take energy from light, and of the system of other molecules which fix carbon dioxide into plant tissues.

**43 UK Safari**

UK Safari, 40 Sherborne, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. GL54 3DH

Email: uksafari@yahoo.co.uk

*The work of UK Safari*

Gary Bradley at UK Safari produces a regular newsletter highlighting which creatures you can see outdoors right now in the UK. This nature newsletter is free and is emailed to you.

**35 Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust**

[www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/welney/](http://www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/welney/)

WWT Welney Wetland Centre, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney, Nr. Wisbech, PE14 9TN.  
Telephone: 01353 860711

Contact: Samantha Lee

Email: [info.welney@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.welney@wwt.org.uk)

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust is the UK's leading wetland conservation charity, working to save wetlands and wildlife for all that depends on them. WWT's mission is to conserve wetlands and manage the benefits that they bring to people in a sustainable way.

***WWT Welney: Wetlands and Migratory Birds***

A display of historical specimens of the threatened Whooper and Bewick's swans which travel vast distances to winter on the Ouse washes, one of the largest migratory swan roosts in the whole of western Europe. See how you measure up to the wingspan of one of the world's largest wildfowl.

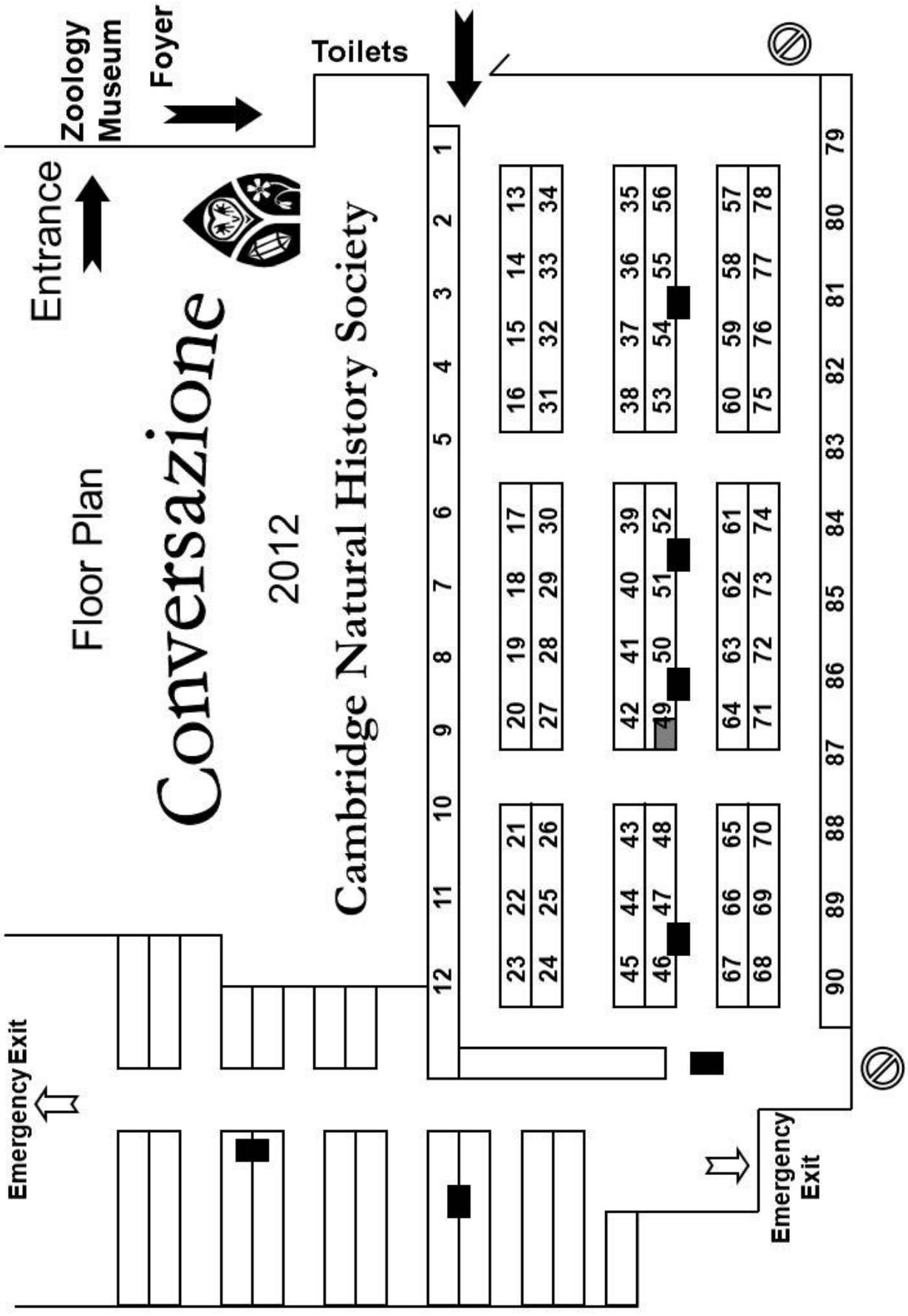
**62/63 The Wildlife Trust Cambridgeshire Peterborough & Northamptonshire**

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

The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridgeshire CB23 6DH.

***Ready, Steady, Glow! Discover the mysterious world of the glow-work and learn where you can find them locally.***

**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 2013 will be sent out by Christmas. Contact: [exhibition@cnhs.org.uk](mailto:exhibition@cnhs.org.uk)**



**Entrance** →

**Floor Plan**

# Conversazione

2012

**Cambridge Natural History Society**

**Emergency Exit** ↗

**Emergency Exit** ↘

**Zoology Museum**

**Foyer**

**Toilets**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
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## Why not visit ...

**The University Zoology Museum** is open to the public from 10:00 am to 16:45 pm, Mondays to Fridays and from 11:00 am to 16:00 on Saturdays. It is considered to be one of the finest zoological museums in the country, with outstanding displays of specimens from insects to elephants.

### **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 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, the Department of Life Sciences at Anglia Ruskin University for contributing towards the cost of the event, and Monica Frisch and other members of the Society for organising the event.

For more information about the Society why not visit our website?

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

.....

.....

.....

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  
(£5.00)

3 Years  
(£10.00)

Life  
(£100)

Signed .....

Date .....