

Conversazione

88th Annual Public Exhibition of Natural History



*Cambridge Natural History Society
(1857 – 2007)*

*Friday 15th June 2007
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm*

*Saturday 16th &
Sunday 17th June 2007
11:00 am - 4:00 pm*



www.cnhs.org.uk

supported by



Programme 50p

Numbers correspond to the floor plan on the last page.

Foyer

**THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL CONVERSAZIONE:
88 YEARS OF CONSECUTIVE EXHIBITIONS**

CNHS. The Society has records of every Programme of exhibitors and their exhibits since 1920 (bar 1949). Eight Conversazione Programmes; 1920/21, 1932, 1940, 1957, 1976, 1990, 2002 and 2007 are set out to show similarities and changes over the years. Some Conversazione photographs taken mainly in the 1990s are also shown

1

CAMBRIDGE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: HISTORIC MINUTE BOOKS

CNHS. Three of the Society's Minute Books covering the period of the early Conversazioni. Includes the enormous detail of the 1920/21 entries in full

2

NATURE IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Vicky Harley. The Journal for naturalists in Cambridgeshire, publishing articles on a wide range of subjects and also book reviews. New issue, Vol 49, on sale. If you have an idea for an article, please come and tell us.

3

PHOTOGRAPHS OF CONVERSAZIONES, 1984-1993

CNHS. Photographs mainly by Hilary Belcher. Already historic.

4

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOCIETY OUTINGS

Brian Gardiner, CNHS. The 1945 outing to Wood Walton Fen and some 1948 photographs of insect collecting by members.

5

CADBURY REWARD CARDS

Brian Gardiner, CNHS. Between 1890 and 1914 the chocolate firm of Cadbury issued a number of postcard 'Reward' cards to be presented to school children for good behaviour, diligence, punctuality etc. These included many subjects but those exhibited are the butterfly ones. They were also used by other school authorities.

6-7

**GREEN BELT PROJECT: CITY GREENWAYS: WILDLIFE TRUST FOR
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Iain Webb, Wildlife Trust for Cambridgeshire. There are many ways of helping wildlife in and around Cambridge. The Trust and the Projects provide opportunities for local people. These range from guided walks to surveying for reptiles and amphibians to undertaking practical conservation work.

8

CAMBRIDGE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Louise Bacon, Cambridge Conservation Volunteers. The CCV are the oldest practical conservation volunteer group and are still helping manage reserves after 45 years of experience

9

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

Louise Bacon, Cambridgeshire & Essex branch of Butterfly Conservation. The work of Butterfly Conservation across the area, including the new plume moth project and 'Moths Count'

- 10** **CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD CLUB**
Louise Bacon, Cambridgeshire Bird Club. Displaying our regular activities and forthcoming Atlas Work
- 11-12** **INTERACTIVE FUN ZONE**
Karen Cilvert, CNHS. Interactive Science and Nature activities
- 13-14** **CNHS ON THE WEB**
Jon Shanklin, CNHS. Some of the web pages including histories of the Society and Conversazione
- 15** **GRANTCHESTER MEADOWS SURVEY**
Jon Shanklin, CNHS. The Society's Project for 2006 was a botanical survey of Grantchester Meadows. Some highlights of what we found are presented.
- 16** **TWO SMALL WEST CAMBRIDGESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST RESERVES:
GAMINGLAY CINQUES AND GAMINGLAY HEATH MEADOW**
Charles Turner and Steve Hartley, CNHS. These reserves were among the first to be set up by the then Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Wildlife Trust. Their interest is they represented part of a belt of now largely destroyed heathland on the Lower Greensand, just reaching into this corner of Cambridgeshire. They have changed a great deal even in the last 40 years but still retain interesting plants and invertebrates and are now the focus of more intensive management plans
- 17** **MOTH TRAPPING IN A CAMBRIDGESHIRE WOODLAND**
Charles Turner and Martin Davies, CNHS. We are using several different models of moth trap, using different light sources to investigate the moth fauna of sites, such as gardens, woodlands and grasslands, in West Cambridgeshire for the newly launched National Moth Survey. We hope to display a variety of living moths caught on the previous night from different sites.
- 18-20** **CLASS INSECTA**
Dorothy Floyd, Small-life Supplies. See our new 'laboratory insect cage' designed for tiny insects! And our range of 'insect kits' (caterpillar, stick insect and mantid). Also for sale will be the new books 'Latin cotton bags' and 'Keeping Stick Insects' (signed on request)
- 21** **CAMBRIDGE FERRET AND WELFARE RESCUE SOCIETY**
Amanda Noviss, Cambridge. Introduction to ferrets. See what the Society does for example in terms of racing, rehoming and snaring. Meet some of the ferrets close up
- 22-23** **CAMBRIDGESHIRE MAMMAL GROUP - ITS ACTIVITIES**
Peter Pilbeam, Cambridgeshire Mammal Group. Poster display with leaflets and stuffed animals to illustrate the work of the Group throughout the county
- 24** **MANAGING NINE WELLS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**
Ellis Selway, Cambridge City Council. Discover the restoration of the Nine Wells Springs, the source of the Hobson Conduit

- 25** **CAMBRIDGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY**
Jon Gibbs, Cambridge Preservation Society. A display of the Society, its sites, management and work with the public on all aspects of conservation and the environment
- 26** **NORTH HERTS MUSEUM SERVICE - A HIDDEN TREASURE OF NATURAL HISTORY**
David Hodges, North Herts Museum Service: Hitchin Museum. Specimens and photography including black squirrels.
- 27-29** **GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES**
Julia Napier, CNHS Cambridge. Butterfly caterpillars and some of the plants they need, with posters and leaflets
- 30** **PLANT GALLS**
Julia Napier, CNHS Cambridge. Caused by insects who live inside them, plant galls are often very colourful.
- 31** **STRATOSPHERIC CHANGES OVER ANTARCTICA**
Jon Shanklin, British Antarctic Survey. Measurements of ozone and temperature over Antarctica began at Halley station at the start of an International Polar Year in 1956. As the 2007 IPY was being planned Antarctica saw the largest and deepest ozone hole on record
- 32-34** **SCIENCE OF THE ANTARCTIC**
Jon Shanklin, British Antarctic Survey. An introduction to the scientific research carried out by the British Antarctic Survey
- 35** **STUDYING FOR A LIFE SCIENCES DEGREE**
Anglia Ruskin University. Learn about the degree courses on offer in the Animal and Environmental Biology programme in the Department of Life Sciences at Anglia Ruskin University.
- 36** **WON'T CRAWL AND CAN'T DIG – A VARIETY OF 'ALTERNATIVE' CLAMS**
Philip Pugh, Department of Life Sciences, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. Molluscs evolved from a crawling ancestor with a simple one-piece cap-like shell very much like modern limpets but very early in their history they developed a radical two-valved 'clam' design. The clam design proved to be ideal for digging though there were a number of early 'alternative' uses for this new design which are still with us today. Some of these 'alternative clams, both familiar and strange, are shown here.
- 37** **CARNIVOROUS PLANTS AND OTHER BIZARRE ADAPTATIONS IN THE PLANT WORLD**
Clarke 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.

- 38 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT PLANTS FROM THE DESERT REGIONS OF THE WORLD**
Paul Hoxey, British Cactus & Succulent Society. The deserts of the world contain many plants which have adapted to the arid conditions by storing water in modified stems and roots. These are collectively known as succulent plants. This exhibit shows a small selection of succulents from a number of plant families. Cacti are particularly well represented with a range of plants showing their diversity and horticultural merit.
- 39 IDENTIFICATION TABLE**
Monica Frisch and others, CNHS. Bring us your unknown biological specimens and we will try and find an expert to identify them for you..
- 40 WILD FLOWERS COMMON IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE BUT NOT SO IN NORTH-EAST ENGLAND**
Monica Frisch, CNHS. A display of wild flowers which are common in the Cambridge area but much less common, even rare, in north-east England.
- 41-42 FLORA AND HISTORY OF MAGOG DOWN**
Lucy Evans, Magog Trust. Display of the development of lowland chalk grassland flora on reclaimed arable land on the Gog Magog Hills
- 43 A NORFOLK COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE NEAR OXBOROUGH**
Josephine Brearley, CNHS. A portrait of the 12 hectares of grassland and scrub being actively managed to preserve its traditional Norfolk pastureland characteristics
- 44 THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY: PLANTS, THEIR VIRUSES AND APHIDS**
John Carr, Department of Plant Sciences, Virology Group, University of Cambridge. Plants, including many crops - suffer from viral diseases - most plant viruses are transmitted by aphids - tiny sap-sucking insects. We will explore this three-way relationship.
- 45 ORGANIC GARDENING**
Jo Darlington, Henry Doubleday Research Association. Promoting preservation of traditional varieties of fruit and vegetables in cultivation
- 47 ORGANIC GEMS**
Gillian Mallett, CNHS. Gems are beautiful and nature provides them
- 48 IMPACT OF AVERMECTIN CATTLE WORMERS ON THE POPULATION OF YELLOW DUNG FLIES (SCATHOPHAGA STERCORARIA)**
Olwen Williams, CNHS. Emergence traps, each containing a dung pat, with collecting bottle above. Explanatory poster.
- 50 ESSEX AND CAMBRIDGE NATURAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHS**
Jacquey Newton, Essex Field Club. A continually rotating presentation of natural history photographs of Essex and Cambridgeshire (Orchids, fungi, flora, fauna)

- 51 **FUNGI IN ART**
Steve Kelly, Bedmond, Herts. Models and cartoons.
- 52 **ERGOTS**
Jane Thomas, National Institute for Agricultural Botany. An old threat re-emerging
- 55 **“THE HISTORIC RIVER” FREE COPIES**
Sylvia Haslam, CU Department of Plant Sciences. Surplus copies of a very interesting book!
- 56-57 **PLANTS AND TUDOR ALCHEMY**
Ron Hall, CNHS. I take part in a Tudor representation at Kentwell Hall, Long Melford. Dressed in Tudor costume, possibly with my apprentice, I will carry out simple experiments on indicators and link it to Tudor life, plants and simple chemistry
- 58 **A LONG-TAILED TIT NEST**
Christina Leadlay, Cambridge. Made in a privet hedge
- 61 ***Nostoc commune*, A COMMON COLONIAL TERRESTRIAL CYANOBACTERIUM**
Hilary Belcher, CNHS. *Nostoc commune*, gelatinous colonies of a terrestrial cyanobacterium (or blue-green alga), which swell up after rain and become conspicuous. Has much folklore.
- 62 **ALGAE ARE MORE INTERESTING THAN YOU THINK!**
Chris Carter, Northampton. Microscope pictures of algae found in ponds and streams in the East Midlands
- 63 **THE HIDDEN WORLD OF SLIME**
John Holden, CNHS Cambridge. Beneath the leaf litter of a wood, in the soil, and in tiny crevices in bark, there is a hidden world of fantastic shapes and colours - neither animal nor plant.....
- 64 **POST-HARVEST PROBLEMS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
Anna Snowdon, Wolfson College. Some examples of diseases and disorders encountered in fruit and vegetable cargoes during surveys carried out on behalf of ship owners or cargo underwriters
- 65 **BIODIVERSITY EXEMPLIFIED - SCUTTLE FLIES**
Henry Disney, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge. An introduction to the extraordinary diversity of habits in one family of flies
- 66 **WHERE ARE THEY NOW? BUMBLE BEES AND SOCIAL WASPS**
Henry Berman, CNHS. Boards with pictures of Bumble Bees and Wasps with specimens and leaflets

- 68-69** **SOME INTERESTING LIVE INSECTS**
Roger Northfield, C.U. Department of Zoology. A range of diverse insects
- 70** **THE PAPWORTH CAVE SPIDER, *Meta bourneti***
Rob Mungovan, South Cambridgeshire District Council. A cave spider in a darkened cage, with its story explained.
- 71-74,
84-87** **FASCINATING FUNGI**
Helene Davies, Melbourn Mushroom Club. A World of Fungi: fresh and dried specimens and mounted photos
- 75-76** **THE DEATH CAP - DEADLIEST OF ALL FUNGI. HOW ITS TOXIN WORKS**
Henry Tribe, CNHS. A model, at two million magnification, shows how the toxin disrupts the essential metabolism of the liver.
- 77** **DEGRADATION OF PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS**
Henry Tribe, CNHS. Is this BIOdegradation?
- 78** **LIGHT SUGAR**
Henry Tribe, CNHS. Now marketed to reduce our calorie intake, is 'light sugar' truly so named? It is not just sugar, but a mixture of 3 or 4 components.
- 80** **MAGGOTS CLEANSE WOUNDS**
ZooBiotic Ltd, Bridgend, Wales [Johanna Bennet] (Anne-Marie Perrin, Henry Tribe). Maggots of the greenbottle fly (*Lucilia sericata*) prepared under aseptic conditions and microbiologically sterile are used in wound management for debridement of tissue. Live maggots, posted to arrive on the morning of Friday 15 June, are shown together with the associated dressings, illustrated application guides and further information
- 81** **MODELS FOR TEACHING**
Whipple Museum. Within the Whipple Collection are botanical models made a century ago for teaching purposes: notably of parts of higher plants and larger fungi. These now include the glass models of plant disease microfungi made by Dr Dillon Weston in Cambridge from about 1938 which he used for teaching farmers. A few examples of the glass models are shown as an introduction to this aspect of the Whipple Collection
- 82** **CONTROL OF A FUNGUS DISEASE BY ANOTHER FUNGUS**
Peter Gladders & Henry Tribe, ADAS Boxworth and the former CU School of Agriculture. Biological control of *Sclerotinia* diseases by the fungus *Coniothyrium minitans* is now approved for use by UK farmers and growers. Progress from research in the 1950's into present practice is illustrated. This is the only example of fungus biocontrol in British agriculture
- 83** **MYCORRHIZAL SUPPLEMENTS - WHAT ARE THEY?**
Henry Tribe and Jacqui Romanis, CNHS. An ongoing investigation!

88-90

“IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE”

Robert Good, Lode. Bright, bold and colourful oil paintings with a fishy feel.
Demonstration of work in progress.

91

THE HONEY BEE AND PRODUCTS FROM THE HIVE

Cambridgeshire Beekeepers Association. Live bees in an observation hive, examples of honey comb building, beekeeping tools and hive products for sale

96

DARWIN CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT - THE NEW WEBSITE

Rosemary Clarkson, Cambridge University Library. A small exhibit explaining the work of the Project, which is publishing all the available letters to and from Charles Darwin. Volume 16 of a projected 30 or so is currently in preparation. The Project has recently launched its new website with greatly improved searching and sections on the debate on Darwin and religion

The Zoology Museum

Come and visit us during the *Conversazione*.

..... plus last minute extras.