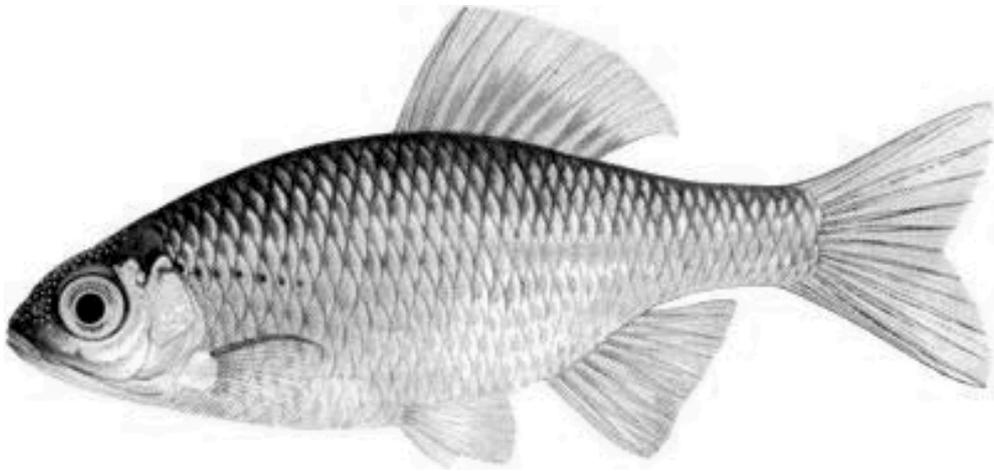


# Conversazione

*85<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Exhibition of Natural History*



*Cambridge Natural History Society  
(1857 – 2004)*



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

*Saturday 12th &  
Sunday 13th June 2004  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm*

*Programme 50p*

supported by



# **Welcome to the 85<sup>th</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 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.

This year's exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Muriel Arber (1913 - 2004). Muriel exhibited several times at the Conversazione, over at least 60 years. In 1940 Muriel presented an exhibition entitled 'The Microzoa Beds of the Inferior Eolite of Dorset', and also at the 'Vintage Conversazione' of 1990 with an exhibit on 'A West Dorset landslip between Lyme Regis & Charmouth'. Her last Conversazione exhibit was in 2001, at the age of 87.

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 Membership.**  
*Toby Carter.* 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 two years.
- 8. Discover Science.**  
*Lynne Harrison, Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge.* Information about the Discover Science Programme, the varied range of science courses run by Cambridge University for the general public across the region.
- 9-10. Cambridge Conservation Volunteers.**  
*Louis Bacon.* The CCV help with practical management on a wide variety of nature reserves and other wild places around Cambridge.
- 11-12. Cambridge Green Belt & City Greenways Project.**  
*Naomi Brookes, Cambridge Greenbelt Project.* A project which works with local communities in Cambridge and its greenbelt to maintain and enhance important wildlife habitats.
- 13. Cards, Flowers and Fossils.**  
*Jon Shanklin, CNHS.* Examples from a collection begun at primary school.
- 14. Natural History Diaries.**  
*Jon Shanklin, CNHS.* Diaries from the time of the Great War illustrate the interests of a natural historian of 90 years ago.

Don't forget to sign the visitors book as you leave

**15. Observing comets.**

*Jon Shanklin, British Astronomical Association.* Comets are fascinating relics from the birth of the solar system. This summer two comets are visible in binoculars in the evening sky.

**16. The Transit of Venus.**

*Jon Shanklin, British Astronomical Association.* Some illustrations of observing the recent transit of Venus.

**17-20. Small Life.**

*Dorothy Floyd, Small-Life Supplies.* Living caterpillars and stick insects for sale plus special insect cages, insect posters and 'The Bug File' monthly publication.

**21. Local Nature Reserves in Cambridge.**

*Ellis Selway, Community Liaison Officer, Cambridge City Council.* All the latest information on the wildspace project which aims to involve the community in the management and enjoyment of the city's local nature reserves.

**22-23. How Climate Change Affects Wildlife.**

*Sue Woodsford, Cambridge Environmental Resources Centre, Cambridge City Council.* The story of what will happen to wildlife as the world warms up-not good news!

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

Poster displays to show the work of the Cambridgeshire Badger and Otter Group and something of the lives and times of our county's badgers and otters.

**26. Wicken Fen 2004.**

*Bridget Carter.* Photographs and text of current interests at Wicken Fen NNR.

**27-28. Flora of Magog Down.**

*Lucy Evans, Magog Trust.* Display of species on the Magog Down found in 1660 by Ray and those present today

- 29. Nature in Cambridgeshire.**  
*Jane Bulleid.* Cambridgeshire's local natural history journal.
- 30. Black Squirrels in and around Cambridge.**  
*Sheila Pankhurst & Alison Thomas, APU.* Please let us know if you have seen any Black Squirrels in and around Cambridge.
- 31-32. Curious Clams.**  
*Philip Pugh, APU.* An exhibition of some strange seashells from around the world.
- 33. Life Sciences at Anglia Polytechnic University.**  
*Toby Carter & Philip Pugh, APU.* Details of degrees in Life Sciences available 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.**  
*Clarke Brunt.* 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 and other succulent plants.**  
*Paul Hoxey, British Cactus and Succulent Society.* A display of cacti and other succulent plants from the deserts of the world.
- 37. APU Wildlife Society.**  
Information about the natural history activities of students in a new CNHS student society.
- 38. Urban Foxes in Cambridge.**  
*Toby Carter, APU.* Sightings of Foxes in Cambridge City.
- 39-40. Devils Dyke Restoration Project.**  
*James Fisher, The Wildlife Trust.* This 5 year heritage lottery funded project aims to restore Devils Dyke to its former glory to the benefit of wildlife and archaeology.

**41-42. Cambridgeshire Bats.**

*Sabine Töttemeyer, Cambridgeshire Bat Group.* Information and sound recordings of bats.

**44-45. Wandlebury Country Park.**

*John Gibbs, Cambridge Preservation Society.* The wildlife to be found at Wandlebury Country Park.

**50-51. Wildlife Holidays Supporting Conservation.**

*Christine Donnelly, Wildlife Travel.* Information on wildlife holidays worldwide and how they support conservation.

**53. Research experience for volunteers.**

*Jo Darlington, Earthwatch.* Earthwatch projects enable volunteers to participate in research directed towards conservation in various parts of the world.

**54. Organic Gardening.**

*Jo Darlington, Henry Doubleday Research Association.* HDRA promotes organic gardening and the preservation of traditional varieties of fruit and vegetables in cultivation.

**55-56. Cam Valley Forum.**

*Elizabeth O'Beirne-Ranelagh.* The work of the Cam Valley Forum.

**57. Fossils, Minerals and Replicas from the Sedgwick Museum.**

*Simon Crowhurst, Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences.* Fossils, minerals and gifts from the Sedgwick Museum and Museum Shop.

**59. The Mepal Ichthyosaur.**

*Leslie Noè & Sarah Finney, Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences.* Display of recently discovered fossil Ichthyosaur bones from Mepal, Cambridgeshire.

**61-62. Cambridge Conservation Forum.**

*Peter Carey/Graham Tucker, CEH/Cambridge Conservation Forum.* About the Cambridge Conservation Forum.

**65-67. Interpreting Nature.**

*Rosemary Wild.* Artwork in East Anglia, Tuscany and Bolivia.

**68-70. Insects etc.**

*Roger Northfield, Department of Zoology.* A selection of live insects.

**71-74 Melbourne Mushroom Club.**

**83-87.** *Helene Davies, Melbourn Mushroom Club.* An exhibit of mounted photos, fresh fungal specimens and dried material.

**75-78. Butterfly Conservation/Plantlife.**

*Julia Napier.* About Butterflies and butterfly conservation. Real Caterpillars and Chrysalises. Description of plantlife and wildflowers needed for butterfly conservation.

**79-80 Marine Life Rescue.**

*Bea Hawker, Fay Harrison and Kath Holmes, APU & British Divers Marine Life Rescue.* Information and photographs of marine life rescue. Marine mammal medics are available to discuss the charities aims and practices.

**81 The Natural History of the World.**

*Inner Space.* Insights into the relationship between the people of the world and their environment.

**88. Global Warming & GM Crops.**

*Richard Parr.*

**90. Life in a drop of water.**

*Tobias Garstecki, BAS.* Using a video camera attached to a microscope, we will have a look at the microscopic organisms (such as algae, protozoa, nematodes and rotifers) that live in freshwater plankton, sediments and soil.

**91. The Honeybee and Products from the Hive.**

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

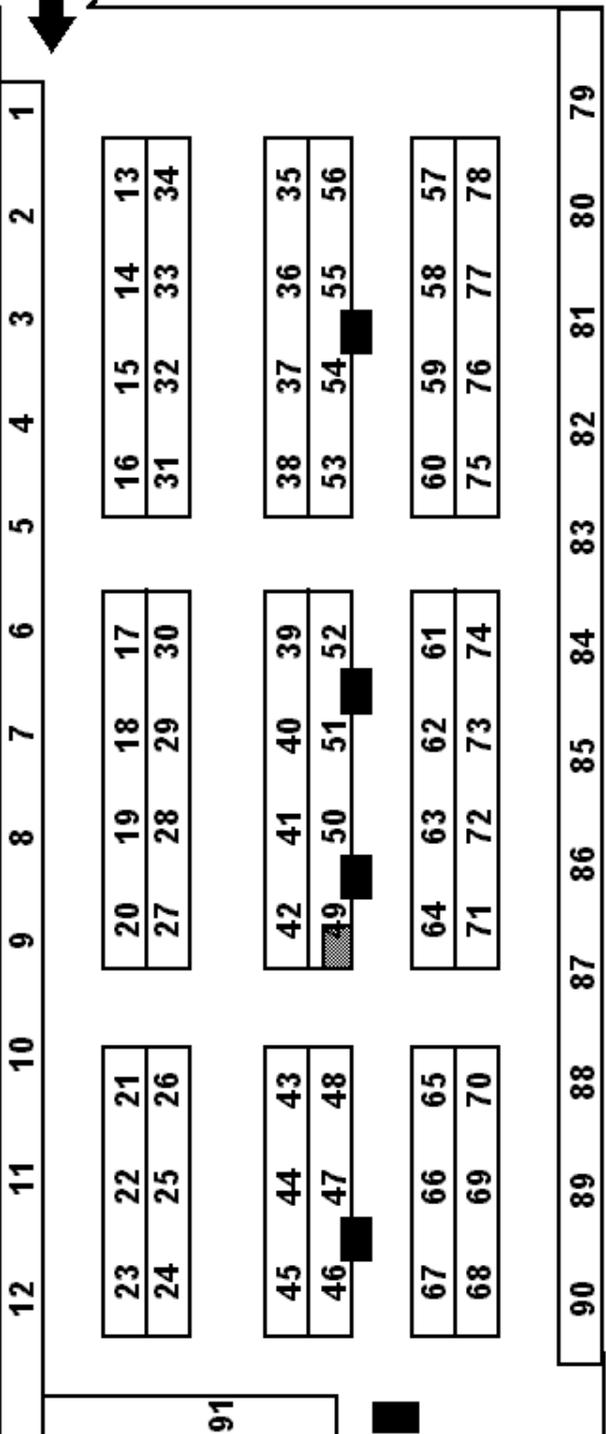
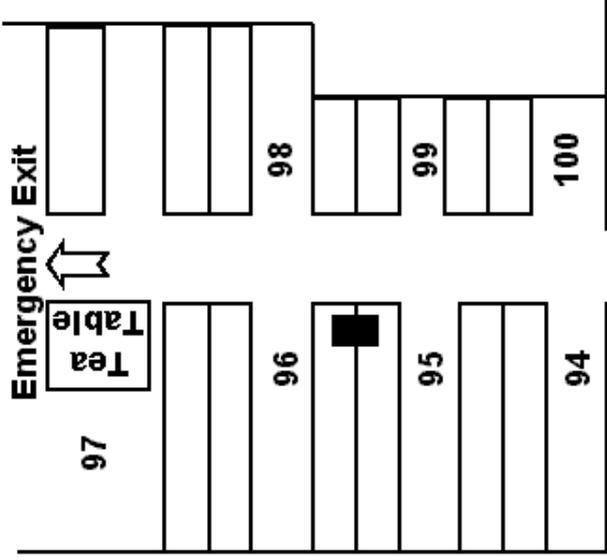
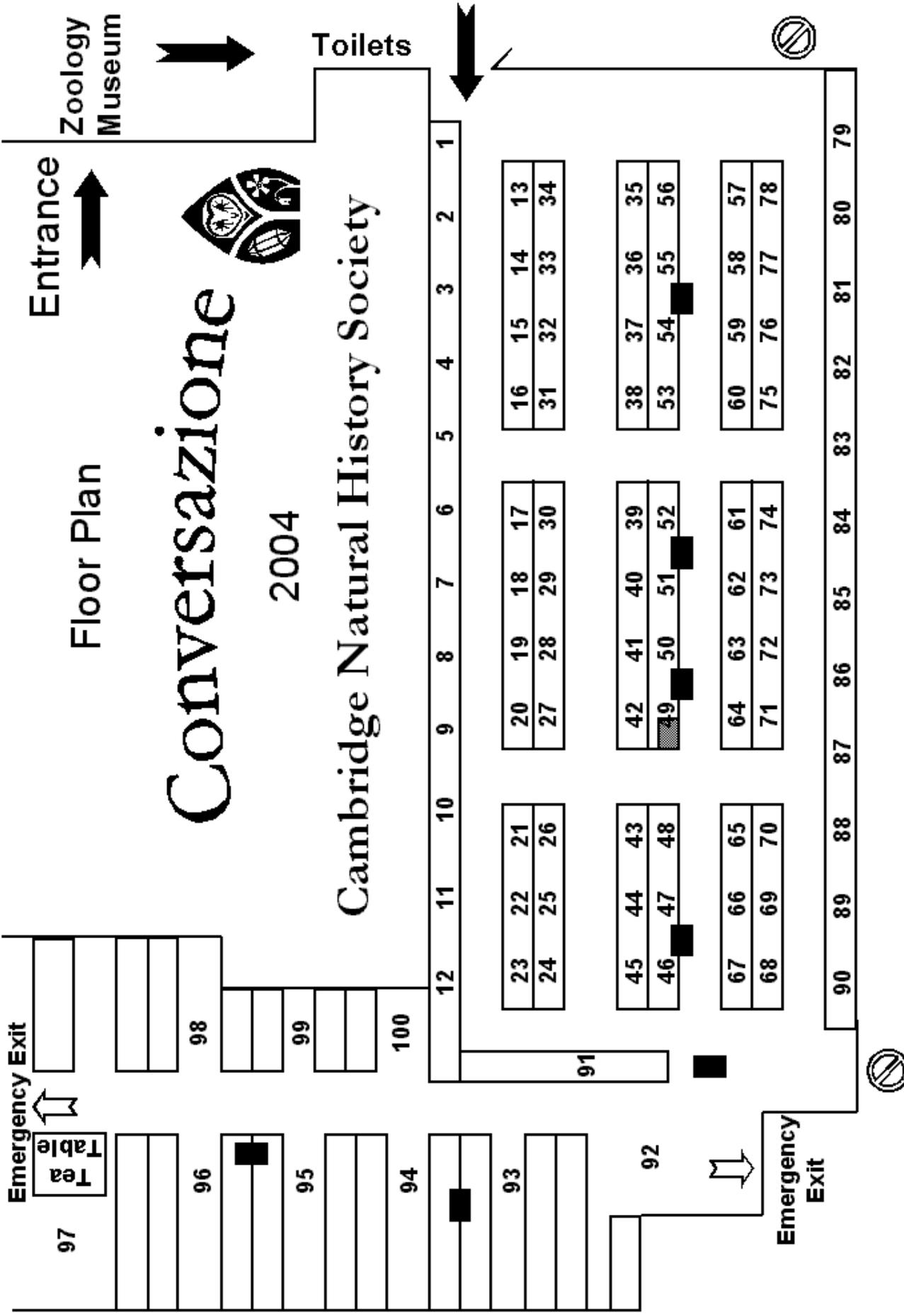
- 92. Micro-Natural History**  
**A Model of the Bacterium *Escherichia coli*.**  
*Henry Tribe, British Mycological Society.* The model demonstrates something of a bacterial anatomy: few organs by many molecules, all 'visible' at its two million magnification. (Guinness World Record Certificate-the World's Largest Model of a Bacterium)
- 93. Birds of Prey.**  
*The Raptor Foundation.* A selection of Owls.
- 94-95. Creatures Great and Small.**  
*St. Ivo School Entomology and Natural History Society.* A diverse collection of animals from around the world including invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. All kept by students at St. Ivo School.
- 97. The Tea Table.**  
*Tina Tribe, CNHS.* Refreshments and home made cakes.
- 99. Darwin Correspondence Project.**  
*Rosy Clarkson & Shelley Innes.* Four panels outlining the work of the project and highlighting the breadth and scientific importance of Darwin's correspondence - a selection of books.
- 100. Insect Origami.**  
*Samuel Innes.* Some original origami designs.
- 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 2005 (June 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>) will be sent out by Christmas.**



## ***Why not Visit ...***

**The University Zoology Museum** It is open to the public on Saturday, and 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 dependant 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, Jo Kelly 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 12th of June. All are welcome to attend.