

Conversazione

**94th Annual Exhibition: showcasing
the environment and wildlife**

2013



***Cambridge Natural History Society
(1857 – 2013)***



www.cnhs.org.uk

Friday 14th June
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday 15th June
10:00 am - 5:00 pm



Welcome to the 94th 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 a hundred years ago 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.

Jonathan Shanklin, 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. Numbers correspond to the floor plan on the last page.

31 Action for Swifts

Contacts: Dick Newell & Clarke Brunt

Email: actionforswifts@gmail.com

Website: <http://actionforswifts.blogspot.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.

Swift-watch live

Swifts visit the UK from Africa to breed for just 3 months or so each year, which is their only time not spent entirely on the wing. Their 'screaming' is one of the sounds of summer. They pair for life, and use the same nest-space year after year. Learn about these amazing birds, which nest almost exclusively in buildings, and about how we can help them by providing nest-spaces and by not blocking their existing nest-spaces. With the cooperation of both birds and technology, we hope to present live video of nesting swifts from a nearby house, plus examples of nest-boxes, systems for playing attraction-calls, etc.

79-80 Anglia Ruskin University

64 Berman, Henry

Bumble Bees, Social Wasps and their treacherous cousins

62 British Antarctic Survey (BAS)

Jonathan Shanklin

Biodiversity management at BAS

15 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 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 British Exploring Society

www.britishexploring.org.uk

Email: info@britishexploring.org.uk (national contact)

British Exploring Society, at Royal Geographical Society,
1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.

Telephone: 020 7591 3141 (national office)

Cambridge contact: Jean Sinclair Email: jeandsinclair@ntlworld.com

Science and adventure on British Exploring expeditions

Summer vacation and gap year expeditions for young people and trainee aged 17 to 25 years, led by experienced older science, mountain and medical leaders, to remote Arctic, mountain and tropical locations. Science includes all types of biology, geology, geomorphology, meteorology etc., plus art, video making etc.; adventure includes trekking, mountaineering, canoeing, skiing etc.

16 Brunt, Clarke

www.viridis.net Email: 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.

40-41 Butterfly Conservation Cambridgeshire and 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

Conserving butterflies and moths

60 Cambridge City Council

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.

42 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

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.

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.

Foyer *Welcome to the Cambridge Natural History Society*

Foyer *The Conversazione*

9 *Items from the Society's archives*

21 *The Conversazione over seventy years: a brief history*

21 *The Cambridge Natural History Society a century ago*

21 *A history of the CNHS (1957) by Charles Raven*

22-23 *Cambridge Natural History Society field studies*

The Trumpington Meadows Survey (2012)

Coton Countryside Reserve (2010 survey)

The flora of Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits (2009 survey)

Coldham's Common survey (2007 survey)

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

www.cambridgeppf.org

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

27/28 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre

www.cperc.org.uk Email: Jane.Andrews-Gauvain@cperc.org.uk

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

Promoting biological recording across the county

26 Cambridgeshire Bat Group

www.cambsbats.co.uk info@cambsbats.co.uk

Cambridgeshire Bat Group is dedicated to the conservation of bats. Its aims are to educate and raise awareness of bats in Cambridgeshire and to study and monitor bat populations, both locally and nationally. The group initiates its own research projects, as well as organising practical conservation such as making and erecting bat boxes. The group also cares for injured bats and gives advice to those who find bats on their property.

29/30 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.

Find out more about Cambridgeshire Bird Club

33/34 Cambridgeshire Mammal Group

www.cambsmammalgroup.co.uk

Email: info@cambsmammalgroup.co.uk

The objects of the organisation are to work for the conservation and protection of wild mammals in Cambridgeshire.

The work of the Cambridgeshire Mammal Group

The results of the latest countywide otter survey and the recent work of the Group.

47-48 Essex Field Club & Essex Botany Group

Contact: Ken Adams Email: secretary@essexfieldclub.org.uk

Essex Field Club Biodiversity Centre, Wat Tyler Country Park,
Pitsea, Basildon Telephone: 0208 508 7863

***The national distribution, status and ecology of Sulphur Clover
Trifolium ochroleucon and Crested Cow-wheat Melampyrum
cristatum.***

***High resolution mapping of BSBI Scarce plants along the north
Bank of the Thames.***

***Demonstration of EFC Essex biological database of 1.6 million
records.***

53 Fauna and Flora International

Ken Richard

www.fauna-flora.org

Fauna and Flora International's mission is to act to conserve threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and take into account human needs.

110 years of conservation 1903-2013

52 Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook

www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

membership@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

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.

54 Friends of Milton Country Park

www.miltoncountrypark.org

friends@miltoncountrypark.org

The Friends of Milton Country Park was created in 1993, to promote

education, conservation and recreation in the Park. With Cambridge Sports Lakes Trust, we organise events, raise money and give Park users a say in how the Park should be run.

61 Frisch, Monica

An orchid on Coe Fen

Green-flowered Helleborine *Epipactis phyllanthes* was refound in 2010 on Robinson Crusoe Island. The display provides information of this and other records in Cambridgeshire for this rare orchid.

36-37 Hawk and Owl Trust

Life and landscapes through time

87 Hedwig, Berthold

www.zoo.cam.ac.uk/zoostraff/hedwig.htm

Cricket sounds and communication

The exhibit will defenestrate 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.

65-66 Huntingdonshire Flora and Fauna Society (Saturday only)

www.hffs.org.uk

Email: walkpeg@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman: Peter Walker

Telephone: 01480 390191

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

The display will include documents and photos about the Society and a display about plant galls. A short presentation on the laptop about the Society and the County of Hunts wildlife etc. will be available for continuous viewing. Some examples of publications will be included and copies of the Grass Key by Brian Davis will be for sale.

59 Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge

www.ice.cam.ac.uk

Madingley Hall

50-51 Magog Trust

www.magogtrust.org.uk

littletrees@mac.com

43 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 annual journal of Cambridgeshire's natural history

Acquire your 2013 edition and back issues today!

88-90 Northfield, Roger

Insects are wonderful!

63 Shanklin, Jonathan

Liverworts in Cambridgeshire

Zoology flowers

See what interesting plants grow in the lawn outside the Museum while you can. The area will be landscaped as part of the creation of a new entrance and the refurbishment of the Museum of Zoology.

17-19 Small-Life Supplies

www.small-life.co.uk

Email: emma@small-life.co.uk

Facebook : www.facebook.com/dorothy.floyd

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

Telephone: 01949 842446

Insect feet

See insect feet up close with the new "View Click Post". Just plug it into your computer and you can capture close up images of insects. "View Click Posts" will be for sale on both days, also our new ELC insect cages, and our New Guinea stick insects.

75 Treadwell, Lisa

www.lisatreadwell.co.uk

www.lisatreadwell.blogspot.co.uk

Natural history artist

10-11 Tribe, Henry

10 *Life at million-fold magnification*

Traditional Natural History is of the world as we see it, but when magnified 2-3 million times our world is made up of molecules.

www.sunlituplands.org.uk/biochemical-models/

11 *The bookworms' signatures*

Tunnels left in paperbacks

72-73 Trumpington Community Orchard (Saturday only)

Joanna Crosby

www.trumpingtonorchard.org

A focus on biodiversity

85 University of the Third Age (U3A) Cambridge

Local contact: Olwen Williams

olwenw@gmail.com

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

Wild Bears in Cambridge

The display will describe and demonstrate Tardigrades and discuss their unique survival strategies and life style.

38 Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/welney/

Contacts: Samantha Lee, David Fotherby

Email: info.welney@wwt.org.uk

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) is one of the world's largest and most respected wetland conservation organisations working globally to safeguard and improve wetlands for wildlife and people.

WWT Welney and migratory birds

The exhibit will show the changes in wildlife visiting the reserve over the seasons and the techniques we use to monitor our wildlife.

There will be the opportunity to win a free ticket to the reserve by trying your hand at our 'flock count challenge' and to find out about our upcoming events.

46/67 The Wildlife Trust Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire

www.wildlifebcn.org

cambridgeshire@wildlifebcn.org

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

Telephone: 01954 713500

Your local Wildlife Trust conserves wildlife by inspiring people to take action, provide experiences so you can discover more about the natural environment and share knowledge. The Trust manages 125 nature reserves and works closely with neighbouring landowners.

46 *Protecting Your Local Wildlife*

Laura Osborne

laura.osborne@wildlifebcn.org

Find out about the wildlife events going on in Cambridge this summer. Don't miss out on the chance to view wildlife from a punt or discover the night time creatures in a former chalk quarry.

67 *Your local Wildlife Trust*

Georgina J B Forbes

Display promoting local nature reserves, wildlife gardening and the children's Watch Club. Advice, membership and Information available. We manage and look after 125 nature reserves for wildlife, including ancient woodlands, wildflower meadows, and wetlands. More than 95% of people living in the three counties are less than 5 miles from a Wildlife Trust nature reserve.

84 *Woodland Wishes, Natural Burials Cambridge*

Tracy O'Leary

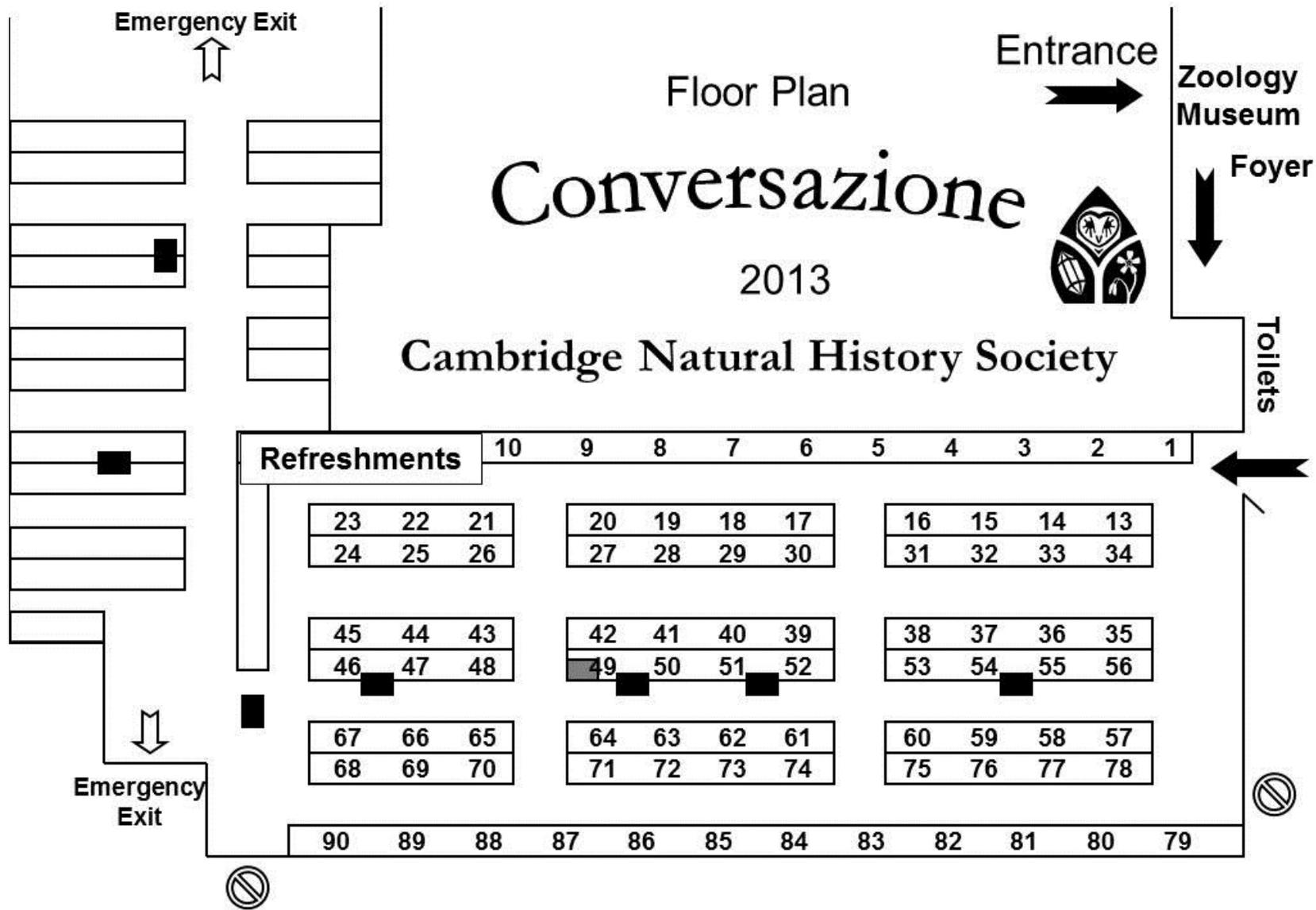
tracy@woodlandwishes.co.uk

13 Spurgeons Close, Teversham, Cambridge CB1 9BN

www.woodlandwishes.co.uk

Woodland Wishes, Natural Burials is an Independent Green Funeral Director offering simple and alternative funerals in beautiful woodland burial sites using local 'earth friendly' coffins without the fuss, environmental damage and unwanted expense of traditional mainstream funerals.

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 2014 will be sent out by Christmas. Contact: exhibition@cnhs.org.uk



Why not visit ...

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. Shortly this specimen will be put into storage while the Museum is refurbished and a new entrance created with a new gallery for the whale.

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.

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, 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

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 (£6.00)	3 Years (£14.00)	Life (£100)
-------------------	---------------------	----------------

Signed

Date