

# NatHistFest

*The 99<sup>th</sup> Conversazione and Exhibition  
on the wonders of the natural world*

**2018**



***Directory of Exhibitors 50p***

*Cambridge Natural History Society  
(1857 – 2018)*



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April  
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm



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

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

# **Welcome to the NatHistFest the 99<sup>th</sup> Conversazione and Exhibition**

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 conservation.

‘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 at the Society’s display.

*Kevin Hand, President, Cambridge Natural History Society*

Small donations towards the costs of staging  
the Conversazione are gratefully received.

# Directory of Exhibitors

*Exhibitors are listed alphabetically with information about their activities as well as about their displays. We hope this is useful.*

## **Ackroyd and Harvey**

<http://www.ackroydandharvey.com>  
<http://www.conflictedseeds.com>

*Slate Work East | Slate Work South 2016*

Three panels detail the conceptual rationale behind the artists' slate works, situated on the Corn Exchange Street entrance to the David Attenborough Building and on the south wall of the Museum of Zoology's new whale gallery.

## **David R Bain**

[david.r.bain@gmail.com](mailto:david.r.bain@gmail.com)

*A brief glimpse in a shallow pool*

A search for the pondweed *Zannichellia* in a shallow pool at a derelict dock at St Osyth briefly revealed an aquatic ecosystem of which some components were recorded before the site's imminent change and drainage of pools.

*The wealth of North Sea life revealed on the tideline after severe weather*

The recent much publicised "Beast from the East" weather brought extreme cold and easterly winds that coincided with spring tides on the Essex coast. The consequences to sea-life were graphically shown by the range of species fatally cast up on the shoreline. This poster expands my recent article in the local press outlining this event at Clacton-on-Sea.

## **Dr Clarke Brunt**

<http://www.viridis.net>  
[clarke.brunt@viridis.net](mailto:clarke.brunt@viridis.net)

As well as the cacti, succulents, carnivorous plants etc. often exhibited in past years, my garden is home to all kinds of wildlife, from nesting swifts, other birds, and honeybees, to hedgehogs, frogs and toads. I'm showing photos I have taken. The swifts won't arrive from Africa until a week into May, but I'll show saved video from previous years.

**Buglife**<https://www.buglife.org.uk>

Imogen Burt &amp; Steve Parnwell

[Imogen.burt@buglife.org.uk](mailto:Imogen.burt@buglife.org.uk)*Bug Champions: growing Buglife in Cambridgeshire.*

Bug Champions is a volunteer project run by Buglife. It is hoped that by learning more about the incredible invertebrates that people can find in the UK that they will become more invertebrate-friendly in their lifestyles. We aim to help those in Cambridgeshire learn more about invertebrates and how they can help save them.

We plan on answering any questions that the public have on invertebrates, as well as teaching them the best way to encourage invertebrates into their life. These range from what plants are best for bumblebees, to how to build wormeries as well as other information about invertebrates in the UK.

**Pam Butler**[pambutler27@hotmail.com](mailto:pambutler27@hotmail.com)*The importance of seed testing*[www.niab.com](http://www.niab.com)

This exhibit describes the history of seed testing and demonstrates how purity and germination tests are carried out by skilled seed analysts.

NIAB provides independent science-based research and information to support, develop and promote agriculture and horticulture. Within NIAB is the Official Seed Testing Station which provides seed testing services to the seed trade, by running courses and training programmes for seed analysts and seed samplers, checking and support for licensed stations, advisory testing for farmers, work for the Animal and Plant Health Agency and export certification.

**Cambridge & Peterborough Amphibian and Reptile Group (CPARG)**[www.groups.arguk.org/cparg](http://www.groups.arguk.org/cparg)

Steven Allain

[steveallain@live.co.uk](mailto:steveallain@live.co.uk)*Amphibians and reptiles of Cambridgeshire*

An introduction to Cambridgeshire's reptiles and amphibians, aiding in their identification and where to find them. Everyone has seen frogs in their garden ponds but what about the less well known residents of ponds in the county? Our stand will help you identify herps you may come across and how to record them.

CPARG is a local grassroots amphibian and reptile conservation group. As a volunteer-run group we provide training, conduct surveys, liaise with planning authorities and consultancies, organise talks and give presentations. Our aims are to increase awareness of reptile and amphibian conservation priorities and to map the distribution of each species within the county.

## **Cambridge Astronomical Association**

[www.caa-cya.org](http://www.caa-cya.org)

Paul Mardon

[paulfmardon@gmail.com](mailto:paulfmardon@gmail.com)

Brian Lister

[btlister@btinternet.com](mailto:btlister@btinternet.com)

### *Cambridge Astronomical Association*

Cambridge Astronomical Association (CAA) & Cambridge Young Astronomers (CYA) cater for all levels of interest in astronomy from absolute beginners to experts, young and old. We aim to make astronomy interesting and fun with monthly speakers, public observing sessions, loan telescopes, newsletters, library, courses, and more.

## **Cambridge City Council**

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

Victoria Smith

[victoria.smith@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.smith@cambridge.gov.uk)

### *Local nature reserves*

The exhibit will show some of the new projects happening on the city's nature reserves and explain the desired benefits to city dwelling species.

## **Cambridge Flora Group**

### *The Cambridge Flora Group*

## **Cambridge Natural History Society**

<http://www.cnhs.org.uk>

Cambridge Natural History 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 and field studies, and an annual dinner. Joining the Society gives you opportunities to meet people with shared interests and access to local experts.

*Welcome to Cambridge Natural History Society*

*A history of the Cambridge Natural History Society by C Raven*

*The Cambridge Natural History Society a century ago* written by Henry Tribe with photos provided by Jonathan Shanklin

*The Conversazione: a brief history* written by Henry Tribe with photos provided by Jonathan Shanklin

*CNHS Coldhams Common field study 2017* Jonathan Shanklin

*CNHS field studies since 2010* Jonathan Shanklin

## **Cambridge Past Present and Future**

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

Ed Wombwell

[ecology@cambridgeppf.org](mailto:ecology@cambridgeppf.org)

### *The EMBLEM Project*

Our principal aim for this project is to launch and maintain a new long-term local ecological monitoring network to drive conservation management work, enhance biodiversity and increase ecological resilience through forming strong local partnerships and increased public engagement and volunteering.

## **Cambridge University Botanic Garden** [enquiries@botanic.cam.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@botanic.cam.ac.uk)

### *Conservation in the Botanic Garden*

Cambridge University Botanic Garden holds a collection of over 8000 plant species from all over the world to facilitate teaching and research. The Garden provides resources to research workers and lecturers. The Botanic Garden is also a beautiful place for everybody to enjoy and benefit from - a series of wonderful landscapes through which to discover the drama of plant diversity.

## **Cambridge University Press**

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

### *Discount vouchers*

## **Cambridgeshire Geological Society**

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

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

[info@cambridgeshiregeologyclub.org](mailto:info@cambridgeshiregeologyclub.org)

### *Local geology and more*

Cambridgeshire is full of geological riches – from world-famous fossils to valuable records of changing landscapes and climate. Discover coral reefs, chalk cliffs, fen islands, desert sands, ancient life, a myriad of waterways and even the odd volcano. Join us to explore our Fen Edge Trail.

#### **Cambridgeshire Mammal Group**

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

Peter Pilbeam

[cambsmammal@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmammal@gmail.com)

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

The exhibit shows some of the work of the Group in the conservation, monitoring and surveying of Cambridgeshire's wild mammals – these range from the smallest harvest mice through badgers and otters up to muntjac and red deer.

The aims of the Group are to survey and monitor and thus help to conserve wild mammals throughout the county, to promote the public awareness of 'their' wild mammals, to train its members and members of the public in mammal-related matters, and to provide help and advice on them to whoever needs it.

#### **Cambridgeshire Moth Group**

##### *Cambridgeshire Moth Group*

In 2017 there has been a lot of change in Cambridgeshire (VC29) with regards to moth recording. A new County Moth Recorder took over and new interest in moths and moth recording seemed to spread through the county. This new group was set up so that like-minded people could get together to discuss anything mothy. We will be organising field trips to some of the county's nature reserves and getting involved in Bioblitz. If you are interested, come by for a chat or drop an email.

#### **Richard Dowsett**

[Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk)

##### *Small-scale charcoal making for art*

Pictures and exhibits showing how to make drawing charcoal on a domestic scale along with finished products to try on the day.

**Leah Fitzpatrick & Lauren Rouse**

**STUDENT DISPLAY**

[undercover-discover@outlook.com](mailto:undercover-discover@outlook.com)

*Undercover Discover – skin and bone*

Ever fancied holding the tooth of the largest shark that ever lived? Or how about the skull of a lion? Come swing by to Undercover Discover, learning through handling specimens that both children AND adults can enjoy. Come pick from over 50 specimens, ask some questions and get some answers!

**Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook**

[www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk)  
[general-secretary@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk](mailto:general-secretary@friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk)

*Cherry Hinton Brook – a wildlife haven*

Information about Cherry Hinton Brook, and the role of the Friends in keeping it a clean and pleasant environment.

**Friends of Histon Road Cemetery**

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

Lesley Dodd

[friendsofhistonroadcemetery@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:friendsofhistonroadcemetery@yahoo.co.uk)

*Friends of Histon Road Cemetery*

Photos and information about Histon Road Cemetery and our Friends group that manages it for wildlife alongside Cambridge City Council.

Histon Road Cemetery is a Grade II listed Victorian cemetery between Histon Road and Victoria Road. It provides an important haven for wildlife and is managed with this in mind. We hope you will agree this is a special place and that you will join us as a “Friend” to help care for and preserve it.

**Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke**

[frrfdjin@freebie.net](mailto:frrfdjin@freebie.net)

*Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke*

I will have pictures of the sites and some butterflies and flowers. We shall have the new leaflet for the Roman Road, and our other leaflets for Fleam Dyke and Chalk Grassland Flowers. I also plan to display high quality photocopies of about 15 botanical drawings by Marjorie Powell.



**Monica Frisch**

[mfrisch@phonecoop.coop](mailto:mfrisch@phonecoop.coop)

*Prints by Ulla Frisch*

For most of her life my mother, Ulla Frisch, worked as an artist. Failing eyesight means she can no longer work and has moved into a nursing home. She was primarily a printmaker and very prolific. I will be displaying for sale small prints, mainly of animals and birds.

**Mr Chris Heron**

*Three weeks with Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia*

Information about cheetahs, the Cheetah Conservation Fund and its work, and photos taken during my stay in February – some plants, insects and non-cheetah animals too.

Cheetah Conservation Fund (not officially represented) work closely with local communities to help conserve cheetahs and limit any damage they do to livestock by providing guarding dogs. Based in Namibia and with a head office in the USA, they foster work in other African countries and liaise with other nations with a cheetah population such as Iran.

**Roger Horton**

[rogerhorton@zoho.com](mailto:rogerhorton@zoho.com)

*Cambridge Natural History Society New Year Plant Hunt 2018*

On 1st January 2018 a CNHS team took part in the BSBI New Year Plant Hunt aiming to count as many plants in flower as possible in a 3 hour period. The team found 88 plants, the 4<sup>th</sup> longest list in UK and Ireland, and the longest for an inland site.

**Bob Jarman**

*Wildlife of a farm on the edge of the City*

In recent years the agricultural management of the NIAB's Trials Ground, which is a private site, on the northern edge of Cambridge has included active steps to improve its wildlife. As a direct result Red Listed bird species have increased and new orchid and butterfly species have established.

## **Dr Gwenda Kyd**

*Scots Pine (Pinus sylvestris): From the Caledonian Forest to camel shampoo!*

Take a closer look at Scots pine and find out why pine forests are blue, why pine is associated with cleanliness and some of its possible medicinal benefits. Several more unusual uses of pine will also be revealed ... including as the source of hygienic wood, in camel shampoo and to make beer.

## **Shirley Lowe**

*Storytelling*

Stories for families about the world around us. Sit down, relax, and enjoy a story! Stories old and new from around the world.

## **Duncan Mackay**

[Duncan@mackay.co.uk](mailto:Duncan@mackay.co.uk)

*Lower Wood Ash trees: the story in the tree rings*

Lower Wood is a Wildlife Trust nature reserve on the chalk ridge between Newmarket and Linton. It is the highest nature reserve in Cambridgeshire being 110 m OSL. The wood is comprised of ash, oak, field maple and hazel. It used to be a coppiced wood and was clear felled during World War One. It is the last remnant of Great Colville Wood. Its recent history has left interesting traces in the tree rings.

During the winter monthly work parties are held on the last Saturday of each month to re-establish the coppice cycle - volunteers are always welcome!

## **Madeira Fauna & Flora**

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

Sergio Teixeira & Paul Mardon

[info@madeira-fauna-flora.com](mailto:info@madeira-fauna-flora.com)

*Madeira Fauna & Flora – Madeira's nature experts exclusive tours*

Madeira Fauna & Flora is an ecotourism company that aims to provide visiting tourists with the best options to enjoy Madeira's amazing landscapes and learn about its species, habitats, geology and culture, while supporting local communities and contributing to the local biodiversity conservation.

## **Magog Trust**

[www.magogtrust.org.uk](http://www.magogtrust.org.uk)  
[admin@magogtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@magogtrust.org.uk)

### *The wildlife rich meadows of the Magog Down*

Display boards and information about the aims and work of the Magog Trust and how to get involved with this unique area for restoration, conservation and informal recreation.

The Magog Trust is a small charity owning 160 acres of chalk downland and woods in Stapleford parish. The Trust's objectives are to encourage & conserve wildlife & provide recreation for residents of nearby villages.

## **Gill Mallett**

[gillianmallett@gmail.com](mailto:gillianmallett@gmail.com)

### *Colourful gemstones*

Gill, a qualified gemmologist, is interested in the scientific knowledge explaining what makes gems the colour they are. The composition, impurities and the play of light all contribute to this.

## **NatHistCam**

<http://www.nathistcam.org.uk>  
[nathistcam@gmail.com](mailto:nathistcam@gmail.com)

### *Natural History of Cambridge*

In this study of the fauna and flora of Cambridge, we are compiling existing data and making many new records. We are in the middle of the main recording period which runs from 2017 to 2019. You can help by supplying wildlife records for your garden, and by submitting records to our site on the local records centre CPERC. When our recording period has ended, we shall publish articles and books dealing with the wildlife of Cambridge. Please visit our website for lots of fascinating information about nature in the city.

### *Mistletoe in Cambridge*

Mistletoe appears to be increasing in Cambridge, at least in some parts. A NatHistCam survey in winter 2016-17 showed the distribution was patchy with about half the 64 1 km squares in Cambridge apparently not having any mistletoe. The display will present the results on a map of Cambridge.

NatHistCam is a project to study the natural history of Cambridge, based on an 8 km x 8 km square roughly centred on Mill Road Cemetery. It

aims to create a snapshot of the flora and fauna of Cambridge in a historical context; and increase public awareness of the diversity of plants, animals and fungi in the city.

**NatSoc**

**STUDENT ENTRY**

Sean Irving

[si309@cam.ac.uk](mailto:si309@cam.ac.uk)

*Birds of Cambridge short film*

A short documentary about the birds of Cambridge, made by members of the students' nature society.

**Nature in Cambridgeshire** <http://www.natureincambridgeshire.org.uk>

*Nature in Cambridgeshire*

*Nature in Cambridgeshire* is published annually in June. I shall be selling last year's and several previous years' issues, and would be delighted if you can subscribe to this year's issue (£8.50), which I shall send out when it is published.

**NIAB**

[www.niab.com](http://www.niab.com)

Sandra Chapman

[Sandra.chapman@niab.com](mailto:Sandra.chapman@niab.com)

*The lifecycle of cereal smut*

The smut fungi use the seeds of their hosts to complete their lifecycles. This exhibit will show how destructive they can be although the smut of maize is edible and marketed as a gourmet mushroom.

NIAB provides independent science-based research and information to support, develop and promote agriculture and horticulture, helping the industry to fulfil its potential in supplying food and renewable resources whilst respecting the natural environment.

**John O'Boyle**

[oboylejm@hotmail.com](mailto:oboylejm@hotmail.com)

*Stapleford Chalk Pit*

Stapleford Parish Pit is one of many former quarries that form a network of chalk grassland fragments important for maintaining viable wild

populations of flowers. This exhibit describes plant species and a population of Roman snails that are present, in addition to its history and management

*Cambridge Science Park – an A-Z of trees*

A selective gallery of trees on the Cambridge Science Park. This display shows the range and diversity of trees on the Science Park, almost one for each letter of the alphabet.

## **Roxanne and Andy's Wildlife Photography**

Roxanne Levy and Andrew Salveson

[www.folksy.com/shops/fatsquirrelphotography](http://www.folksy.com/shops/fatsquirrelphotography)

*Wildlife photography*

We are wildlife photographers who create greeting cards, calendars, prints and other gifts with our work. We love nature and photograph seals, puffins, foxes, insects, deer and squirrels to name just a few! We aim to capture the character and beauty of the animals and provide information about them too.

## **Benno Simmons**

## **STUDENT ENTRY**

*How scientists are using ecological networks to understand the web of life*

Much biodiversity research focuses on individual species. However, all species interact with other species. By examining the ways in which species interact with other species, scientists are uncovering the 'web of life': the wireframe that supports biodiversity. This exhibit provides an introduction to this area and the work scientists are doing.

## **Small-life Supplies**

[www.small-life.co.uk](http://www.small-life.co.uk)

Dorothy Floyd

[emma@small-life.co.uk](mailto:emma@small-life.co.uk)

Telephone (day) 01733 203358

*Insect Cages*

You can now provide the perfect home for your insects. From large airy cages to small hatching boxes, we create and manufacture cages to suit

every insect. We also sell stick insects and caterpillars. Our insects are safe and harmless, as are our eucalyptus plants. Everything is produced in the UK.

### *Helping Pigeons*

A poster display with examples of how people are helping wild pigeons. We hope to encourage more people to view wild pigeons in a positive way, and this display offers advice on which foods to give them and how to help a pigeon in distress.

### **Henry Tribe**

#### *Life at two thousand magnification: The world of microbes*

Poo magnified 2,000 times. All of us know what unmagnified poo looks like so a sample is unnecessary. At x 2,000 it is seen to be composed primarily of bacteria plus some round bodies which may be protozoon cysts. The structure of the brown material in the microbiome colour print mystifies me. Any suggestions?

### **Charles Turner**

#### *Orchids of Cambridgeshire*

### **U3AC (University of the Third Age Cambridge) Naturalists' Group**

Olwen Williams

[olwenw@gmail.com](mailto:olwenw@gmail.com)

U3A Cambridge provides educational and social opportunities for people no longer in full-time employment. The Naturalists' Group meets weekly in term time.

#### *The wonders of tiny things*

Come and see what we have!

### **Danny White**

#### *Reptiles & insects*

Showing reptiles from Danny's private collection as well as insects. To show/tell people facts about the animals. Also talk about the

conservation of some of the species that will be exhibited to show what problems the animals face in the wild and why conservation is so important.

### **Wildlife Sound Recording Society**

[www.wildlife-sound.org](http://www.wildlife-sound.org)

Tony Fulford

[tonyfulford@gmail.com](mailto:tonyfulford@gmail.com)

#### *Recording Wildlife Sounds*

Posters describing the various techniques used to capture wildlife sound, the equipment used to do this and the uses to which these recordings are put. There will be displays of equipment and the chance to hear the sounds of a variety of wildlife (mostly birds) both broadcast from loudspeakers and through a 'request system' for visitors to listen to sounds of their choice through headphones.

The Wildlife Sound Recording Society aims to promote both technical excellence in recording the sounds of wildlife and the understanding of their acoustic communication. The Society organises workshops and competitions and produces an informative printed journal and a much-loved 'sound magazine' (on CD) of members' recordings.

### **Wildlife Travel**

[www.wildlife-travel.co.uk](http://www.wildlife-travel.co.uk)

Chris Donnelly

[wildlife-travel@wildlifebcn.org](mailto:wildlife-travel@wildlifebcn.org)

#### *Wildlife holidays supporting conservation*

Information on holidays that raise money for conservation.

### **Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

<http://www.wildlifebcn.org>

Pete Tasker

#### *The work of the Wildlife Trust*

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire works to make our three counties a place where nature matters, where wildlife can flourish and enrich the lives of the people who live here: with your help we care for local wildlife. Ninety five per cent of the local population live within five miles of one of our 126 reserves and contributions of time or money will directly benefit local wildlife.

## **The *Sophora* Tree**

Visit the Society's tree, illustrated on the cover, 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 now partially reopened after four years' closure for refurbishment. The Finback Whale skeleton can now be seen hanging in its new gallery and there is a new gift shop and the Whale Café is now open.

## **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 the Department of Zoology for allowing us to use the zoology laboratory, Jacek Zalewski and Danny White for helping the event to run smoothly and for letting us use microscopes and other equipment, and Lesley Dodd, Monica Frisch, Paul Mardon and other members of the Society for organising the event.

## **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, field trips and surveys, as well as our annual exhibition, which next year will be the 100<sup>th</sup> *Conversazione*.

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. A membership form can also be downloaded from our website or email [membership@cnhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@cnhs.org.uk)*

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