

Conversazione

92nd Annual Public Exhibition of Natural History



*Cambridge Natural History Society
(1857 – 2011)*



www.cnhs.org.uk

*Friday 17th June
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday 18th June 2011
10:00 am - 5:00 pm*

supported by



Welcome to the 92nd 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 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, 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...

Numbers correspond to the floor plan on the last page.

- Foyer** **AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CONVERSAZIONE**
CNHS.
- Foyer** **INTRODUCTION TO THE CNHS**
CNHS.
A poster showing what activities the CNHS are involved in.
www.cnhs.org.uk
- 1** **THE TALL FESCUE PLANTHOPPER**
Alex Dittrich, ARU.
A poster signalling the presence of a very rare BAP insect species, the tall fescue planthopper, recently discovered in Cambridge. Details are given of a new research project that is underway to find out more about the population and the ecology at Coe Fen of this very rare and little known species.
- 2** **FROM LITTLE ACORNS...**
Anglia Ruskin Wildlife Society.
A visual and interactive exhibition of what students in the ARU Wildlife Society have been involved with this year including surveying at Mill Road Cemetery. There will be posters and items of interest such as beetles that can be viewed under the microscope.
- 03/04/11** **MOTHS ON SITE**
Charles Turner, CNHS.
The results of moth traps set out on Thursday and Friday nights.
- 10** **MY "CV"**
Henry Tribe, CNHS.
Titles of my exhibits at Conversazioni since 1953
- 11/12/11** **NANO-NATURAL HISTORY: THE WORLD AT TWO MILLION**
Henry Tribe, CNHS.
If we look at our world as magnified two million times we see that it is composed of molecules. The molecules have morphology and ecology, just as do animals, plants and microbes. The analogy is followed, by means of model molecules arranged in ecosystems.
<http://www.sunlituplands.org.uk/biochemical-models/>
- 13** **THE FUNGAL LIFE OF A LOG FOR THE FIRE**
Anita Joysey, CNHS.
A photographic record of a fungus found on a log ... and the log.
- 14-15** **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.
www.viridis.net

- 16 CACTI AND SUCCULENT PLANTS**
Clarke Brunt, British Cactus and Succulent Society.
 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 with the reduction or absence of leaves to minimise water loss. The exhibit shows a range of plants which have been grown under greenhouse conditions in the UK.
- 17 - 19 ENJOYING ENTOMOLOGY**
Dorothy Floyd, Small-life Supplies.
 Look at our locusts in our new aluminium heating locust cage. See our large stick insects and mantids and also our fancy caterpillars. We breed all these insects and manufacture the proper insect cages out of aluminium, stainless steel and PVC. We also have publications for sale including "The Bug File" (issued monthly), booklets of French Stick Insect Anatomy Prints and, of course, Dorothy Floyd's best-selling book "Keeping Stick Insects".
www.small-life.co.uk
- 24-25 BIRD CLUB ACTIVITIES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE**
Cambridgeshire Bird Club. Cambridgeshire Bird Club runs a programme of indoor and outdoor meetings throughout the year. We also collect and publish information on the birds of Cambridgeshire. In addition to a copy of the Annual Report, members are entitled to attend all our meetings of the Club and receive a bi-monthly bulletin which includes articles and information on recent sightings of birds within the county.
www.cambridgebirdclub.org.uk
- 26 THE VALUE AND DELIGHT OF RECORDING BIRD NESTING SUCCESSES**
Cambridge Nesters.
- 27 GEOCACHING AND CAMBRIDGE PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE**
Jean Sinclair.
 Geocaching at Wandlebury Country Park and Coton Countryside Reserve, including statistics of finds, general information about the hobby of geocaching, points particularly relevant to natural history, list of organisations that permit/ban geocaching on their land. Examples of GPS equipment, cache and internet geocache listings.
- 28-30 THE WORK OF CAMBRIDGE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE: ITS SITES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT**
Jon Gibbs, Cambridge Past, Present & Future.
 A display of all the properties owned and managed by Cambridge PPF with an emphasis on the environmental and public access management of our two main sites: Wandlebury Country Park and Coton Countryside Reserve.
www.cambridgeppf.org
- 31 LOOKING AT LEAVES (AND FEELING AND SMELLING)**
Monica Frisch, CNHS.
 Leaves are important to plants and helpful in identifying them. The display will highlight the variety of shapes, colours, textures and smells of leaves of wild plants.

- 32 FRIENDS OF CHERRY HINTON BROOK**
Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook.
A local group cares for its local brook.
www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk
- 33-34 MAMMALS, MILK AND MAMMARY GLANDS**
Hayley Frend, Department of Pathology.
Which animal has the lowest fat milk? What does buffalo milk taste like? Find the answers to these and many more questions at the Mammals, Milk and Mammary glands stall. Try milks from a variety of unusual animals, take part in our interactive game and learn all about how mammals produce milk. Information for adults on breast cancer and mammary gland biology. (Saturday only)
- 36 AN ISSUE OF SIZE AND SEX? ALIEN CRAYFISH ON THE RIVER LARK**
Abby Stancliffe-Vaughan, ARU.
- 37 NON-NATIVE CRAYFISH IN THE UK**
Abby Stancliffe-Vaughan, ARU.
- 38 TANSLEY'S INTERNATIONAL PHYTOGEOGRAPHICAL TOUR 1911**
Simon Mentha, CNHS.
- 39 FOUND IN THE FIELD: ASSORTED SPECIMENS**
Jon Shanklin, CNHS.
A selection of interesting and unusual objects found whilst out in the field. Have a guess at what they are, then check and see if you are right! Do bring your own to add to the display.
- 40 SHELL GUIDES: AN INTRODUCTION TO NATURAL HISTORY**
Jon Shanklin, CNHS.
As a child one of my early introductions to natural history were the beautifully illustrated "Shell Guides". These are on display, together with some background material.
- 41 CNHS FIELD STUDY 2010**
Jon Shanklin, CNHS.
A poster introducing the CNHS field study project for 2010, which covered the Coton Countryside Reserve. A longer report on the survey is presented in *Nature in Cambridgeshire*, which can be purchased at the NiC stand.
- 43 THE ANNUAL NATURAL HISTORY PUBLICATION FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE**
Nature in Cambridgeshire.
"Nature in Cambridgeshire" is an annual publication covering all aspects of natural history. Each year articles are published on a wide range of subjects. At the Conversazione you have the opportunity to buy the latest issue and buy or order back issues.
- 44-45 CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE (CPERC)**
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC).
www.cperc.org.uk

- 48 CAMBRIDGESHIRE GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE**
Cambridgeshire Geology Club
Presentation of the rocks, fossils and geology of Cambridgeshire.
www.cambridgeshiregeologyclub.org.uk
- 49 DARWIN CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT**
Rosemary Clarkson, Darwin Correspondence Project.
The Darwin Correspondence Project produces the definitive edition of the letters written by and sent to Charles Darwin (1809-82); begun in 1974, volume 18 (of thirty) was published last year.
www.darwinproject.ac.uk
- 50-51 FRIENDS OF THE ROMAN ROAD AND FLEAM DYKE**
Julia Napier. Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke.
The Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke were set up ten years ago to look after the flora and fauna of these two Sites of Special Scientific Interest, especially the lovely chalk grassland flowers such as Thyme and Rock Roses. So far we have raised £35,000 in grants to pay for careful scrub clearance, for leaflets, information boards, dog bins, and a very good booklet describing a long circular walk along the Fleam Dyke, across country paths and back down the Roman Road. £10 a year. We get things done!
www.frrfd.org.uk
- 52 BUTTERFLY ART**
Brian Gardiner.
A mounted picture frame containing the form of a vase made up of Butterfly wings and postcards with a real butterfly made by the Nawa Butterfly Factory in Gifu, Japan about 1900.
- 53 CURRENT GOVERNMENT CUTS AND FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY**
Henry Disney.
It has been reported in the press that some police forces are limiting the range of samples collected at scenes of crime or at post mortems in order to save money. Does this matter?
- 61-62 THE HIDDEN WORLD OF SLIME**
John Holden.
An introduction to Myxomycetes, with examples to examine under the microscope.
<http://freespace.virgin.net/frog.end/Myxomagic/Welcome.html>
- 63-64 FUNGI NEED FRIENDS**
John Holden.
Information about the South Cambridgeshire Fungus Group and publicity material from the British Mycological Society; the plight of fungi.
- 65-66 CAMBRIDGESHIRE: A LIVING LANDSCAPE**
Laura Watson, Cambridgeshire & Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust.
Celebrate your local Living Landscape with the Wildlife Trust. Discover where your nearest nature reserve is and how you can help wildlife.
www.wildlifebcnp.org

68-69 AREN'T INSECTS WONDERFUL

Roger Northfield, Cambridge.

Photographs and some living insects

79-80 KEEP THE CORVIDS!

Sally Knight.

Instead of needlessly killing magpies, jays, crows and jackdaws, why not feed them? In addition to saving the lives of these handsome creatures, and saving the £100,000 allocated by the government in January 2011 for an "extermination experiment", you will be rewarded with all their entertaining antics in the garden. It is very amusing to see them sorting out which peanut shell houses the largest nuts, hiding them, only to be found by another bird. I've been feeding peanuts in their shells to corvids for about ten years, starting in central London and now in central Cambridge. This goes on alongside the happy feeding of all the usual garden birds and their young – none of which have I seen being attacked by another bird. Attacks by cats? Now that's another subject.

84-87 WILDLIFE ARTIST AND NATURAL HISTORY ILLUSTRATIONS

Michael C. Wood, Cambridge.

Wildlife paintings, prints and illustrations produced for books and interpretation boards by local wildlife illustrator. www.michaelcwood.co.uk

91 THE HONEY BEE AND PRODUCTS FROM THE HIVE

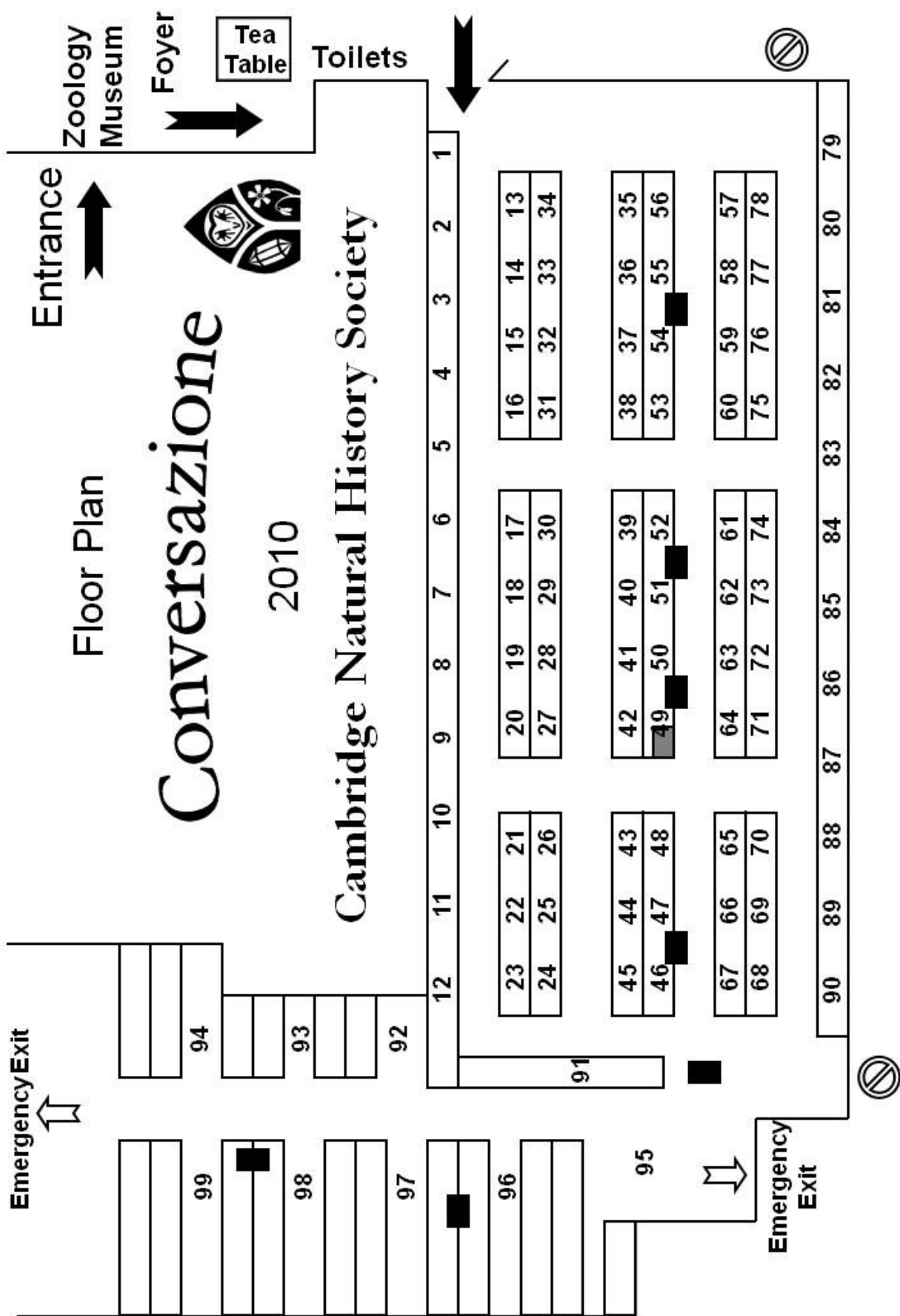
Paul Aslin, Cambridge Beekeepers Association. Live bees in an observation hive, plus a display on the lifecycle of honeybees and beekeeping.

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 2012 will be sent
out by Christmas.**

Contact: exhibition@cnhs.org.uk



Why not visit ...

The University Zoology Museum is open to the public during the exhibition. 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

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



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Membership application form

Name (Capitals please)

Full address:

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.....

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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

The AGM of the Cambridge Natural History Society will be held
in the Elementary Laboratory of the Zoology Department
at 5.15pm on Saturday 18th June. All are welcome to attend.