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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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REPORT OF BIOLOGY CURATORS' GROUP MEETINGAT BOLTON MUSEUM, DECEMBER 3rd, 1976

Well over 30 members attended the meeting against all the weather odds of freezing fog. As all the speakers also managed to travel, the afternoon programme was a full one and the sessions on various aspects of living animal and plant exhibits appeared to be appreciated.

Alan Howell initiated the proceedings, giving a résumé of his work with a formicarium while employed at Nottingham, full reference to the article in the Museums Journal Volume 75(2), pages 81-2 should be made. Denis Murphy followed with an introduction to the Merseyside County Museum Aquarium and then gave a practical demonstration of how to construct an all-glass tank with filtering system for a low-budget marine exhibit.

After a break, two of the delayed speakers having arrived, Mike Tong described the construction and maintenance of an observation beehive such as is in his charge at Elvaston Castle Country Park Museum. Alan Cheese then described the ways in which Shugborough had developed into a rare domestic breeds farm with interpretative facilities combined with conservation of living animals.

Unfortunately, the afternoon was drawing to a close and there was still one more talk to be heard. Alan's talk must have prompted quite a few questions but by this time a lot of members had taken their leave in order to attempt to travel back through the fog. Eric Greenwood stepped into the breach left when Don Moore, the Plant room technician at Merseyside had gone down with 'flu and described the living plant exhibits attached to their Natural History Gallery. This was followed by the remaining six or seven people examining the Bolton Aquarium conducted by Mike Graham before finally braving their journey home. Normally, visitors would have been welcome to stay on much longer for discussion and questions. Perhaps members who were present would let the Committee know if they thought the meeting satisfactory in timing, venue, content etc., in order that future meetings be planned to the greatest benefit of those wishing to attend.

The Chairman would like to thank sincerely all those members who attended and especially the speakers for travelling and arriving in such foul weather conditions.

EGH.

NOTE

The articles by Mike Tong and Alan Cheese will be included in the next Newsletter.