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Author(s): Davis, P.

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EDITORS NOTE

I would like to take this opportunity of putting on record the thanks of BCG members to Stephen Flood for his efforts in the past in producing the Newsletter. Only after struggling desperately to put together this present issue have I personally realised the amount of time and effort involved. Stephen's activity will no doubt increase still further in his new role as Chairman, in which we wish him well.

Reg Harris' lecture on Biodeterioration proved to be one of the highlights of the AGM in December, and after some persuasion I managed to extricate his copious notes from the depths of the B.M. (N.H.) The article on Biodeterioration in the Newsletter is a result of my editing of these notes, and any errors which may have crept in are undoubtedly mine. I hope the article will provide a useful point of reference to the processes of biodeterioration, some of the techniques involved in preventing it, and the precautions which should be taken in using these techniques.

Geoff Hancock has ably assisted in the compilation of this issue, and it may be useful at this point to mention the division of labour between Geoff and myself. For this first issue it has in fact proved a very random division, but could all contributors please note that for further issues articles dealing specifically with the history of collections, or those with a zoological bias (excluding marine zoology) should be sent to Geoff Hancock. I will be responsible for articles dealing with aspects of botanical collections, marine biology, techniques, biological recording and items of general interest. Similarly, requests for information and minor notices should be forwarded to me at Sunderland. I hope this division will give more time and opportunity for editing and if necessary for refereeing.

The Committee are at present still examining the possibility of reproducing the Newsletter by photo-litho, which will give a more polished appearance, allow the reproduction of photographs, and perhaps lead to advertising revenue. For the present however, production will continue to be centred on St. Albans Museum.

P. Davis

The copy date for the July Newsletter will be 3rd June.