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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Editorial

Your Editor and his Assistant have now survived one year and are still going strong! This issue contains several interesting articles, mostly of spontaneous origin with a particularly impressive contribution from Bill Ely which we think will be of value to many members; lets hope that others take up his suggestions.

The shorter articles are particularly pleasing to receive. We have a 'hit list' of ideas and people to obtain larger articles which works well, but the smaller articles are vital for a varied Newsletter. May we remind you that this publication is still a 'newsletter' rather than a learned 'journal', so let's hear some news from your part of the world! Even a few paragraphs or a letter would please us.

The controversial statements in our last editorial had an astounding response of..... zero ! Do you really all agree with us ? No views on bird's egg displays were forthcoming, despite the fact that many museums have removed them from public galleries after repeated thefts. Someone somewhere must have an egg display which they feel is conservationally constructive, not destructive. Comments on bird's eggs for the next issue please !

As for the role of provincial museum collections and galleries; another zero response here too ! Many museums are restricting their displays to local wildlife only and some are sticking rigidly to the same policy for collections. Surely we should be giving the public a chance to see material from other parts of Britain and abroad. Our reference collections, of great value to researchers, are surely of little use to them if they hold only local material from a tiny area, and not a full reference series. Should everyone really have to travel to London to see a Platypus or to identify a fly ? Do you agree ? Well write and tell us ! Comments for the next issue please !

After a flying start "Notes for Diploma Students" has died the death. We desparately need one or two specialists to continue this series, which has been so well received in the past two issues. Also, lets hear from Diploma and Leicester students about your requirements (printable or otherwise) and we will try to find experts to help.

So there we are !

Plenty to get your teeth/mandibles/suckers into !

Belated Best Wishes for the New Year from the Editors.

Steve

&

Derek