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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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# Letters

## City of Birmingham

CITY MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERY

Birmingham, B3 3DH.

Telephone 021-235 9944

*Michael Diamond MA, FMA*  
*Director*

your ref

our ref MD/SJ

date 22nd December 1983

telephone calls to Mr. M. Diamond

direct line 021-235 2833

Derek Whitley Esq.,  
The Editor,  
Biological Curators Group,  
City Museum,  
Weston Park,  
Sheffield 10.

Dear Sir,

Brian Seddon's curious contribution to Vol.3 part 7 has been brought to my attention. Its purpose appears to be to shift blame for apparent inactivity in Birmingham's Natural History Department to myself or my predecessor.

This is odd, since some good work has been done by the Natural History Department during the period concerned. Brian himself has made a considerable contribution both to this museum and to natural history through his development of computer documentation systems for the collections. A number of worthwhile exhibitions have been mounted in the old Human Biology Gallery (which was dismantled without any reference to me), and I have made available considerable sums of money for improvements at the Birmingham Nature Centre. Also not recorded is my predecessor's allocation of substantial extra space to the Natural History Department for offices and storage.

Brian is by no means alone in his frustrations over new displays. The fact is that his new scheme has a very high priority out of eight or ten planned projects. Nor has it been 're-scheduled', as it was never scheduled in the first place. Furthermore, the scheme which has first priority will allow us to release back to his use the offices temporarily allocated to Museums Education in 1981. I could go on to make similar comments on many of the other points that Brian raises, but I think I have said enough to suggest that Brian's remarks are less than totally reliable. I remain hopeful that significant improvements to the permanent displays will be possible in the foreseeable future.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Diamond