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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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The report of the Biological Recording Working Party of the Linnean Society was approved for publication by the Linnean Society Council in January. It is hoped that it will be possible to distribute the report to County Trusts, Local Authority Departments and other interested bodies.

Curatorial Course

Natural Sciences Curatorial Course
Losehill Hall, Derbyshire
17th to 21st October 1988
Organised jointly by BCG and GCG

Provisional programme

Monday 17th:

pm Registration
Introduction
Brief history, functions,
organisation and current trends in
Natural Sciences in museums
evening Collections Research: sources/
importance

Tuesday 18th:

am Study visit to Rotherham Museum
Running a Museum based records centre
Collection, preservation and storage
of invertebrates
pm Study visit to Sheffield Museum
New displays
Treatment and preservation of
material for exhibition purposes
Enquiry services
The "Ecology Unit"
evening Museums and conservation

Wednesday 19th:

am Study visit to Buxton Museum
Storage of geological collections
Geological site recording
lunch Matlock Bath - also an opportunity
to visit the Peak District Mining
Museum
pm Study visit to Derby Museum
The practical and theoretical
considerations involved in planning
the new Derby Natural History Museum
- plus a site visit to look at
progress
evening Do we undervalue Natural Sciences
Collections?

Thursday 20th:

am Study visit to Manchester Museum
Preservation, storage and
documentation of vertebrate material
Preservation, storage and
documentation of botanical material
Legal and practical aspects of live
displays in museums
pm Recent trends in Natural Sciences
conservation
Short study visit to Edale visitor
centre (Peak District National Park)
evening Museum Natural Sciences and Education

Friday 21st:

am Documentation of collections: the
special requirements of natural

history, types etc.

Collecting policies: legal aspects,
relationship to display programmes
etc.

lunchtime Course finishes

A further note on the Curatorial Course from the Secretary, Derek Whiteley. Losehill Hall has now been booked for the period of the course. The programme, outlined above, is now being finalised and will be given in full in the next Newsletter.

The cost will be £150 and this will cover food, accommodation, tuition and transport by minibus to neighbouring museums. We have tried to keep the costs to a minimum. Although the course failed to attract grant-aid it is still cheaper than the first curatorial course organised by BCG two years or so ago in Leicester. It should be good value for money!

Queries on the course content should be sent to Steve Moran, Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3ED. Tel: 0463 - 237114.

Bookings can now be accepted with a deposit of £30.00, cheques made payable to 'Biology Curators Group'. Send your name, address, telephone number and any special requirements you may have regarding the accommodation (diet etc.), and deposit to Derek Whiteley (BCG Secretary), City Museum, Sheffield S10 2TP.

Beetle-down....

"Beetle-down to your local museum"

1. The Idea

"I never realised that you do so much!" exclaimed a staggered member of the audience, following a lecture on the activities of our Natural Sciences department. "The museum was the last place I'd think of" said another, who couldn't believe that we are actually involved in local nature conservation.

"I thought you just put things in glass cases and typed the label". How many times have we heard this remark? "But you should tell people what else is available!" added a particularly vociferous council activist, of course, hitting the nail right on the head. And broadly speaking she was right we very rarely advertise our bread-and-butter public services.

"Beetle down to your local museum", is an attempt by BCG to tackle the problem nationally, starting with a co-ordinated campaign week, and then taking it from there. We are printing 30,000 "Beetle down" leaflets A4 size, folded twice to fit in the pocket or notebook. Initially aimed at children, the leaflet describes, with the aid of cartoons, most of the services and activities at most museums. Displays, temporary exhibitions, information, identification services, enquiries, live