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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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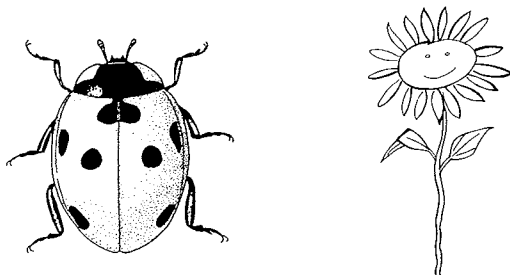
BEETLE-DOWN CAMPAIGN

The Campaign is going well. Many museums organised events last autumn, and requests are being received for another co-ordinated week in 1990.

Urgent. The official BCG file is now being circulated widely. Derek Whiteley requires more photos, handbills, posters, press cuttings and slides of Beetle-Down events. Do it now please! An illustrated progress report will be given at the Manx AGM.

Additional leafletes are available. Please send £4 in postage stamps, to save BCG mney. The leaflets are free.

T-shirts are still available in adult M size at £3.50. If there is a known demand we will consider reprinting sweat-shirts (cost about £7) and T-shirts in children's sizes for resale.



SUNFLOWER CAMPAIGN: GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

The National launch went very well, and the timing was perfect - a few days before the prestigious Museums Association Centenary Conference in York in September.

- * THE TIMES ran a good length article by Simon Tait
- * The new MUSEUMS JOURNAL ran a news feature 'Biologists Bite Back' in the September (Conference) issue
- * Jean Rooke interviewed Derek Whiteley on Radio 2
- * A BCG flying squad presented both our campaigns to the MA Conference in York
- * Delegates at York were heavily lobbied and leafleted
- * A leaflet has been formally sent to the Rt Hon Richard Luce MP, Minister for the Arts

Perhaps one of the most encouraging signs of recognition was the mention of our campaign in the Museums Association Centenary Presidential Address by Patrick Boylan.

The Campaign is going well too! The sunflower leaflet is proving to be a lifeline for some museums. Leaflets are much in demand, natural history societies are asking for batches, many directors and councillors have been lobbied; and the feedback so far is good.

We must keep the pressure on! The next few months are crucial.

Have you sent a leaflet to the Chair of your governing committee, using the BCG cover note?

HOW TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE SUNFLOWER CAMPAIGN LEAFLET

- 1 Call at Sheffield Museum. The leaflets are FREE. 5000 have been printed.
- 2 Send a suitable SAE for an appropriate weight to: BCG Secretary. Derek Whiteley, City Museum, Sheffield S10 2TP.
- 3 Photocopy the leaflet as many times as you wish.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

- * Contact your local press/media. Tell them about the campaign, Sunflower Day, and your own problems (BCG will contact the National Press)
- * Ask your local society/individual naturalists/users of museum collections/national societies to write to MGC supporting the campaign, and expressing concern over the future and well-being of collections
- * Presuming that some money and/or staff will be forthcoming, prepare a list of small-scale and large-scale requirements

Derek Whiteley
BCG Secretary
Sheffield City Museum

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE USE, CURATION AND GROWTH OF INSECT COLLECTIONS IN PROVINCIAL MUSEUMS

Sheffield City Museum, 16 October 1990
BCG/Royal Entomological Society of London joint meeting

Speakers are invited to give short talks or papers on relevant subjects. Museum curators and users of collections are equally welcome. Ethics, collecting policies and 'disposal' of collections will also be covered.

USES OF BIOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

One of the sessions at the forthcoming Isle of Man AGM on 4-5 May 1990 will cover the vital issues involving all uses of biological collections - a topic which needs a good airing and full discussion, if the Group is to justify its campaign for additional resources.