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AGM 90



isle of man

4 - 7 MAY 1990

The Isle of Man is easier to get to than you think! Car ferry services run from Liverpool, Heysham, Stranraer, Dublin and Belfast. Manx Airlines offer good rates, from the mainland.

Accommodation on the Island is good value for money at this time of year.

Provisional Programme

- Friday 4 May The Uses of Biological Collections plus contributions from the Isle of Man, Ulster, and the Republic of Ireland museums. 2pm Annual General Meeting. Officers' Reports and Review of the Year
- Saturday 5 May The Uses of Biological Collections/Field trips
- Sunday 6 May Field trips and study visits (optional)
- Monday 7 May (Bank Holiday) - stay an extra day if you wish.

By kind permission of the Manx Museum we have free use of the exciting 'New Extension to the Manx Museum' - well worth seeing. We are hoping that the meeting will be free. You book your own accommodation and transport. You may attend all, or part of the meeting. Make a date in your diary now!

- * A pack including details of accommodation, ferry services and detailed programme will be available in March 1990 from: Derek Whiteley, BCG Secretary, City Museum, Sheffield S10 2TP.
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MYRIAPODS

In May 1990 we have the opportunity to boost the biological records for the Isle of Man by putting our collective skills together and surveying the island while we are out 'enjoying ourselves' at the AGM meeting. Can I just appeal for you not to overlook the centipedes and millipedes while you are there. The British Myriapod Group are compiling a list for the island at present and would be grateful for any recent records. Thank you.

Paul Richards
Sheffield City Museum

Techniques

PEST CONTROL: MAKING THE BEST OF A BAD JOB!

After sitting through some fascinating talks at the BCG AGM in 1988 concerning pest control in museum natural history collections we decided to try to improve our arrangements in Bolton Museum.

Our main problem in Bolton is chronic lack of space in the stores. We also have the regular problems of varied and largely poor storage units and lack of effective environmental control. We are slowly working on the problem of storage units (as money permits) and have managed to improve environmental control in our largest store by erecting a floor-to-ceiling partition wall. This has been sealed as well as possible so that environmental conditions are buffered from the corridors and lift shaft adjacent to the store. However, we still have over 25% of our collections housed in open areas with very poor environmental control and security.

The overcrowding problem has a number of effects on pest control. Firstly, the stores are difficult to clean; this is exacerbated by irregular, old, badly-designed cabinets with numerous dust-traps. Secondly, pesticides are not feasible for continuous use as many areas are needed for work areas and many cannot be isolated from offices. Finally, in a crowded working environment it is easy to use various stores as temporary places to stack wood, carpet, or to place returned loans or new acquisitions prior to fumigation.

We decided to improve our working practices, at least for stores which have some degree of isolation.

Monitoring is important so that improvements or deterioration of storage conditions can be seen. Regular temperature and humidity readings are taken (weekly) and are providing us with a clearer picture of the environment in each store. Spot checks are performed with a whirling hygrometer and thermohygrographs are circulated around different stores. (We don't have money for one in each store yet). For monitoring pests we instigated the use of sticky traps. These are placed throughout the Museum in offices, stores and even corridors and are checked every month. All traps with anything stuck on are removed and their captures identified. Records of all catches are kept for each separate