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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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the opinion of the whole membership. However, the chairman will take into account the views of a cross section of the membership in formulating the evidence to be presented, and it will be published in a future edition of the Newsletter.

The deliberations and final report of the Sub-Committee are of great concern to BCG members, so the committee will try to keep everyone informed as to progress and results through the pages of the Newsletter.



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## News

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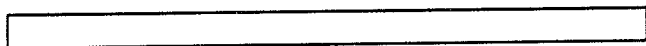
### North East gets first Travelling Biology Curator

'The region's first Travelling Biology Curator has joined the North of England Museums Service.

Mark Simmons, 27, aims to make the region greener by putting a halt to the damage which has been caused to north east biology collections from years of underfunding and lack of expertise. £10,000 will also be spent by the North of England Museums Service on improving the conditions of the collections. The project is joint funded by the North of England Museums Service and the Museums and Galleries Commission.

The new two year post and the £10,000 is welcomed by the region's museums and others who have campaigned for this injection of expertise and cash into the region's biology collections. Still seeking funds for this project, Sue Underwood, Director of NEMS says: "this, like all aspects of our work aims to improve both museums and the quality of life for people living in the north east".

Editor's comment. The above is quoted from the press release issued by NEMS. The creation of this post is the direct result of the 'Biological Collections UK' report and the Sunflower Campaign, both key elements of BCG's work over the past few years.

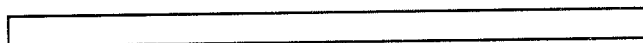


### Ecology - a new gallery at the Natural History Museum

The British Petroleum sponsored Ecology gallery at the Natural History Museum was opened by HRH The Princess of Wales on 11th March. This is the first of a series of permanent exhibitions to be constructed as a direct result of the success of the Natural History Museum Development Trust Appeal which was launched in October 1989 and has already reached its £5 million target. It is claimed to be the first permanent exhibition on global ecology in the world.

The editor has not yet visited this exhibition, so here is a quote from the press release:  
'Housed within a towering 'greenhouse', this massive exhibition steers away from doom and gloom environmental stories, and concentrates instead on building visitors' understanding of the delicate balance that exists in nature. Presented with a true picture of the underlying principles of ecology, they can make up their own minds about what should be done to conserve our fragile planet'.

This is clearly a major development and the editor would be pleased to receive any comments from members who have seen the exhibition.



### Derbyshire County Council Expelled from Museums Association.

The Museums Association has expelled Derbyshire County Council from membership - the first time an institutional member has been expelled in the Association's 100 year history.

The expulsion follows Derbyshire County Council's decision to sell off part of its museums' collection to help contribute to the Council's funds rather than specifically to the museums.

The Museums Association noted that Derbyshire had failed to follow accepted procedures for disposal of museum items and refuses to use funds raised for the purchase of additions to the collection. These actions are contrary to the Museums Association Code of Practice for Museum Authorities.