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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Newcastle Course commences

Author(s): Not Listed.

Source: Not Listed. (1993). Newcastle Course commences. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter, Vol 6 No 2*, 21.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1902>

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volumes. Details from Plant Protection Service, PO Box 9102, NL-6700 HC Wageningen, Netherlands.

Newcastle Course commences

The new Museum Studies course at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne takes its first students in October for either a Diploma or MA qualification. Peter Davis has been joined by Andrew Newman to provide a course which should have a strong natural sciences bias and which is expected to appeal to graduates wanting to enter the museum profession and to those who are already working in it who can choose to take individual course modules or pursue a 'fast track' option to the MA. Contact Andrew Newman on 091 222 7419 or Tony Rylance on 091 222 6067 for further information.

MUSEUM PEST CONTROL SUBSTANCES APPROVED

Some substances normally used as pesticides by museums have been approved for use. The approval - given by Ministers following recommendations by the Independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides - is made under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986.

The approval includes the following substances:

- white spirit
- tetrachloroethylene
- formaldehyde * (for the control of flying and crawling insects and fungi)
- ethanol (includes IMS) * (for the control of flying and crawling insects and fungi)
- ethyl acetate *(for the control of flying and crawling insects and fungi)
- isopropanol (propan-2-ol) *(for the control of fungi on specimens)
- thymol
- 4-chloro-m-cresol *(for the control of fungi on insect specimens)
- camphor *(for the control of fungi on insect specimens)

* = nominated by BCG

These substances can be used for the treatment of specimens in museums and related buildings.

Full details of the conditions of use and authorised areas of use of the newly approved substances were published in the March issue of the Pesticides Register published jointly by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the Ministry of

Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (MAFF), and available from HMSO and booksellers.

The use for fumigation of Carbon Dioxide has also received approval in respect of public hygiene and wood preservation use.

Mark Simmons

NEWS FROM BOLTON MUSEUM - a brief summary

What has been happening at Bolton? 1992 was a busy year. We are currently entering the final year of a three year old Urban Programme funded project to produce a gallery display on local wildlife. New displays are underway with a significant part of the budget devoted to educational materials and an activity centre for use by our visitors. Construction work has all been in-house (we have an excellent museum joiner) and it should be open in the summer of 1994! We have attempted to maintain the highest affordable standards throughout. After much deliberation we decided to use fibre-optic lighting. This is relatively expensive but has several advantages. One 150 watt power unit costs about £400, one 9-tail bundle of fibres about 2 metres long costs about £200 and replacement bulbs cost £45! This set-up will light two or three cases (depending on their size). The power units sit on top of the case and the cooling fan is very quiet. Bulbs can be changed without entering cases (oh bliss!) and if a unit breaks down it is replaced with a spare and sent away for repair. The only breakdown we have had was due to a thermal cut-out fuse blowing because the fan's dust filter became clogged - cost negligible. The light is cold, virtually UV-free and by moving the tails it can be positioned anywhere at any time! You can even fit colour filters, diffusers and mini spot-light lenses if necessary. By varying the number of tails used you can easily achieve 50 lux, 100 lux or whatever. We are very pleased with the system. It is also environmentally friendly because we now use less Watts of power for the gallery than before!

We have also used a 'Touch and Tell' touch-sensitive tape loop with a blackbird song recording on it. This was an experiment but is always the first thing that children run to use in the gallery! When we have installed the videos,