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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

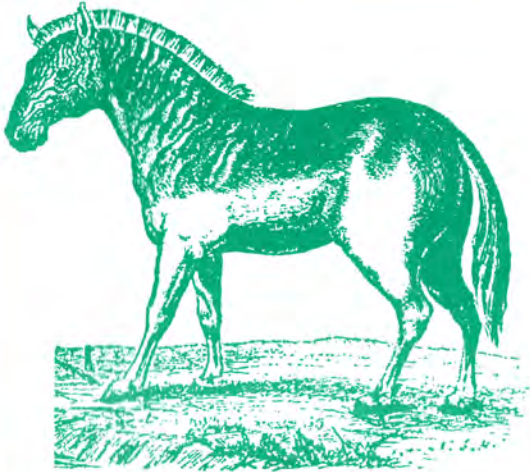
Title: Beetle Down Leaflet - Update

Author(s): Not Listed.

Source: Not Listed. (1994). Beetle Down Leaflet - Update. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter, Vol 6 No 3*, 25 - 28.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1078>

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NEWSLETTER

January 1994

Vol 6 No. 3

Welcome to another BCG Newsletter. This issue contains another mixture of the fascinating, the essential, the tragic and the downright farcical. As claimed by another, less august, publication "All human life is there". I would like to thank all those members whose contributions have enabled another full length issue to be assembled. Contributions are of course still welcome from anyone who has a snippet for general consumption and I would particularly encourage the new recruits to our curatorial ranks to contribute something. Please remember that this is not the Royal Society and all that is required is that your note should be of interest to other members. It does not (yet) have to be extensively researched, refereed and packed full of esoteric references. The one plea I would make (again) is that for anything other than a short note contributors send their piece on disk, preferably using Wordperfect 5.1, as this makes assembling an issue so much easier. Please note that the list of back issues of the newsletter as promised in the last issue will now be included in the next along with a list of the specialist publications held by BCG.

By the way, just to continue the pessimistic theme of recent editorials, ASC Newsletter for October 1993 includes notes on a paper given at an ICOM meeting at which details of a fire at the Saskatchewan Natural History Museum in Regina. Self ignition of polyurethane foam during the construction of an exhibit was blamed for the fire which proved difficult to pinpoint as parts of the security system had been disabled during the improvement works. All specimens nearby were coated with a thick, sticky soot. The motto is of course to have a disaster plan, never to leave buildings unpatrolled during building works, and to have smoke containment measures built into any new planning or upgradings for buildings.

BEETLE DOWN LEAFLET - UPDATE

BCG's stock of Beetle Down leaflets is now nearly exhausted and this is perhaps just as well considering the number of changes which apply to the address list. There are plans for a re-print of the leaflet and these can only go ahead after a total revision of the list.

To refresh your memories the list is included here with some revisions added for NW England and Scotland. PLEASE CAN YOU CHECK THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:-

1. That you and your museum are included.
2. That the address and telephone number are current.
3. That you have an * if you qualify for one.
4. Any other museums that you know about are not left out. (I do not mind how many bits of duplicated information I receive so long as I do receive it.)

Please send your replies to:-

Stephen Moran
Inverness Museum and Art Gallery
Castle Wynd
INVERNESS IV2 3ED
(Tel: 0463 237114)

by 30 January 1994

All of these museums provide a biological (natural history) service, but only those marked * employ a qualified biology curator:

SCOTLAND

* **Aberdeen University Museum,**
Dept of Zoology, Tillydrone Ave, Aberdeen AB9 2TN.
Tel: 0224-272849

* **Dundee Museum & Art Gallery**,
Albert Square, Dundee, DD1 1DA.
Tel: 0382 23141

* **Elgin Museum**,
1 High Street, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1EQ.
Tel: 0343 543675

* **Falconer Museum**,
Tolbooth Street, Forres, Moray IV36 0PH.
Tel: 0309-73701

* **Greenock, McLean Art Gallery & Museum**,
15 Kelly Street, Greenock, Strathclyde, PA16 8JX.
Tel: 0475 23741

* **Glasgow Art Gallery & Museum**,
Kelvingrove, Glasgow G3 8AG. Tel: 041-3573929

* **Hawick Museum**,
Wilton Lodge Park, Hawick, TD9 7JL.
Tel: 0450 73457

* **Hunterian Museum**,
University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ.
Tel: 041-339 8855 ext.221

* **Inverness Museum & Art Gallery**,
Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3ED.
Tel: 0463 237114

* **(Kilmarnock) Dick Institute**,
Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA1 3BU.
Tel: 0563 26401

* **Montrose Museum & Art Gallery**,
Panmure Place, Montrose, Angus DD10 8HE.
Tel: 0674 73232

* **Paisley Museum & Art Galleries**,
High Street, Paisley PA1 2BA.
Tel: 041-889 3151

* **Perth Museum & Art Gallery**,
George Street, Perth. Tel: 0738 32488

* **Royal Museum of Scotland**,
Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.
Tel: 031-225 7534

* **Shetland Museum**,
Lower Hillhead, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0EL.
Tel: 0595 5057

* **Stromness Museum**,
52 Alfred Street, Stromness, Orkney KW16 3DF.
Tel: 0856 850025

* **Wick (Highland Region/Curator North)**
Bruce Buildings, Sinclair Terrace, Wick, KW1 5AB.
Tel: 0955 3761 ext.245

WALES

* **Brecknock Museum**,
Captains Walk, Brecon, Powys LD3 7DW.
Tel: 0874 4121

* **National Museum of Wales**,
Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP.
Tel: 0222 397951

NORTHERN IRELAND

* **Ulster Museum**,
Botanic Gardens, Belfast BT9 5AB.
Tel: 0232-668251-5

ISLE OF MAN

* **Manx Museum**,
Douglas, Isle of Man. Tel: 0624 75522/25125

NORTH AND NORTH-WEST ENGLAND

* **Bolton Museum & Art Gallery**,
Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, Lancs BL1 1SE.
Tel: 0204 22311 ext. 2211/2197

* **Burnley: Towneley Hall Museum**,
Burnley, Lancs BB11 3RQ. Tel: 0282 424213

* **Carlisle Museum & Art Gallery**,
Tullie House, Castle Street, Carlisle CA3 8TP.
Tel: 0228 34781

* **Chester: Grosvenor Museum**,
27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD.
Tel: 0244 40144 ext. 2259

* **Clitheroe Castle Museum**
Castle Hill, Clitheroe, BB7 1BA.
Tel: 0200 24635

* **Fleetwood Museum**
Queen's Terrace, Fleetwood, FY7 6BT.
Tel: 0253 876621

* **Hancock Museum**
The University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2 4PT.
Tel: 091-222-7418

* **Hartlepool: Gray Art Gallery & Museum**,
Clarence Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland.

* **Kendal Museum**,
Station Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 6BT.
Tel: 0539 21374

* **Liverpool Museum**,
William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN.
Tel: 051-207 0001/5451

* **Manchester Museum**, Univ. of Manchester,
Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL.
Tel: 061-275 2634

* **Middlesbrough: Dorman Museum**,
Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.
Tel: 0642 813781

* **Oldham Local Interest Museum**
Graves Street, Oldham
Tel: 061 678 4657

* **Tyne and Wear Museum Service**,
Sunderland Museum & Art Gallery,
Borough Road, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.
Tel: 091-514 1235 ext. 155

* **South Shields Museum & Art Gallery**,
Ocean Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear.
Tel: 091-4568740

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE

* **Bradford Museums: Cartwright Hall**,
Lister Park, Bradford BD9 4NS.
Tel: 0274 493313

* **Cliffe Castle Museum**,
Spring Gardens Lane, Keighley BD20 6LH.
Tel: 0535 64184

* **Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery**,
Chequer Road, Doncaster DN1 2AE.
Tel: 0302 734287

* **Huddersfield: Tolson Mem. Museum**,
Ravensknowle Park, Huddersfield HD5 8DJ.
Tel: 0484-541455

* **Kingston-upon-Hull**
City Museums & Art Galleries,
Town Docks Museum, Queen Victoria Square,
Kingston-upon-Hull HU1 3DX. Tel: 0482 222737

- * **Leeds City Museum,**
Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 3AA.
Tel: 0532 462632
- * **Rotherham: Clifton Park Museum,**
Rotherham S65 2AA. Tel: 0709 382121
- * **Scarborough:**
Woodend Museum of Natural History,
The Crescent, Scarborough YO11 2PW.
Tel: 0723 369151
- * **Scunthorpe Boro' Museum & Art Gallery,**
Oswald Rd., Scunthorpe, S.Humberside DN157BD.
Tel: 0724 843533
- * **Sheffield City Museum,**
Weston Park, Sheffield S10 2TP.
Tel: 0742 768588
- * **Yorkshire Museum,**
Museum Gardens, York YO1 2DR.
Tel: 0904 29745

MIDLANDS

- * **Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery,**
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH.
Tel: 021-235 2834
- * **Derby Museums & Art Gallery,**
The Strand, Derby DE1 1BS.
Tel: 0332 31111 ext. 782
- * **Coventry: Herbert Art Gallery & Museum,**
Jordan Well, Coventry CV1 5QP.
Tel: 0203 832374
- * **Hereford City Museum,**
Broad St., Hereford HR4 9AU.
Tel: 0432 268121 ext. 207/334
- * **Leicestershire Museum Service:**
Leicestershire Museum & Art Gallery,
New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TD.
Tel 0533 554100
- * **Lincoln City museum:**
Broadgate, Lincoln LN2 1HQ.
Tel: 0522 30401
- * **Melton Carnegie Museum,**
Thorpe End, Melton Mowbray.
Tel: 0664 69946
- * **Rutland County Museum,**
Catmos Street, Oakham, Rutland. Tel: 0572 3654
- * **Nottingham Nat. History Museum,**
Wollaton Hall, Wollaton Park, Nottingham NG8 2AE.
Tel: 0602 281333/281130
- * **Shropshire Museum Service:**
Ludlow (Buttercross) Museum,
Old Street, Ludlow. Tel: 0584 3857
- * **Stoke-on-Trent City Museum & Art Gallery**
Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DW. Tel: 0782 202173
- * **Warwickshire Museum,**
Market Place, Warwick CV34 3SA.
Tel: 0926 410410 ext. 2500
- * **Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery,**
Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1DT.
Tel: 0905 25371

EAST-CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

- * **Bedford Museum,**
Castle Lane, Bedford MK40 3XD.
Tel: 0234-53323/54954

- * **British Museum (Natural History),**
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.
Tel: 01-938 9123
- * **Brighton: Booth Museum of Natural History**
194 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AA.
Tel: 0273 552586/603005 ext. 64
- * **Buckinghamshire Museum,**
Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2QP.
Tel: 0296 82158/88849
- * **Cambridge Univ. Museum of Zoology,**
Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ.
Tel: 0223 358717
- * **Canterbury City Museum,**
High Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2JE.
Tel: 0227 452747
- * **Chelmsford Museum,**
Oaklands Pk., Moulsham St., Chelmsford CM2 9AQ.
Tel: 0245 260614
- * **Colchester & Essex Museum,**
14 Ryegate Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 1YG.
Tel: 0206 712487
- * **Dover Museum,**
Ladywell, Dover, Kent CT16 1DQ.
Tel: 0304 201066
- * **Gloucester City Museum,**
Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1HP.
Tel: 0452 24131
- * **Hampshire Museum Service:**
Alton Curtis Museum,
High Street, Alton, Hants. GU34 1BA
Tel: 0420 82802
- * **Andover Museum,**
Church Close, Andover SP10 1DP. Tel: 0264 66283
- * **Basingstoke: Willis Museum,**
Old Town Hall, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1QD.
Tel: 0256 465902
- * **Christchurch: Red House Museum,**
Quay Road, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 1BU.
Tel: 0202 482860
- * **Haslemere Educational Museum,**
High St., Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2LA.
Tel: 0428 2112
- * **Havant Museum,**
East Street, Havant, Hants PO9 1BS.
Tel: 0705 451155
- * **Hertford Museum,**
18 Bull Plain, Hertford, Herts SG14 1DT.
Tel: 0992 52686
- * **Horniman Museum & Library,**
London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ.
Tel: 01-669 1872/2339/4911
- * **Ipswich Museum,**
High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH.
Tel: 0473 213761/2
- * **Luton Museum & Art Gallery,**
Wardown Park, Luton LU2 7HA.
Tel: 0582 36941/36942
- * **North Hertfordshire Museums,**
Old Fire Stn., High St., Baldock SG7 6AR.
Tel: 0462 894352
- * **Norfolk Museum Service:**
Castle Museum,
Norwich, Norfolk NR1 3JU.
Tel: 0603 611277 ext. 279

- Cromer Museum,**
East Cottages, Tucker St., Cromer, Norfolk.
Tel: 0263 513543
- * **Lynn Museum,**
Market Street, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.
Tel: 0553 775001
- * **Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery,**
St. Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH.
Tel: 0622 54497
- * **Oxford University Museum,**
Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW. Tel: 0865 272950
- * **Oxfordshire County Museums,**
Fletcher's House, Woodstock, Oxon OX7 1SN.
Tel: 0993 811456
- * **Passmore Edwards Museum,**
Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4LY.
Tel: 01-519 4296
- * **Peterborough City Museum & Art Gallery,**
Priestgate, Peterborough PE1 1LF. Tel: 0733 43329
- * **Portsmouth (Cumberland House),**
Eastern Parade, Southsea PO4 9RF.
- * **Portsmouth City Museum & Art Gallery,**
Museum Rd., Old Portsmouth PO1 2LJ. Tel: 0705 827261
- * **Queen Elizabeth's Hunting lodge Museum,**
Rangers Road, Chingford, London E4.
Tel: 01-529 6681
- * **Reading Museum & Art Gallery,**
Blagrove Street, Reading RG1 1QH.
Tel: 0734 55911 ext. 2242
- * **St. Albans City Museum,**
Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 3RR.
Tel: 0727 56679
- * **Southend Museums Service:**
Central Museum,
Victoria Ave, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.
Tel: 0702 330214
- * **Stevenage Museum,**
St. Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1XX.
Tel: 0438 54292
- * **Tring: British Museum(Nat.Hist.)Bird Section,**
Tring, Herts HP23 6AP. Tel: 044-282 4181

WEST-CENTRAL & SOUTH-WEST ENGLAND

- * **Barnstaple: Museum of North Devon,**
The Square, Barnstaple EX32 8LN.
Tel: 0271-46747
- * **Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery,**
Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RL. Tel: 0272 299771
- * **Devizes Museum,**
41 Long street, Devizes, Wilts SN10 1NS.
Tel: 0380 77369
- * **Dorset County Museum,**
High West St., Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XA.
Tel: 0305 62735
- * **Exeter: Royal Albert Memorial Museum,**
Queen Street, Exeter, Devon EX4 3RX.
Tel: 0392 265858
- * **Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery,**
Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AJ.
Tel: 0752 668000 ext. 4378
- Somerset County Museum,**
Taunton Castle, Castle Green, Taunton TA1 4AA.
Tel: 0823 55504

- * **Truro: Royal Institution of Cornwall,**
County Museum, River St., Truro, Cornwall.
Tel: 0872 2205
- * **Wells Museum,**
8 Cathedral Green, Wells, Somerset BA5 2UE.
Tel: 0749 73477
- * **Woodspring Museum & Art Gallery,**
Burlington St., Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS23 1PR.
Tel: 0934 21028

DIARY DATES

5 February. Herpetofauna Recorders Meeting will take place at Manchester Metropolitan University. This annual meeting provides a forum for discussion and information exchange between amateur naturalists, professional biologists, statutory bodies and farming and forestry interests. Contact Dr M. Swan 19 St Judiths Lane, Sawtry, Huntingdon, PE17 5X, tel 0487 831984 (evening).

18 March 1994 is the start of National Science, Engineering and Technology Week to be organised by the British Association. Further details from Brian Gamble, British Association, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB, tel 071 494 3326.

27 March - 1 April 2nd European Congress of Mammalogy will take place at the University of Southampton. Details from Dr R.J. Putnam, Biology Dept., Boldrewood Building University of Southampton, SO9 3TU.

Using Natural History Collections -Focus On Education. Mon-Tues, 11-12 April 1994, Keble College, Oxford: the Spring BCG meeting is a joint venture with GEM to look at the educational use of natural history collections. The aim of the meeting is to bring educators and curators together to share expertise. By now all BCG members should have received information about the meeting, with a tear-off slip to be returned to me; if not contact your postperson! **Please return the slip so that I can send you details in January and it would be helpful to know how many people will want to attend.**

During the two days we will look at a variety of topics from the educational use of stuffed animal collections through to outdoor activities in Museum gardens. The programme will include visits to the Balfour Building, Pitt Rivers Museum, the Oxford Botanic Garden and Cogges Manor Farm Museum.

The AGM will be held on Monday together with the Annual Dinner; there will also be an opportunity before the Dinner to see the Hope entomological and the zoological collections at the University Museum.