

NatSCA 2020 AGM and Minutes

Thursday 14th May 2020, 1.30pm
Zoom hosted by Manchester University

Attendees: Jack Ashby (JA), Clare Brown (CB), Amanda Callaghan (AC), Jan Freedman (JF), Jennifer Gallichan (JG), David Gelsthorpe (DG), Isla Gladstone (IG), Yvette Harvey (YV), Lucie Mascord (LM), Holly Morgenroth (HM), Maggie Reilly (MR), Glenn Roadley (GR), Paolo Viscardi (PV), Donna Young (DY).

1. Apologies for absence

Kirsty Lloyd (KL)

2. Minutes of AGM Thursday 26th-27th of April, 2018.

The meeting was held at the National Museum of Ireland as published in *Journal of Natural Science Collections* 7: 98-102. There were no objections from membership with the exception of one amendment required: Kirsty Lloyd was proposed by Paolo Viscardi. These will be amended accordingly and will be signed by the chair and secretary at the committee's next meeting.

Proposed: Jan Freedman Seconded: Laura McCoy

3. Secretary's report - Yvette Harvey

Meeting attendance for the NatSCA committee members:

National Museums of Ireland, Dublin 2.v.2019	World Museum, Liverpool 8.vii.2019	ZSL London 18.x.2019	Board Room, NHM London 10.i.2020	ZOOM 27.iii.2020
Jack Ashby	Jack Ashby	Jack Ashby	Jack Ashby	Jack Ashby
Clare Brown	Clare Brown	Clare Brown	Clare Brown	Amanda Callaghan
Jennifer Gallichan	Jan Freedman	Amanda Callaghan	Amanda Callaghan	Jan Freedman
Isla Gladstone	Jennifer Gallichan	Jan Freedman	Jennifer Gallichan	Jennifer Gallichan
Yvette Harvey	David Gelsthorpe	Jennifer Gallichan	David Gelsthorpe	David Gelsthorpe
Rachel Jennings	Yvette Harvey	David Gelsthorpe	Isla Gladstone	Isla Gladstone
Miranda Lowe	Kirsty Lloyd	Isla Gladstone	Yvette Harvey	Yvette Harvey
Roberto Portela Miguez	Lucie Mascord	Yvette Harvey	Kirsty Lloyd	Lucie Mascord
Maggie Reilly	Holly Morgenroth	Kirsty Lloyd	Maggie Reilly	Holly Morgenroth
Paolo Viscardi	Glenn Roadley	Holly Morgenroth	Glenn Roadley	Maggie Reilly
	Paolo Viscardi	Maggie Reilly	Paolo Viscardi	Glenn Roadley
	Donna Young	Glenn Roadley	Donna Young	Paolo Viscardi
		Paolo Viscardi		Donna Young
		Donna Young		

The committee thanks the organisations that have provided venues for our meetings in Dublin, Liverpool, London and ZOOM.

4. Treasurer's report - Holly Morgenroth

2019-2020 end of year:


Accounts summary 01.02.2019 - 31.01.2020			
Income		2019-2020	2018-19
Institutional Subscriptions			
Previous Years		239	160
Current Year (bank)		1,942	1,708
Current Year (PP)		39	
Future Years		-	40
		2,220	1,907
Personal Subscriptions			
Previous Years		180	55
Current Year		3,817	4,646
Current Year (PP)		68	
Future Years		60	167
		4,125	4,869
Workshop Income			
Entomology		1,645	
Data		780	
Funding		2,144	
		4,569	4,349
Conference Income			
2019		10,992	
2018		22	
		11,014	9,015
Grant Income			
Other			
Misc.		94	
Bank interest		45	27
		139	77
TOTAL INCOME		22,067	20,217
Expenditure			
Running costs		2019-2020	2018-19
Committee Expenses	-	4,244	- 2,254
Website	-	459	- 360
Stationery	-	5	
Postage		-	
Data Protection	-	35	- 35
		- 4,743	- 2,289
Workshops			
Conservation	-	209	
Entomology	-	1,075	
Data	-	582	
Funding	-	786	
		- 2,652	- 2,353
Conference			
2019	-	8,302	
		- 8,302	- 7,241
Publications & Information Provision			
2018 Journal print & postage	-	1,916	
2019 Journal print & postage	-	20	
		- 1,936	- 2,750
Charitable			
2019 Bill Pettit Fund	-	1,105	
Bursaries	-	500	
Sector support	-	100	
		- 1,705	- 1,200
Other			
			- 667
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		- 19,339	- 16,500
Excess Income over Expenditure			2,728

OUTSTANDING EXPENDITURE		
Bill P	£ 2,000	
Journal	£ 1,748	
		£ 3,748
EXPECTED INCOME		
Entomology	£ 75	
Subs	£ 20	
		£ 95
Adjusted balance estimate 31.01.2020		£40,188

Cash Flow Statement			
01.02.2019	Current a/c	£ 18,683	
	Deposit a/c	£ 22,430	
	Paypal a/c		£41,113
31.01.2020	Current a/c	£ 21,259	
	Deposit a/c	£ 22,475	
	Paypal a/c	£ 107	£43,842
NB Adjusted balance			£40,188
			-£ 925

Narrative of the accounts

- Subscription income overall has decreased slightly compared to last year due to a decrease in personal membership but a slight increase in income from institutional members.
- Workshop income and expenditure is comparable to last year but we saw an increase in conference income – thank you to all of you who joined us in Dublin especially first time attendees (many from Ireland).
- There was a big increase in committee expenses (almost double the previous year). This is partly due to increased cost of public transport and having a more dispersed committee – previously about a third of the committee were very close to London. In addition to NatSCA committee meetings committee members have attended meetings of other SSNs and sector bodies to advocate on behalf of NatSCA and its membership. However, included in this figure is overnight accommodation for a two-day committee meeting. Such meetings are rare but it was deemed necessary last year due to NatSCA's change of status to a CIO – the application and its implications (e.g. development of new policies and procedures) involved a phenomenal amount of work.
- Slight decrease in cost of publishing the journal – a number of members now prefer a pdf rather than hard copy.
- NatSCA continues to support its members with bursaries and with the Bill Pettit Memorial Award. The award was increased in 2019 to £3,000. NatSCA also gave £100 to support the activities of the SSN Consortium.
- NatSCA's financial activity never fits neatly into a financial year. Once all pending income and expenditure is taken into account, the Charity made a slight loss of £925. But in reality (due to late payments from the previous year, the charity's finances remain stable.
- Just as an additional note, due to Covid19 the accounts for the current financial year will look very different. However, the charity's reserves will allow us to continue supporting members via Bill Pettit and other routes.

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Natural Sciences Collections Association		1098156		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date 01.02.2019	To	Period end date 31.01.2020	
Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Institutional subscriptions	2,220	-	-	2,220	1,907
Personal subscriptions	4,125	-	-	4,125	4,869
Workshops	4,569	-	-	4,569	4,349
Conferences	11,014	-	-	11,014	9,015
Bank Interest	45	-	-	45	27
Misc	94	-	-	94	50
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	22,067	-	-	22,067	20,217
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	22,067	-	-	22,067	20,217
A3 Payments					
Running costs	4,743	-	-	4,743	2,649
Workshops	2,652	-	-	2,652	2,353
Conferences	8,302	-	-	8,302	7,241
Publications & Information provision	1,936	-	-	1,936	2,750
Bill Pettit Memorial Fund	1,105	-	-	1,105	1,200
Bursaries	500	-	-	500	307
Sector support	100	-	-	100	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	19,338	-	-	19,338	16,500
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	19,338	-	-	19,338	16,500
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,729	-	-	2,729	3,717
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	41,113	-	-	41,113	28,136
Cash funds this year end	43,842	-	-	43,842	31,853

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period				
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		43,842	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	43,842	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Late membership Subs	20	-	-
	Late event payment	75	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Bill Petit 2019	unrestricted	2,000	
	Journal	unrestricted	1,748	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval

Accounts will be signed when agreed at AGM

Proposed: Kate Andrew

Seconded: Vicky Ward

5. Membership Secretary's report - Maggie Reilly

For 2019 the membership statistics are as follows:

279 paid up members breaking down as 54 institutional members and 225 personal members.

74 unpaid subs breaking down as 5 unpaid institutional members (one still in process) and 69 unpaid personal members.

There were 49 new members since 2018.

There are 13 free of complementary mailings of the journal either for legal/copyright reasons or networking. These are – British Library LDO, British Library CRO, GCG, Smithsonian Institute Library Gifts and Exchanges, ACE, SPNHC, MA, Zoo Record plus five copies to ALDL.

The membership remains largely UK based at around 80% of total, however 18 different countries are represented in the 20% 'overseas' members.

Membership had been slowly increasing over the last few years and has stabilised out around the 280 mark which is a satisfactory level though we always seek to increase NatSCA's reach. The pattern of new members/unpaid subs in the last few years suggests we have people joining only for training and other events. Member discount means it is cash neutral to join. We would like to encourage such people to maintain their subs and continue to benefit from membership.

Several reminders that subs are due are sent out each year to the membership. Those members who pay via Paypal are sent their renewal link in February. Other reminders follow. Institutions are sent electronic invoices. The database is 'cleaned' every two years of those members whose subs have lapsed.

I would like to especially thank Justine Aw and Holly Morgenroth for help, advice, fixes and keeping the show on the road.

For journal distribution, mailing labels were supplied and sent to the printer/distributor. This year was the first year where members could elect to receive an electronic copy only – over 100 members did so. Volume 6 was uploaded to the website in March and as usual a new password sent out to all paid up members for 2018 and to the new members for 2019. In July, a full pdf download of the journal (as well as the individual articles download on the website) was also made available to paid up members. Finally, on a personal note, as I am retiring from committee at this 2020 AGM, and this will be my last AGM report as membership secretary, I would like to say that it has been a privilege to be part of NatSCA from its inception, see it grow and serve the interests and needs of the natural sciences community. I will continue in a voluntary capacity to effect the handover to the new membership secretary and help with the CIO transition.

It has also been hugely interesting and a lot of fun working with the great people who have served over the years on committee – so, so long and thanks for all the fish! See you around!

6. Editor's Report - Jan Freedman

Firstly, apologies for the late print of Volume 7 of the *Journal of Natural Science Collections*. Some reviewers were a little slow at getting back, but I'm very pleased that this Volume is full of very interesting and high quality articles for the natural science community. From exhibitions to conservation and best practice, Volume 7 is very useful to those working in the sector.

I would really like to thank the Editorial Board, Rob Huxley, Matthew Parkes, Bethany Palumbo, David Notton, Paolo Viscardi, Donna Young, and Lucie Mascord, and all the peer reviewers for their work with articles. Their time and hard work has ensured the Journal articles are to the highest standard.

Two new Notes & Comments articles have been published in the last two months. These are online, free access articles that are not peer reviewed. They cover small projects, conference reviews, and ideas in natural science. I am aiming to publish one a month, and will share the articles as they come out through the NatSCA Jisc Mail.

I am working on the articles from the Conservation conference in October 2018 for a special online series of papers. These articles are being peer reviewed, and will be coming online soon.

Please continue to send ideas for articles to the editor (editor@natsca.org), for both the Notes and Comments and the *Journal of Natural Science Collections*.

I would like to thank the NatSCA committee for their support after I took over the Journal when the previous Editor stepped down. A big thank you to Maggie Reilly, for distributing labels for Volume 7 and organising passwords for the online access. I would also like to give a big thank you to Justine Aw, who uploads all the Journal articles, and all the Notes and Comments articles onto the NatSCA website (<https://www.natsca.org/publications>).

6. Chair's Report - Paolo Viscardi

I would like to start by offering my thanks to you all for making the effort to attend this Virtual AGM and offering thanks to Dave Gelsthorpe for hosting. I apologise if any technical issues arise for some of you – doing these things online isn't perfect and it means we don't get to enjoy each other's company, but it's important for NatSCA to be able to hold this meeting so that we can fulfil our requirements for the Charity Commission and complete our change to Charitable Incorporated Organisation status.

We were meant to be in Cardiff, and it's a real shame we couldn't make it, I want to say a big thank you to Jen Gallichan for all her effort to arrange that meeting – but we are hoping that NatSCA will be able to go ahead with what was planned next year instead, situation permitting.

This report is for the year closing February 2020, but I will provide updates on activity since then.

2019 was yet another uncertain year, with the implications of Brexit still being identified. NatSCA has been helping to support the natural science collections sector by liaising with Defra to help inform them of the needs of museums with scientific collections with regards to Brexit & CITES legislation.

To help address some of the other bigger picture issues surrounding the decline of subject specialist expertise in the museums sector we have been working with other Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs). A large part of this work involves us being on the steering group for the SSN Consortium. This is an important group, as it joins together the voices of around 40 SSNs similar to NatSCA, amplifying the message that museum collections need knowledge to unlock their potential. Through the Consortium we have an opportunity to engage more effectively with sector bodies, and we have already helped inform the Art Fund and Arts Council England about how the wider museums sector is supported by specialist groups and how they as funders can better support the work we do. This has resulted in a new funding strand from the Art Fund and we are in discussion with Arts Council England about how SSNs might be better supported to increase capacity for developing and delivering resources for our members.

Update on this – the Consortium has secured funding from the Art Fund to get properly established with appropriate governance and develop a strategy to further the aims of SSNs.

We met with representatives from ACE this morning, who were prioritising Covid-19 support, but were keen to engage with the SSN Consortium in the future to help get a better understanding of how they could work with and support the SSNs.

We had good uptake of our conference bursaries for last year, after increasing the award from a maximum of £100 to £250. Our 2019 Bill Pettit Memorial Award went to two projects. The Dorman Museum "Leo the Lion conservation project" (£1105) and the Victoria Gallery, Liverpool "Primate skeleton conservation project" (£1840). Both will have the results reported on our blog.

This year's Bill Pettit grant has recently been awarded to: "The Last Passenger" which is a project to conserve the SS Great Britain's Cormorant (£1424) and Curating digitising and displaying a unique historic odontological collection at the Gordon Museum (£2100).

Training delivered in 2019 included "Finding Funds for Fossils, Ferns and Flamingos: how to secure money for museum collections" run in partnership with the World Museum Liverpool; a "Care and Conservation of Insect Collections" workshop was run in partnership with The Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and "An introduction to mobilising your collection's biodiversity data" workshop in partnership with Bristol Culture and NMH London. This training ties in with our aim of facilitating the integration of the UK national dispersed collections with the European Distributed System of Scientific Collections (DiSSCo) programme. DiSSCo looks to become an increasingly important initiative for mobilising collections data and improving access to collections around the UK and Europe.

Earlier this year, before lockdown, we also ran a Natural Science Collections: The Basics course which was kindly hosted by the University of Cambridge Museum of Zoology. We did have other training courses being planned, plus our Conservation Working Group were planning a bone conservation workshop at this year's SPNHC conference that was due to be held in Edinburgh. Obviously these physical meetings and events won't be taking place now, but we will be looking at providing some online training and events.

Last year's AGM and conference was on the theme of "Dead Interesting: Secrets of Collections Success" which was generously hosted by the National Museum of Ireland with additional tours kindly provided by the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland.

We were delighted to welcome Glenn Roadley, Amanda Callaghan, Kirsty Lloyd and Jen Gallichan, who were elected as trustees at the Dublin AGM and who have already proven to be valuable assets to the committee.

At the Dublin AGM the membership voted for a proposed change in NatSCA's status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), which will be enacted at this AGM. This is a step that many SSNs are undertaking since the CIO status was introduced by the Charities Commission in 2013, since it confers 'legal personality' allowing entry into contracts on behalf of the organisation rather than individual trustees, which means Committee members are no longer personally financially liable for issues that might arise.

This switching of status won't make much of a visible difference for members, but it has driven a lot of governance review within the Committee which will mean you can expect some more clarity around how we operate, including some new policies. It does also mean we have to change our bank accounts, so if you have standing orders or direct debits set up to pay your subs, you will need to update your set up.

Because of this sort of issue we are likely to run two bank accounts for a while, to facilitate the switch over, but from this moment we will longer be operating as the Natural Sciences Collections Association, Registered Charity no. 1098156 and we will be operating as the Natural Sciences Collections Association, Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation no. 1186918.

The first action of NatSCA CIO is for the standing trustees of the old charity to step down and we will now undertake the appointment of trustees to the steering committee of the CIO, so I will take this opportunity to thank you for the pleasure of being chair of NatSCA for the last few years and I will hand over to Tivvy to lead the appointment of the committee for the new CIO.

7. Dissolution of NatSCA Registered Charity No. 1098156

See penultimate paragraph above.

From this moment NatSCA as a Registered Charity no longer exists.

8. Formation of NatSCA Reg Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1186918

See final paragraph above.

From this moment NatSCA is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

9. Election of Committee - Yvette Harvey

Trustees form a steering committee with obligations to ensure NatSCA meets our mission to support the membership, ensure good governance and conform to Charity Commission regulations.

As we transition to CIO status, all the current committee are obliged to resign. For sustainability and continuity, we propose that those who were not due to reach the end of their terms at this AGM, will be re-elected 'en bloc'. Such committee members are indicated below. . They have been proposed and seconded in the normal manner, and the membership secretary confirmed that those proposed, those proposing and those seconding are all current personal members of NatSCA.

Nominee	Position	Proposed	Seconded
Amanda Callaghan	OM (Training)	Yvette Harvey	Glenn Roadley
David Gelsthorpe	OM (Bill Pettit Award)	Rachel Webster	Diana Arzuza
Glenn Roadley	OM (Web)	Lukas Large	Olivia Beavers
Holly Morgenroth	Treasurer	Harriet Wood	Tony Irwin
Jack Ashby	OM (Evaluation)	Mathew Lowe	Tannis Davidson
Kirsty Lloyd	OM (Collections At Risk)	Maggie Reilly	Glenn Roadley
Lucie Mascord	OM (Conservation)	Paolo Viscardi	Glenn Roadley
Yvette Harvey	Secretary	Roberto Portela Miguez	Wendy Atkinson

If there are no objections to the candidates, can we accept and elect the listed people en bloc onto committee until re-election in 2021, or 2022 in the case of Treasurer.

Proposed: Paolo Viscardi **Seconded:** Laura McCoy

Below are the nominees for NatSCA trustee positions standing for election at this AGM. The membership secretary has confirmed that those proposed, those proposing and those seconding are all current personal members of NatSCA. No term will exceed three years without re-election.

Nominee	Position	Proposed	Seconded
Isla Gladstone	Chair	Ray Barnett	Nigel Larkin

With the same number of nominees as positions for this post, there will be no competition. If there are no objections to the candidate, can we accept and elect the nominee onto committee?

Proposed: Paolo Viscardi **Seconded:** Lucie Mascord

Nominee	Position	Proposed	Seconded
Clare Brown	Membership Secretary	Laurin Gardiner	Rebecca Machin

With the same number of nominees as positions for this post, there will be no competition. If there are no objections to the candidate, can we accept and elect the nominee onto committee?

Proposed: Holly Morgenroth **Seconded:** Lesley Noe

Nominee	Position	Proposed	Seconded
Jan Freedman	Editor	David Waterhouse	Luanne Meehitiya

With the same number of nominees as positions for this post, there will be no competition. If there are no objections to the candidate, can we accept and elect the nominee onto committee?

Proposed: Amanda Callaghan

Seconded: Jennifer Gallichan

Below are the names of nominated candidates standing for Ordinary Member positions on the committee:

Nominee	Position	Proposed	Seconded
Bethany Palumbo	Ordinary Member	Paolo Viscardi	Arianna Bernucci
Donna Young	Ordinary Member	Lauren Gardiner	Rachel Webster
Jennifer Gallichan	Ordinary Member	Kate Mortimer-Jones	Sally Whyman
Paolo Viscardi	Ordinary Member	Bethany Palumbo	Yvette Harvey
Tannis Davidson	Ordinary Member	Jack Ashby	Hannah Cornish

There were four vacancies for Ordinary Members and five nominees, requiring an election. An anonymous vote was taken supported by Google Forms, having verified membership via email addresses.

39 members voted. Results were compiled and Bethany Palumbo, Donna Young, Jennifer Gallichan and Paolo Viscardi were the successful candidates.

10. Chair's Welcome - Isla Gladstone

I would like to start by echoing Paolo Viscardi in thanking you all for joining us at this digital AGM today. The coronavirus pandemic is challenging in many different ways for individuals and our sector. Delivering this AGM helps put NatSCA in the best place possible for natural science collections and our community, and your support in this is appreciated.

I would also to share a couple of lines of thought with you as I step into my new role.

The first looks back to my own journey with NatSCA. My first interaction with the organisation was back in 2007 at the annual conference and AGM at Millennium Galleries Sheffield. I had just started my first museum job, as Curatorial Assistant at the Royal Cornwall Museum, which was rewarding but I admit I also felt a little isolated and overwhelmed. My overriding memory from that first meeting was of community, and the importance of being able to connect with others to share interests, challenges and support. I also remember a series of talks that challenged my thinking. Something that stuck in my mind was Trevor James from the National Biodiversity Network urging us to connect better to researchers and biological recording community and share our specimen biodiversity data. These things are still as important today as ever.

I also wanted to share my thinking today, which centres around the dual context of a changing sector ecology: with increasing loss of subject specialist posts, stretched roles and significant collections with no in-house subject expertise – but also of urgent need: for example the fundamental role natural science collections can have in research and engagement around environmental crises, and the urgent need to decolonise. How does NatSCA stay relevant and sustainable in this context, offering the best possible support and advocacy? For me this is about continuing to make sure our core programme is solid and responds to sector need; that we have the best data on natural science collections, the people who work with them, their needs and activity so we can give the best platform and advocacy; that we continue to collaborate at local and global level to bring wider capacity, exposure and expertise. I am looking forward to working with a fantastic group of trustees, yourselves and wider partners to achieve this.

11. Any other business

Adrian Doyle raised awareness of the next Pest Odyssey Network annual open meeting (online) on 8th July 2020, 2-5pm. The theme of the meeting is “Pest Off with Covid and Other Stories”. The group are looking forward to the 2021 Pest Odyssey conference.

12. Vote of thanks - Isla Gladstone

I would like to offer deep gratitude to all of our NatSCA trustees and volunteers, who offer their time and expertise to help NatSCA achieve its mission.

A special thank you to Maggie Reilly, our fantastic membership secretary who has been a trustee of NatSCA since it was first established in 2003 with the merging of the Natural Sciences Conservation Group and the Biology Curators' Group. Maggie has been a huge asset to NatSCA, always supportive in bringing a longer-term perspective to help drive our work forward, alongside her significant membership role. Maggie has offered to continue to help NatSCA on a voluntary basis, for which we are very grateful.

Special thanks also to Paolo Viscardi, who has been NatSCA's Chair for the past seven years – first as maternity cover for Clare Brown, and then for two terms as elected Chair. Paolo has poured his energy and expertise into NatSCA, helping the committee's work to become more efficient, working on projects such as Natural History Near You and the recent establishment of the Subject Specialist Network Consortium, always raising his voice for natural science collections and willing to offer his support. I am personally grateful to Paolo for his support and handover of information as part of the transition to new Chair.

I would also like to specifically mention our volunteers: the Conservation Group which is led by trustee Lucie Mascord and includes Natalie Jones, Emilia Kingham, Julian Carter, Bethany Palumbo, Arianna Bernucci, Vicen Carrio, Nigel Larkin, Gill Comerford, Simon Moore and Vicky Purewal; the Editorial Board (Bethany Palumbo, David Notton, Matthew Parkes and Rob Huxley) and peer reviewers; and our operational support team who help us deliver events, projects, the conference and the essential work involved in the running of NatSCA (Justine Aw, Lily Wilks, Natalie Jones, Sam Barnett, Antoinette Madden and Erin McNulty).

Finally, I must mention our Treasurer Holly Morgenroth, whose hard work underlies everything we do.

13. Next AGM venue

National Museum Cardiff – May 2021. **To be confirmed.**

Yvette Harvey, RHS Herbarium, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB.

Email: secretary@natsca.org