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Natural Sciences Collections Association

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## **NSCG Newsletter**

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# Introduction and Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new Natural Sciences Conservation Group. This first newsletter comes to you in your capacity either as a pre-1995 member of UKIC Natural Sciences Section, a 1995 member of UKIC who elected the Natural Sciences Section as their preferred section or as a new member of the Natural Sciences Conservation Group. If you wish to continue receiving mailings and to support Natural Science Conservation in Britain and have not yet joined, please complete the membership form in this issue.

The new Natural Sciences Conservation Group has been formed as a result of the restructuring of UKIC, a move that Natural Science Section members disagreed with since voting rites were restricted and membership fees almost doubled; a vote at our AGM in March authorised the committee to form a new group should the UKIC restructuring proceed.

The new group officially came into being with the demise of the old UKIC structure on 29th September 1995 and will replace the old Natural Sciences Section; there are insufficient people and resources to justify two groups representing Natural Sciences conservation in the UK. The change over period to an independent group has been a long and sometimes painful process but personally, I feel that the diverse conservation and curation skills formerly within the original section and still possible in our membership will allow the group to play a major role in the development of this branch of collection care. The highly successful two day Collection Risk Assessment and Management workshop organised for the first time in Britain by our members is a case in point (see David Carter's report in this issue).

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking William Lindsay for his hard work as Chairman over the last three years. William's skills were invaluable when drawing up the original constitution and in all committee and meeting procedures. The period during which the UKIC structure was being reviewed was particularly busy for him as Chairman, with many additional meetings to attend and reams of paper work to sift through. William expressed a wish to resign as Chairman at the 1995 AGM but agreed to stay on until the new group was formed, that point has now been reached and I am now acting as chairperson until the AGM.

The committee is working hard on organising the 1996 meeting and AGM to be held in Ipswich with a second day of collection tours to nearby museums. If any one would like to give a talk, please let Bob Entwistle or another member of the committee know. Poster presentations are equally welcome and may be a little less daunting for those of you with the combination of interesting projects and stage fright.

If there are any issues that you as a member wishes to air, this newsletter is one way of doing so, Simon Moore as editor would be happy to receive copy, Nick Gordon is also now helping Simon as assistant editor. Committee members can of course be approached, the next committee meeting will be in late November.

In conclusion, to those of you who have already joined, thank you and welcome aboard and to those who have not yet joined, please seriously consider doing so.

**Katherine Andrew, acting chair person**

## Professional Indemnity Insurance

For those of you who do freelance work and need professional indemnity to cover you against being sued for poor quality work, there is a group of conservators trying to get a 'bulk discount' from insurers. If you are interested contact:

Caroline Bendix  
40C Lavender Gardens  
London  
SW11 1DN  
Tel: 0171 7381931

As soon as possible as she wants to get something sorted out by the end of the year  
(Note professional indemnity covers you against poor quality work, public liability covers you for accidental damage. They are not the same!)