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## **NSCG Newsletter**

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## View from the Chair

I hope all our members had a Happy Christmas, and I hope you will all have a prosperous and successful New Year. Talking of success I want to formally congratulate Victoria Purewall from The National Museum of Wales in Cardiff and Kate Andrew from Ludlow Museum, for winning the "Student Conservator of the Year" award and the runner up award in the "Conservator of the Year" respectively.

The Conservation Awards are run by the MGC and the "Jerwood Foundation" and are a national and highly contested competition. They received their prestigious awards at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London in December. These two conservators have raised the profile of natural history conservation. Well done, and the drinks are on you!

I hope those of you who are trying for Fast Track Accreditation are sending back your forms or applying for the second tranche NOW. Various other committee members and myself are applying, and I have been asked to sit on the accreditation appeals committee. I think it is important that Natural Sciences are represented at the highest levels.

I was asked in November to talk to "The Photographic Materials Conservation Group" at the National Gallery. They were anxious to know why the NSCG split from UKIC. The photographic conservators are considering their own accreditation system and are considering whether to use the UKIC's system and whether or not to affiliate to UKIC.

We have already been down this road before and so I was able to give them the benefit of our experience.

It's good to know that the NSCG is being asked for advice by other groups on such important issues.

The committee has decided to hold our AGM and conference in Leicester and to have it later in the year than usual. In this way we can coincide the meeting with the opening of the new galleries in Leicester Museum. We intend to have tours of stores labs and to have a problem object seminar. See elsewhere in this newsletter for the call for papers.

*Bob Entwistle*

## Conservation Focus

### News and Events from the Conservation World

#### Awards for the Natural Sciences

In December The Jerwood Foundation and Museums and Galleries Commission announced their Conservation Awards for 1998. The awards aim to draw attention to the importance of conservation and to the very high standards of conservation practised in the UK. The awards were presented by Alan Howarth CBE MP, Minister for the Arts, at a ceremony held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Of the four awards, natural sciences were represented twice. This was a great achievement and we are very proud of the result for our two members, Kate Andrew and Vicky Purewal. Kate, the runner up for the Award for Conservation, was unfortunately unable to attend the ceremony but much to my delight I was able to witness Vicky's genuine surprise and joy at being presented with the award of Student Conservator of the Year.

The winner of the top 'Award for Conservation' was Keith Barley, Barley Studio, York, for the conservation of late medieval narrative windows in St. Mary the Virgin Church in Fairford. Loyd Grossman, MGC Commissioner and Chairman of the Judges, noted that Kate was a very close contender in this category and was so awarded 'Runner-up'. The conservation work put forward by Kate was that undertaken on the wall-mounted Saurians, fossil marine reptiles, at Whitby Museum. The judges said "Katherine Andrew, then an independent conservator, faced a number of challenges with patience, determination and flair. With great ingenuity she adopted innovative, cost-effective solutions to objects of world importance." Kate received £1,500, which she will spend on equipping the conservation laboratory in the Ludlow Museum Resource Centre.

Vicky, National Museums and Galleries of Wales, completed a part-time MSc at De Montford University, Leicester from 1996-98. She won her award for her MSc project work concerning the composition analysis and