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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

study of pesticide residues present on herbarium sheets from the NMGW collection. The judges were impressed with her enthusiasm and courage in dealing with a subject area which has barely been touched. Her study has proved that there is a genuine risk of mercury contamination to those working with herbarium specimens and has successfully changed working practices within NMGW to increase protection for those working on these collections. They said, "This is a student who has asked difficult questions, found the answers and followed them through. An innovative and ground-breaking project which has changed the approach and working practices in this field." Vicky will receive a prize of £3,500 and intends to use this to continue her research and undertake a part-time PhD at De Montford University (who also will receive a prize of £1,000).

Vicky intends to present the results of the project later this year. Watch this space for publication details.

*Donna Young  
Liverpool Museum*

## **Another Glittering Prize for The Conservation Centre!**

The Conservation Centre, Liverpool, has been accumulating a growing collection of awards since its opening in October 1996. Latest badge of honour, awarded in Dublin in September 1998, is the Keck Award, which brings with it a prize of £1,000. The Centre also won a £1,000 prize with the Gulbenkian Award in 1997; that money has been used to commission seating, in the form of a stone bench, for the public area.

List of Conservation Centre Awards to date:

### **IIC Keck Award, 1998**

The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works  
*For the promotion of public understanding and appreciation of the accomplishments of the conservation profession.*

### **European Museum of the Year Award, 1998**

Awarded by the Museum Forum

### **Interpret Britain Award, 1998**

for the Public Programme,

The Society for the Interpretation of Britain's Heritage

*In recognition of excellent interpretive practice contributing to greater awareness and understanding of Britain's Heritage*

### **Interpret Britain Award, A Special Judge's Award, 1998**

for the Public Programme,

The Society for the Interpretation of Britain's Heritage

*In recognition of excellent interpretive practice contributing to greater awareness and understanding of Britain's Heritage*

### **The Conservation Awards, Special Award, 1997**

For The Conservation Centre Public Programmes for Outstanding Contribution to Conservation

Sponsored by the Jerwood Foundation

### **The Gulbenkian Prize, 1997**

Awarded from The Gulbenkian Awards for Museums and Galleries

### **United Utilities North West Tourism Award, 1997**