



**NatSCA**

Natural Sciences Collections Association

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## **NSCG Newsletter**

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## The Society

The Natural Sciences Conservation Group promotes: research and exchange of ideas; advances in technical and ethical standards; the public profile of the conservation and preservation of natural science collections and objects; training; and publications.

## Membership

The Group is keen to open its membership to all those involved in the care and conservation of natural science objects and encourages their active participation.

### Annual Subscription

Students (UK only)	£8.00
UK personal	£10.00
Overseas personal	£12.00
Institution	£25.00

## Newsletter

The Newsletter is a forum for articles, views and opinions on the care, conservation and curation of natural history and associated material. The Newsletter is produced three times per annum (January, May and September) and is free to all members.

### Advertisements

1/4 page	£15.00
1/2 page	£25.00
Full page	£50.00

### Instructions for Authors

Material should be type-written and double-spaced in A4 format and if possible accompanied by a text file or Word document on disk (Dos-formatted). The pages should be numbered and the position of any tables and/or figures should be indicated on the hard copy. The names of animal and plant species should be underlined and the authority name given in full for the first time used, thereafter they may be omitted. All references should be given in full. Articles and other items for inclusion should be submitted to the Editor at least three weeks before the publication date.

Opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those shared by the NSCG Committee, the Editor or the membership at large.

## Editorial

Welcome to issue 12 of our newsletter.

*"The beauty and genius of a work of art may be reconceived, though its first material expression be destroyed; a vanished harmony may yet again inspire the composer; but when the last individual of a race of living beings breathes no more, another heaven and another earth must pass before such a one can be again".*

W. Beebe, 1906

I am sitting here in front of an empty screen trying to find away of introducing myself as the new editor. I thought of starting with humour, but I know of but a handful of conservation styled jokes, most of which require that I put a disclaimer on the front cover to the tune of "contains explicit material". Next, I had thought of the informal: "Hi, my name is Darren...", but that seemed too clichéd. After much deliberation I have just typed what was going through my mind, which may scare some of you!

As an insect-mad naive fifteen-year-old boy I ventured into the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry to begin my two weeks work experience. Little did I know then, that working as an entomologist in Museums would become a career, especially after my careers teacher at school said "nobody will pay you to do your hobby" (they do, but not much!). Our chosen line of museum work is most certainly a vocational one, one of the most frequent comments I hear from friends and colleagues is "love the job, but the pay is crap". We seem to be given ever more areas of responsibility, and red tape from above without the recognition (or pay) we deserve. However, one of the best feelings in the world is to see a specimen or collection that you have curated-conserved in its rightful place in the collection or out on display for all to see.

Now to business, I hope that I will be able to live up to the high standards set by our last editor, Donna Young. I would also, as I think we all would, like to take this opportunity to wish her the very best of luck with her new curatorial role as keeper of young hominids. Changes to the Newsletter are few and I hope that they will meet with your approval. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Juliet Hay for her invaluable assistance in the production of this Newsletter.

Darren Mann