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NSCG Newsletter

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View from the Chair

The summer is nearly over and it's back to work unfortunately. The weather was bad but at least the rain kept the relative humidity high.

By this time I expect you will all have received a special Communication from myself and Simon Moore, concerning "Accreditation". I hope my summary of the accreditation system was accurate and understandable. As I write this I have received only one query from a member of the Group, which means either that you all fully understand the implications or haven't returned from your holidays yet.

I attended the UKIC AGM in London on the 29 July where the proposed accreditation system was discussed, voted upon and adopted. The Committee will be meeting with a representative of UKIC in September, to discuss the position of natural science conservators within the new scheme.

I am happy to inform you that we are now a registered charity. This means the funds held in trust for us by UKIC can now be released and we can start advertising our existence in a much more professional and up market manner. I would like to see us expand our influence into European countries and target foreign museums and organisations. There may come a time when we can have our AGM somewhere warmer than the UK.

The Committee will also be considering where to hold our 1999 AGM and Conference. The problem we are faced with every year is accessibility for the majority of our members and facilities. Our venue must be easily accessible by road and rail, have conference facilities, and be free or cheap. Preferably there should be Group members at the proposed institution/museum who can liaise and help organise the conference. If members have any ideas or wish to offer their institution or museum as a venue please contact us as soon as possible.

In the past we have themed our conferences. If there is any particular theme or issue the membership would like the 1999 conference to explore please say so now.

Bob Entwistle

Conservation Focus

News and Events from the Conservation World

New Technologies for the Long-Term Storage of Oxidising Pyrite - A Solution? 1st Oct 1998. Geological Conservation Unit, University of Cambridge.

The workshop will through practical and lecture sessions discuss:

- Identification of pyrite oxidation.
- Responses to pyrite oxidation in your collection.
- The chemistry of pyrite oxidation in the museum environment.
- Past and current treatments, how they work and their effectiveness.
- Current and future methods for storing pyrite related materials.
- Low cost methods for storing specimens in an oxygen free environment.
- Preventative approaches towards pyrite in the collection.

The emphasis of the course will be on the practical application of techniques discussed during the day. The pros and cons of all the approaches will be discussed and students will leave with a clear understanding of the chemistry of pyrite oxidation and the various treatments that have been developed. The final part of the day will be spent undertaking a practical exercise in the collections linked to the day's work.

Cost: £30

For a booking form contact Chris Collins, Geological Conservation Unit, Dept. of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Madingley Rise, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0EZ.

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