



**NatSCA**

Natural Sciences Collections Association

<http://www.natsca.org>

## NatSCA News

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## AGM MINUTES Liverpool, 27.4.2006

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Wendy Atkinson, Louise Bacon, John Edmondson, Jane Mee, Clare Stringer & Graham Walley.

### 2. Minutes of AGM London June 2005

The minutes of the 2005 AGM held at the Natural History Museum, London on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 were presented to the AGM. These were published in Issue 6 of NatSCA News in August 2005 and on the new NatSCA Website.

### 3. Matters arising from London AGM minutes

There were no matters arising from these minutes. The minutes were signed as a correct record by the Chair.

### 4. Chairman's Report: Nick Gordon

Nick Gordon reported on NatSCA's success at becoming the Special Subject Network (SSN) for Natural Sciences in the Museums sector. Nick will be posting a discussion paper to the membership in May 2006 with a Stamped addressed envelope for comments, to be returned to Nick Gordon. NatSCA will be a facilitator and will develop a collegiate approach with our many partners within the Natural Sciences collections industry. The MLA has provided a pot of money to spend in organising a series of area meetings across the country with NatSCA members, museums with natural Science collections and with other interested bodies invited to discuss what we would like the SSN to be. These areas will roughly reflect the Museum Hub local areas. Helen Fothergill asked about the SSN funding time scale and Nick replied that the MLA money given to NatSCA to effect the SSN is still available until spent.

Nick Gordon also discussed the perceived decline in Natural Science posts. There are two natural Scientists on the Leicester MSc course this year and Steve Garland reports that posts are frozen at Bolton. Any available Renaissance money cannot be utilised if there are no posts. There is a Geology curator post available at Scarborough and posts at Stoke and Cardiff for Conservators. There is also a Natural Science Conservator on the Royal College of Art Conservation Course at present.

### 5. Secretary's Report: Paul Brown

*Attendance NatSCA committee 2005-2006*

	16.vi.05	13.ix.05	21.xi.05		30.i.06	28.iii.06	26.iv.06
Nick Gordon	X			X	X	X	
Kate Andrew	X	X		X			
10 Paul Brown		X	X	X	X	X	X
Jo Hatton	X	X		X	X	X	
10 Jane Mee					X	X	
Simon Moore	X		X	X	X	X	
Vicki Papworth		X		X	X		X
Maggie Reilly		X	X		X	X	
Dominique Rogers			X				
Douglas Russell	X		X	X	X	X	
Sue Ryder	X		X	X	X	X	
Clare Stringer		X		X	X		
Steve Thompson	X	X	X	X	X		
Graham Walley		X	X				
Donna Young	X		X	X	X	X	

**6. Treasurer's Report: Kate Andrew****Natsca accounts 1st Feb 2005 31st Jan 2006****Income****Subscriptions**

Personal 168 @£15.00	2520
Institutional 57 @ £30	1710
3 multi year and incorrect rates @ £8	76
1 @ 25 Euro rate	16.84

**Other income**

sale of back issues	19.38
Interest (current & deposit account)	372.21

**Meeting income**

Herbarium meeting fees	880
SPNHC meeting profit	3000

**Total income** **8594.43**

**Expenditure****Subscriptions**

Data protection registration	35
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**Bursaries and meeting costs**

SPNHC meeting bursaries	1885.6
Herbarium meeting costs (room hire, catering etc)	546.2

**Committee expenses**

Insurance	687.45
Travel to meetings	866.14

**Postage**

Committee related postage	145.92
Newsletter postage	672.33

**Newsletter and publicity**

Printing newsletter	2436.53
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**Misc outputs**

Web site	2100
Leaflets and poster	345.63
membership cards	55.81

**Total expenditure** **9776.61**

**deficit for 2005-2006 financial year** **-1182.18**

**Bank balances****Deposit account 41653636**

Opening balance, 24th Jan 2005	20206.72
Bank interest	373.96
SPNHC meeting profit	3000
<i>Total and actual balance, 24th Jan 2006</i>	<b>23580.68</b>

**Current account 91645722**

Opening balance, 24th Jan 2005	5344.85
<b>Income paid in</b>	5225.47
<b>Expenditure on account</b>	9776.61
Late clearing cheques from 04/05	63.45
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10570.32 9840.06</b>
Income less expenditure	730.26
Add uncleared 05/06 cheques	1348.17
<b>Total and actual balance, 24th Jan 2006</b>	<b>2078.43</b>

**Notes on the accounts**

The committee took the decision that the society needed to spend some of its reserves on promoting its charitable objects and so this year have commissioned a web site, a promotional leaflet and display.

Three newsletters have been paid for this financial year rather than four in the previous year.

The employers of committee members are no longer able to be as generous in their support and increasingly the society is meeting the costs of travel to meetings.

Support for the joint meeting with SPNHC was provided in the form of bursaries to a total of eighteen individual members. The society was re-imbursed with £3,000, our share of the profit. The Herbarium meeting made a small profit.

Overall, expenditure has exceeded income by £1,182.18, but there are sufficient reserves in the deposit account to sustain this level of expenditure.

Bank statements, account books and arithmetic checked independently by Velson Horie.

**7. Membership secretary's Report for 1st February 2005 – 31st January 2006:** Maggie Reilly  
We ended the year with 225 members with 11 additional FOC mailings The 225 are categorised as follows: 167 Personal, 58 Institutional members or 199 UK members, 26 Overseas.

Renewal notices were issued at the end of January. We (K. Andrew and M. Reilly) decided to offer to the UK personal members the option of paying by standing order this year, so a standing order mandate has gone out with the renewal notice. Several members had asked to have this facility and it seems generally popular. Helen Fothergill asked whether reminder letters have been sent. These will go out in June as paper copy and /or email to those who have not renewed. If memberships are not renewed by June, then membership will cease then.

We had hope to introduce a web-based payment facility via 'Paypal' or similar to facilitate non-sterling payments but no progress has been made. It seems complicated to understand what to do. SHNH has introduced 'WorldPay' on-line payment facility for their membership and it is up and running. Advice from the SHNH web person was sought. We were told it was difficult and complicated, requiring a web designer to do it or at least considerable website production knowledge. We have decided to postpone this for the time being.

The complimentary mailing list lost 2 mailings - SSCR due to its dissolution and Jane Pickering due to she and Chris Norris sharing a mailing.

### ***USA members***

We would like to record our thanks to Chris Norris and Jane Pickering for collecting the few USA personal memberships that we have. They have agreed to continue with this arrangement this year. We could give them complimentary membership for their services.

Steve Thompson asked whether this Swedish contacts, who have helped organise the NatSCA Study Trip to Sweden, can be given complementary NatSCA membership for 1 or 2 years as a thank you for their help in organising the imminent study trip there. Steve Thompson to supply names to Maggie Reilly.

### ***Back issues of Newsletter***

We have been running out of back issues of the Newsletter, which has necessitated some reprinting in order to cover mailings due to late/newly joined members. Fortunately the price of re-printing seems to work out at around £3.50 an issue almost the same as the original printing cost. This seems to have been a tricky one to get right - either I am sitting on a mountain of spare copies or we have none. We get a few requests for full sets of back issues. Back issues will eventually be put up on the website obviating the need for paper copies.

### ***New Scottish charity regulations***

After changes in primary legislation, a new authority has come into being in Scotland to regulate charities – it is the Office of The Scottish Charity Regulator (<http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>). We had some concerns that NatSCA might have to register separately in Scotland but this is not the case as it operates technically from an English address. The only change we were required to make is to add the phrase ‘registered in England and Wales, after our charity number on letterheads [see heading of these minutes].

### ***Membership cards***

Membership cards will be issued shortly to all members. They will bear your membership number, which members will need when the first log onto the new NatSCA website forum. Please keep a note of your number. If you lose it please contact Vicki Papworth or Maggie Reilly to be reminded. Anyone late in renewal will have a new membership number allotted to them, cancelling the old one.

### ***Email addresses***

We would like to be able to circulate group news by email and most members have supplied addresses. We have some gaps, usually for our institutional members but we will be trying over the next few months to contact people and fill the gaps. There are a few members who do not use email. For these, and for those whom we cannot identify an email address, paper mailing will be sent out as usual.

## **8. Editor’s Report: Vicki Papworth**

There have been three issues of NatSCA News published during the year, issue 6 in in August 2005, Issue 7 in December 2005 and Issue 8 in March 2006, the latter with some colour printing. Please can the membership send copy and news items to the Editor for inclusion in NatSCA news.

The New NatSCA Web Forum went live yesterday on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006! When you get your new membership number, you enter this into the webpage and can then chose a memory friendly password of your choice.

Vicky would like to have a document store on the website for policies, licences etc as a reference source for NatSCA membership.

## **9. Natural Science Conservation (& Institute of Conservation) Report: Simon Moore**

Simon Moore reported on the need for NatSCA to maintain an influence with ICON on Natural Science Conservation. The ICON Chair wishes to see us become part of ICON again (Convergence) but NSCG (Natural Sciences Conservation Group) became independent of the old UKIC (United Kingdom Institute of Conservation when their fees were astronomically raised. Such an influence can be done through our 8-10 ICON members within our NatSCA membership. The Care of Collections Forum was assimilated into ICON in 2004 even though many of their members are not Conservators. Simon proposes to put out a discussion document on our website forum to start a debate on this subject and in NatSCA News.

**10 Election of ordinary members of NatSCA committee :**

Nominees for NatSCA committee two-year posts at AGM Liverpool 2006-2008.

Name	Proposed:	Seconded:	Institution:
1. Andrea Hallaway*	Victoria Papworth	Jenny Bryant	NHM Botany
2. Jo Hatton	Sherry Doyal	Louise Bacon	Horniman Museum
3. Guy Knight*	Donna Young	Wendy Atkinson	World Museum Liverpool
4. Nicola McNicholas*	Steve Minean	Paddy Cottam	Hancock Museum, Newcastle
5. Simon Moore	Christine Taylor	Jenny Bryant	Hants Museums Service
6. Victoria Papworth	Jenny Bryant	Paul A Brown	NHM Botany
7. Maggie Reilly	Jo Hatton	Douglas Russell	University of Glasgow Mus.
8. Douglas Russell	Clare Stringer	Jane Mee	NHM Tring
9. Clare Stringer	Douglas Russell	Jane Mee	Leeds Museums Service
10. Steve Thompson	Adrian Norris	Richard Comley	Humberside Museum service

\* denotes new members of committee

**As there are 12 vacant posts and ten candidates, AGM was asked to accept and elect the 10 names en block onto committee to serve for two years from this meeting. This was proposed by Steve Thompson and seconded by Peter Howlett and AGM voted yes to accept these 10 nem. con.**

**11 Seminars: Notice of building blocks of Natural Science Objects November 2006: Simon Moore**

Simon Moore reported on the success of the Botany Seminar held at Kew Gardens and reported on the future seminar 'building blocks of Natural Science Objects' with talks and hands on sessions and demonstrations, probably to be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Any members who are interested can sign a list at the registration desk today. He also asked for a botanist to volunteer to cover this field of biochemistry.

**12 Study Trips: Notice of trip to St Petersburg in 2007: John Edmondson**

In John Edmondson's absence, Paul Brown read out the following communication....

"Next year's study trip to St. Petersburg is being co-ordinated by John Edmondson, National Museums Liverpool. The likely date is early June 2007, and expressions of interest would be welcome. Please email me at [john.edmondson@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:john.edmondson@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) and I will send further details, including cost and booking deadlines, in the autumn. A CD is available for loan, containing a Power-point show giving some background information on St. Petersburg's rich collection of museums." John already has 10 people interested, so the trip is likely to go ahead assuming we can find an economical travel package. Steve Thompson reported on the study trip to Stockholm and Uppsala, Sweden, which is happening from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2006. He asked if there were any members who would still like to attend.

**13 Any Other Business**

There were no items for AOB.

**14 Date and Venue of Next Meeting.**

Paul Richards invited the membership to Sheffield for our AGM and conference in April 2007. Helen Fothergill remarked that this should not happen adjacent to the Mayday bank holiday weekend as this might cause problems for transport for those in the far-flung corners of the UK, in her case Plymouth. We hope to have the conference/AGM at least a week before this weekend. Watch NatSCA News and our Website for future further details.

**15 Vote of thanks**

Nick Gordon proposed a vote of thanks to Dominique Rogers, Sue Ryder, Donna Young and Graham Walley who are standing down from committee. We hope to second Graham as our contact for natural science species records (Fenscore etc.). Also Jo Hatton and the following people from World Museum Liverpool, Guy Knight, Donna Young, Mo Smith and Alex Blakesborough were thanked for organising our conference, which has proven most successful, interesting and useful.