



**NatSCA**

Natural Sciences Collections Association

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## NatSCA News

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### *New Life and Old Collections*

As I write, my wife and new born son have just returned home from hospital and are both healthy and well. Little Laurie was born at 5.53pm on 2nd January 2011, weighing 7 pounds and 7 ounces. From microscopic beginnings, a plethora of genes switching on and off at all the right stages, a myriad of chemicals and enzymes, and uncountable cell divisions all produced this tiny baby. Of course, this is the same in the whole animal world, from whales to ants. We, in the museum world, are incredibly lucky to look after such amazing collections of animals and plants; each collection varying from place to place depending on the early local collectors. Our old collections hold such fascinating and important early insights into natural history as it was just being discovered by those pioneering early collectors and it is these stories that continue to fascinate colleagues and people today.

This issue has a range of interesting and useful articles from museums across the country. Articles range from this history of the Natural History Museum, London, to new research and storage of an old Coleoptera Collection at the Potteries Museum. There are numerous projects we are working on; researching old collections, conservation projects, educational projects, creating exhibitions and much more. By sharing these projects in *NatSCA News* inspires colleagues who may be thinking on similar lines. Please continue to send in articles FOR *NatSCA News*.

For the first time the whole NatSCA committee have written a short paragraph about themselves and what their role on the NatSCA committee. If anyone is interested in any of the NatSCA committee roles then please feel free in contacting one of us.

Jan Freedman  
3rd January 2011

#### ***Contributions for Issue 21***

All articles, letters, news, adverts and other items for inclusion for the next issue of the NatSCA Newsletter should be sent to the address below by April 1st 2011:

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