



NatSCA

Natural Sciences Collections Association

<http://www.natsca.org>

The Biology Curator

Title: Gardening in the Gallery

Author(s): Francis, P.

Source: Francis, P. (1999). Gardening in the Gallery. *The Biology Curator, Issue 15, 7.*

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/426>

NatSCA supports open access publication as part of its mission is to promote and support natural science collections. NatSCA uses the Creative Commons Attribution License (CCAL) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/> for all works we publish. Under CCAL authors retain ownership of the copyright for their article, but authors allow anyone to download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, and/or copy articles in NatSCA publications, so long as the original authors and source are cited.

Gardening in the Gallery

'A Secret Garden - the hidden world of mosses and liverworts' is the travelling exhibition of the British Bryological Society. It has recently been displayed at Bolton Museum, Art Gallery and Aquarium with additional objects from the museums' collection. These included larger-than-life models of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) and examples of local peat-bog archaeology. Also included was a section on responsible peat-free gardening and conservation of peatlands.



During the Easter school holidays six days of Garden Workshops took place. Advance publicity targeted family groups who were asked to bring along bryophytes from their gardens. A local expert (recorder for South Lancashire) was in attendance complete with video microscope, conventional microscope and a variety of hand lenses. Mosses were identified on the spot and with a local street map and ordnance survey map to hand these identifications were easily made into valuable biological records.

Peat-free compost (courtesy of B & Q) and cornfield seed-mix (safely contained in plant-pots by cling-film) allowed the children to take home a living reminder with a conservation message.

Patricia Francis
Bolton Museum

Wood End Museum

The Wood End Museum of Natural History in Scarborough is currently involved in a comprehensive 2 year Heritage Lottery funded project to regenerate the zoological and botanical collections in its care.

Improvements are being made in the documentation, access and storage of this important natural history archive. As Project Co-ordinator, it has become increasingly evident to me that a large number of other museums and institutions have been involved with the museum over the last 170 years, and trying to track these interactions down has become a mission!

If any one has any information regarding the collections at Wood End, I would be very glad to hear from you. This may be a definite note on a particular specimen or collection, or a vague memory! We are trying to build up as broad a history of the collections as physically possible and it is often surprising the little gems of information that can be gathered. If anybody has any information, or requires further details please do not hesitate to contact myself at:

Douglas G D Russell
Wood End Museum
Londesborough Lodge
The Crescent
SCARBOROUGH
YO11 2PW
Tel: 01723 367326
Fax: 01723 354979
Email: DTLS@SCARBOROUGH.GOV.UK

Gardening in the Gallery BCG Newsletters

Years 1976-1986 newsletters, as a complete run, offered free if collected or for payment of postage costs.

Nora McMillan
c/o Zoology Department
Liverpool Museum
William Brown Street
LIVERPOOL
L3 8EN
tel : 0151 478 4399