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NSCG Newsletter

Title: View From The Chair

Author(s): Entwistle, B.

Source: Entwistle, B. (2000). View From The Chair. *NSCG Newsletter, Issue 14, 2.*

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/655>

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View from the Chair

Dear Members,

As usual, our conference was a great success in spite of the rather inclement weather. I found watching the waves break over the promenade to be very exciting, especially as it was not my car they were breaking over. However, we conservators are a hardy breed, and neither rain, snow nor tidal waves stopped a few of us from climbing up to Scarborough Castle or going to the odd pub or five. The conference dinner was well organised, thanks Nick, and I was especially pleased to meet so many members and old friends. All three groups had an impressive list of speakers and I would like to thank the NSCG speakers especially for their time and the quality of their papers.

Joe Sage, from Dundee Museums, warned us all of the importance of being involved in the Best Value process. Many local authority museums will have to contend with "Best Value". My own museum service has just been through the best value process and it has resulted in the loss of staff and budget cuts. Best value is not "sexy" but it is important.

Our AGM went without a hitch and was finished in 30 minutes. No nominations were received for the three committee posts or the post of secretary, (its not a particularly arduous job on the committee and you do get to visit exotic locations like Birmingham).

Paul Brown and I, had approached people during the conference and eventually found three members who were willing to stand. Susan Cooke, Sue Lewis and Amanda Sutherland, were all duly elected. Paul unfortunately found himself elected for another term as secretary. I would like to welcome our three new committee members, and thank the retiring members for their help and support.

The organised trips on the last day of the conference were especially enjoyable. I went with the one group to look for dinosaur fossils on the beach near Scarborough and then on to Whitby Museum. I discovered no fossils but I did discover a gem in Whitby Museum. In these days of computer interactive displays, it was a joy to find this museum literally packed with strange, curious and interesting objects. There were no flashing lights or buttons to press but the museum is still as popular now as it was a hundred years ago. We saw the marvellous collection of marine reptiles conserved by Kate Andrew, and Adrian Doyle was good enough to talk us through the conservation process. I would like to thank Nick Gordon for liaising between the three groups and for doing most of the conference organisation.

Bob Entwistle.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Venue: Scarborough Spa Complex, South Bay, Scarborough.
Tuesday April 4th, 2000 12.30-1.00 pm

1. Introduction and consideration of agenda

The agenda was then approved by all present. Topics listed for AOB consisted of Insurance for Freelancers.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Kate Andrew & Maggie Reilly

3. Minutes of AGM on Tuesday 22nd June, 1999

The minutes of last years annual general meeting were presented. Nick Gordon proposed and Steve Garland seconded that they be accepted and signed. The minutes were duly signed by Bob Entwistle as being correct.

4. Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairs report.

Bob Entwistle welcomed membership to the 7th AGM of the NSCG. He reported that committee had met fully only three times during the last year. We usually meet 4-6 times and the fewer meetings reflect the increased workloads we all have at present and the shorter period between AGMs due to the BCG/GCG share.

Those conservators who applied for Fast Track Accreditation with UKIC will know whether they have been accredited. There are probably 10 Natural Science conservators who will be accredited and these names will appear on the list to be published in May.

We continue to represent our views on the NCC-R (National Council of Conservators and Restorers, ex ABC, ex Conservation Forum) with virtually all the other conservation groups in the UK represented on the committee. The NCC-R is now responsible for administering the Conservation Register as well as promoting and running the Joint Accreditation process. NCC-R will become more important as the support given by MGC may not be as constant as MLAC (Museums, Libraries, Archives Commission). With the imminent demise of the MGC it is important that the voice of conservation is heard in the Museums and heritage world.

Many of you will have seen our new membership leaflet which has been distrib-