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Natural Sciences Collections Association

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## **NSCG Newsletter**

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## View from the Chair

It seems like an age since our annual meeting held in Cardiff at the National Museums and Galleries of Wales. The two day meeting, held jointly with the Biology Curator's Group combined a wide range of talks and posters with plenty of opportunity for networking. Thanks to Julian Carter and his team for organising the event, to the museum for hosting us and providing an excellent evening reception and to members that supported us.

Many of the papers are written up in this edition of our newsletter, others will appear in the BCG newsletter, publishing separate postprints would unfortunately be too expensive.

The AGM saw several long standing members of the committee reaching the point of enforced retirement. Dick Hendry was on the original steering committee that set up the group and has retired as membership secretary, we will all miss his good humour and detailed reports. Bob Entwistle has served as secretary for nearly four years, partly as a co-optee and the last

two years as an elected officer. Bob has certainly helped me enormously as chair. Angus Gunn organised our very first AGM in Liverpool and has been a stalwart committee member for the last two years, Caroline Buttler has represented us at Conservation Forum meetings after wading through regular deluges of paperwork and has been the lone conservator on committee for a while. Thanks to all the retiring members and welcome to the new committee members who joined us for our first meeting in July. We were able to view the aftermath of the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery flood during the meeting, reported in the "Flood" section of this newsletter.

As a result of a lively debate at the AGM, one of your committee's first tasks will be looking into options for closer links/ one large organisation representing all areas of the natural sciences. Co-optees and cross overs between our committee and both BCG and GCG committees should make communication fairly straightforward.

*Kate Andrew*

## Conservation Focus

### News and Events from the Conservation World

#### More Trouble at Glasgow

The following piece was included in the Glasgow Herald on the 11th March.

#### *Against Museum Proposal*

*The Conservation Forum, an affiliation of 11 professional conservation organisations, is the authoritative single voice of its 2,000 members working in the public and private sectors throughout the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.*

*The Forum, while aware of pressures faced by Glasgow City Council in making cuts to all its services, strongly urges the council to reconsider its approval of Glasgow Museums' proposal drastically to reduce the specialist services of its conservation department.*

*Two member organisations of the forum, the Scottish Society for Conservation and Restoration, and the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, have previously expressed their concerns regarding Glasgow Museum's proposals and their views are unanimously endorsed by all members of the forum.*

*There is widespread disbelief that the principal multi-disciplinary centre of conservation excellence in framing and in-house care in Scotland should be disbanded and replaced with a comprehensive dependence on the private sector.*

*The United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland are fortunate in the strengths and quality of private sector provision but it is unarguable that continuity of care and maximum reduction in risk to a collection are best achieved in-house.*

*The forum is also seriously concerned that the future care of a renowned collection hangs on the hurried implementation of proposals which appear to be an insufficiently researched and convenient short-term solution, but one with long-term deleterious consequences.*

*Jane Hutchison, Chair, Scottish Society for Conservation and Restoration. Chair, the Conservation Forum; Robert White, Chair, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation; Derek Priest, Chair, Institute for Paper Conservation; Jerry Weber, Chair, Society of Archivists, Preservation and Conservation Group; Michael Barrington, Chair, British Antique Furniture Restorers' Association; Paul Brown, Natural Sciences Conservation Group; Dr Sebastian Strobl, Chair, British Society of Master Glass Painters Conservation Committee; Maighread McParland, Irish Professional Conservators' and Restorers' Association, Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works of Ireland; Chris Woods, Chair, Photographic Materials Conservation Group; Roger Phippen, Chair, Association of British Picture Restorers.*

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