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NatSCA News

Title: View From the Chair

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Source: Brown, P. A. (2010). View From the Chair. *NatSCA News, Issue 20, 3*.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1364>

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View From The Chair

Seasonal Greetings from a snowy Natural History Museum. I have set down my experiences over the past few years of great change here at my Museum in this issue of NatSCA News. What have been your experiences of recent changes in the sector? Do you have a story to tell? Why not write about them and publish in NatSCA News.

The annual conference for 2011 will be held at The Great North Museum in Newcastle over two days on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th March. On Thursday, we are planning to study the very relevant subject of coping with cuts, looking at case studies and advice and suggestions in relation to managing budget cuts. This session will provide practical advice and ideas for coping with cuts to staff and funding for natural science collections, from how to apply for grants effectively to innovative money-saving ideas. On the Friday, we will have practical sessions on coping with collections deterioration including how to deal with Bynes disease, fluid preservation problems, mould, verdigris and pyrite decay. We will hold our AGM on the Thursday and we are looking for some dynamic new committee members for 2011. We do not require any previous experience but we do wish candidates to have an enthusiasm for natural science collections. If you would like to stand on the NatSCA committee please email clare.brown@leeds.gov.uk for more details. We hope to see you all in Newcastle!

Please send your booking forms to Tony Irwin at the Natural History Section, Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, The Shirehall, Market Avenue, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 3JQ; Direct line: 01603 493642, Fax: 01603 493623 & E-mail: tony.irwin@norfolk.gov.uk. Deadline for bookings is 11th February 2011. Please send your conference enquiries to our committee member in Newcastle, Nicola Newton at nicolajnewton@hotmail.com or to our NatSCA Secretary, Clare Brown at Leeds Museum Discovery Centre, Carlisle Road, Leeds, LS10 1LB, 0113 2141563, clare.brown@leeds.gov.uk.

Paul A Brown, 20.xii.2010