

NatSCA 209 AGM and Minutes

Thursday 2nd of May 2019

National Museum of Ireland, Dublin

Attendees: Paolo Viscardi (PV), Miranda Lowe (ML), Roberto Portela Miguez (RPM), Jack Ashby (JA), Maggie Reilly (MR), Clare Brown (CB), Rachel Jennings (RJ), Yvette Harvey (YH), Jennifer Gallichan (JG) and Isla Gladstone (IG)

1. Apologies for absence

David Gelsthorpe (DG), Jan Freedman (JF), Holly Morgenroth (HM), Donna Young (DY) Paul Brown (PB) and Lucy Mascord (LM)

2. Minutes of AGM Thursday 26th-27th of April, 2018.

This meeting was held at Leeds City Museum, and minutes were published in *Journal of Natural Science Collections* 6: 112-117. There were no objections from membership and these were signed as a correct record of that meeting by the chair and secretary.

Proposed: Rebecca Machin Seconded: Glenn Roadley

3. Chair's report

Welcome to the National Museum of Ireland, I'm glad you made it along to this year's AGM and conference on the theme of Dead Interesting: Secrets of Collections Success.

Since last year's conference in Leeds we have had a bit of a bumper crop of events, with the Skeleton Preparation Workshop in Portsmouth, run in conjunction with Historic England, a Caring for Natural Science Collections one day conference at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, a Finding Funding day at the World Museum Liverpool and a Care and Conservation of Insect Collections day in partnership with Zoe Simmons in Oxford - our thanks again to Oxford and to Clare Brown, Lucie Mascord, Jen Gallichan, and Donna Young, who made these events happen.

In the last year we have also applied for funding from ACE for a project to help build a network of support for museums with natural history collections but no specialists in partnership with the South West and North West Development teams. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful, but there have been some positive steps arising from subsequent discussion with other Subject Specialist Networks SSNs and the Arts Council.

To address some of the bigger picture issues surrounding the role of subject specialists in the museums sector we have been working with other Subject Specialist Networks (SSNs) and currently we sit on the steering group for the SSN Consortium. This is an important group, as it joins together the voices of around 40 groups similar to NatSCA, amplifying the message that museum collections need knowledge to unlock their potential - something that has been flagged in the Mendoza Review, but which has become unfashionable - as we have seen with the situation in Leicester.

Through the SSN Consortium we have an opportunity to influence sector bodies, and we have already helped inform the Art Fund and Arts Council England about how the wider museums sector is supported by specialist groups and how they can better support the work we do. This has resulted in a new funding strand from the Art Fund and we are currently in discussion with Kate Bellamy of Arts Council England about how SSNs might be better supported and how we can better support natural sciences collections. We hope this will lead to greater capacity for us to support you.

We have also been helping to support the natural sciences collections sector by liaising with Defra to help inform them of the needs of museums with scientific collections with regards to Brexit & CITES - as you heard this morning from Clare and myself.

There is still plenty to do and as I alluded to earlier, there are real and deeply concerning issues relating to collections at risk in the UK, with ongoing attrition of posts, but I like to think that Ireland offers a glimpse of a somewhat more hopeful future, as we are starting to recover from the catastrophic loss of curatorial roles that we faced a decade ago at the height of austerity. It will take a significant shift in political thinking for change to come, but that shift may come sooner than we might expect, with Brexit up for grabs and a significant buy-in to the role and relevance of scientific collections from Europe in the shape of the emerging DiSSCo programme.

Vote of thanks:

I would like to thank the National Museum of Ireland for making us so welcome this year - it's been fantastic to have NatSCA here, with an opportunity to build closer links with our colleagues just over the Border. My colleagues here in the Museum have been very helpful in making this meeting happen. I could be here all day thanking everyone who has been involved, but special thanks to Nigel, Matthew, Aidan, Eimear, Emma, Geraldine, Nieves and volunteers Erin and Antoinette.

Of course, it's not just colleagues in the NMI, but Colin Kelleher and the staff at the National Botanic Gardens and Martyn Linnie at Trinity College Dublin Zoological Museum who are helping to make this conference a great experience.

In a strange quirk of fate, the committee members who have been instrumental in pulling this conference together are all unable to actually make it. So I broadcast my thanks to Donna Young, David Gelsthorpe, Lucie Mascord, Jan Freedman and Holly Morgenroth. They're all on Twitter, so please share my appreciation for them, with them! Of course, the whole of the committee are essential in running NatSCA and I offer thanks to all.

I particularly want to thank people who are leaving the committee this year. Emma Louise Nicholls stepped into Isla's shoes as GCG rep while Isla was on maternity leave, but she's also done sterling work on the NatSCA blog over the last few years, sharing the goings on in the sector and keeping us in the loop. Rachel Jennings is another ex-blog manager who went on to take the mantle of Editor at our meeting in Derby. Rachel has done fantastic work on improving our policies and peer review process for the Journal, but is now stepping down to focus on a new and more demanding role. We are also saying goodbye to two of our long-standing committee members from the NHM - Roberto Portela Miguez and Miranda Lowe. Both have been on committee for as long or longer than me and they have performed a variety of roles and done a huge amount to make NatSCA the open, vibrant and welcoming organisation it is today. I want to thank them both for all their support and help since I joined the committee and particularly since I became Chair. Your absence will leave a void.

I would very much like to thank our volunteers, who keep things running, namely Lilly Wilks, Glenn Roadley, Jen Gallichan, Gina Allnatt, Sam Barnett, Melissa Viscardi and the absolutely indispensable Justine Aw.

Speaking of indispensability, I want to finish by offering my special thanks to Holly for keeping us financially stable and healthy.

Finally I want to thank you all for attending - I hope you enjoy the conference and your time here in Dublin!

4. Treasurer's Report

2018-2019 end of year

Accounts summary 01.02.2018 - 31.01.2019							
Income		2018-2019	2017-18	Expenditure		2018-2019	2017-18
Institutional Subscriptions				Running costs			
Previous Years	160		119	Committee Expenses	- 2,254		2,181
Current Year (bank)	1,708		1,651	Cons Sub Committee	-		314
Current Year (PP)							
Future Years	39		40	Postage	-		27
		1,907	1,810	Data Protection	- 35		35
Personal Subscriptions				Workshops			
Previous Years	55		60	Conservation	- 1,121		
Current Year	4,646		4,295	Funding	- 32		
Current Year (PP)				Skeleton	- 1,200		
Future Years	167		80			- 2,353	217
		4,869	4,435	Conference			
Workshop Income				2017			
Skeleton	1,300			2018			
Funding	52				- 7,241		
Conservation	2,997					- 7,241	7,056
		4,349	840	Publications & Information Provision			
Conference Income				2017 Journal print & postage			
2017	35		15,359		- 2,750		
2018	8,980			2018 Journal print & postage			
		9,015	15,359		-		1,910
Other				Projects			
Misc.	50			2017 Bill Pettit Fund			
Bank interest	27		5		- 1,200		733
		77	5	2018 Bill Pettit Fund			
TOTAL INCOME							
		20,217	22,449		-	1,200	733
				Other			
				Bursaries			
					- 307		315
				Website			
					- 360		400
				Stationery			
					-		
						- 667	715
				TOTAL EXPENDITURE			
					- 16,500		13,190
				Excess Income over Expenditure			
						3,717	

OUTSTANDING EXPENDITURE		
Cons Conference		
Kathryn Royce	£	75
Evangelia Kyriazi	£	75
Samuel Suarez Ferreira (Bainb	-£	55
Helena	£	75
Beth Hamilton	£	75
Anastasia van Gaver	£	75
Journal	£	1,916
		£ 2,236
EXPECTED INCOME		
Late Membership	£	299
	£	299
Adjusted balance 31.01.2019	£	39,176

Cash Flow Statement			
01.02.2018	Current a/c	24,993	
	Deposit a/c	£ 12,403	
	Paypal a/c		
			£ 37,396
31.01.2019	Current a/c	£ 18,683	
	Deposit a/c	£ 22,430	
	Paypal a/c	£ -	
			£ 41,113
	NB Adjusted balance		£ 39,176
			£ 1,780

Proposed: Nigel Monaghan Seconded: Karen Banton

Election of Ordinary Members of NatSCA committee:

Below are the nominees for NatSCA committee posts to serve from 2019 to 2021 which have reached the secretary.

The membership secretary has checked to see that those proposed, those proposing and those seconding are all present members of NatSCA.

Treasurer 2019-2021 Holly Morgenroth Exeter Museum

Proposed: Roberto Portela Seconded: Miranda Lowe

OM 2019-2021 Amanda Callaghan Cole Museum of Zoology

Proposed: Paolo Viscardi Seconded: Maggie Reilly

OM 2019-2021 Glenn Roadley Stoke-on-Trent Museums

Proposed: Gina Alinatt Seconded: Paolo Viscardi

OM 2019-2021 Lucy Mascord Lancashire County Council Museum Services

Proposed: Natalie Jones Seconded: Patricia Francis

OM 2019-2021 Isla Gladstone Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

Proposed: Claudia Hildebrandt Seconded: Emma Nicholls

OM 2019-2021 Jack Ashby University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge

Proposed: Liz Hide Seconded: Matt Lowe

OM 2019-2021 David Geltsthrope Manchester Museum

Proposed: Lindsey Loughtman Seconded: Rachel Webster

OM 2019-2021 **Kirsty Lloyd** **Natural History Museum, London**

Proposed: Jan Freedman Seconded: Kirsty Lloyd

As there are no contested posts, no election is required. There were no objections to the candidates, membership accepted and elected the listed people en block onto committee to serve for three years for the treasurer and two years for other committee members.

Proposed: Rachel Jennings Seconded: Laura McCoy

Already in post:

Chair 2017-2020 Paolo Viscardi National Museum of Ireland

Secretary 2018-2020 Yvette Harvey RHS, Surrey

OM 2018-2020 Jan Freedman Plymouth Museum

OM 2018-2020 Jennifer Gallichan Cardiff Museum

OM 2018-2020 Maggie Reilly Hunterian Museum, Glasgow

OM 2018-2020 Clare Brown Leeds City Museum

Rachel Jennings, Miranda Lowe and Roberto Portela Miguez agreed to step down from committee.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

2018 Summary

345 names on the database

8 FOC means potentially 337 paying members but there were, despite repeat reminders/demands, 33 non-renewals (31 personal and 2 institutional (FBA and Worcester). One of the personals has renewed for 2019 but the rest will be deleted from the database for 2019.

On the positive this means we ended the year with 52 institutional subs and 252 personal ie 304 paying members. This number therefore includes an impressive 63 new or returning members. There have been a number of retirements/resignations. Resignations mostly through people leaving the sector. I will flesh out this basic report for 2018 for the AGM report.

2019 Summary

Subs reminders have been sent out to all personal members – Justine contacts the Paypal payers and I contact those who pay by bank transfer, cheque or cash. Standing orders work tolerably well but there are a dozen or so members, who despite repeated reminders/begging have failed to update their SOs from £15 to £20.

Electronic invoices are sent out for institutional subs and MR is slowly (due to lack of time) working her way through those and hope to have all sent by the end of April.

Situation so far is this:

Institutional invoiced: 5

Institutional paid: 5 (different 5) but note already there are 8 new institutional members ie 13 institutional subs paid.

Personal paid: 147 including 19 new members so far. It is relatively early in the year so ok with this rate of payment.

Journal: mailing labels were supplied and sent to the printer/distributor. 230 hard copies were printed including some spares and those for copyright libraries. 106 members elected for no hard copy. Volume 6 has been uploaded to the website and a new password sent out to all paid up members for 2018 and to the new members for 2019. An email discussion has been had (PV,RJ, JA,HM,JF) about how to supply the electronic copy to those who don't want a hard copy. Downloading articles using the password is the default but probably isn't sufficient. 2 other suggestions emerged – send the pdf via WeTransfer(JF) or download the whole pdf using a password tba (JA). Need an action on this.

MR also had a discussion with Richard Chalmers from the printer (Dolman Scott, London) re any GDPR regs on supplying printed labels to them ie a third party. Been unable to get any clarity anywhere else so thought they might know. He consulted their distribution department who said they knew of no issue with printed (as opposed to electronically supplied labels.) They have a full GDPR policy on their website. AGM notification has been sent out to members. Note that Google Groups has been playing up a bit recently occasionally not allowing MR to add batches of new members. It also says it's changing stuff in May. MR may need assistance from the digitally literate amongst our number on this.

6. Editorial Report

Rachel Jennings confirmed that she stepped down from editorial role and that Jan Freedman currently looks after this.

RJ thanked all those that supported her in that role.

PV thanked RJ for delivering a high-quality journal and for the work done to date to improve and deliver it.

7. Motion to dissolve NatSCA as charity and set up as CIO

CB on behalf of committee asked members to vote on whether they are willing or not to accept the new constitution, set up a new NatSCA CIO and dissolve NatSCA as a charity.

The proposal was confirmed by more than a 2/3 majority of the personal members attending. A total of 36 voted in favour, so the motion was passed

8. Conservation Report

Conservation group

The meeting of the 27th March 2019 was cancelled. We will rearrange.

Two members of the group would like me to readdress the expense issue with the committee. LM reiterated the committee's initial response.

LM has a few suggestions for how the group might continue in light of this issue. It may be preferable to delay discussing this until the next non-AGM meeting.

1. Change set-up of meetings
2. Designated fund for expenses
3. Reduce group size

National Trust Meeting 11th March 2019

Prior to meeting LM sent an email to Katy Lithgow Introducing NatSCA and the conservation group, and outlining how they may support their activities. LM provided the minutes and email summary of previous group discussions about the use of non-pc materials in natural history conservation.

To summarise the meeting;

- The decision was made that non-pc/untested materials should not be used in the conservation of natural history materials. Namely Vanish carpet cleaner and Chemical Metal.
- Brief comments were made to update NT policies relating to radioactive materials, mercury and arsenic.
- The natural sciences section of the National Trust Manual of Housekeeping is being updated by Simon Moore.
- LM encouraged the NT to refer to specialist sources (i.e. NatSCA, GCG other institutions and the conservation group) to help develop their guidelines. Unfortunately the response was apathetic.

Icon

Icon 2019 in Belfast (12th-14th June 2019). Trade fair stands are £375 for charities and includes two complementary tickets to the conference (note these cost £475 per person for members).

There are NO natural science presentations at the conference. This is hugely discouraging as people did apply. A trade stand may be an opportunity to raise awareness. There are options to leave a display or pop-up instead. Cost on application.

9. Any Other Business

Jack Ashby reminded attendees to fill in evaluation forms.
Jennifer Gallichan requested contributions for the NatSCA blog.

10. Vote of Thanks

11. Next Committee meeting

To be confirmed but options are Brighton and Leiden.

Closed at 14:20 pm 02/05/2019