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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:

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