

NatSCA AGM 2021

1.50pm, 27th May 2021

Zoom

AGENDA



1. Apologies for absence
2. Matters arising from Minutes of AGM Thursday 14th May 2020, held on Zoom as published in *Journal of Natural Science Collections* **8**: 73-83 (2021)
3. Reports:
 - Secretary's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Membership Secretary's Report
 - Editor's Report
 - Conservation Report
 - Chair's Report
4. Election of NatSCA committee:

Trustees form a steering committee with obligations to ensure NatSCA meets our mission, ensure good governance and conform to Charity Commission regulations.

Below are the nominees for NatSCA trustee positions standing for election at this AGM. The membership secretary has confirmed that those proposed, those proposing and those seconding are all current personal members of NatSCA. No term will exceed three years without re-election.

Nominee	Position	Proposed	Seconded
Holly Morgenroth	Treasurer	Alison Hopper Bishop	Maggie Reilly

Below are the nominated candidates standing for Ordinary Member positions on the committee:

Nominee	Position	Proposed	Seconded
Jack Ashby	Ordinary Member	Clare Brown	Mathew Lowe

David Gelsthorpe	Ordinary Member	Rachel Webster	Dmitri Logunov
Lucie Mascord	Ordinary Member	Natalie Jones	Emilia Kingham
Laura McCoy	Ordinary Member	Clare Brown	Simon Moore
Glenn Roadley	Ordinary Member	Olivia Beavers	Lukas Large
Laura Soul	Ordinary Member	Freya Stannard	Kirsty Lloyd

There are six vacancies for Ordinary Members and six nominees.

5. Any other Business
6. Vote of thanks
7. Next AGM venue
8. Close

REPORTS

Secretary's Report: Yvette Harvey

Nine Zoom committee meetings have been held since the last AGM. Trustees have faced challenges at work and home over the past year due to the global pandemic, affecting meeting attendance. Please see below (- denotes special leave):

	18.vi. 2020	30.vii. 2020	27.viii. 2020	24.ix. 2020	29.x. 2020	17.xii. 2020	21.i. 2021	25.ii. 2021	22.iv. 2021
Jack Ashby	y	y	y	y	Y	y	y	Y	y
Clare Brown			y	y		y		Y	y
Amanda Callaghan		y			Y		y		
Jan Freedman					Y				
Jennifer Gallichan	y		y	y	Y	y	y	Y	y
David Gelsthorpe	y	y	y	y	Y	y	y	Y	y
Isla Gladstone	y	y	y	y	Y	y	y	Y	y
Yvette Harvey	y	y	y	y		y	y	y	y
Kirsty Lloyd	-	-	-	-	-	-	y	y	y
Lucie Mascord	y	y			Y		y	y	y
Holly Morgenroth	y			y	Y	y	y	y	y
Bethany Palumbo	y	y	y	y		y	y	y	
Glenn Roadley	y			y	Y	y	y	y	y
Paolo Viscardi	y			y	Y		y	y	
Donna Young	y	y	y	y	Y	y	-	-	-


Treasurer's Report: Holly Morgenroth

Accounts summary 01.02.2020 - 31.01.2021			
Income	2020-2021	2019-20	
Institutional Subscriptions			
Previous Years	80	239	
Current Year (bank)	2,624	1,942	
Current Year (PP)		39	
Future Years	40	-	
	2,744	2,220	
Personal Subscriptions			
Previous Years	64	180	
Current Year	5,087	3,817	
Current Year (PP)		68	
Future Years	113	60	
	5,265	4,125	
Workshop Income			
Entomology	75	1,645	
Basics 2020	1,279	780	
		2,144	
	1,354	4,569	
Conference Income			
2019	780	10,992	
2018	-	22	
	780	11,014	
Donations			
Donations	19		
	19		
Other			
Misc.	-	94	
Bank interest	17	45	
	17	139	
TOTAL INCOME	10,179	22,067	
Expenditure			
2020-2021			
2019-20			
Running costs			
Committee Expenses	- 537	- 4,244	
Website	- 867	- 459	
Stationery	- 73	- 5	
Postage	-	-	
Data Protection	- 35	- 35	
	- 1,512	- 4,743	
Workshops			
Conservation	-	- 209	
Entomology	-	- 1,075	
Basics 2020	- 437	- 582	
Funding	-	- 786	
	- 437	- 2,652	
Conference			
2019	- 200	- 8,302	
	- 200	- 8,302	
Publications & Information Provision			
2018 Journal print & postage		- 1,916	
2019 Journal print & postage	- 1,748	- 20	
	- 1,748	- 1,936	
Charitable			
2019 Bill Pettit Fund	- 1,840	- 1,105	
Bursaries	-	- 500	
Sector support	-	- 100	
	- 1,840	- 1,705	
Other			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	- 5,737	- 19,339	

OUTSTANDING EXPENDITURE		
Bill P		£ 3,524
Journal		£ 1,600
		£ 5,124
EXPECTED INCOME		
		£ -

Cash Flow Statement			
01.02.2020	Current a/c	£ 21,259	
	Deposit a/c	£ 22,475	
	Paypal a/c	£ 107	
			£43,842
31.01.2021	Current a/c	£ 10,811	
	Deposit a/c	£ 37,492	
	Paypal a/c		
			£48,303
NB Adjusted balance			£43,179
			£ 663

Charity Commission report for signing after AGM approval

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Natural Sciences Collections Association		1098156		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date 01.02.2020	To	Period end date 31.01.2021	
Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Institutional subscriptions	2,744	-	-	2,744	2,220
Personal subscriptions	5,265	-	-	5,265	4,125
Workshops	1,354	-	-	1,354	4,569
Conferences	780	-	-	780	11,014
Bank Interest	17	-	-	17	45
Misc	-	-	-	-	94
Donations	19	-	-	19	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	10,179	-	-	10,179	22,067
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10,179	-	-	10,179	22,067
A3 Payments					
Running costs	1,512	-	-	1,512	4,743
Workshops	437	-	-	437	2,652
Conferences	200	-	-	200	8,302
Publications & Information provision	1,748	-	-	1,748	1,936
Bill Pettit Memorial Fund	1,840	-	-	1,840	1,105
Bursaries	-	-	-	-	500
Sector support	-	-	-	-	100
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	5,737	-	-	5,737	19,338
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	5,737	-	-	5,737	19,338
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,442	-	-	4,442	2,729
A5 Transfers between funds	- 5,000	5,000	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	43,842	-	-	43,842	41,113
Cash funds this year end	43,284	5,000	-	48,284	43,842

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		43,284	5,000	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	43,284	5,000	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details			
	Bill Petit 2019	unrestricted	3,524	
	Journal 2020	unrestricted	1,600	
			-	
			-	
		-		
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval

Notes:

- £5,000 moved from unrestricted to restricted to demonstrate commitment to Bill Petit award 2021.

- This financial year looks very different to those in the recent past but not unexpected for what has happened in 2020. Committee travel expenses greatly reduced, digital costs such as zoom for meetings and conferences greatly increased as you would expect.
- We are carefully considering how to use reserves going forwards.
- The anticipated change in bank account in 2020 was made impossible by HSBC's Covid ways of working. Anticipating new account by end of June 2021 at the very latest.

Membership Secretary's Report: Clare Brown

1st February 2020 - 31st January 2021

For 2020 the membership statistics are as follows:

- 362 members (56 institutional, 306 personal)
- We attracted 123 new members this year.
- 43 members did not renew their membership
- Around 85% of our membership is UK-based, we also have members in 18 other countries.
- 180 members choose to receive a hardcopy of the journal
- There were 13 free/complimentary mailings of the journal either for legal/copyright reasons or networking (British Library LDO, British Library CRO, GCG, Smithsonian Institute Library Gift and Exchanges, ACE, SPNHC, MA, Zoological Record, plus five copies to Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries).

I must stress that these figures are as accurate as I am able to produce at the moment as there are various outstanding issues that may slightly affect them. However, these are a fair representation of the NatSCA numbers as they stood at the end of January 2021.

A truly strange year has seen a sharp increase in the NatSCA membership numbers. This was mainly due to our online conference in November where members enjoyed free access. We had nearly 70 new members join us in the two months running up to the conference on 19th November.

It has been a privilege to take over from Maggie Reilly as membership secretary this year and I would like to thank her for all her help and patient support as I find my feet. I would also like to thank Justine Aw, Glenn Roadley and Holly Morgenroth who have all been very tolerant and helpful this year.

Editor's Report: Jan Freedman

Volume 8 of the Journal of Natural Science Collections was published in February this year. Members who have requested the hard copy should have received it by now, if you are still waiting, please contact the secretary for a copy. The Volume is also available online and members should have received the password. Again, if anyone hasn't got the password for the online Volume 8, please contact myself.

We are working on a shorter Volume 9 which will be freely available online in the next few months. It includes articles from the November NatSCA conference 'Decolonising Natural Science Collections'. Articles for this Volume are either with reviewers or back with authors for revisions. I am pleased that it will include relevant and interesting articles for our sector as a whole.

The deadline for Volume 10 will be the end of July 2021, so please do contact me if you would like to submit an article about collections work, conservation, or engagement (editor@natsca.org). Volume 10 is scheduled to be published in both print and online versions in January 2022.

Thank you to the Editorial Board for all their assistance in finding peer reviewers: Rob Huxley, Lucie Mascord, Bethany Palumbo, Donna Young and Paolo Viscardi. A special thanks to committee members Jack Ashby and David Gelsthorpe for their support with the articles for Volume 9. Numerous reviewers have assisted and spent time to carefully go through the articles and make recommendations for changes. I am extremely grateful to them for all the time they spend on all the articles for this Journal.

The Notes and Comments online articles have been slower this year, perhaps due to furlough and redeployment as a result of Covid. Please do get in touch if you are interested in either submitting an article to the Journal or a more informal article to the NatSCA Notes & Comments.

Conservation Report: Lucie Mascord

In 2020 the activity of the conservation working group abated somewhat with the challenges imposed by the impact of Covid-19 on our working routines, an experience shared by all.

In January 2021 we ran the #NatSCAConservation Twitter conference, with 14 presentations running over 3 days. Our first experience with a twitter conference was a great success, and the platform allowed us to connect further than we had before. We welcomed international presenters including the Estonian Museum of Natural History and the Fundación de Historia Natural Félix de Azara in Argentina. It also gave us the opportunity to highlight the work from conservation students with an interest in natural history. We plan to publish these talks on the blog in due course.

During this year, work has also started to look at how NatSCA can advocate for the professional conservation sector in an effort to ensure we are promoting the highest standards in natural history conservation. This work will progress through 2021.

Many thanks to the conservation working group; Arianna Bernucci, Vicen Carrió ACR, Julian Carter, Gill Comerford, Natalie Jones, Nigel Larkin, Simon Moore ACR, Bethany Palumbo ACR, Victoria Purewal ACR, and Emilia Kingham, who co-organised the #NatSCA twitter conference.

Chair's Report: Isla Gladstone

NatSCA has worked hard over the past year to adapt our activity to the context of the global pandemic. A Risk Register compiled in June 2020 highlighted the clear need to translate the year's programme to virtual, but also to continue to deliver good member benefits to ensure our sustainability, and low cost content for accessibility. A focus for this has been the delivery of virtual and Twitter conferences which were free for members. These brought steep learning curves for us, but also high attendance figures, international reach and rich legacy content. We have also adapted committee working to virtual, meeting monthly over Zoom.

Despite trustees facing challenging circumstances during the pandemic we have also delivered NatSCA's journal (see Editor's report), the Bill Pettit Award, regular blogs, web content and social media, advice and advocacy, as well as the ongoing running of NatSCA. Unfortunately it has not been possible to deliver training this year due to capacity, but this will be a focus for next year.

Our one-day virtual **conference** on 'Decolonising natural science collections' in November 2020 brought record figures of up to 250 attendees, with 52% not having attended a NatSCA event before and 11% international bookings. The conference was opened by a keynote talk from Dr Miranda Lowe and Subhadra Das updating their landmark paper 'Nature Read in Black and White' – published by NatSCA in 2018 and uniquely accessed over 6,000 times to date. The conference team and speakers worked hard to translate content from our cancelled May 2020 conference to digital, and this has had good legacy including through uptake on the Museums Association's Decolonising pages. Decolonising, anti-racist practice and equality, access and inclusion will be an ongoing focus for NatSCA.

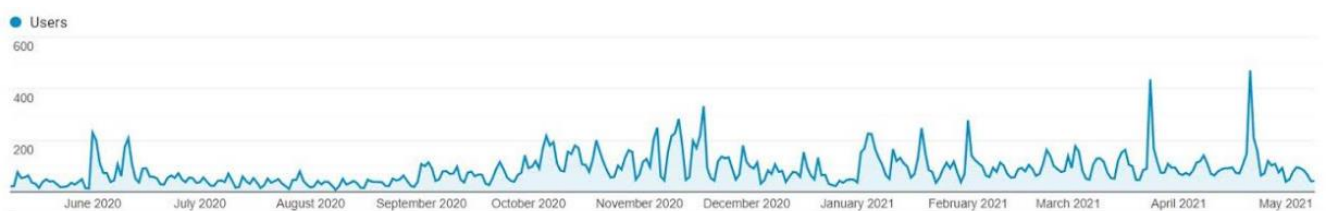
We also delivered our first ever **Twitter conference** (see Conservation Report), and are pleased to be bringing you the second part of our cancelled 2020 conference in May 2021, this time with a focus on environmental crisis, and augmented with some fantastic virtual tours and lightening talks.

Partly as a result of reduced spend on committee travel we have been able to increase our **Bill Pettit Award** for this year. Co-ordinator David Gelsthorpe shares: 'NatSCA was delighted to be able to support three natural science collections projects for a record total of £5,675 in 2021. The projects that support collections care, access and engagement are: Conservation of a Bateman Ichthyosaur specimen at Sheffield Museums Trust, River Otter Beaver Taxidermy at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter and improving storage and accessibility of the Marvellous Molluscs at the University of Aberdeen. The challenges of the COVID crisis have meant that the two projects funded in 2020 have been delayed, but are likely to restart shortly.' Committee will be continuing to meet mostly virtually,

reducing running costs which we can then pass on as benefits or savings to members.

We have seen good use of our **website**, with Glenn Roadley reporting we have had over 24,500 users and over 53,000 unique page views. Our most viewed content has been on the importance of natural science collections, decolonising (with over 5,000 unique page views of Das and Lowe’s 2018 abstract page this year alone, and over 4,750 for our decolonising conference pages), jobs, journal/publications and collections care/conservation. Users were mostly from the UK and US but also from 50 countries internationally. There has been a sustained increase in website use since around September 2020.

Website data – users May 2020-21:



Our **blog** editor Jen Gallichan shares: ‘The blog is continuing to gain readers, with the number of visits to our pages, and average number per day both higher compared to previous years. Total visits to blog site 2020 = 10,383 (compared to 7,609 in 2019; 36% increase). We are already on 6,111 for the first 5 months of 2021. We average between 30-40 posts per year.

As you would imagine, the highest number of visitors come from the UK, although we are attracting a good audience from our colleagues in the USA, Australia, and parts of Europe. 2020 saw increased engagement from our colleagues in Brazil, as well as increased numbers of views from colleagues in Canada, Finland, The Netherlands and Ireland.

The most viewed blog posts focus on three principal themes: decolonisation, work during Covid and conservation/collections work. Some of the most read blogs in 2020/21 are the papers and review of our decolonising conference, and decolonising-related blogs about the untold collectors behind the so-called hero collections of Wallace, the botanical collections in RHS Wisley, the East India Company museum and the trophy head collections in Great North Museum: Hancock. Our readers continue to enjoy blogs with a conservation focus, including Paolo Viscardi’s miraculous revival of a frog in ‘Resurrection: 101’ which has been viewed 1,365 times.’

Blog data - visits to page per month (not incl. May)

Month	2020-21	2019-20
November	1573	513

December	1146	600
January	1685	718
February	1523	416
March	1360	552
April	1397	1014

Blog data - coverage

Country	2019	Country	2020
UK	6593	UK	7050
USA	2036	USA	2966
The Netherlands	343	The Netherlands	609
Australia	317	Finland	525
Germany	301	France	405
India	295	Australia	394
Ireland	237	Germany	377
France	220	Ireland	327
Canada	215	Canada	300
Finland	133	Brazil	257

We have continued to develop good relationships with the Natural History Museum London's national programmes and other key UK natural science institutions. This includes **advocacy** for the integration of wider UK natural science collections within emerging ideas around a UK Distributed System of Scientific Collections (DiSSCo) programme. We have also continued to develop our international **partnerships**, and now have a nominated SPNHC liaison (Bethany Palumbo) and will be partnering with SPNHC and the Biodiversity Heritage Library for our 2022 conference in Edinburgh.

We have written to support two **collections at risk**, and are considering how we can more proactively monitor and support wider collections, including those with no in house subject specialist. We have also supported three research grant applications and two nominations for awards.

Our **User Survey** 2020 was completed by 74 users, 82% based in the UK. This highlighted the very high value NatSCA's users place on community, networking, access to expertise and knowledge sharing. Users also asked for more training opportunities (including practical and non-specialist training), virtual events, and for NatSCA to improve networking with sector networks. We have made changes in response to the survey already, for example by providing more in depth information about our Bill Pettit grant. We'll be publishing the results and using them to help focus our activity for 2021-22.

Thank you to all of our trustees for their hard work in delivering NatSCA's activity over a challenging year, but one where we have adapted and pulled together. I would like to thank our Secretary (especially for adapting to monthly meetings), Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Journal Editor and Conservation Representative for the fantastic work highlighted in their reports, and to highlight some of the work of trustees not yet named. A special thanks to Glenn Roadley for his leadership in virtual conferences, supported by Donna Young, Jack Ashby, Justine Aw and the wider conference team; Bethany Palumbo for writing up our user survey; and to Kirsty Lloyd for new ideas about supporting collections at risk.

Our training lead Amanda Callaghan will be stepping down this year due to work pressures, and I would like to thank her for valued contributions. We have a couple of new recruits compiling our monthly newsletter 'Digital Digest', many thanks to Lily Nadine Wilks, Olivia Beavers and Glenn Roadley. Huge thanks also to our conservation working group, editorial group, and volunteers, and our wider community for all your support and input. We look forward to an interesting year ahead.