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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

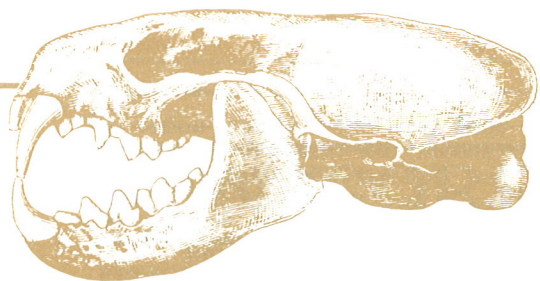
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NEWSLETTER

Vol 5 No 2

AGM 89 DUNDEE

19th and 20th May



BIOLOGICAL CURATORS GROUP
SEMINAR AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DUNDEE, McMANUS GALLERIES

19th and 20th May 1989

- 9.30-9.45am Welcome to Dundee. Adam Ritchie, Curator, Dundee Museums and Art Galleries
- 9.45-10.30am The Environment and the Specimen. Jo Sage, Natural History Conservator, Dundee Museums and Art Galleries.
- 10.30-11.00am Coffee
- 11.00-11.45am Monitoring and Controlling the Environment. Graeme Scott, Conservator, Dundee Museums and Art Galleries.
- 11.45-12.30am Preventative Methods in Vertebrate Preparation. Phil Howard, Natural History Conservator, Scottish Museums Council, Edinburgh.
- 12.30-2.00pm Lunch
- 2.00-2.45pm Conservation of the University College, London, Teaching Collections. Rosina Down, University College, London.
- 2.45-3.30pm Disaster Planning. John McIntyre, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh.
- 3.30-4.00pm Tea followed by discussion
- 4.30-5.00pm Annual General Meeting for BCG members only.

The Natural History displays and collections are based at the nearby Barrack Street Museum. This building will remain open until 6.00pm. Members of the Natural History staff will be on hand to show delegates the non-public areas and answer queries.

7.00-8.30pm Dinner in the restaurant of the Tay Hotel, Whitehall Crescent, Dundee (Cost £7.50)

8.30pm approx. 'Beetle-down results so far' a short, illustrated progress report by Derek Whiteley followed by an informal discussion session on current topics and BCG campaigns.

Please note

- 1 Batches of Beetle-down leaflets (new edition) will be available FREE at the AGM.
- 2 A BCG Shop will be selling Beetle-down.... merchandise and BCG publications.
- 3 There is a possibility that up to three new BCG leaflets will be available, and possibly the new Journal too! No promises, but we will do our best.

Excursions for Saturday 20th May 1989

As the Tayside area is well-endowed with a wide range of habitats from sea-shore to mountain top, a number of possible field excursions are detailed below.

It would be helpful, when booking for the trip, if you would indicate your first and second choice of trip. This is to enable suitable transport to be arranged according to demand.

- 1 Perth Museum and Kinnoull Hill

Perth, the 'Gateway to the Highlands', is situated at the Tay's uppermost point of tidal influence. The Museum has extensive natural history collections and its display gained second place in the 1985 Scottish Museum of the Year Award.

Kinnoull Hill overlooks the town. As well as panoramic views, there are mixed woodland and grassland with the opportunity of seeing Red Squirrel and Roe Deer.

2 Balgavies Loch and Montrose Museum

Balgavies owes its importance to its plant life and its winter wildfowl, although grebes and many species of duck also breed there. The loch is edged by mixed woodland, willow carr and reed beds. The area is a Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve. A hide overlooks the water as well as marginal marsh and woodland. Otters are known to visit the loch.

Montrose is the base for the Angus District Museums Service. Although the collections are not extensive, the displays nicely depict the local habitats.

A stop-over at the Lurgies - an area of reed beds on the western side of Montrose Basin - should show local waders and wildfowl.

3 Craig-a-Barns, Dunkeld, via Loch of the Lowes

Overlooking the town and the River Tay, Craig-a-Barns has a mix of habitats including oakwood, mixed woodland, moorland and open water. One of the few Scottish herds of Fallow Deer live in this area as do Roe Deer and Red Squirrel. The Mill Dam Loch provides refuge for wildfowl. By stopping off at Butterstone Loch and the better-known Loch of the Lowes there may be a chance to see the local ospreys.

4 Seaton Cliffs, Arbroath, to Auchmithie

The old red sandstone that forms the cliffs has been sculptured into some spectacular features. The most obvious inhabitants of the area are the auks - including puffins - and gulls, eiders, waders. Two species of seal and common porpoise may also be seen. There is also quite a variety of plants and associated insects.

Part of the area is protected by the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

PLEASE BRING SUITABLE CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND PACKED LUNCH.

Excursions will start at 10.00am and return between 4 and 6.00pm.

Notice of Annual General Meeting - 1989

The Annual General Meeting of the Biology Curators' Group will be held at 4.00pm on Friday 19th May at Dundee Museum.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th April 1988 at Bolton
- 3 Chairman's report
- 4 Secretary's report
- 5 Editor's report
- 6 Treasurer's reports 1987 and 1988
- 7 Election of officers and committee
- 8 Date and place of next meeting

- 9 Any other business (any business under this heading should be notified in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least four weeks before the meeting).

Nominations are invited for officers and members of the committee.

Present position: (year of election in brackets)

- Chairman: Steve Garland
- Secretary: Derek Whiteley
- Treasurer: Adam Wright
- Membership Secretary: Adam Wright
- Editor: John Mathias
- Special Publications Editor: Gordon Reid
- Committee:

- Steve Moran (1986) retires
- Howard Mendel (1986) retires
- Phil Collins (1986) retires
- Rosina Down (1987)
- Clem Fisher (1987)
- Colin Plant (1987)
- Kathie Way (1988)
- Willie Milne (1988)
- Jerry Lee (1988)

All officers are willing to stand for re-election.

The committee has the power to co-opt. Present co-opted member is Di Smith (GCG representative).

The committee consists of nine posts; three members retire at the AGM.

Nominations for officers and committee members must be supported by two members of the Group. Nominations, in writing, should reach the Secretary at least two weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

Derek Whiteley (BCG Secretary)
City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield S10 2TP

Autumn Meeting
North Devon, October 1989

Make a note in your diary now! October 26-29th, BCG Seminar in North Devon. Jerry Lee has organised an excellent meeting based at Hallsannery Field Centre, with an emphasis on the care and curation of marine and microscopy collections.

The main events will take place on Friday 27th October, with OPTIONAL extras for those wishing to stay for the weekend, including:

- a visit to the new Museum of North Devon, Barnstable;
- Braunton Burrows National Nature Reserve;
- Natural History Book Service at Totnes;
- and even perhaps Lundy!

Further details in the next Newsletter. Any further suggestions or offers to speak on the above topics will be welcome. Please contact BCG Secretary or Jerry Lee at Museum of North Devon, The Square, Barnstaple EX32 8LN.