



NatSCA

Natural Sciences Collections Association

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NatSCA News

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Meet the Committee!

Some of you may have heard about the NatSCA committee, but what do we do? How can you get involved?

We do a lot behind the scenes, including, organising training and seminars, and the yearly conferences, advising colleagues about legislation relating to collections, supporting collections at risk, and providing great opportunities to meet other colleagues.

The NatSCA AGM provides the opportunity for NatSCA members to join the committee. A nominations form is sent out before the AGM, and please feel free to be nominated for any of the committee roles.

Below is a small bit of information about the different roles on the committee, so you know what we do! Please feel free to contact any of us if you were interested in any of the committee posts.

Chair: Paul Brown

Senior Curator, Entomology, Natural History Museum, London



I am the Senior Curator, Entomology Department, at the Natural History Museum which involves curation, conservation and documentation of several insect groups, slide and spirit collections and associated databases. I have been working at the NHM since 1977, and I am particularly interested in the preparation, conservation and management of microscope slide collections. As NatSCA chair, I ensure that our organisation runs smoothly and monitor the state of the Museum Industry specifically concerning the interests of our membership. I write letters of concern about collections and museum staff 'at risk' and represent NatSCA Subject Specialist Network at meetings around the country.

Secretary: Clare Brown

Curator, Natural Science, Leeds City Museum & Art Gallery



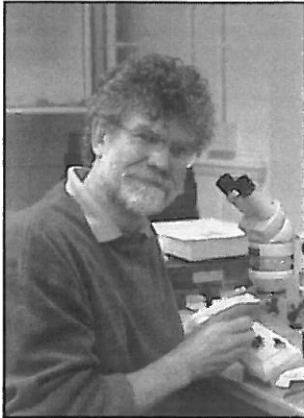
A biology curator for nearly ten years now (time flies!), I followed a straight route through a biology bachelors, a museum studies masters and plenty of volunteer work to posts at the NHM, Portsmouth Museums and finally Leeds.

I look after Leeds's ~800,000 natural science specimens - from lichens to lemurs - with responsibility for nh collections care, education, displays and loans.

For NatSCA, I arrange our committee meetings (and take the minutes) as well as involving myself in any NatSCA projects that sound interesting or worthwhile. I've really enjoyed getting to the bottom of some of the legislation affecting our collections - although there's a long way to go - and I like organising some of the training workshops: particularly if the topic is something I've always wanted to know more about.

Treasurer: Tony Irwin

Senior Curator of Natural History, Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service



I am responsible for the day to day care and use of the Natural History Collections, including documentation, conservation, acquisition, disposal, display, interpretation, enquiries and access. The role is both strategic and hands-on. The hands-on bit is what keeps me going. Like many NH curators, I couldn't cope if everything was admin. I share the work with the Geology Curator, Dave Waterhouse - and a team of volunteers.

My role in NatSCA is that of Treasurer - looking after the Association's finances and making sure that bookings for workshops and conferences go smoothly! It's an interesting job - not least of all because we come from different backgrounds where budgets vary ten thousand-fold. Balancing everyone's expectations and spending styles is much more difficult than balancing the books!

Membership Secretary: Maggie Reilly

Curator of Zoology, Hunterian Museum, Glasgow



I run the Zoology Section of the Hunterian which is a University Museum with collections in art, medicine, technology, coins, natural sciences, archaeology, ethnography and history. My job involves me in all aspects of running a museum – collections management, curation, conservation, collections research, exhibitions, live animal displays, University and other teaching, public understanding of science programmes, general management and admin, and fundraising.... I am the membership secretary for NatSCA, a post I have held for several years. I maintain the email distribution list and occasionally send out news, job ads, enquiries etc that might not get round everyone on JISMAIL. The general things I enjoy about NatSCA are knowing there are likeminded people out there with whom you can meet up, exchange information and news, learn useful stuff, solve problems, commiserate when things aren't going well and celebrate when they do! As membership secretary, I like doing an essential 'behind the scenes' job to keep the Association running.

Editor: Jan Freedman

Acting Keeper of Natural History, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery



I have been working in museums since 2002, and began as an Assistant Keeper of Natural History in 2006. My job currently involves working on the collections, exhibitions, working with primary and secondary schools, supporting university lectures, and lots more!

I am currently the Editor for *NatSCA News*, which involves contacting colleagues about articles, editing the articles and getting *NatSCA News* together using Microsoft Publisher. Being on the committee is a great way to keep in touch with what is happening in the museum sector, and a fun way to meet new colleagues and get new ideas together!

Assistant Editor: David Notton

Senior Curator, Hymenoptera, Natural History Museum



I assist the Editor, submitting authors and external guest reviewers in reviewing selected articles for publication in NatSCA News. This is to ensure that they are as well presented, accessible and accurate as we can make them, maintain the quality and status of NatSCA news and to attract high quality copy. NatSCA is a great publication because it can combine popular newsy articles and practical technical papers of lasting value. It's a fun job because I can keep up to date on a wide range of topics!

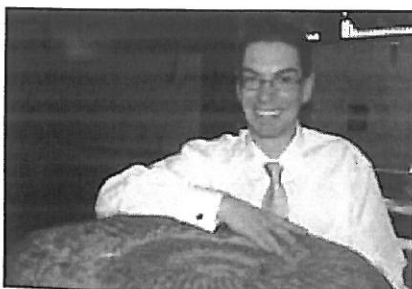
Conservation and ICON Rep: Simon Moore

I have worked in the conservation of biological specimens since 'A' levels (1966/7) and has specialised in fluid preservation and regularly runs courses in this discipline and other natural science-related disciplines. I worked at the Natural History Museum between 1968 and 1991 and Hampshire County Council Museums Service from 1991 to 2009 and has since worked freelance.

I was a founder member of the UKIC natural sciences conservation group in 1993 and of the independent natural sciences conservation group 2 years after and was chair of the NatSCA formation steering committee.

Throughout, I have been involved into the improvement of natural science specimen conservation technology and tried to become involved further in as much of this area as possible with similar bodies throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada.

My work on the committee has always been to ensure that conservation issues and knowledge have their fair share and to represent conservation viewpoints and promote as much hands-on knowledge advancement as possible.

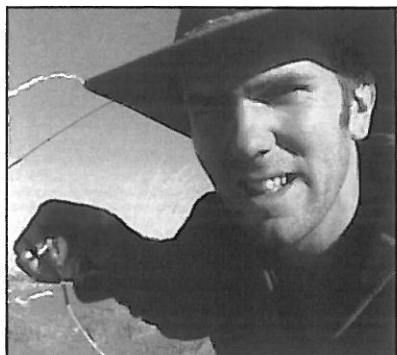
Geological Curators Group Contact: Leslie Noe

I am the NatSCA representative for the Geological Curators' Group (GCG), which involves attending both sets of committee meetings and ensuring communication and liaison between the two curatorial groups. The role is an essential one, ensuring close ties between the two groups, and nicely complements my broad interests in Natural History. I am currently curating the Harland collection in the University of Cambridge. This internationally important collection, consists of at least 60,000 rocks, fossils and minerals collected from the arctic archipelago of Svalbard over more than 100 years. The work is in preparation for formal handover to the Sedgwick, the Earth Science museum within the University.

Committee Members:

Jack Ashby

Learning and Access Manager, Grant Museum of Zoology



I run the Learning and Access programmes at the Grant Museum of Zoology, UCL. My main interest is public engagement in the natural sciences through any format that might get people in contact with our collections and discipline. In the past I have worked at a science centre and headed up learning activities across archaeology, art and geology collections. Working at a university museum, a large part of my work involves enhancing Higher Education teaching and research in the museum, and linking the UCL community with our informal learning programmes.

At NatSCA I tend to get more involved in the public engagement side of things, but my museum interests are broad. One of the best things about being on committee is influencing national agendas and even changing the law. With a passion and background in zoology it's great to work closely with similarly driven people.

Kate Andrew

Principal Heritage Officer of Herefordshire Heritage Service



I run the county museum service across five sites and a mobile museum. As the only geologist on the staff, I retain curatorial responsibility for a small but historically interesting geology collection.

I was a founder member of the group and for many years its Treasurer, but has been an ordinary committee member for the last few years. I am currently leading a Heritage Lottery Fund supported Skills for the Future project that will see 5 biology curators trained over the next two years in Leeds, Manchester and Hereford. NatSCA is supporting the project financially and several members are involved in the project group. Its good to see ideas and concerns raised by NatSCA turning into action.

Paolo Viscardi

Deputy Keeper, Natural History, Horniman Museum



I'm Deputy Keeper of Natural History at the Horniman Museum, where I take responsibility for the curation and interpretation of the Osteology and Palaeontology collections. As an extension of my job I am involved in communicating about natural sciences through my blog Zygoma and through AskABiologist.org.uk. I am also a member of the NatSCA committee, which provides a valuable opportunity to support the wider natural science community. Working with NatSCA also enables me to engage with peers to gain and share knowledge and experience about the sector.

Clare Valentine

Head of Zoology, Natural History Museum, London



I am Head of Zoology Collections at the Natural History Museum, London, where I am responsible for planning and overseeing the care, maintenance, enhancement, administration and provision of access to the estimated 28 million zoology specimens, and the work collections management staff. My role is to act as liaison between NatSCA and SPNHC, the US-based Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections for which I am a Member at Large on the Council to add a European focus.

Clare Mellish

Curator, Fossil Arthropods, Natural History Museum, London



I am the Curator of fossil arthropods and graptolites, at the Natural History Museum, London. I have worked in the conservation department, and subsequently a research assistant investigating trilobites. My main interest is working with trilobites, but I also carry out research into fossil crab collections, and look after the amber collections.

Miranda Lowe

Acting Collections Manager, Lower Invertebrates, Natural History Museum



I am Senior Curator (and Acting Collections Manager) in the Zoology Department at The Natural History Museum, London and have served in the department since the early 1990's. I specifically manage the Crustacea collections as well a team of curators responsible for the Lower Invertebrate collections. 'Discovery' and 'Challenger' collections, Darwin's barnacles and the Blaschka marine invertebrate glass models, are amongst some of the historical collections under my care. I am also a member of a number of societies including The Barbados Museum and Historical Society and currently serve on the committees of NatSCA and The Society for the History of Natural History. I am a Science & Engineering Ambassador for the organisation STEMNET.

In the past I organised the NatSCA Adhesives seminar held at the NHM London. Being a committee member of NatSCA has allowed me to actively get involved in issues about Museum collections and their future, which is an important part of my professional career development.