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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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News

New Exhibitions

At the National Museum of Wales a major new permanent exhibition 'Man and the Environment' opened to the public on 18 July. The exhibition looks at the impact that humans have had on aspects of the natural world and at the ways in which the animal kingdom has been utilised and exploited. The Aberthaw humpback whale and the world's largest leatherback turtle are displayed along with specimens from the mollusca and entomology collections. [Would anyone wishing to do a short critique of this exhibition please get in touch - Ed.]

Meanwhile Oldham museum is planning a touring exhibition on all aspects of 'Parrots' including the current threatened status of some species. More details in the next BCG Newsletter. Meanwhile anyone wishing to find out more can do so by contacting Oldham direct.

Reorganisations

The natural sciences departments at both the Ulster Museum and Kelvingrove, Glasgow are being subject to reorganisation. At Ulster we understand that the Botany, Zoology and Geology departments are being merged to form a single natural science department under a single Keeper.

At Glasgow the situation also involves a merger to form a single department. In this case the Natural History Department will merge with the Transport Museum to form a new Science Department. (Try and work that one out !). The rationale we understand is that this will make it easier to produce 'ecological' displays. Certainly some displays will be needed as the bird gallery has just been commandeered to make another ace cafe. Further news on this and other changes will follow in the next newsletter.

Please note that the 'people' section otherwise known as 'musical curators' will return in the next issue. Please send any information to the Editor.

Publications

The National Museum of Wales has added 'Snowdon's Plants since the Ice Age' to the list available from their Botany Department. This 32 page booklet is also available in Welsh. Price £3.75 incl. postage. A Flora of Glamorgan is also in press.

The BSBI can now offer a new 'List of Vascular Plants of the British Isles' by DH Kent. Available from BSBI Publications price £11.50.

More local publications are available from Stoke Museum with the addition of spiders and flies to the series of Staffordshire atlases and checklists.

In press is the South-east Collections Research Unit's catalogue of natural history collections, more details later.

Meetings

The two items below relate to the two highly successful meetings held by BCG over the last year. Firstly, the Secretary's report followed by a list of your committee members. Followed by an account of the meeting in Burnley last year on live displays in museums. Please note your nearest committee member and feel free to pester them for information or indeed pieces and suggestions for the newsletter. Thanks should go to Steve Hewitt and his colleagues at Carlisle for organising an enjoyable and informative AGM and to the Cumbria constabulary for directing the diehards to a late night source of the amber nectar.