

Competition!

NatSCA (Natural Sciences Collections Association) is running a *Caring for Natural Science Collections* one-day conservation conference in October and to celebrate and promote the event, they are holding a social media photo competition. They are looking for photos featuring the conservation and collections care of natural history collections. The deadline to enter is 10th October. For rules and more information on the competition, please see the following article: <https://natsca.blog/2018/08/16/natsca-conservation-photo-competition/#more-4447>.

Help promote GCG

Our new A6 promotional leaflets are proving popular, if you would like some to distribute to friends and colleagues please get in touch. We are also thinking about other designs, so if you have need for a particular field of geology, please send us your feedback. Email webmaster@geocurator.org to request leaflets or for more information.



Moulding and Casting Workshop

Thirteen delegates headed to BGS headquarters in Keyworth in July to try their hand at moulding and casting fossils. There they were able to sample a number of different materials and methods for making simple moulds. Heatwave conditions meant that many of the moulds were set enough to take home that evening, with the rest following shortly in the post! A more in-depth review is coming soon on the GCG blog <https://www.geocurator.org/blog>.

News from the Sector- New Blog Series

We have instigated a new blog series online called *News from the Sector*. This short round-up of conferences, workshops, events, exhibitions, and job vacancies in the field of Earth Sciences, will be published on a monthly basis. To ensure you don't miss it, you can subscribe to our blog via the page below, which will notify you whenever a new article is published: <https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/>.



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Coprolite is compiled and produced by Dr Emma Nicholls, Deputy Keeper of Natural History at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, London. Contributions from everyone are welcomed, and should be sent to Emma at coprolite@geocurator.org. The copy deadlines are listed below:

Spring newsletter - Deadline 1st February
Summer newsletter - Deadline 1st May
Autumn newsletter - Deadline 1st August
Winter newsletter - Deadline 1st November

As mentioned in the summer edition of *Coprolite*, we constantly work to keep membership fees down, but with price increases in postage and materials, we are struggling to produce a printed newsletter. Moving to a digital *Coprolite* is good news for both maintaining low membership costs, and the environment! However, we recognise some of our members may have particular need for a printed copy, so **please get in touch** if you fall into this category and we'll make sure you still receive one in the post; membership@geocurator.org

Chairperson: Matthew Parkes, Assistant Keeper, Natural History Division, National Museum of Ireland, Merrion Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Email: chairman@geocurator.org

Secretary: Sarah King, York Museums Trust, Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 7FR. Email: secretary@geocurator.org

Treasurer: Dr Rachel Walcott, Principal Curator, Earth Systems, Department of Natural Sciences, National Museums Scotland, Chambers St, Edinburgh EH1 1JF. Email: treasurer@geocurator.org

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Geological Curators' Group

Notice is hereby given that the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Geological Curators' Group will be hosted by Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Cardiff at 4pm, on the 4th December 2018. All Committee posts (except Chair) can be renewed annually. Nominations for the posts of Committee Members must be made by two members of the Group and submitted in writing or by email to the Secretary, Sarah King (sarah.king@ymt.org.uk), by 14th November 2018. Items proposed for inclusion on the Agenda should be submitted to the Secretary as above.

Membership News

Unfortunately, there are still several members who aren't paying the correct subscription fees, meaning you won't be receiving your membership benefits, such as the Members Only content on our website. If you pay by Standing Order, please check you are paying the correct amount (shown below). If you're uncertain about your subs payments then please email or ring the Membership Officer, contact details below.

UK Personal Subscription £20 sterling per annum (optional concessionary rate £15)

UK Institutions £25 sterling per annum

Overseas Personal Subscription £23 sterling per annum (US \$36, €30)

Overseas Institutions £27 sterling per annum (US \$42, €34)

Please note- It is important that all members return their GDPR form as per the new data protection laws. If you have not yet sent it, please do so at your earliest convenience, thanks!

Cindy Howells – membership@geocurator.org, 029 20573 354

2018 Events / Courses

26th – 28th October: Mineralworld, Munich, Germany

Europe's largest mineral show is a three day event with over 1200 exhibitors from 60 different countries. It includes a 'Mineral Pavilion' where the best exhibitors worldwide present their most valuable treasures, a series of lectures and a special, themed exhibition with contributions from a large number of museums and collectors. Due to the size of the event, the exhibition stands have been segregated into four areas called 'trade fair worlds'; these are 'minerals, fossils, gemstones, and jewellery or design with stones'. Jewellery is available at the show at special trade fair prices.

For more information, please visit their website: <https://munichshow.com/en/>.

1st – 15th December: First Palaeontological Virtual Congress

According to the organisers, the mission of the first Palaeontological Virtual Congress is to create an online 'conference' that will 'Spread the most recent scientific advances in palaeontology worldwide in a fast, easy and economical way'. With the sometimes high costs of physically attending a conference, particularly in other countries, this is certainly a way to engage with a wider audience. However, it will be interesting to see how well this works, and a fascinating experiment into whether the social interactions and networking that many people attend conferences for can be emulated in some way.

The second circular has just been released to those on the email group. If you would like to be included, please register your interest at the following email address: palaeovc@uv.es.

The deadline for abstracts is the 8th October 2018, and there is a template for abstract submissions which can be downloaded from the website <http://palaeovc.uv.es/>.

4th – 5th December: Inspiring Volunteers - Promoting Collections, GCG Winter Seminar and 45th AGM

Hosted by Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Cardiff. Topics for consideration include but are not limited to: how do volunteers feel about their roles, particularly those in positions of great responsibility; how can the sector support volunteers and help them gain from their experience; how can museums and collections make the most effective use of volunteer time; what sort of problems have volunteer projects had to overcome and can we learn by sharing these? As this conference should hold great appeal for volunteers, we have made a number of bursaries available. Please submit an application (min 100 words) to the address below.

The deadline for abstracts (max 350 words) is 26th October. Please submit them to Cindy Howells and Zoë Hughes at: agm2018@geocurator.org.

14th – 17th December: The 62nd Palaeontological Association Annual Meeting

The PalAss Annual Meeting will be held in Bristol this year. The organisers can be contacted at annualmeeting2018@palass.org, though up to date news will be released as it becomes available, on the PalAss website. The deadline for abstracts is midnight on 21st September 2018, along with early bird registration. The final deadline for registration is 16th November 2018. For more information, please see their website: <https://www.palass.org/meetings-events/>.

18th – 19th December 2018: Popularizing Palaeontology Workshop

Dates- TBC

The fourth event in the Popularizing Palaeontology workshop series, run by Chris Manias, will focus on 'Debates and Issues'. It is likely to take place at King's College London (Strand campus), though details will be confirmed nearer the time. The talks are filmed and get put online in order to reach a wider audience, and at present the first two are live, with the third in preparation. There will be six workshops in total, each looking at a different topic. For more information, please see their website <http://www.poppalaeo.com/workshop-4/>.

News

We want your links!

Have you got a folder of useful web addresses which you refer to day in, day out? Would you be happy to share it with us, so that we can incorporate some of them into our new links page? You can e-mail your contributions to webmaster@geocurator.org and browse or search the links we have already at <https://www.geocurator.org/links>. This would greatly enhance the GCG website, and ensure our friends and colleagues around the world have access to great resources.