

Annual Report for 2020

For presentation at the 2020 AGM



www.geocurator.org

The Geological Curators' Group is a UK-based membership organisation and charity (no. 296050), founded in 1974 to improve the state and status of geological collections and curation. The group is run for its members, by volunteers elected from the membership. It is affiliated to the Geological Society of London as a Specialist Group, and recognised as a Subject Specialist Network by Arts Council England. Our constitution is available here <https://www.geocurator.org/13-qcg-committee/27-qcg-constitution>

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GCG information
Committee for 2020 (from AGM 2019)

Previous years' Annual Reports can be found at:

<https://www.geocurator.org/committee/management-documents/60-annual-reports-and-accounts>

1. View from the Chair

It will come as a surprise to no one that this has been an extraordinary first year as Chair. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in the first quarter of the year has affected everyone and everything. Personally, I have been furloughed since April and over recent months have been going through redundancy consultations at my place of work. While this is behind me now it has affected my work for GCG and I would like to thank the whole committee for keeping the charity running and delivering the usual high standard of content and output that we are all used to. In particular, my thanks go to Simon, and Emma Bernard for keeping the website updated and functional, and keeping things running smoothly, respectively. We have, like most other groups, continued to meet as usual, using online video calling. General chaos and personal situations notwithstanding, we have largely continued as normal, thanks to most of our business being conducted via the website now.

Even though the pandemic has upended almost everything, it has still been a busy year for GCG. My focus for these three years as Chair will be to reform GCG and stand it in good stead for the future, and I have continued to work on this. I want to stress that I have no desire to change our existing outputs – in simple terms, 2-3 events a year (including the AGM and winter seminar), the Geological Curator journal, and the networking opportunities and information that we provide (through the Coprolite newsletter, JISmail, and our social media channels (including the blog)). On the contrary, I would like to see us delivering these more efficiently, and shouting more loudly about what we do.

Over the last few years, after lots of hard work, we have modernised considerably, with an entirely new website, an online committee archive, internet banking, and the facility to accept online and instant PayPal payments for memberships and events bookings. The website is effectively the vehicle from which all of our activity is run, and I would like to ensure that this is cemented, not least because it can help to alleviate significant workloads for committee.

I want to make the governance structure more robust, clearer and more flexible, as well as offer more opportunities for people to get involved, meaning the workload is shared but also that more people can get experience in the sector and hopefully become the geological collections workers of the future. We need to be able to work more efficiently as a trustee board so that it does not fall to the same few people to complete the biggest tasks. I also want to offer more support to trustees in that some of the roles are quite specialised, and benefit from particular skills. As a small charity, there are many training courses and networks available to us, and I will be encouraging current and future trustees to make use of these.

The first stage in refreshing GCG will be to convert it to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). You will have heard about this at the AGM last year, and now it is time to move to make it happen. Alongside this annual report, you will have received some papers concerning our proposed conversion to a CIO, that we will be voting on at the AGM this year. Please read these carefully and let us know if you have any questions, either in advance or at the AGM. This is an important plank in the development and future of GCG, as it allows us to operate as a legal entity, limits liability, and gives us a robust base for growth and advancement of the charity.

If all goes ahead as planned, over the next year I will be building on this by pulling together byelaws for the CIO, and looking at future financial planning and development for GCG.

Stepping back a bit however, I wanted cover some of the work behind the scenes at GCG. In January I was able to attend meetings with a couple of groups: the Subject Specialist Networks Consortium (<https://www.subjectspecialistnetworks.org.uk/organisation/geological-curators-group>), and UKDiNaS – the UK Distributed Natural Sciences collections consortium. There are more than 40 SSNs in existence, and the SSNC works to unite and support them in their work and development. UKDiNaS is a small group of museums and professionals working towards a mass collections

digitisation project, in conjunction with the EU organisation DiSSCO (<https://www.dissco.eu/uk/>) . A potential funding stream is the UK research councils (UKRI), who have already set up Towards a National Collection (TaNC) (<https://www.nationalcollection.org.uk/>) to look at research around the issues. Sadly it seems that at the moment, the focus is not on creating a legacy databasing solution for UK collections to digitise and link together once and for all, but perhaps this will change in the coming years. At the moment, GCG is keeping a watching brief on developments, but we are particularly interested in how to get more representation for mineralogical and petrological collections.

Over the spring and summer, almost all events moved online, and I was able to attend the Geological Society's AGM, and the annual Specialist Groups meeting (of which GCG is one), among several other meetings. Members may be interested to note that the Society may have to move from Burlington House in the next five years due to unsustainable rent increases on the property. Also, I am very pleased to welcome Duncan Murdock as our Geological Society rep.

Of course, as time went on, the effects of the pandemic began to bite, and we saw many museums and collections in dire financial trouble as a result of having to close their doors in preparation for a nationwide lockdown, which began on the 23rd March. Situations that were made public included Creswell Crags, Birmingham Museums Trust, the Etches Collection, York Museums Trust, National Museums Liverpool, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, and the closure of the Vivacity trust that ran Peterborough's leisure and culture offer (the services passed back to the council). Government support has been forthcoming but sporadic, including the coronavirus job retention (furlough) scheme (which paid 80% of an employee's salary if unable to work), and the culture recovery fund of £1.57billion (split across all cultural organisations, including theatres and music venues), which at the time of writing was still announcing recipients, after being initially launched in the summer. For many, the help has been too little too late, or they have missed out on funding altogether, and the sector as a whole has been making widespread restructures and redundancies. Several organisations have been tracking the wider situation, including the International Council of Museums (<https://icom.museum/en/covid-19/surveys-and-data/survey-museums-and-museum-professionals/>) and the Museums Association (<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2020/08/help-museums-journal-track-the-impact-of-covid-19/>), (<https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/workforce/redundancy-tracker/>). The situation is far from over, as the virus continues to spread and mitigations continue to be implemented. If you have been affected by cuts or redundancies, our thoughts are with you. There are some general resources here <https://www.museumsassociation.org/careers/redundancy-hub/>. Please keep in touch and let us know if there is anything we can do. We are recording public information about the effects on geological collections, so please send us anything you come across. We are happy to publicise funding campaigns and our job is to advocate for collections and the people that work with them. Please use us.

Over the summer of course the Black Lives Matter movement came to the fore, and I am proud that Emma Nicholls has been able to spearhead the GCG response to this (<https://www.geocurator.org/committee/management-documents/58-how-the-committee-works/448-gcg-statement-on-black-lives-matter-june-2020>). GCG clearly has a lot to do here, but it is something that is long overdue and will be a priority when our policies are developed and updated. We were also able to take part in 'Black In Geoscience' week on Twitter. I would like to thank Emma for all her work on this. Once the new committee structure is established in the next year, we will be in a good position to actively recruit some new people who can bring diverse experiences as well as their talent and enthusiasm to the committee. In July, we were invited, via the Geological Society, to support a letter originating from the University of Cardiff to NERC (the Natural Environment Research Council) to develop and fund work to enable more Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) to enter the geosciences. I'm pleased to report that the conversation has been positive, with

NERC agreeing to host an inclusive cross-sectional discussion with the affected communities. The conversation is ongoing, but I am happy to share the letters on request.

Despite everything, we were able to run a few (online) events during the year. I would like to thank Emma Bernard, Zoë and Simon for running the pub quiz, meet-and-greet and GIS events, and Emma Nicholls and Nigel for running this year's unique edition for the virtual Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation (SPPC). Of course our AGM is also online this year, and we hope that attendance will be higher than usual, as no one even need leave their sofa. We would love to see you there.

I would also like to thank Pip for a great first year as journal editor, working through some refreshed policies and procedures, and recruiting a new team to assist in journal production. If you are interested in getting involved, do let us know. There is lots to do!

As I write, GCG has just learned of the very sad news of the untimely passing of Matthew Parkes. Matthew was GCG Chair until last year, and edited our Geological Curator journal for 12 years, until Pip took over last year. Everyone on the committee sends their condolences to Matthew's colleagues, family and friends at this sad time. He will be greatly missed. We will publish a longer note in Geological Curator in due course.

I sincerely hope that all GCG members are well and are coping during these very difficult times. I can't say what the future holds for any of us, but staying in contact with our communities, and trying to keep up with doing what we love can only be a good thing. Keep an eye on the GCG website and social media for regular news and updates, and a bit of levity too. If there's ever anything we can do for you, please don't hesitate to let us know. Please stay safe, and look after each other.

Sarah King

2. Accounts

While the impact of Covid-19 was felt financially through the cancellation of our program of workshops it didn't impact the final figures greatly in the end.

The most major non-Covid related event was the **closure of our Euro account** with the Bank of Ireland in February 2020. It was only used by 3-4 subscribers and was very expensive to maintain with costs on the order of an institutional subscription per year. As our Paypal account was being increasingly used by international members and institutions (see Figure 2) we felt the Euro account was not so important to maintain. Last but not least, it made bookkeeping a lot easier by closing it.

The year started off with some unusual expenses related to preparing for CIO (meetings and lawyer fees), costs of transcribing some of the Geourator journals and running a competition with two 50 pound vouchers as prizes. However, as the impact of Covid restrictions affected us we avoided the costs (or **surplus**) of running our workshops. Instead we started to earn rather more from **donations** (see Figure 3) and publications. To this end we also registered for **AmazonSmile**. This year we paid for a much needed upgrade of Web space (£115). On more embarrassing note I finally found out why my attempts to get Gift Aid were not working – I had not registered GCG with the correct government agency. This was done in September unfortunately not in time for payments to be processed this year.

In the end despite the cancellation of events due to Covid we finished the year with a **surplus** of £2785, slightly above our recent average of about £2000. (Figure 4).

Finally, I am grateful to Andy Ross and Sherri Donaldson for checking the accounts so carefully.

Geological Curators' Group
47th Annual General Meeting, Online

2020 Accounts

28/10/2019 - 27/10/2020

Income				Expenditure			
	GBP	EUR	GBP		GBP	EUR	GBP
Workshops - AGM & GCG-run	£2,185.25		(£1,650.88)	Geol Curator 10.11	-£1,349.66	-£179.02	(-£4,335.95)
Workshop - Co-sponsored	£0.00		(£5,844.00)	Workshops - AGM & GCG-run	-£1,021.74		(-£1,029.07)
Subscriptions	£5,717.03		(£6,016.46)	Workshops - Co-sponsored	£0.00		(-£6,062.62)
Donations	£90.58		(£0.00)	Committee expenses	-£682.90		(-£746.45)
Publications	£43.00	£105.86		Website fees	-£273.21		(-£149.55)
Bank payments (for using debit card)	£9.61			JISC GB/3D payments	£0.00		(-£0.00)
				Brighton Medals [£1214.86 in fund]	£0.00		(-£0.00)
				Sponsorship	-£125.00		
				Bank Fees	-£93.74	-£13.09	(-£220.86)
				Other	-£1,713.81		
	<u>£8,045.47</u>				<u>-£5,260.06</u>		
Balance as at 27/10/2019	£18,231.77			Balance as at 27/10/2020	£21,017.18		
Euro Account (July 2019)	£86.25		€ 99.14	Euro Account (Feb 2020)	£0.00		€ 0.00

EUR:GBP exchange rate 0.87

Auditors: Andrew Ross
Sherri Donaldson

Rachel Walcott, Treasurer 24/11/2020

Figure 1 – This year I noted the small expenditures from the EU account separately. This account was closed in February

Figure 2
Use of PayPal for subscriptions

Reporting Year	International Subs		UK Subs	
2016-17	£91.00		£125.00	
2017-18	£400.00	440%	£697.73	558%
2018-19	£724.00	181%	£741.00	106%
2019-20	£1,015.00	140%	£1,249.00	169%

Figure 3
Donations with respect to online events held in 2020

Event	Date			Amount	PP Fee
Introduction to GIS for Curators 28th May 2020	28-May-20	Income	Donation	£10.00	£0.34
	28-May-20	Income	Donation	£5.00	£0.27
	01-Jun-20	Income	Donation	£10.00	£0.34
SPPC 14th October 2020	13-Oct-20	Income	Donation	£50.00	£0.90
	14-Oct-20	Income	Donation	£15.00	£0.41

Figure 4
Annual surplus.

Reporting Period	Surplus
2019-20	£2,785.41
2018-19	£616.84
2017-18	£3,391.60
2016-17	£1,955.97

Rachel Walcott

3. Membership and networks

3.1 Membership and reach

2020 has been a strange year for us all. Many curators have been furloughed for months and renewing GCG membership was maybe not a priority for most, but despite this we have had 27 new individual members this year, the same as 2019! This is however somewhat marred by the fact that we have also lost 20 individuals, some through retirement or moving out of the sector, but primarily many who just didn't re-join after previous years. GCG cannot support subscribers who don't pay a subscription, so we have had to delete from our database those who don't pay. The ability to pay subscriptions online through our website is a great innovation and has undoubtedly led to our rise in membership figures for the past few years, but it is unfortunate that at least half of those joining us for the first time this way do not have the stickability to stay with us. We will look ways to encourage new members to resubscribe. Any comments about this are welcome.

Institutional subscribers are also an important part of our membership, but the current crisis has hit many museums very hard this year and ten have chosen not to continue for 2020, although we did pick up two new institutions. We currently have subscribers (institutional and individual) from 20 different countries, and our Zoom meetings this summer have allowed us to interact with our overseas colleagues better than ever before. This year we have subscribers (both individual and institutional) from the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, Faroe Islands, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, USA, as well as the UK.

I thank those who pay promptly each year without being reminded too many times. Please could all members log into the GCG website at least once a year and check that their details are correct as there are always a few emails bouncing back after I send anything out.

<https://www.geocurator.org/membership>

I'm currently aware of at least seven members who have been with GCG since its inception in 1974, and about the same number again who joined within the first year after that. As we steadily approach our 50th anniversary it would be great if those were with us in the early days could please remind me of their year of joining GCG, please contact me at membership@geocurator.org. Finally, we are sad to report the deaths this year of five previous subscribers to GCG, as well as that of Matthew Parkes, our previous Chairman, Journal Editor and friend.

Breakdown of figures for this year (October 2019 - October 2020):

Full individual subscriptions paid to date	176	(139 UK + 37 O/S)
Concessionary subscriptions paid to date	32	(37 UK + 2 O/S)
Honorary subscriptions	8	
Institutions paid to date	45	(26 UK + 19 O/S)
Total	261	

Membership by category for last 4 years

	2020	2019	2018	2017
Personal UK	169	173	175	160
Personal Overseas	39	34	28	20
UK Institutions	26	37	38	46
Overseas Institutions	19	20	21	20
Honorary	8	7	7	7
Total	261	271	269	253

Cindy Howells

3.2. Correspondence and networks

As an affiliated specialist group of the Geological Society (GSL), we receive regular communications and support from them. We are pleased to welcome Dr Duncan Murdock as our Geological Society Science Committee Rep. We have already been in touch with Duncan about conversion to a CIO and although the Geol Soc cannot advise on this process, several other affiliated groups have gone through this process, so there is a network here we can approach, if necessary and from The Geol Soc's point of view everything is in order. We have also kindly been offered the use of the Geological Society's Zoom account to host some meetings, which we are grateful for and will look at this for 2021.

One of the first institutions to sound the financial alarm due to Covid was Creswell Crags, and although we were unable to offer financial assistance, we were able to advertise their campaign to promote and raise funds to support their future JustGiving page with various social media posts and a fantastic blog: <https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/2020/04/02/creswell-crags-under-threat-of-permanent-closure/>. Thankfully, they have been successful in funding rounds and will remain open for the foreseeable future.

In May one of the Crystal Palace Dinosaurs sustained serious damage from an apparent act of vandalism (<https://cpdinosaurs.org/blog/post/damage-to-the-dinosaurs>). We wrote a letter of support to underline the importance of the sculptures and to assist in fundraising to repair the damage.

Most of our correspondence is by our general JISCmail list. A few direct emails arrived in the inbox. These have been for advice on how to get into the sector, volunteering opportunities in the sector, assistance with identification and requests to post items to the JISCmail list.

Emma Bernard

4. Events and participation

In light of the global pandemic, running the programme in a "normal" way was impossible. As a result, the idea of having a physical, in person winter seminar was rejected at the September Committee meeting. We have held a series of successful online events, which have been very well received. It has been extraordinary to see how many registrants we have had all around the world (see table 1 and figure 1 for more details). This is an opportunity to grow our global reach beyond our usual audience of the UK and Ireland.

- Meet the Committee 18/05/2020**
 This event had 61 registrants from all over the world. Most notably we connected to geological museum professionals in the USA and Israel. This event was well received and led to some interesting conversations and ideas for future events.
- Introduction to GIS for Curators 28/05/2020**
 This event had 39 registrants and was exceptionally well received. It was recorded and can be viewed on the GCG YouTube channel. Many thanks to Simon Harris for running and organising this event.
- Summer Pub Quiz 16/07/2020**
 This event had 18 registrants. Possible that this would have been higher earlier in the pandemic as online quiz fatigue and zoom fatigue could have had an effect. Went down well as a fun event. Many thanks to Emma Bernard for helping me run it. Registrants were from the UK and USA.
- Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation (SPPC) 16/10/2020**
 Organised by a subcommittee led by Emma Nicholls and Nigel Larkin. We had 197 registrants from a very diverse array of countries across the globe, as a result there were two video sessions at 9.00 and 17.00 BST+1 to try to accommodate as many time zones as possible. This was arranged as a poster session, the posters were uploaded onto the GCG website <https://www.geocurator.org/events/104-sppc/sppc2020-poster-gallery> and could be viewed prior to the day. Twitter was employed alongside emails for registrants to ask questions, which were addressed in the video sessions and on Twitter. There were 62 unique participants across both sessions (Including hosts and presenters). The video sessions will be uploaded to the GCG YouTube page. As it was possible to participate in the event “silently” without attending, these figures of engagement are underestimates.

Meet the Committee	Introduction to GIS	Summer Quiz
United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom
Turkey	United States	United States
United States	Canada	
Ireland	Tanzania, United Republic of	
Sweden	Faroe Islands	
Australia	Turkey	
Canada	Mexico	
Spain		
Israel		
Colombia		

Table 1: Geographic reach of the first three virtual events held in 2020.

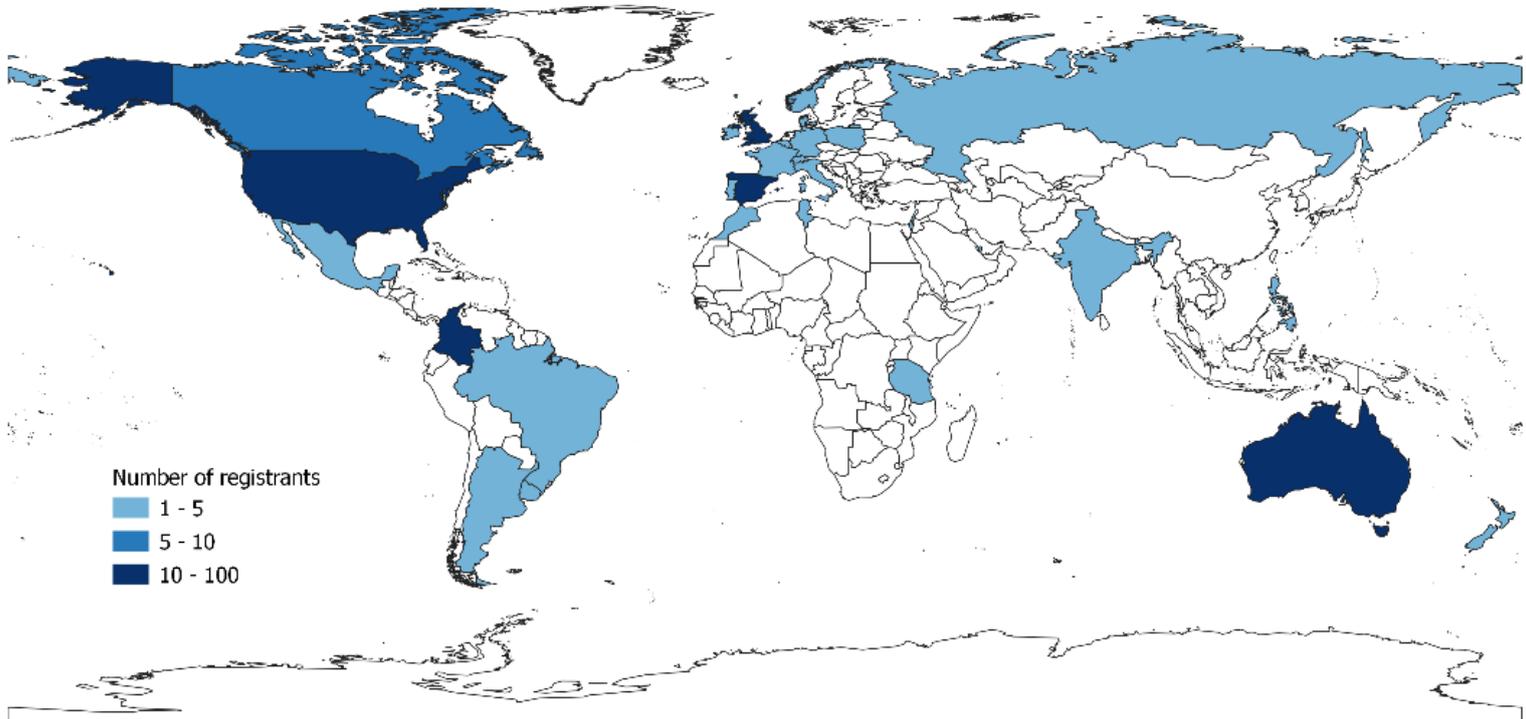


Figure 1: A graphical representation showing the global spread of registrants for SPPC.

As it looks as though the pandemic is likely to have effects on our ability to run a physical programme into 2021 we are looking at introducing a small charge for events. This would allow the GCG to cover running costs of the website and allow the possibility of the GCG having its own Zoom subscription. This will hopefully reduce the number of “no-shows” among free registrants.

Following on from the first “Meet the Committee” event, Simon Harris set up a donate button (<https://www.geocurator.org/donate>) on the website. This allows event participants to show some appreciation fiscally. To date this has raised £87.74.

Even when we return to normality, we would like to continue to offer some sort of virtual event. It would be a shame to abandon those international members by only hosting in person events in the UK and Ireland. Any feedback on this would be welcomed. If anyone has any events they would like to see (virtual or in person), or you would like to help host an event, or just generally have any comments regarding events, please email events@geocurator.org.

Many thanks to all on committee and beyond who have helped make these events possible.

Zoë Hughes

5. Publications

5.1. *The Geological Curator*

Members Survey 2019

In the recent members' survey, two questions were of direct relevance to the journal. Question 6, asked members "What is/are the main reason(s) you joined the Geological Curators' Group?" There were 66 responses to this question. Of these, 26% ranked the journal as their main reason, 61% ranked the journal as either their main or secondary reason for joined and 82% ranked the journal as one of the top 3 reasons they joined.

The other main question of direct relevance to the journal was question 13 which asked, "How would you like to see our peer-reviewed journal, *The Geological Curator*, develop?" There were 50 responses to this question (about half of all respondents to the survey). The most common request was to ensure that the journal published articles with strongly practical elements to them. This shows that advice/lessons learned/sharing results of projects is of particular importance to the respondents. There also seemed to be strong support for journal issues based around symposia or themes (such as 10-10 and 11-1). There also seemed to be an appetite for moving to online-only amongst some respondents, or at least to have a very strong online presence and ensuring that the journal is easily searchable and is indexed. An impact factor is considered desirable by a few respondents.

Other suggestions include:

- Presence of hard copies of the journal
- More selective/better quality articles
- Good colour/image quality
- Balance of shorter and longer in-depth articles and mix of topics (but not straying too far from core audience)
- Open access
- More widely publicised
- Permanent DOIs
- Consistent publication dates
- More mineralogical articles (very palaeo-focussed)
- Update the journal style

I have translated this feedback into the following action points:

- Make the online versions of the journal easier to find on the webpage
- Develop and update the format of the journal to make it more appealing
- To prioritise distribution of the pdf version of the journal over the print version
- Develop a journal policy detailing the type and quality of articles accepted, which also fulfils criteria for journal indexers
- To continue to facilitate colour figures (at least in the electronic version)
- Develop guidelines and workflows with achievable timelines to ensure consistent delivery, formatting and content of the journal, managed by an experienced editorial team with a diversity of relevant specialisms
- Investigate copyright and open access options against business model
- Investigate different options for effective marketing

A number of these action points are already in progress or have been completed (see below). I would like to thank everyone who responded to this survey, it was very useful and the feedback gratefully received.

Journal Revise

2020 marked the first change in editor of the Geological Curator in 13 years as Pip Brewer took over from Matthew Parkes. Matthew Parkes did an outstanding job, filling several roles at once to fulfil the herculean task of getting the journal out twice a year.

With the change in editor came some necessary changes (e.g., finding new software) an opportunity to make some tweaks to the journal as well as a chance to review all aspects of the production and delivery of the journal, particularly in light of the results of the Members Survey. As a result, 2020 saw:

- A change to the journal style
- A dedicated page for the journal on the GCG website (<https://www.geocurator.org/journal>)
- Release of version 1 of the Instructions for Authors (a huge thanks to Emily Carlisle and Nic Baird for this), with a link provided on the website
- Release of version 1 of Journal Policies and Procedures with a link provided on the website
- Formation of an editorial team following a successful advertising campaign
- A formal confirmation of the journal title as Geological Curator (rather than The Geological Curator)

The editorial team now comprises six hard working volunteers, although additional roles still need to be filled:

- Editor: Pip Brewer, Natural History Museum, London
- Associate Editor (Conservation and Preparation): Lu Allington-Jones, Natural History Museum, London.
- Associate Editor (Molecular Palaeontology, Palaeontology): Caitlin Colleary, Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- Associate Editor (Palaeontology, particularly Vertebrate Palaeontology): Chris Dean, Natural History Museum, London
- Associate Editor (Mineralogy): Vacant
- Associate Editor (History of Science): Vacant
- Production Assistants: Emily Carlisle, University of Bristol and Nic Baird, Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin

Issue 11-3

Issue 11-3 was successfully published electronically in June 2020 and distributed to members via email. The cover was designed by Nic Baird. The decision was made to delay distribution of the print versions of the journal until after the risks due to covid-19 were substantially reduced.

Issue 11-3 comprised an editorial, one book review and six original articles. Topics included history of science, preparation, conservation, analysis of building stones and specimen-based teaching.

Despite an attempt to work with free desktop publishing software (Scribus) we found this didn't meet our needs and used Adobe InDesign for issue 11-3. Pip Brewer currently has access to this via her work, but the production assistants do not. It was suggested at the September 2020 GCG Committee Meeting that the committee invests in purchasing a monthly subscription to this on an as-needed basis for one of our Production Assistants in order to put the twice yearly issues together. This was accepted by the Committee.

Issue 11-4

Distribution of the electronic version of 11-4 is scheduled for late December 2020. It is expected to consist of 6-7 articles in an attempt to standardise the size of each issue and so we can be more

selective to create an even spread of subjects in each issue. Hence, additional submissions above this number will be earmarked for the following issue. This provides a slight buffer and reduces pressure on the editorial team who can start to distribute their work outside of the busiest months immediately prior to the release of each issue.

We have increased our number of international submissions thanks to wider advertising of the journal when soliciting manuscripts. Four out of the ten manuscripts submitted in the latter half of 2020 were from outside the UK. Nonetheless, soliciting manuscripts and finding reviewers remain our greatest challenges and create, by far, the most work for the editorial team. Suggestions are gratefully received!

Pip Brewer

5.2. Coprolite newsletter

This year has been an odd one for all of us. The fall of physical events and the subsequent rise of virtual ones was documented by the events section in Coprolite issues 92 in March, 93 in June, and 94 in September.

We have been delighted to be able to include content from an array of external authors, starting last March with an article by former GCG committee member Camilla Nichol, now Chief Executive of the Antarctic Heritage Trust. The article introduced the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) project Antarctica In Sight which is "a major cultural programme which engages leading artists, historians and scientists to help us celebrate incredible stories and open vital discussions about the scientific, political and environmental future of Antarctica." In the September issue we had a piece by Elsa Panciroli, Research Assistant in Evolution and Palaeobiology at the University of Oxford, called Dinosaur Discovery on the Isle of Eigg. This was a highly entertaining synopsis of Elsa's discovery of a stegosaur bone in Scotland, news of which hit the press in autumn 2020.

The current Newsletter Editor, Emma Nicholls, will be standing down from this role at the AGM in November 2020. We are sure that the new Editor will continue to facilitate an interesting and engaging newsletter with a balance of internal and external content. If anyone has anything they would like to see included in the newsletter, please get in touch with us at coprolite@geocurator.org.

Dr Emma Nicholls

5.3. Thumbs Up leaflet

The 'Thumbs Up' leaflet was first produced in the 1990's as advocacy for good collecting practices. In the last 20 years this advice has become outdated or seen as improper and so we are in the process of updating it, to make it more relevant and fit in with current practices.

Compared to the first iteration the rear page has been completely altered. With access to local museums through the web (and a list of relevant institutions provided by the GCG - <https://www.geocurator.org/collections>) the previous list of geological collections is no longer needed and so has been replaced with extended advice. The text of the leaflet has been updated to follow with current practices, new images are being sourced and being prepared for layout and design. We aim to get this published in 2021.

Alex Peaker

5.4. Advice booklet

As a subject specialist network, GCG is dedicated to furthering the use of geological collections worldwide as well as advocating for better care, maintenance, and use. One way we do this is by publishing guidelines. We have updated our guidelines which are predominantly aimed at students who are starting out on research projects and will be collecting geological material. However, the same guidance could be used by anyone at any stage of their career or interest level.

This is a live document on our website

(https://www.geocurator.org/images/resources/advice/GCG_research_booklet.pdf) which we will update as best practice changes. We have endorsement from the Palaeontographical Society, Palaeontological Association and the Natural History Museum, London. We are in talks with NERC, who have said they are supportive and hopefully this will be finalised soon. Please do share this link with anyone who may benefit from it. It is an excellent resource, and the committee wishes to thank Dr Hilary Ketchum, a former committee member who was paramount in the redrafting of this document.

Emma Bernard

6. Collections support

6.1. Collections monitoring

2020 will long be seen as a pivotal year within the geoscience collections community. The Covid pandemic has initiated many changes, and modified and worsened others – yet there is also some good news.

Before the lockdown, several museums with geological collections were identified as being under threat, including The Falconer Museum (Forres), the Royal Cornwall Museum (Truro) and Stockport Museum. The AHRC (Arts & Humanities Research Council) funded the ‘Mapping Museums’ research project, and developed a database to study the changes in the 4,000 independent museums between 1960 and 2000 (<http://museweb.dcs.bbk.ac.uk/home>). It listed about a dozen museums with geology, but its ontology was flawed (dinosaurs were treated a separate from fossils which were treated as separate from geology). Jamie Larkin, one of the project team, then produced a Google map of museums considering themselves at risk of closure, including Creswell Crags and the Black Country Living Museum.

As the lockdown and then restricted re-openings progressed, and despite significant state aid (including the furlough arrangements), more and more museums re-profiled budgets, reduced hours and consulted on redundancies. Several organisations, including the MA, are closely monitoring these, and museums in York, Birmingham, Liverpool, Horsham and many other places have already announced over 3600 redundancies (<https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/workforce/redundancy-tracker/>).

With many museums experiencing significant financial pressure, it could lead to disposal of collections. We would encourage members and institutions to let us know if this could be the case and where possible we can offer advice and guidance. We were recently made aware of a historical disposal which highlighted some ambiguity in this process. The Museums Association disposal toolkit (<https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/collections/disposal-toolkit/>) should be followed if you are considering any disposal. Part of that process is to consult Subject Specialist Networks (SSN's). A list can be found here: <https://www.subjectspecialistnetworks.org.uk/>. We would encourage people to engage in conversation with the MA about this and any SSN.

Although funding from visitors has shrunk, UKRI (United Kingdom Research and Innovation) funding for collections infrastructure and research looks likely to grow substantially. The AHRC's 'Towards a National Collection' (TANC) project will invest £18.9m over five years to "Open UK Heritage to the World". How it can do this without funding basic digitization and databasing remains to be seen. It does look as if there will be funding to digitize natural history collections (including geology) through UKRI support of the EU-DiSSCo (Distributed System of Scientific Collections) Project. The Natural History Museum has already been funded for a pilot UK project, and to build a £180m science, collections and digitization centre at Harwell. This is intended to be a UK-wide facility, and to promote equal collaboration, a number of UK organisations with major natural science collections have formed the DiNaS consortium (DIstributed NATural Science collections) and joined CETAF (Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities) to improve their eligibility for DiSSCo funding.

The next five years will be critical for the future of UK collections.

Mike Howe

7. Online activity

7.1 Website

This, as I am sure we are all aware, has been a most unusual year. At the end of March, the UK was plunged into a nationwide lockdown, and if the website hadn't already been pivotal to the operation of GCG, it certainly became so from that point onwards.

- **Server speed issues** – towards the end of 2019, the committee identified a problem with the website causing it to respond slowly or become unavailable at times. The strain on the general infrastructure of the internet at the start of the pandemic certainly did not make this any better.
 - Though a series of tests, I established that the problems were likely due to two problems. Firstly, limitations with the "starter" hosting package we are subscribed to (put simply, the best and fastest hardware is reserved for the highest paying customers); and secondly, a website plugin that collected data about the location of our visitors based on their declared IP address.
 - Of these, the plugin was causing the most problems. Each time a page was requested on the website, the server had to look up the location of the visitor from a long and growing list of numbers. Nine times out of ten these "visitors" are actually web robots. Disabling the plugin led to a significant increase in website usability, although I am not able to present the usual breakdown of the locations of our visitors. However many of these visitors are probably robots, and one side effect of hosting virtual meetings this year is that we have been able to collect genuine data that shines light on our reach and impact overseas.
 - To address the general server speed issue is more difficult, since it is not within our remit as a charity to simply throw more money at the problem. However during 2021 we intend to move the infrastructure of the website to the Amazon Web Services platform which should allow us much more flexibility in setting the price/performance ratio we are happy with. This is a not insignificant job, but I hope it can be completed with minimum disruption to users.
- **Virtual meetings** – we were still able to hold our regular committee meetings, through the use of the **Zoom** videoconferencing platform. Fortunately we have been able to "borrow" this facility from BGS/UKRI which provides us with pro-level features at no cost. However for

continuity, we are considering obtaining our own account, in fact, an annual subscription would cost less than the typical travel expenses for one committee meeting.



GCG Committee goes virtual!

- We have not needed to purchase any equipment (e.g. webcams) for committee members to use, although I believe we have the scope to do this should any potential new committee member not already possess the equipment needed to participate in our activities.
- In general, being able to offer a virtual meeting has increased the level of interest in our meetings, from members and non-members in the UK and abroad. It is too early to say how we will handle this going forward, there are a number of factors to consider (should we make a small charge to cover our costs; for how long should we preserve recordings; hybrid virtual/physical meetings etc.). Any suggestions or feedback from the membership would be welcomed.
- **Website content** – we have continued to add content to the website. As ever, this is a task that requires the whole committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my colleagues who have supplied website content to me or added their own over the last few months.
 - **Mapping collections** – Lu Allington-Jones spent many hours checking and adding to the list of collections that powers the map on our website at www.geocurator.org/collections/. In doing so, we added a number of institutions in the UK that we were not aware of. Please have a look at the map and check for any collections that you work with, particularly if these are outside the UK.
 - We have also been using the map to index information about **Coronavirus related museum news** (sadly, a large number of closures and redundancies). We do not always spot these things on news websites etc., so if you know of any other information to be added, please e-mail it to Mike Howe, our collections officer, at collections@geocurator.org and we will add it to the map.
- **Journal indexing**
 - Daniel Lockett has continued to **full text index** the historic volumes of the journal, and has again made excellent progress. To date, all issues of the journal have been indexed barring volumes 1 and 2, which marks the point where the journal ceased to be both newsletter and journal in one. This will require more effort on our part to

unpick the content that is worth indexing (for instance we chose not to index information about signing up for events which happened long ago in the past).

Currently articles from volume 4 onwards are available to members at

www.geocurator.org/journal/search

- **Printed back issues** – as part of the Journal Editor handover process, we were able to relocate over 150kgs of surplus copies of the journal from previous years to the BGS site at Keyworth where they are temporarily being stored. However there are impractically large numbers of some issues, and at some point we will have to thin-out our holdings. Therefore this is an ideal opportunity to check your bookshelves and replace any issues that have been lost or damaged. All we ask is that you make a small donation using our website donation page (www.geocurator.org/donate) to cover the cost of postage.

Appendix 1: Top 100 website pages for 2020 (to 16th October 2020)

Page title	Hits
GCG homepage	31876
About the Geological Curators Group	2005
The GCG blog	1640
Voluntary Roles on the Geological Curator editorial team	1578
Thumbs-up leaflet	1459
Privacy Policy	970
Sign up for membership online	955
Geological Curators Group Events Policy	775
Committee Profile: Dr Emma Nicholls	733
Geological Curator 11(3)	543
Make a donation	504
GCG Constitution	503
Building the new GCG website	476
Committee Profile: Sarah King	455
Geological Curator 10(7)	428
Committee Profile: Simon Harris	427
The A G Brighton Medal	353
Social Media policy	351
Committee Profile: Zoë Hughes	343
Inspiring Volunteers Promoting Collections : Abstracts	334
GCG statement on Black Lives Matter - June 2020	328
Geological Curator 7(3)	325
Geological Curator 11(1)	322
Committee Profile: Emma Bernard	313
Committee Profile: Nigel Larkin	312
Geological Curator 10(9)	310
Geological Curator 8(6)	309
Geological Curator 10(8) : RTI paper extra content	307
Coprolite 79 - June 2016	288
Geological Curator 10(10)	288
Coprolite 81 - March 2017	281
Committee Profile: Rachel Walcott	279
Previous talks at SPPC	277
Committee Profile: Mike Howe	273
Membership of GCG	271
Geological Curator 9(9)	271
Geological Curator 8(10)	268
Geological Curator 5(8)	262
Geological Curator 10(8)	259
Lyell Notebooks - funding target met!	255

The Crystal Palace Dinosaurs need your help!	254
Save Charles Lyell's Notebooks	247
Committee Profile: Cindy Howells	246
Committee Profile: Alex Peaker	246
Coprolite 11 - May 1993	244
GCG useful links listing	244
Committee Profile: Pip Brewer	244
Geological Curator 10(1)	243
Geological Curator 7(9)	239
News from the Sector	237
Geological Collections	233
New Year, new events, new committee!	230
Have you seen our links page?	227
Coprolite 83 - November 2017	226
Obituary: Howard Bartlett	226
Geological Curator 5(3)	225
Coprolite 13 - February 1994	222
Geological Curator 6(7)	222
Geological Curator 9(8)	219
Coprolite 86 - Autumn 2018	219
Coprolite 1 - February 1990	217
Committee Profile: Lil Stevens	214
Coprolite 88 - Spring 2019	211
Geological Curator 10(5)	210
Hugh Miller edition now open access!	210
Geological Curators' Group statement on loss of specialist curators at Leicester City Council Museums and Galleries	208
Coprolite 16 - February 1995	207
Coprolite 87 - Winter 2018	207
Coprolite 78 - March 2016	206
Committee Profile: Lu Allington-Jones	206
Geological Curator 9(3)	205
Geological Curator 6(1)	205
Coprolite 82 - June 2017	204
Coprolite 14 - May 1994	203
Coprolite 19 - February 1996	202
Geological Curator 10(3)	201
Coprolite 15 - November 1994	200
Book your place now!	196
Coprolite 2 - May 1990	195
GDPR - we need your input!	195
Coprolite 89 - Summer 2019	194
Coprolite 10 - February 1993	193
Statement on the Value of Museums and Collections	192
Coprolite 5 - May 1991	192
Coprolite 17 - May 1995	191
Coprolite 35 - June 2001	189
Brighton Medal 2016 Awarded	188
Coprolite 4 - February 1991	188
Coprolite 85 - Summer 2018	188
Coprolite 20 - May 1996	188
Coprolite 9 - November 1992	187
Coprolite 36 - November 2001	187
Coprolite 6 - November 1991	186
Coprolite 12 - November 1993	186
Coprolite 3 - November 1990	185
Coprolite 8 - May 1992	185

Coprolite 18 - November 1995	185
Coprolite 28 - March 1999	185
Geological Curator 10(2)	184
Geological Curator 9(2)	184

Appendix 2: Top 250 website pages since the launch of the new website in March 2017

Although too large to post here, readers may want to browse this more comprehensive list which provides a more balanced view of the evolution of the website. It is available at:

<https://app.box.com/s/7yhd17i5pyj4pffww0flw8ddo22wo4s1>

Back issues of Geological Curator

Issue	Suggested donation to cover postage		
	UK	EUR	ROW
Vol. 6 No. 9 (6/1998)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 7 No. 1 (5/1999)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 7 No. 3 (6/2000)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 8 No. 6 (12/2006)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 8 No. 7 (7/2007) Learning with Geology Collections	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 8 No. 8 (12/2007)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 8 No. 10 (12/2008)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 9 No. 1 (12/2008)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 9 No. 3 (9/2010) Fossil Preparation	£3.00	£6.00	£8.00
Vol. 9 No. 4 (12/2010)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 9 No. 5 (5/2011)	£3.00	£6.00	£8.00
Vol. 9 No. 6 (12/2011)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 9 No. 7 (7/2012)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 9 No. 8 (12/2012)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 9 No. 9 (9/2013)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 9 No. 10 (12/2013)	£3.00	£6.00	£8.00
Vol. 10 No. 1 (8/2014)	£3.00	£6.00	£8.00
Vol. 10 No. 2 (12/2014)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 10 No. 3 (7/2015)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 10 No. 4 (12/2015)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 10 No. 5 (7/2016)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 10 No. 6 (12/2016)	£2.00	£5.00	£6.00
Vol. 10 No. 7 (8/2017) Hugh Miller	£3.00	£6.00	£8.00
Vol. 10 No. 8 (11/2017)	£3.00	£6.00	£8.00
Vol. 10 No. 9 (10/2018)	£3.00	£6.00	£8.00
Vol. 10 No. 10 (12/2018) Ethics Special	£3.00	£6.00	£8.00
Vol. 11 No. 1 (6/2019) Pyrite Oxidation	£3.00	£6.00	£8.00
Vol. 11 No. 2 (12/2019) SW Collections, Moves	£3.00	£6.00	£8.00

How to order:

1. Select the issues you'd like copies of
2. Contact backissues@geocurator.org to check they are in stock and confirm postage costs
3. Donate at www.geocurator.org/donate using the amounts given above as guidance

4. Forward a copy of the donation receipt to backissues@geocurator.org along with the address you'd like them sent to
5. Wait for the post!

Simon Harris

7.2. Blog

A total of 36 articles have been published on the blog (<https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/>) since 1st November 2019. From November 2018 to October 2019 the blog received 7,258 hits. From November 2019 to October 2020, the blog received 9,152 hits, showing an increase of 1,894.

Two regular slots continue to feature on the blog; A monthly contribution from a committee member (on a rotating schedule), and the monthly News from the Sector written by Emma Nicholls. News from the Sector is a round-up of forthcoming exhibitions, events, conferences, workshops, and job vacancies. Since March 2020, physical events have been gradually replaced by virtual ones due to the covid-19 pandemic. This has been reflected and thus documented in the content of News from the Sector.

The top five most popular articles published since 1st November 2019 (with the exception of the announcement of the Brighton Medal Award winner, (<https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/2019/11/25/the-geological-curators-group-brighton-medal-award-goes-to/>), beginning with the most read, were: How Can You Work From Home When You're A Curator? by Emma Bernard (<https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/2020/05/20/how-can-you-work-from-home-when-youre-a-curator/>); The Geological Record is Full of Cr*p by Nigel Larkin (<https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/2020/06/16/the-geological-record-is-full-of-cr-p/>); The Mineral Collection of the Royal Institution of Cornwall by Roy Starkey (<https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/2020/01/13/the-mineral-collection-of-the-royal-institution-of-cornwall/>); What's in a Name? by Matthew Parkes (<https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/2019/11/20/whats-in-a-name/>); and Geological Fakes- Minerals, Gems and Meteorites by Nadine Gabriel (<https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/2020/02/19/geological-fakes-minerals-gems-and-meteorites/>). The statistics reveal that articles published in both 2019 and 2018 remain popular, with Good Collections Practice is a Shared Responsibility by Pip Brewer (<https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/2019/07/25/good-collections-practice-is-a-shared-responsibility/>), the most read blog of all time for the second year in a row.

If you have anything you would like to advertise in the News from the Sector blog, or you would like to contribute an article of your own, please get in touch with us at blog@geocurator.org.

Dr Emma Nicholls

7.3. Social media

Our social media presence remains healthy, and we thank everyone who has engaged with us over the last year. Contributors are reminded of our social media policy, which can be viewed at: <https://www.geocurator.org/committee/management-documents/58-how-the-committee-works>. Please note, this is a live document, and we will continue to update it as things progress.

We are represented on Facebook and Twitter, and most news, stories and events are shared on both platforms.

7.3.1. Facebook

We are represented on Facebook in two ways: a group and a page (both called Geological Curators' Group). All content is posted to both. 1035 people have liked our Facebook Group (1035 in 2019, 985 in 2018; 912 in 2017) with 1113 people following the posts. We have 502 members of our group page from 65 countries, predominately from the UK, Europe, and North America (350 in 2019; 292 in 2018; 225 in 2017). Approximately three quarters are active members who will interact with the content posted.

7.3.2. Twitter

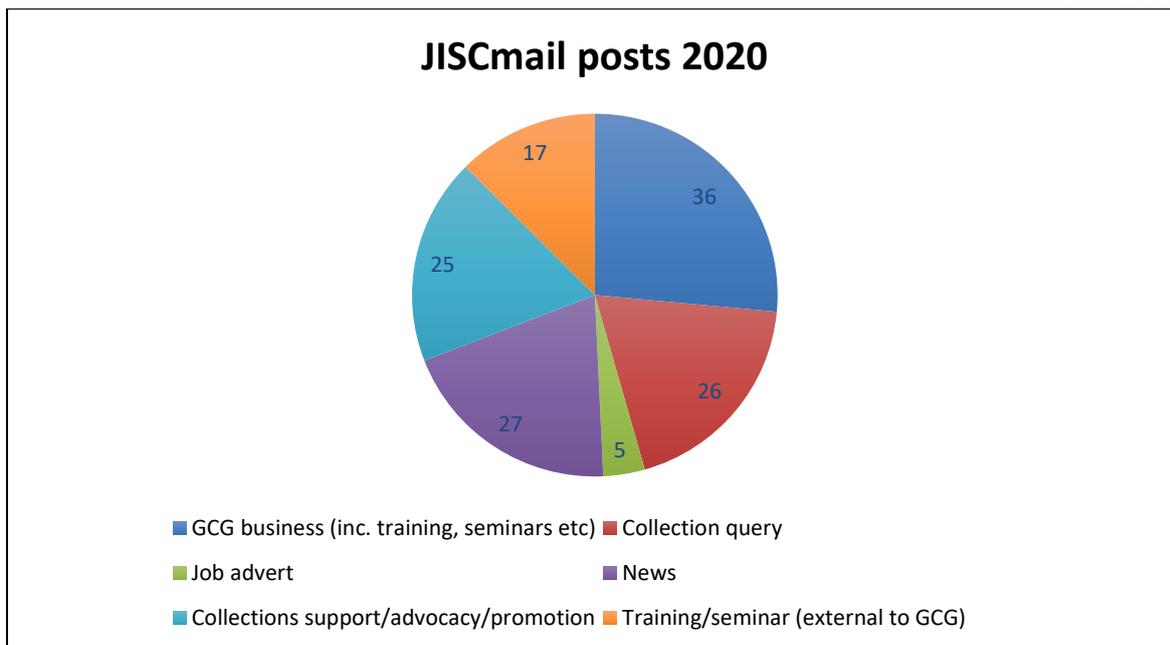
We currently have 1355 followers (1227 in 2019, 1068 in 2018; 961 in 2017) on our Twitter account (@OriginalGCG). During October, we had 583 profile visits, 46 mentions, 24,800 tweet impressions and 13 new followers. These numbers vary monthly but do show a gradual increase overall. In September we had an increase in interactions, which is not surprising as SPPC played a big part in driving people to our social media channels.

Emma Bernard

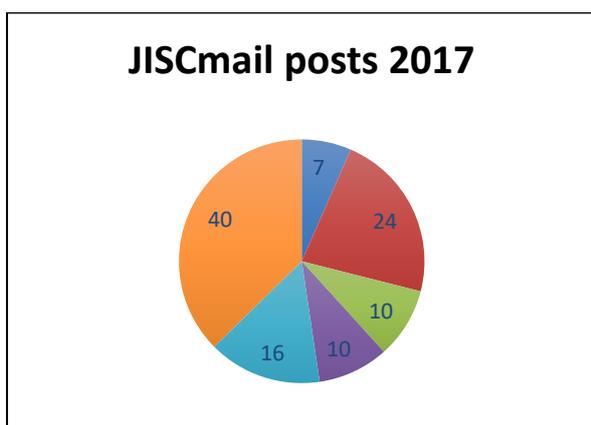
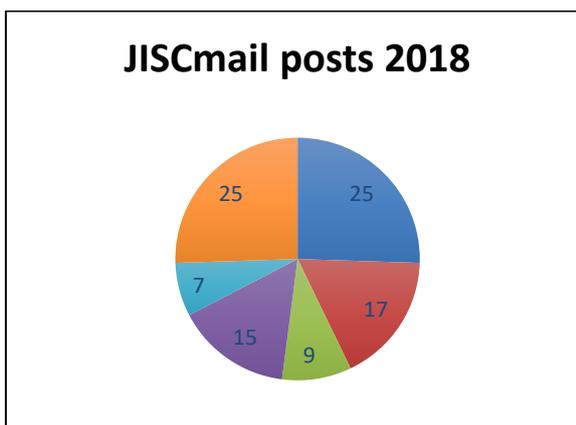
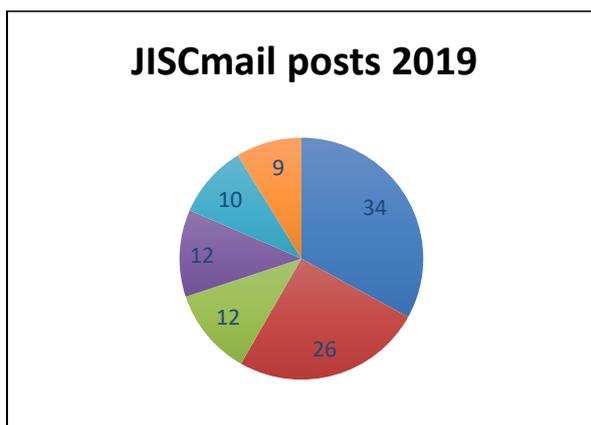
7.4. JISCmail

As noted in previous years, the vast majority of correspondence that would once have been addressed directly to GCG now comes into the GCG JISCmail list, GEO-CURATORS@JISCmail.ac.uk. Anyone is welcome to sign up and post to this list, whether a GCG member or not, although we do of course encourage you to join (<https://www.geocurator.org/membership>)! See our website for a link through the list with sign-up instructions.

List membership is still roughly in line with our GCG membership, although it doesn't match completely. There are currently 272 list members. (2019: 275; 2018: 276; 2017: 272). It's worth pointing out that this is purely a list of email addresses – some people have signed up with more than one email. The list tends to balance itself out as a few people unsubscribe themselves, but most that leave the list are stripped out automatically when their email addresses bounce in the JISCmail monitoring mechanism. If an email address bounces for 5 or so days in a row, JISC will remove it from the list. So, if you know there have been problems with your email address, it's worth checking you're still subscribed! If you have any queries or problems, please send me an email secretary@geocurator.org.



Total original posts 2020: 136 (NB – Nov 2019 until end of Oct 2020).



Total original posts 2019: 103

Total original posts 2018: 98

Total original posts 2020: 107

Please note, that the time range for each year can vary as it ties in with the scheduling of the AGM.

As usual, the majority of posts on the list in 2020 concern GCG business, sent out by GCG committee members – mainly notification of new blog posts, GCG notifications, journal and GCG events. Most of the news posted over the last year was also the monthly ‘News from the Sector’ GCG blog series. The number of collections queries is almost identical to past years, mostly these are identifications or collections being offered within the community, or collections care and museum practice queries. This year there was a flurry of emails concerned with Covid-19; how long this may remain on

specimens and how best to prevent the spread, especially as museums looked to re-open safely. This works out at a couple of general posts a month. The majority of these came from list members who are not on committee, which shows there is a good sense of community and the need for the group and email list.

There was a slight slump in activity during May to August, which correlates when many people were furloughed and not involved in work related activities. However, work continued behind the scenes on blogs, the journal and day to day governance of the group.

Total figures are not directly comparable as they don't cover the exact same dates each year. Also, with a relatively small number of posts, small fluctuations are amplified, but it is clear that alongside our fantastic blog posts being sent out a few times a month, those working with collections are happy to trust the GCG hive mind with collections-based queries of all sorts.

It is noted that there are fluctuations each year depending on seasonal events e.g., more messages from committee around Aug and Sept due to SPPC.

As always, we thank everyone who has contributed to the conversations over the past year, especially those who have offered their expertise which is greatly appreciated by all.

Emma Bernard

8. Outreach and profile

As with many things this year, many of the event GCG were due to sponsor or have representation at were cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

However, we were very pleased we were able to host SPPC and a massive thank you must go to all involved, but particularly Emma Nicholls, Nigel Larkin, Lu Allington-Jones, Zoe Hughes and Simon Harris, who did an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to make sure it happened.

We are also delighted that we are able to participate at the Geologists' Association virtual Festival of Geology. In the spirit of the festival, the page will be live for a week either side of the main event on 7th November at: <https://www.geocurator.org/events/106-ga-virtual-festival-of-geology-2020>

We do still have supplies of GCG fliers that we can sent out if you would like to help us promote GCG. As a charity we would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in sponsoring a GCG event, there are even costs in hosting an online event.

Do let us know if you would like to get more involved in GCG, whether that is writing a blog, assisting with the journal, on committee or running an event. We are a friendly group and it would be great to hear from you!

Please drop us a line at info@geocurator.org and we will take it from there.

Emma Bernard

GCG information

The Geological Curators' Group can be found at:

- www.geocurator.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/GeologicalCuratorsGroup/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/376700195784835/>
- <https://twitter.com/OriginalGCG>
- <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=296050&subid=0>

Contact details:

info@geocurator.org

National Museums Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1JF

Committee for 2020 (from AGM 2019)

- **Chair:** Sarah King (*York Museums Trust*)
- **Secretary:** Emma Bernard (*Natural History Museum*)
- **Treasurer:** Rachel Walcott (*National Museums Scotland*)
- **Membership Secretary:** Cindy Howells (*National Museum Wales*)
- **Programme Secretary:** Zoë Hughes (*Natural History Museum*)
- **Journal Editor:** Pip Brewer (*Natural History Museum*)
- **Newsletter Editor, Blog Editor:** Emma Nicholls (*Horniman Museum and Gardens*)
- **Collections Officer:** Mike Howe (*British Geological Survey*)
- **Web Officer:** Simon Harris (*British Geological Survey*)
- **Ordinary Member:** Alex Peaker (*Dinosaur Isle*)
- **Ordinary Member:** Lu Allington-Jones (*Natural History Museum*)
- **Co-opted member:** Robert Lowther (*Imperial College, London*)
- **Co-opted member:** (Conservation Officer): Nigel Larkin (*Natural History Conservation*)
- **Co-opted member** (archive support): Lil Stevens (*Natural History Museum*)

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