

Geological Collections Group

England & Wales · Charity number 1198339

Details

Other names GEOLOGICAL CURATORS GROUP

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-03-23

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO ADVANCE THE SCIENCE OF GEOLOGY AND TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GEOLOGY, BY:• PROMOTING AND DISSEMINATING THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING AND PROTECTING GEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS AS RECORDS OF THE HISTORY OF THE EARTH, TO ENABLE THEIR USE AS EDUCATIONAL GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES;• PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF USING GEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND THE ENRICHMENT OF SOCIETY IN GENERAL, AND DISSEMINATING THE RESULTS THROUGH PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ARTICLES AND RESOURCES;• IMPROVING STANDARDS IN GEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS, INCLUDING THOSE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, BY PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES, TRAINING AND OTHER SUPPORT TO THE PERSONS CURATING OR ARRANGING SUCH COLLECTIONS;• SUCH OTHER MEANS AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES MAY DETERMINE.

Activities: Advocates for and disseminates information about geological collections, museums, curation etc. Holds meetings, seminars, workshops, field trips to bring together professionals in this field, to share and promote best practice. Gives advice on geological matters to individuals and government bodies. Publishes regular newsletter and journal and distributes to profession.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Ireland
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-10-27	£11,134	£15,100	-	-
2023-10-27	£15,676	£14,030	-	-
2022-10-27	£15,676	£14,030	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Emma Louise Nicholls MSc PhD	Chair	2022-03-23
Dr Emily Jayne Swaby		2024-11-12
Dr Mark Evans		2022-12-01
Dr Michael Howe		2022-03-23
Dr Nidia Alvarez Armada		2025-12-10
Dr Paul Geoffrey Davis		2024-11-12
Duncan Murdock		2022-12-01
Gemma Laker		2023-11-29
Nadine Gabriel		2024-11-12
Olivia Norma Beavers		2024-11-12
Robert Ian Lowther		2022-03-23
Simon James Harris		2022-03-23

Geological Collections Group

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Accounts

Geological Curators Group



www.geocurator.org

Annual Report for 2024

For presentation at the 2024 AGM

The Geological Curators Group is a UK-based membership organisation and charity (no. 1198339), 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 mission and vision are available [here](#).

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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

1.1 The sector

This year, like any other, the Committee and the community have seen highs and lows. One of the greatest lows was the unfathomable loss of jobs, and indeed department, at National Museum Wales. Not least because of the attitude towards geological collections that it represents. I think the whole community felt shocked by this decision, and our hearts go out to all those affected, which is not just those who ultimately left, but also those that remained.

However, as you will read in the Collections Report, there has also been some good news, as both the Mineral Gallery at the Royal Cornwall Museum and Buxton Museum have reopened. I am sure the road ahead will provide further challenges for Buxton Museum as they try to overcome a variety of ongoing issues and it is important for our community to come together in these times. By standing together, we are better able to fight for individuals, jobs, collections, and institutions, and to present a united front against decision-makers who may undervalue geological collections and the expertise of those who work and volunteer with them.

On a more granular scale, it is clear to me that to *an ever-increasing* extent, we are all having to achieve more and more with less and less, right across the sector. This can be extremely stressful, so I encourage you all to tap into any and every resource that will help you in your role. From simply reaching out and seeking advice via the Geo-Curators JiscMail, through swapping materials and physical resources between institutions, to telling us at GCG what training or other types of support might be helpful to you. We are here to listen and to help where we can.

1.2 The Committee

We have gained and lost committee members throughout the year, as people's commitments and priorities have changed. On behalf of us all, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Andrew Haycock, Rob Theodore, Brigit Tronrud, and Rachel Walcott, who have all decided to stand down this year. All four have been amazing colleagues and helped in immeasurable ways to drive GCG forward.

I would like to extend a particular thanks to Rachel who has been on the GCG Committee for eight years. As a committee colleague, and subsequently as Chair, I greatly valued the years of her down to earth attitude, sense of humour, and candour. Thank you, Rachel, for all that you have done for GCG, you will be greatly missed!

As mentioned, we have also *gained* this year! Karen Bell and Phil Hadland joined us in January 2024 as co-opted committee members, and both have already made notable contributions to GCG, as you will read in the Web Coordinator and Collections Coordinator reports.

The last piece of individual news is that long-standing committee member Simon Harris, who has used his incredible skills and expertise to overhaul and run our website (no small task!) for several years, is standing down as a Trustee at the end of the year. He will remain on the Committee until at least the end of 2025, during which time the Committee will put succession measures in place to support both Simon and the website into the future.

One prominent change in the actual structure of the Committee going forward is in the way we communicate with sister Subject Specialist Networks. The Committee has had, at different times, a NatSCA Rep and a SPNHC Rep for example, but sitting on two committees of this nature in order to feed back to each group is a huge time commitment. Therefore, rather than having specific reps, we propose that all relevant SSNs share a brief synopsis of meetings in a central depository. GCG would



then have one committee member to monitor this and update the group. This should allow us to keep in better communication with more sister-SSNs than we do at present. SSNs and other types of organisation identified to contact so far include, IUGS, NatSCA, PalAss, and SMMP. If you represent another group and would like to be part of this information sharing, please do get in touch.

Finally, a word on the current Committee. The GCG Committee comprises nearly 20 remarkable people who go above and beyond to deliver every one of our outputs on top of their daily jobs, lives, and responsibilities. It feels as though more and more people in the modern world struggle from being overstretched and overwhelmed, at work as well as in other aspects of their lives. Everyone on the GCG Committee volunteers in their role because they are dedicated and passionate, and not due to an absence of those other pressures. I just wanted to take a moment to thank them all and to recognise how much hard work and commitment it takes to keep things going. To the Committee – you are amazing. Thank you!

1.3 GCG bursary scheme

Work has nearly been completed on a formalised bursary scheme. We propose three deadlines a year, to coincide with committee meetings, to minimise wait time for applicants. Funds can be used to cover expenses including but not limited to; conference attendance, workshops, a small collections project (including conservation, for example), emergency ‘rapid response’ projects, etc. These bursaries would only be available to GCG members. The recipient would be expected to produce a tangible output for the GCG community, such as a blog or newsletter article. The total amount awarded per funding round would be a third of a fixed percentage of GCG’s financial resources.

1.4 Membership offer

In the 2023 Annual Report, I started this section with two sentences that I am going to repeat! When you log into the GCG website using your membership details, there is a plethora of resources awaiting you. Please do make sure you take some time to familiarise yourself with everything that GCG has to offer, and benefit from these resources whenever you need them.

As part of our 2024 Winter Seminar, we will be holding two workshops: “Reciprocal relationships: an appealing offer” and “More than the sum of our parts” on how GCG can improve its offer to members, as well as how to encourage our members to benefit from the resources that exist. If you aren’t able to join us for the workshops but have thoughts along these lines, please do get in touch with one of the Committee. We would love to hear from you!

1.5 Reaching those who need us

Speaking on behalf of the Committee, this section is about the opening up of GCG to be more inclusive of all who work with or care for geological collections. Our [Mission](#) states that our role is to support those working with or caring for all types of geological collections; to advocate for expertise in the care and use of geological collections, and their importance for scientific research and education; and to connect people, skills, information, and collections.

To achieve this, all those to whom the above applies need to know we are here and that we are for them. In order to unify our community, to bring people together and support them, the Committee has proposed a name change to Geological **Collections** Group. At the AGM in 2023 we invited open discussion on the topic, and the response in that meeting was very positive. One delegate said “Thank you! I have been a member since the 70s but never really felt like I belonged because my title is not curator”. This response sums up perfectly the reason for the proposal. The Committee often



finds themselves encouraging conference or workshop attendance by saying “it’s not just for curators”. If GCG stood for Geological Collections Group, it would be obvious from the outset.

Changing ‘curator’ to ‘collections’ means that we keep our acronym ‘GCG’ as a recognised brand but become more inclusive at the same time. A number of other SSNs have changed their names in the past and become stronger as a result. We don’t need to be afraid that changing our name to be more inclusive will result in a loss of recognition, especially as the acronym ‘GCG’ will remain.

Our hope is you will agree with our aim to better serve all those we *should* be serving, and not just those that we currently reach. To finalise this discussion, there will be a vote at the AGM on the 12th November 2024. Of course, if you have any questions, please do get in touch with us. We will facilitate a vote for those not able to attend the AGM.

1.6 50th anniversary year

The Golden Anniversary event *Geological collections: past, present and future*, was a huge success as you will see in the Programme Coordinator’s report. The Committee was thrilled by how many delegates from the early years of GCG attended, and the line-up of nine of the 17 Chairs from our fifty years, personally, gave me goose bumps! Huge thanks to all who contributed to make the conference and field trip so memorable, from hosts, to presenters, to the catering staff. It was wonderful to return home to our roots and hold the anniversary event in Leicester where GCG was first conceived. The Committee would like to extend particular thanks to Dave Unwin for hosting us, Mark Evans for so much of the organising, Tom Sharpe for a wonderful after-dinner speech, and Simon Harris, Mike Howe, Jack Matthews, and Duncan Murdock for running an amazing field trip.

The 50th anniversary event also allowed us to unveil the new logo! Thank you to all those who submitted entries into the competition and to Nigel Chapman for the beautiful artwork that will, I’m sure, serve us well for many years to come. Pride of place on the new logo is the old one, sitting prominently at the top, accompanied by an ammonite, mountains, minerals, a hand lens, a museum icon, and trace fossils. We hope you will agree it represents our community really well.

In final exciting 50th news, the (very!) special issue of *Geological Curator* that will provide a lasting legacy of the golden anniversary event is nearly ready to hit your in- and post- boxes. This issue will certainly finish volume eleven off with a bang! **So please do make sure your subs are up to date for 2024 so that you don’t miss out.** For more information, please see the Journal Editor’s report.

1.7 Looking to 2025

Looking forward to the upcoming year, we already have lots of plans in place to continue and build on the success of 2024. We have ideas for workshops, networking events, field trips, seminars and conferences, and some new features for the newsletter *Coprolite* (see Newsletter Editor’s report). Amongst other things, we are also working on updating our various policies, finalising the CIO byelaws, and working with DiSSCo to ensure geological collections have a firm place at the table when it comes to largescale digitisation.

We hope that you continue to be part of the GCG community going forward into 2025, thank you for all of your support up to now!

Emma Nicholls
Chair of the Geological Curators Group



2. Accounts

The Geological Curators Group has remained financially healthy this year.

The Group's new PayPal and CAF accounts are working well, with the level of support that CAF provides being exceptional. The old TSB account is being closed at the end of our financial year, so **please make sure that you have switched your standing orders to the new account by the time of the 2024 AGM.**

The group is looking to open a fixed term savings account to enable us to better utilise some of our reserves so that we can better support the community.

The 2023-2024 accounts will be released before the AGM once they have been audited.

My thanks once again to Rachel Walcott for her continued support in managing the TSB account.

Rob Lowther, Treasurer

3. Membership

GCG has gained 21 new members this year, which is great. However, overall there has been a slight drop in membership figures for 2024 (below). As I am writing this (mid-October) there are still 41 individual members from 2023 who have failed to renew for this year, and that is the main reason for this low figure (along with the earlier date of the AGM). It is quite possible that some of those 41 will pay up before the AGM itself, but it does make the role of the Membership Coordinator much harder if I have to keep sending out reminders. So, do please try and pay your membership **on time at the start of the year**, and not ignore our emails. I have deleted 11 individuals and 7 institutions who failed to pay for 2023 but didn't inform us they wished to leave, alongside a few who left for personal reasons. Please let me know if you change your email address or wish to leave GCG.

We have now fully changed over to our new account with CAF bank, so that all BACS and Standing Orders should now be paid to this, or you can of course pay through our secure website as always. Please do contact me about any membership questions.

Very sadly this year, three long-standing GCG members died, and we send heartfelt condolences to their families.

Breakdown of membership figures for this year (up 14 Oct 2024).

Full individual members paid to date	153 (125 UK, 28 OS)
Concessionary members paid to date	33 (28 UK, 5 OS)
Honorary members	7
Institutional subscribers paid to date	27
Total	220



	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Personal UK	153	164	170	159	169	173	175
Personal Overseas	33	33	37	45	39	34	28
UK Institutions	15	19	24	19	26	37	38
Overseas Institutions	12	16	19	16	19	20	21
Honorary	7	7	8	8	8	7	7
Total	220	239	258	247	261	271	269

We are proud to have members from 18 countries, including: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Columbia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, USA and the UK.

As always, we love to hear from members, especially when you write in to propose an idea, a talk, an article, or offer of a meeting venue. Do continue to promote GCG to your colleagues. GCG is relevant to anyone who deals in any way with geological collections, whether you be a student, volunteer, curator, conservator, illustrator, preparator, dealer, photographer, collections manager, or any of the other types of geological roles that professionals and amateurs work within. Hence, the suggested name change!

Finally, I'd like to thank Rachel and Rob for their work during the year to ensure that the bank accounts run smoothly and helping me with identifying payments that have no reference codes!

Cindy Howells, Membership Coordinator

4. Events

This past year, November 2023-November 2024, we have held a number of events, and celebrated our 50th, or Golden, Anniversary. Following on from the success of last year's field day and workshops, we have also seen a welcome return to larger, in-person seminars and conferences.

4.1 Winter 2023

Despite initial discussion on holding our 2023 Winter seminar and 50th AGM at least partly in-person, logistics meant that we had to hold this meeting as a purely virtual event, which took place on November 28th, 2023. The Seminar **Building Bridges between Private Collectors and Museums** attracted 90 delegates from 11 countries. The meeting included 13 talks and a discussion session. Details of the programme and abstracts can be found here ([50th Annual General Meeting and Winter Seminar - The Geological Curators Group \(geocurator.org\)](#)). Our thanks to the discussion panel members, Rachel Walcott, Mike Howe, Cindy Howells, Martin Munt and Tom Cotterell. Emma Nicholls and Duncan Murdock coped admirably with IT problems by shuttling between various offices in Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH).

Our final event of 2023 was the **Digital Morphology Workshop** which was held in-person at OUMNH on December 11th, organised by Emma Nicholls. Tutors Duncan Murdock and Frankie Dunn led 13 delegates through the processes of building virtual 3D models of palaeontological specimens from computerised tomography (CT) data.

4.2 Spring 2024

Our 2024 programme kicked off with a virtual coffee morning, **Neurodiversi-Tea**, to mark Neurodiversity Celebration Week on March 18th organised by Gemma Laker. The event offered a



relaxed and open space to encourage conversations for neurodivergent celebration in the geological collections sector.

We celebrated our 50th Anniversary with an in-person meeting based in Leicester, the birthplace of GCG. This is where the initial discussion meeting that led to the formation of the Group was held in 1974. Exactly 50 years later we met on May 17th for our Golden Anniversary seminar **Geological Collections Past, Present and Future**. Our venue was the School of Museum Studies with Dave Unwin acting as our host. We welcomed 37 delegates in all, and the programme included 12 talks and two posters plus a discussion session. We looked back at GCG's origins and some of our past activities (including the overseas study tours of the nineties and noughties), current curatorial practices and a glimpse into the AI-assisted future. We were pleased to be able to welcome nine Chairs, past and present, and there was ample opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. The day ended with the cutting of an amazing celebratory 50th Anniversary cake, made and decorated by Chair Emma Nicholls in the form of the new GCG logo. We then reconvened at the nearby Belmont Hotel for a special 50th Anniversary Dinner after which Tom Sharpe gave an entertaining after-dinner speech.

The following day a group of 17 delegates boarded a coach and set off from Leicester for the field trip around the nearby Charnwood Forest and then on to the British Geological Survey (BGS). Jack Matthews, GeoHeritage Conservation and Interpretation Officer for the Charnwood Forest Geopark, led the group to three localities in Charnwood Forest: Morley Quarry, Billa Barra Nature Reserve and Beacon Hill Country Park, where we ate our sandwich lunch. We then proceeded to BGS where Mike Howe and Simon Harris showed us casts of Ediacaran fossils from Charnwood Forest and more of the collections and core store. Welcome refreshments were provided before return coach travel to Leicester. There is a great write-up of the [50th Anniversary event on our blog](#), by Nadine Gabriel.

4.3 Summer 2024

Our second in-person meeting of the year was the **Symposium on Toarcian Palaeobiology** held on June 17th-20th at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI), Bath. The meeting was jointly organised by GCG, BRLSI and the University of Leeds with Meghan Jenkinson leading on GCG's behalf alongside myself, Crispin Little (Leeds) and Matt Williams (BRLSI). A total of 30 delegates attended this Early Jurassic-themed symposium in person, with an additional two presenters giving prerecorded talks. A total of 21 talks were given across a wide range of fossil groups, with three of these being keynotes on fossil insects (Emily Swaby), marine crocodiles (Michela Johnson) and African ichnology and sedimentology (Emese Bordy). Two workshops on ammonite identification (Kevin Page) and palaeoart (James McKay) were well attended and proved popular. The final day of the meeting comprised a collections workshop run by Matt Williams, with the opportunity to study specimens from the Charles Moore collection from Strawberry Bank, Somerset, held at BRLSI. Feedback for the meeting has been overwhelmingly positive, with delegates commenting the most on how they enjoyed meeting new colleagues, the diversity of topics presented upon, and the ability to view the collections.

Our third in-person meeting of 2024 was a joint meeting with the History of Geology Group (HOGG) on **The History of Geological Discovery in Polar Regions** and was held in Cambridge on July 16th-17th. The main organisers were Duncan Hawley (HOGG), myself and Cindy Howells, with Cindy wearing both HOGG and GCG hats, and 38 delegates attended. The first day was held at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and included 11 talks, one film and a poster covering both the northern and southern polar regions. There was an opportunity to view a small collection of rock specimens from Scott's



1901-1903 *Discovery* expedition from the BAS collection. Our thanks go to BAS Director Prof Dame Jane Francis for making the conference facilities available.

The following day presented a further opportunity to view historic collections and archives with self-led visits to the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences and Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), while tours of the Sedgwick Museum Collections Research Centre were provided by Dan Pemberton, Sandra Freshney and colleagues.

4.4 Autumn and Winter 2024

The **Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation** was held on 11th September and hosted by the University of Southampton. Many thanks are due to the Southampton team, especially Neil Gostling and Kate Cooley. The SPPC Committee this year consisted of Lu Allington-Jones, Kieran Miles and Nigel Larkin. There were 7 virtual delegates (which included one remote presenter) and 49 in-person delegates. The morning programme included six oral presentations, five posters and one film followed by tours of the archaeological labs and muVIS μ CT visualisation suite in the afternoon. Abstracts are available on the GCG website here ([SPPC - Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation - The Geological Curators Group \(geocurator.org\)](https://www.geocurator.org)). It was great to see a mix of new and nearly-new faces amongst our loyal long-standing supporters.

Our next event is the Winter Seminar and 51st AGM, **Reciprocal Relationships: how can partnerships help us and our collections develop?** which will be held at OUMNH on November 11th – 13th, and organised by our very own Emma Nicholls and Duncan Murdock

4.5 Summary

Overall, our events programme engaged with 278 delegates over the past year, with 167 attending in-person and 111 virtually. Whilst we have made a return to in-person conference-style meetings we recognise that maintaining virtual or hybrid meetings is more inclusive and enables us to engage with a wider range of members and colleagues around the world. However, hybrid meetings continue to present challenges in terms of the required IT support from the physical venue. I would like to extend my thanks to committee colleagues and all others who have helped with the events programme this year, and apologies to those I have inadvertently omitted.

Mark Evans, Programme Coordinator

5. Publications

5.1 Geological Curator

[11\(8\) December 2023](#)

All articles were released in digital format, to members only, with physical copies distributed in January 2024.

- Sorting a sticky situation: Engaging students in sorting and identifying microfossils from La Brea Tar Pits *Christine M. Mazzeo, Elizabeth R. Ellwood, Aisling B. Farrell, Nathaniel S. Fox, Stephany Potze, Cornelia A. Clarke, Gary T. Takeuchi, Molly Porter, Emily Lindsey*
- Archives in lockdown: The curious case of the BGS 'Wilson Collection' *Graham Tulloch, Beverly P. Bergman, Philip Stone, and Michael Togher*
- Collection security: low-cost measures for mineral collections *Erika B Anderson*
- Shackleton and Bruce: disentangling Antarctic geological collections at National Museums Scotland *Philip Stone, Rachel Walcott and Peder Aspen*



- Hiding in plain sight: the unexpected discovery of a historically interesting dinosaur egg in a mineralogy collection *Robin F. Hansen and Paul M. Barrett*
- Still potentially deadly after all these years: how to safely handle and display radioactive dinosaurs and other fossils *Nigel R. Larkin and Jana Horak*

11(9) Summer 2024

All articles are available to members as online early access. Distribution of the print edition has been delayed until late 2024.

- Illuminating an uncatalogued micropalaeontological collection at the Lapworth Museum of Geology, University of Birmingham *J. D. Dixon, Alexandra Z. Meek, Jon Clatworthy and Kirsty M. Edgar*
- In search of lost time: Recovering missing stratigraphical data from fossil marine reptile specimens using micropalaeontological analyses *Nigel R. Larkin, Dean R. Lomax, Ian Boomer and Phil Copestake*
- Using the methyl cellulose poultice method to remove plaster and burlap - A case study on Triceratops bone *Kieran Miles*
- Trilobite thin section analysis clarifies matrix separation properties *Maximo Alfonso Rojo, Atle Jorstad Qviller, Nélia Castro and Øyvind Hammer Hammer*
- Book Review: *Ichthyosaurs from the Early Jurassic of Britain*
- *Remaining articles are in press and will be online soon.*

11(10) 50th Anniversary Special

The final issue in volume 11 will be an exciting special celebration issue to commemorate fifty years of GCG, with contributions from our golden anniversary meeting in May. This issue will form a lasting legacy of this special year, so please do make sure you have paid your 2024 subs to ensure you receive your copy!

Volume 12 – Coming in 2025! - A brand new volume will start next year!

Editorial Team

Huge thanks go to the current editorial team: Duncan Murdock (Editor); Lu Allington-Jones, Neil Adams, Jess McCoy (Associate Editors); Jordan Bestwick, Alexandria Gour (First Stage Production Editors); and Emily Carlisle (Second Stage Production Editor).

Submitting a manuscript

All submissions should be sent to journal@geocurator.org and should follow the [Instructions for Authors](#). They should be in English, appropriately structured, relevant to the journal, clear, concise and fully referenced.

Please carefully read through our [Journal Policies and Guidance](#) before submitting a manuscript for consideration.

Issues of Geological Curator

The most recent three issues can only be accessed by current members through logging in to the website. Issues older than 2 years are made freely available via the website. Back issues of most printed editions are also still available [here](#).



The [Journal Policies and Guidance](#) are currently undergoing a revision, and will be published on our website in the new year.

Duncan Murdock, Journal Editor

5.2 Coprolite Newsletter

Issue n. 108 (Spring 2024)

- *Megalosaurus*: Curating a global icon in its 200th year – by *Emma Nicholls* (Oxford University Museum of Natural History), Chair GCG
- UZH new opening – *Cinzia Ragni* (PhD Student University of Turin: Newsletter Editor GCG)

Issue n. 109 (Summer 2024)

- 50th Anniversary – by *Cinzia Ragni* (PhD Student University of Turin: Newsletter Editor GCG)
- Communication to the “Salone internazionale del libro di Torino” - by the “Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali” of Turin - By *Lorenzo Ridolfi* (PhD Student UNITO)

Issue n. 110 (Autumn 2024)

- List of shows (October 2024 – Feb 2025) - by *Gerald Lucy*
- Mineralogy and Museum conference 10 - Cardiff, UK. 11 - 13 August 2024 - By *Helen Kerbey* (Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland)
- The National Museum of Ireland - Natural History ('Dead Zoo') shuts its doors for 5 to 10 years - By *Patrick Roycroft* (National Museum of Ireland)
- Summary of “For a few dollars more” of Roy Starkey - By *Cinzia Ragni* (PhD Student University of Turin: Newsletter Editor GCG)

To read previous editions of the newsletter please see <https://www.geocurator.org/resources/17-coprolite> and members can access the latest editions at <https://www.geocurator.org/component/phocadownload/category/2-coprolite?Itemid=101>.

Many thanks to Cindy Howells for adding information about future events and parts related to the organisational level of GCG and Rob Theodore for supplying details of upcoming events. Thanks to Cindy Howells, Lu Allington-Jones, Dr Emma Nicholls and Brigit Tronrud for feedback and Nigel Larkin for providing many of the images of coprolites.

In general, there is low participation in “Guess the Coprolite”, so this element is under revision. Going forward, we are looking to introduce some new features to the newsletter, including a roundup of committee news, articles such as favourite specimens or collection highlights from museums and other institutions, etc. Discussions on the direction of *Coprolite* are ongoing and ideas from the membership are warmly welcomed.

Cinzia Ragni, Newsletter Editor

6. Collections Support

The safety of geological collections in local museums and one national remains a serious concern, with numerous councils around the UK experiencing budgetary challenges or worse. Years of cuts and high inflation mean that they struggle to cover their statutory expenditure, even before their discretionary costs. The closure of the Geology Department at the National Museums Wales, Cardiff,



and the complete severance of all mineralogy and petrology staff is staggering. At a time when international efforts to minimise climate change by achieving Net Zero are likely to fail because of insufficient critical metals, to remove the very staff familiar with the mineral potential of Wales seems unbelievable. If our forebears were able to find the resources to establish and develop such important collections and museums, one has to ponder why, when we are told we are so much better off, we can no longer do the same.

Buxton Museum, also with key mineral collections, has appointed a new curator and there are some signs of progress. Although the old building and its dry rot is unlikely to be repaired, serious public pressure may force the council into finding alternative premises. The Mineral Gallery at the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro reopened on 11th July 2024. The number of minerals on display has been significantly reduced, with many of the non-Cornish minerals going into store. Most of the display cabinets have been lowered to make them more accessible to children and wheelchair users. The biggest change has been the replacement of detailed labels with numbers, which can be deciphered with the hard copy catalogues available, or with online resources accessed by QR codes. It will be interesting to see how visitor numbers and average gallery visit times change going forwards.

The main cause for optimism remains DiSSCo-UK, which was formally launched on 25th March 2024, following a visit of the then Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, Michelle Donelan, to the Natural History Museum. The project involves a £155 million investment by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) of UKRI over 10 years in digitising the UK natural science collections – or at least 50% of them. Apparently, in 2022, more than two research publications a day cited UK natural science collections data, highlighting the importance of UK records to global science, and the transformative potential of DiSSCo UK in unlocking the data held within the UK's collections, from national museums to local and university collections, botanic gardens and specialist institutes. Whilst a Life Sciences portal has already been launched (through GBIF), the Earth Sciences seem to be languishing and viewed as “marginal”. This is concerning, given the key role of geoscience collections in addressing Net Zero. GCG is currently developing an advocacy document to help address this wider concern.

Another piece of positive news is the establishment of an IUGS Sub commission on Geo-Collections - <https://iugs-geoheritage.org/subcommission-on-geo-collections/> . The group is currently working towards a publication on the 100 most important heritage collections in the world.

Dr Mike Howe, Collections Coordinator and Karen Bell, Collections Coordinator Assistant

7. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The EDI Coordinator in the GCG is still a relatively new role, so progress and ideas are still coming together. I personally would like to do more and push existing things on, so if there are suggestions, questions, or concerns these would be appreciated as the GCG is always looking for ways to support our members.

The GCG registered for Neurodiversity Celebration Week and hosted a Neurodiversi-tea event for our second year. Turnout of this event was equally relatively low, and we are thinking of ways and considerations of how to approach EDI-related events in the sector, so they are appealing, engaging,



and most importantly impactful. Saying this, productive conversations around accessibility, workplace adjustments, and the relationship of other demographics (e.g. age, gender, race) to neurodivergence were had in this event.

Discussions relating to revising and updating our policies are still underway, and appropriate changes should be made by the next report. The GCG supported me getting accredited EDI training, making me more equipped to contribute to editing these policies, as well as providing access to the training for another committee member and museum worker of a relatively small collection. There are still two places on this online training course, so please reach out to me if you would like to take this up.

I wrote an article on [queer experience in the Geosciences](#), and would aim to hopefully write something else for the blog in the coming year. Lastly, I made up a resource page on our website, listing various themed EDI resources for those who want to explore the sometimes unconsidered or overlooked parts of Geoscience and collections work, inside and outside of the workplace.

Gemma Laker, EDI Coordinator

8. Online

8.1 Website

This year has seen the website continue to perform a central role in our public facing activities – we continue to use it to disseminate news and to book events, and we continue to host ever more content for our membership.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the group, the new logo was scheduled to replace the old one on the top banner at the same time as it was unveiled to attendees in Leicester. We have also added a close-up image of native gold on quartz to the banner to commemorate reaching this milestone.

The *Geological Curator* full text article search (www.geocurator.org/journal/search/) continues to provide a very useful service to the community, with statistics showing that in the last twelve month period, 48,000 DOI resolutions to *Geological Curator* articles have occurred. We record basic stats (date, article ID) about each resolution, and so can summarise the breakdown as follows (Volume 0 is used for *Coprolites* etc.):

Volume	Redirects	Volume	Redirects
0	46	6	2779
1	4967	7	2214
2	7353	8	2417
3	4945	9	3167
4	7385	10	3788
5	5511	11	3361

The top five articles were as follows, showing that it is always worth citing a DOI if possible – if the article you are citing from *Geological Curator* did not have a DOI when published, you can obtain the retro-DOI via the search page, where it is shown in the search results listing.



Vol	No	Article title	Authors	Redirects
4	9	Palaeobotany in Museums	Cedric H. Shute and Christopher J. Cleal	459
10	1	Preserving carbonatite lavas	Lu Allington-Jones	250
11	8	Archives in lockdown: The curious case of the BGS 'Wilson Collection'	Graham Tulloch, Beverly P. Bergman, Philip Stone, and Michael Togher	236
2	5	Collections & Collectors: 4. The Bath Geological collections: The Moore collection of Upper Liassic crocodiles: a history	Christopher J. Duffin	233
4	3	Preparation Techniques for Material From The Posidonienschiefer (Lias Epsilon, Upper Liassic) of Germany	Fritz Lorcher and Thomas Keller	210

The table below shows the now customary top 25 pages by website impressions, from 1st January to 12th October 2024. As usual it shows a broad mix of old and new pages on the website, but it is encouraging to note that the overall count of hits is much higher, and that the article search page for the journal maintains a very high ranking.

Rank	Page title	Hits
1	GCG homepage	67959
2	Article search results	24157
3	Coprolite 93 - Summer 2020	8094
4	SPPC 2007 Glasgow	5797
5	Symposium on Toarcian Palaeobiology	3858
6	Thumbs-up leaflet	3550
7	Committee Profile: Robert Lowther	2632
8	The Geological Curators Group mission statement	2421
9	Privacy Policy	2317
10	The GCG blog	2315
11	Geological Curator 11(8)	2148
12	Notice of increase of membership fees	1568
13	Make a donation	1540
14	50th Anniversary Meeting: Geological Collections Past, Present, and Future	1352
15	SPPC 2008 Dublin	1322
16	Geological Curator 10(8): RTI paper extra content	1032
17	Geological Curator 11(3)	1023
18	Brand new Natural History Museum opening in Sheffield	1002
19	Committee Profile: Dr Emma Nicholls	964
20	GCG Constitution	759
21	Committee Profile: Nigel Larkin	710
22	Committee Profile: Andrew Haycock	693
23	Geological Curator 10(1)	636
24	Committee Profile: Mike Howe	626
25	Geological Curator 8(10)	595

Finally, another interesting new initiative this year is our “virtual library”. It is probably fair to say that we all have *too many books* already, yet we still keep expanding our personal library whenever we see a book on a colleague’s bookshelf that might be useful to our work! With increasing amounts of



historical texts becoming available digitally, as well as new resources being published online and in print formats, it is sometimes difficult to know where to turn to find information. The aim of the **Geological Collections Distributed Library** (www.geocurator.org/library), developed and maintained by new committee member [Phil Hadland](#) is to become a comprehensive bibliography of texts relating to geological collections management and curation – and critically how to get hold of a copy for your own library. At the moment it takes the form of a simple spreadsheet, but in the future we can if we wish make it into a fully searchable database.

Please check out the work Phil has done so far at the link above, let us know if you find it useful, and **most importantly**, if there are references that are critical to your practice as a collections professional, please let us know about it so we can build the list.

As always, offers of help for the website or ideas for new content are always appreciated, and can be e-mailed to webmaster@geocurator.org

Simon Harris, Web Coordinator

8.2 Communications

This year the Communications Coordinator aided the search for the new logo design by fielding entries and initially compiling them for the Committee, assisted with the proofreading of the *Coprolite* newsletter, and proposed a “Geology in the Wild” feature of weekly or bi-weekly posts, that would solicit pictures and experiences from GCG members; there is potential for aspects of it to be looped into other communications (the blog or the newsletter).

Investigations have found that the GCG Wikipedia page can be edited by anyone, and this does not require registering. The current History section could be expanded to include original founders, past annual meeting themes, etc. A Projects section could be added (collections! libraries! connections! etc) and the fact that we publish a blog as well as the *Geological Curator* (and *Coprolite* newsletter). Social media might be made easier/more efficient by the use of social media management accounts like ‘Pally’ or ‘Metricool’, which have free options and can schedule and cross-post on multiple platforms.

Using the GCG JiscMail, members shared 128 posts this year. These were mainly advertisements for relevant events but there were also some job postings and requests for collection care advice.

Brigit Tronrud, Communications Coordinator

8.3 Blog

This year we have published eight blog entries on a range of subjects from conferences to conservation. The blog has received 5186 views and has been visited by people from 93 countries. Sadly, our Blog Editor Rob Theodore has had to step down recently due to other commitments. The Committee would like to thank Rob for all of his hard work since December 2022. More information about our blog can be found at <https://www.geocurator.org/blog>

Blogs should be around 800 words. The absolute minimum is 400 words (there is no maximum, within reason). One image per 200-300 words is the optimum number. Please send submissions to blog@geocurator.org, we would love to hear from you!



This year's blogs:

[Mould in Geological Collections](#)

January 2, 2024, by *Lu Allington-Jones* (Principal Conservator), The Natural History Museum, London

[Reconstructing the Palaeontological Object: Digital Morphology with the Geological Curators Group](#)

January 19, 2024, by *Sophia Reinisch*, Amateur entomologist

[The Geological Curators Group history – Bringing us up to the end of the 20th century.](#)

April 22, 2024, by *Cindy Howells*, Palaeontology Curator at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.

[You Can't Be What You Can't See: Queer Perspectives in Geoscience](#)

June 1, 2024, by *Gemma Laker*, Palaeontology and Geobiology MScR Student at the University of Edinburgh

[A Golden Anniversary – Celebrating 50 Years of the GCG](#)

June 17, 2024, by *Nadine Gabriel*, Curator, Mineralogy at the Natural History Museum, London

[183 Million Years in the Making: The Symposium on Toarcian Palaeobiology](#)

August 23, 2024, by *Meghan Jenkinson*, Postgraduate Researcher at the University of Leeds

[Controlled exsiccation of fossilised remains in waterlogged marl: Slowly slowly dryee squiddie](#)

September 20, 2024, by *Lu Allington-Jones* (Principal Conservator), The Natural History Museum, London

Coming soon: Our new Collection Store Turns 10: Highlights and Hiccups

October 2024, by *Rachel Walcott* (Principal Curator, Earth Systems), Department of Natural Sciences, National Museums Scotland

Lu Allington-Jones, Secretary

9. GCG information

The Geological Curators Group can be found at:

www.geocurator.org

<https://www.facebook.com/GeologicalCuratorsGroup/>

<https://twitter.com/OriginalGCG>

Email: info@geocurator.org

Contact details:

Address: Geological Curators Group

(c/o Becky Goddard)

The Geological Society

Burlington House

London

W1J 0BG

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=296050&subid=0>



Committee for 2024 (from AGM 2023)

(T = trustee)

Chair (T): Dr Emma Nicholls (*Oxford University Museum of Natural History*)

Secretary (T): Lu Allington-Jones (*Natural History Museum, London*)

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator (T): Gemma Laker (*University of Edinburgh*)

Collections Coordinator (T): Dr Mike Howe (*British Geological Survey*)

Communications Coordinator (T): Dr Brigit Tronrud (*Manitoba Museum*)

Treasurer (T): Robert Lowther (*Imperial College, London*)

Membership Coordinator: Cindy Howells (*National Museum Wales*)

Programme Coordinator (T): Dr Mark Evans (*British Antarctic Survey*)

Journal Editor (T): Dr Duncan Murdock (*Oxford University Museum of Natural History*)

Web Coordinator (T): Simon Harris (*British Geological Survey*)

Newsletter Editor: Cinzia Ragni (*Università degli Studi di Torino*)

Blog Editor: Rob Theodore (*Sedgwick Museum, University of Cambridge*) and Phil Hadland (*Hastings Museum & Art Gallery*)

Officer: (Conservation Officer): Nigel Larkin (*Natural History Conservation*)

Officer: (SPNHC Rep): Andrew Haycock (*National Museum Wales*).

Officer: (Outgoing Treasurer) Dr Rachel Walcott (*National Museum of Scotland*)

Officer: (Collections Coordinator Assistant) Karen Bell (*Natural History Museum London*) and Phil Hadland (*Hastings Museum & Art Gallery*)

Officer: (Programme Coordinator Assistant) Meghan Jenkinson (*University of Leeds*)

Officer: (Web Coordinator Assistant) Sherri Donaldson (*University of New England*)

Geological Curator journal support team:

Associate Editors: Neil Adams (*Natural History Museum, London*), Jess McCoy (*Northumbria University*) and Lu Allington-Jones (*Natural History Museum, London*)

First Stage Production Editors: Jordan Bestwick (*University of Zurich*) and Alexandria Gour (*Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and Sea Center*)

Second Stage Production Editor: Emily Carlisle (*University of Bristol*)

Geological Curators' Group

51th Annual General Meeting

2024 Accounts

27/10/2023 - 27/10/2024

Income	2023-2024	2022-2023	Expenditure	2023-2024	2022-2023
GCG AGM: 2022		£756.26	GCG AGM: 2022		-£222.68
GCG AGM: 2023	£540.00	£95.00	GCG AGM: 2024	-£495.00	
GCG AGM: 2024	£505.00		GCG-hosted: ISCPP		-3,781.63
GCG-hosted: ISCPP		£4,646.07	GCG Event: Digital Morphology Workshop	-418.18	£0.00
GCG Event: Digital Morphology Workshop	£330.00	£160.00	GCG Event: Dinosaur Trackways Field Workshop	-£594.43	-£10.00
GCG Event: Dinosaur Trackways Field Workshop		£630.00	GCG Event: 50th Meeting	-£3,879.77	
GCG Event: 50th Meeting	£2,320.00		GCG Event: Symposium on Toarcian Palaeobiology	-£2,573.41	
GCG Event: Symposium on Toarcian Palaeobiology	£2,232.50		GCG Event: Museums and Mineralogy	-£427.70	
Events & Workshops Total	£5,927.50	£6,287.33	Events & Workshops Total	-£8,388.49	-£4,014.31
Subscriptions	£4,674.94	£4,918.00	Geological Curator Production		
Donation	£100.00	£148.42	Journal - CrossRef	-£289.05	-£359.23
Bank Interest	£431.99	£3.50	Journal - DOI Referencing	-£700.00	
			Journal - Printing	-£3,730.25	-£1,437.66
			Bank Fees	-£246.91	-£132.07
			Committee Meeting Expenses	-£734.31	-£161.54
			Subscriptions - Reimbursement	-£40.00	
			Web Hosting Fees	-£394.06	-£607.23
			Online Meeting Platform - Zoom	-£143.88	
			GCG Logo Rebrand	-£150.00	
			IDE Training	-£145.80	
			Insurance	-£136.75	
			Brighton Medals [£1,214.86 in fund]	£0.00	£0.00
2023 Income	£11,134.43	£11,357.25	2023 Expenditure	-£15,099.50	-£6,712.04

Treasurer:
Robert Lowther 04/11/2024

Auditors:
Sherri Donaldson 11/11/2024

Closing Balance as at 27/10/2023 £28,458.35
Closing Balance as at **27/10/2024** £24,493.28

2024 Profit **-£3,965.07**

Geological Collections Group

England & Wales - Charity number 1198339

Accounts

The Geological Curators Group is a UK-based membership organisation and charity (no. 1198339), 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 mission and vision are available [here](#).

<p>1. View from the Chair</p> <p>1.1 The Committee</p> <p>1.2 Membership Offer</p> <p>1.3 Roadmap 2023-2025</p> <p>1.4 Relationships with other Groups</p> <p>1.5 50th Anniversary Year</p> <p>1.6 Acknowledgements of Support</p>	<p><i>Dr Emma Nicholls</i></p>
<p>2. Accounts</p>	<p><i>Rob Lowther</i></p>
<p>3. Membership</p>	<p><i>Cindy Howells</i></p>
<p>4. Events</p> <p>4.1. SPPC</p>	<p><i>Mark Evans</i> <i>Lu Allington-Jones</i></p>
<p>5. Publications</p> <p>5.1. <i>Geological Curator</i></p> <p>5.2. <i>Coprolite</i> Newsletter</p>	<p><i>Dr Duncan Murdock</i> <i>Cinzia Ragni</i></p>
<p>6. Collections Support</p>	<p><i>Dr Mike Howe</i></p>
<p>7. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion</p>	<p><i>Meghan Jenkinson</i></p>
<p>8. Online</p> <p>8.1. Website</p> <p>8.2. Blog</p> <p>8.3. Social media and JISCMail</p>	<p><i>Simon Harris</i> <i>Rob Theodore</i> <i>Lu Allington-Jones</i></p>
<p>9. GCG – SPNHC Rep</p>	<p><i>Andrew Haycock</i></p>
<p>10. GCG information</p>	

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

1.1 The Committee

I am so proud of those on the Geological Curators Group Committee. They all support GCG in a voluntary capacity, carrying out their roles on top of full-time jobs, PhDs, families, and everything else life in general throws at them. Volunteering on a committee for an SSN isn't an easy existence, as I know many of you will empathise with, and I get emails at all times, from weekends to the middle of the night, as they work to fulfil their roles. With so many plates spinning in everyone's spheres, the Committee are a marvel and I want to ensure they all know that we see that and recognise their, often gargantuan, efforts. When, at very short notice, I had to convene a couple of *ad hoc* time sensitive meetings, the whole committee prioritised GCG in their otherwise already hectic schedules and came together to address the situation at hand. It is my pleasure and honour to be the Chair of this group of individuals, with their enthusiasm, professionalism, dedication and combined work ethic.

1.2 Membership Offer

Once you log into the GCG website using your membership details, there is a plethora of resources! Please do make sure you take some time to familiarise yourself with everything that GCG has to offer, and benefit from these resources whenever you need them.

Having said that, it is also extremely important that GCG continues to deliver new and exciting benefits, including programming, the journal, the newsletter, the blog, social media, and more. Looking back, the winter AGM in 2022 saw what could be described as the dawn of a new era for GCG, emerging from the pandemic, finding its feet as a CIO, and beginning 2023 with a largely new committee, all under the leadership of a brand-new Chair who was moving jobs, houses and cities at the time. Inevitably there is a settling in period for anyone fulfilling a new role, myself as Chair included, but we have been able to deliver five events throughout 2023, one online, two hybrid, and two in-person (see section 4.0 for further details), the last of which will take place on 11th December 2023 at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. The journal team has been working extremely hard to successfully overcome problems and finalise the overdue 2022 issue (**11,7**), on top of completing the 2023 issue (**11,8**). Both are due to arrive in your inbox before Christmas, with the physical versions in hot pursuit. We sincerely apologise for the delay to the guest edited Special Ethics Issue of *Geological Curator* (**11,7**), please see section 5.1 for further details.

I'll conclude this section with the promise of a golden 2024, as we ramp up plans to celebrate our 50th anniversary. We have been working hard behind the scenes on increasing our membership offer for 2024 and I am really looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labours, as we work together to serve our members, over the coming months and beyond.

1.3 Roadmap 2023–2025

Hopefully you will all have had a chance to read the Roadmap 2023–2025 which summarises where GCG was at the start of the new Chair's tenure (December 2022) and looks ahead at the next three years. One of the primary goals for 2024 is to celebrate the 50th anniversary with all the pomp and ceremony we can muster!

Not wishing to repeat what you can read in the Roadmap, there is one element which I feel needs some elaboration, which is the rebrand from Geological Curators Group to Geological Collections Group. This new name will mean that we will remain “GCG”. In addition, the journal will remain *Geological Curator*. The rebrand reflects the acknowledgement that many people that work or volunteer with geological collections require the same skills, utilise the same resources and provide or rely on the same community that those of us who label ourselves solely as curators do. We have garnered opinion from members, non-members, and other SSNs that have curator in the title, and there is much to suggest that rebranding to ‘collections’ is the right thing to do.

The Geological Curators Group exists to support geological collections and those working or volunteering with them. We are not currently reaching a lot of those people and the near-unanimous answer as to why is always the same “I’m not a curator, so I didn’t think I was your audience”. I understand and sympathise with the natural instinct that change is not always for the better, but the Committee and I strongly believe that to fulfil our number one goal – to serve geological collections and those who work or volunteer with them – we need to implement a change that brings more people within our sector together. I hope you will agree that the change from Geological Curators Group to Geological Collections Group is a really positive and exciting move. However, please do get in touch with me if you would like to discuss this further.

1.4 Relationships with Other Groups

The Geological Society of London

We extend thanks to The Geological Society of London, of which we are an affiliated group, for continuing to be a wonderful partner. One of the many perks of our affiliation is being able to hold our in-person meetings at Burlington House. Not only is it an incredible venue but the IT facilities allow us to hold good quality hybrid meetings, meaning we are able to benefit from having Committee members hailing from the international community. At present, this includes colleagues as far away as Australia.

The Geologists’ Association and Reading Geological Society

The Geologists’ Association and Reading Geological Society have also recently been extremely helpful to us this year, helping us navigate a new insurance policy as we finally, and gleefully, return to field trips with the first Field Workshop having taken place in October 2023.

Sister-SSNs

The Geological Curators Group is extremely lucky to benefit from Committee members who have strong personal or professional connections with individuals in other Subject Specialist Networks. The Geological Curators Group has a Memorandum of Understanding with both the Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA) and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC). There is a specific role on the GCG committee for a SPNHC Rep which has been fulfilled over the last few years by Andrew Haycock. We used to also have a representative on the Committee for NatSCA, as well as strong ties to the Palaeontological Association (PalAss), however these roles are not or are not presently recognised roles. It comes as no surprise that SSNs within the geological and natural sciences face similar issues and I firmly believe that we should galvanise to support each other, celebrate each other’s successes, provide support when things get difficult, and

partake in regular knowledge exchange. To this end, I have recently been in conversation with the Chairs of NatSCA and the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals, a member of the PalAss Council, as well as representatives of SSNs in a number of other countries, to see how we can best provide and benefit from support. I am a great believer in unity and the strength it gives us. As the Committee continues to work towards forging links, we would greatly appreciate your feedback on any particular groups you feel it could be of mutual benefit to approach. This is in no way to replace or encroach on the Subject Specialist Network Consortium which is a much larger organisation, but rather to ensure that GCG is linked, to an appropriate level, to those SSNs around us to whom we can be of most mutual benefit.

1.5 50th Anniversary Year

It is with great excitement and anticipation that we look forward to 2024 and our golden anniversary! There will be several announcements at the 2023 AGM with regard to our celebrations, but plans for 2024 include a packed events programme, a special golden anniversary issue of *Geological Curator*, a new logo and name, and most important of all... A WHOPPING BIG CAKE.

With so many plans afoot, it would be sensible to take on some 50th anniversary volunteers to help with the organisation of one or more of our events. If you would like to help, please get in touch with our Programme Coordinator Mark Evans events@geocurator.org

1.6 Acknowledgements of Support

First and foremost, huge thanks must go to the Committee who keep GCG going and are responsible for our success. Huge thanks go to Lu Allington-Jones, our Secretary, who has fulfilled and exceeded the already high expectations I had of her. As Chair, the most important way to guarantee success is to have a reliable Secretary with an incredible work ethic and that is Lu from start to finish. I have been incredibly grateful to her for keeping us on track, organising us in a plethora of ways, and being an incredible source of support through both rough times and smooth.

A number of Committee members have remained in their roles from Sarah King's tenure as Chair, proving their ongoing enthusiasm and commitment to serving GCG and its members. Rob Lowther and Rachel Walcott as Treasurers, Mike Howe as Collections Coordinator, Sherri Donaldson as Collections Coordinator Assistant, Nigel Larkin as Conservation Officer, Meghan Jenkinson as Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, Andrew Haycock as SPNHC Rep, Simon Harris as Web Coordinator, and Cindy Howells as Membership Officer. A huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes and my heartfelt thanks goes out to this group of people for their ongoing dedication.

New to our Committee for 2023 have been Rob Theodore as Blog Editor, Duncan Murdock as Journal Editor, Cinzia Ragni as Newsletter Editor, and Mark Evans as Programme Coordinator. All four have settled in really well to their roles, despite the difficulties of finding your feet when you have to hit the ground running on an aspect of work that is above and beyond the day job. Our focus in the coming months is to support them to develop in their roles, by facilitating training where necessary and expanding teams where required. Enormous thanks go to all of them for everything they have done and achieved this year.

Huge thanks also go to our incredible editing team; Lu Allington-Jones, Neil Adams and Jess McCoy as Associate Editors and Jordan Bestwick, Alexandria Gour as First Stage Production Editors, and

Emily Carlisle as Second Stage Production Editor. It is a colossal amount of work to produce a journal, and we couldn't be more grateful to them for their herculean efforts.

Finally, but importantly, our thanks go to you, our members, for making GCG the supportive and dynamic community that it is. A recent request from the Sedgwick Museum on the Geo-Curators JISCMail was extremely pleasing to read – a request for other museums to club together to decrease the price of resources. Whilst this may seem like a small thing, to me it represents our community working together to create a brighter future for geological collections and those working with them. Requests for specialist advice are always met with numerous responses from around the world and it is gratifying to see.

2. Accounts

The Geological Curators Group has remained financially healthy this year.

With the switch to CIO status the opportunity was taken to set up new bank and PayPal accounts for the group. CAF bank accounts, cash and savings, were opened and are working well with CAF providing great service and help when needed. A new PayPal account was opened, and various advance features activated, such as the ability for us to take card payments online via a virtual card terminal. The new bank and PayPal details can be found on the website.

If you pay by standing order, it is very important that you update your bank with our new account details before 31st December 2023, for the 2024 membership fees.

We are also looking at adding PayPal annual subscriptions for the 2024 membership fees, more information will follow on this in due course.

The 2022-2023 accounts will be released before the AGM, once they have been audited.

Rob Lowther

3. Membership

The first thing you'll notice from the figures below is that our membership figures have decreased slightly this year. Around 40 members have failed to pay their subscription (or notify us of their wish to leave), and have subsequently, been deleted from our database. Very sadly, a further four of our members passed away during the year.

If you do decide to leave GCG, please do let me know so that I don't have to send out reminders.

Subscribers are about to receive the overdue guest edited ethics issue of our journal (Volume 11 Number 7), as well as the 2023 journal issue (Volume 11 Number 8). We will also be making several exciting announcements at the 2023 AGM regarding multiple events planned for 2024, meaning our membership offer going forward should be very attractive indeed. We have so far welcomed 11 new members for 2023 and I really look forward to meeting more of you at face-to-face events very soon.

We are delighted to have members from 20 countries across the world, including: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Columbia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland,

Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, USA and the UK, and will ensure some events are online or hybrid in order to accommodate our global audience.

This year we have opened a new bank account in order to achieve compliance with our new CIO structure, and so those of you with existing Standing Orders will have received a letter requesting you to cancel your old one and open a new one, which will pay into our new account. If you would like to take advantage of this recurring payment system then please just get in touch with us. Otherwise you can continue to pay through our website on Paypal, or by direct BACS, or by cheque.

Breakdown of membership figures for this year (up 13 Nov 2023)

Full individual members paid to date	165 (136 UK, 29 OS)
Concessionary members paid to date	32 (28 UK, 4 OS)
Honorary members	7
Institutional subscribers paid to date	35
Total	239

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Personal UK	164	170	159	169	173	175
Personal Overseas	33	37	45	39	34	28
UK Institutions	19	24	19	26	37	38
Overseas Institutions	16	19	16	19	20	21
Honorary	7	8	8	8	7	7
Total	239	258	247	261	271	269

As always, I thank those who pay promptly each year, and also those who let me know when their address, email or place of work changes. I love to hear from members, and especially when you write offering an idea, a talk, an article, or offer of a meeting venue. Do continue to promote GCG to your work colleagues. GCG is relevant to anyone who deals in any way with geological collections, whether you are a student, volunteer, curator, conservator, illustrator, preparator, dealer, photographer, collections manager, or any of the other types of geological roles that professionals and amateurs work within.

Finally, I'd like to thank Rachel and Rob for their hard work during the year to ensure that the bank accounts run smoothly, and helping me with identifying payments that have no reference codes!

Cindy Howells

4. Events

As my first year as Programme Coordinator draws to a close, I would like to start this report by thanking my predecessor Zoë Hughes for providing a suite of documents to help the incoming novice. Although we are slowly getting back to holding in-person events, there are still advantages to holding virtual or hybrid meetings. With fewer geographical or financial obstacles, we can appeal to a wider and more diverse range of participants and communities. We also now have members from over 20 countries around the world, which is fantastic, and we are keen to ensure we include an

offer that is relevant to them as well as those more able to attend in person events. This is one reason why we are holding the 2023 Winter Seminar 'Building bridges between collectors and museums' and the 50th AGM online.

In March we marked Neurodiversity Celebration Week with a Neurodiversi-Tea virtual 'coffee' morning. This on-line event, organised by Meghan Jenkinson and hosted by Duncan Murdock, was an opportunity to discuss and celebrate the wide range of neurodiversities in the geological collections sector.

The 32nd Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation (SPPC) was held at the University of Lincoln in September and was also available online as a hybrid meeting; see the separate report for further details. My thanks to the organising committee of Lu Allington-Jones, Kieran Miles and Nigel Larkin.

In October we held our first field-based meeting for several years with a Dinosaur Trackways Field Workshop organised by Emma Nicholls, and to the instructors Emma Nicholls, Duncan Murdock and Simon Harris for lending their time and expertise. This popular event was fully-booked, and the party examined, cleaned and documented Middle Jurassic sauropod dinosaur footprints at an Oxfordshire quarry.

Our final event of 2023 will be the Digital Morphology Workshop in December at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. I would like to extend my thanks in advance to Emma Nicholls for organising the workshop, and to the instructors Duncan Murdock and Frankie Dunn for sharing their time and technical know-how.

As we have started holding in-person and field-based meetings again it was important that we reassess our insurance arrangements for our events and other activities. We are now covered under the Geologists' Association schedule, like many other UK-based geological groups and societies. Finally, we are currently planning our events programme for our 50th anniversary year of 2024 with a number of both in-person and online meetings in the pipeline.

Mark Evans

4.1. The Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation (SPPC)

The 32nd Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation took place on 6th September at Lincoln University (UK), immediately preceding the 69th Symposium on Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy (SVPCA).

The morning consisted of SPPC platform presentations, with six talks of 15 minutes each, plus five minutes for questions and handover. Six posters were displayed in the refreshment area. One speaker presented remotely, and another used a prerecorded presentation, the remaining four speakers presented in person. The subjects were wide-ranging and included microfossils, analysis, support-making, solvent gels, career development and hazards. The afternoon consisted of tours of the Lincoln Conservation laboratories. Posters and talk abstracts are available [here](#).

The meeting was our first hybrid SPPC and it went very smoothly, apart from some minor issues with sound. Many questions came from both the live and virtual audiences, implying good levels of engagement. The hybrid aspect was only found to be a disadvantage when live audience members wanted to have a discussion, but everything needed repeating for the virtual audience.

The organising committee are very grateful to Dr Manabu Sakamoto, our SVPCA host at Lincoln.

Lu Allington-Jones

5. Publications

5.1. Geological Curator

11(7) December 2022

Special Ethics Issue, guest edited by Dr Jeff Liston.

This issue was due to be published winter 2022. After some unavoidable delays, the entire issue, comprising seven papers, was published digitally and distributed to members as a pdf in October 2023. The physical edition is with the publishers and will be distributed to subscribers by the end of 2023.

- **Publication pressure threatens the integrity of palaeontological research** *Nussaibah B. Raja and Emma M. Dunne*
- **"Missionary lizards" - Palaeontological exhibits and the creationist agenda** *Glenn W. Storrs*
- **Creative compliance, neutralization techniques, and palaeontological ethics** *Donna Yates*
- **The politics of palaeontology: the creation, reduction, and restoration of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments** *David P. Polly*
- **Upholding research ethics and reproducibility standards in paleontology research publications: Perspectives from PLOS ONE** *Nicola Stead and Renee V. Hoch*
- **A MAP to manage palaeontology** *Scott E. Foss*
- **Ubirajara: The dilemma of the Brazilian fossil curator** *Caiubi Emanuel Souza Kuhn, Ismar de Souza Carvalho, Fábio Augusto Gomes Vieira Reis, André Luis Spisila, Marjorie Csekö Nolasco, and Abdelmajid Hach Hach*

Following a review by the Geological Curators Group Committee, *Crying Ubirajara: Bad faith actors & weaponizing outrage in post-Trump palaeontology* by Jeff J. Liston was withdrawn online on 27th October 2023, prior to publication in print. The peer review process used in the preparation of this article was found to be in contradiction of the journal's policies and guidelines. The author has been invited to resubmit on this topic to a future issue of *Geological Curator*.

11(8) December 2023

This issue is due to be published winter 2023.

Three articles have been released in digital format to members only, as early online access:

- **Sorting a sticky situation: Engaging students in sorting and identifying microfossils from La Brea Tar Pits** *Christine M. Mazzello, Elizabeth R. Ellwood, Aisling B. Farrell, Nathaniel S. Fox, Stephany Potze, Cornelia A. Clarke, Gary T. Takeuchi, Molly Porter, Emily Lindsey*
- **Archives in lockdown: The curious case of the BGS 'Wilson Collection'** *Graham Tulloch, Beverly P. Bergman, Philip Stone, and Michael Togher*
- **Collection security: low-cost measures for mineral collections** *Erika B Anderson*

The remaining articles will be published online in December, with the print version distributed early in January 2024.

Editorial Team

Huge thanks go to the current editorial team: Duncan Murdock (Editor); Lu Allington-Jones, Neil Adams, Jess McCoy (Associate Editors); Jordan Bestwick, Alexandria Gour (First Stage Production Editors); and Emily Carlisle (Second Stage Production Editor).

Many thanks also go to Jeff Liston (Guest Editor of the Special Ethics Issue, 11(7)), Nicolas Baird and Hannah Bird (former Production Editors).

Submitting a manuscript

All submissions should be sent to journal@geocurator.org and should follow the [Instructions for Authors](#). They should be in English, appropriately structured, clear, concise and fully referenced. Please carefully read through our [Journal Policies and Guidance](#) before submitting a manuscript for consideration.

Issues of Geological Curator

The most recent three issues can only be accessed by current members through logging in to the website. Issues older than 2 years are made freely available via the website. Back issues of most printed editions are also still available [here](#).

The [Journal Policies and Guidance](#) are currently undergoing a revision, and will be published on our website in the new year.

Dr Duncan Murdock

5.2 Coprolite Newsletter

As the new Editor for the newsletter, there was a necessary settling in period and the year 2023 brought several challenges to the production of the *Coprolite* Newsletter. Numerous international collaborations were sought, with authors of articles from numerous countries, including France, Italy, and Switzerland. In particular were external collaborations (of text or images) with (alphabetic order):

- Prof. A. El Albani (Professor at Université de Poitiers: article)
- Dr Simon Jackson AMA FGS (AMA FGS, Collections and Learning Curator (Natural Sciences), Colchester and Ipswich Museums member, article)
- Fabio Magnani (Fossil preparator Museo Cantonale di Storia Naturale di Lugano: coprolites' photo)
- Massimo Umberto (Curator of MAGMAXarticle)

Internal collaborations for the production of articles were (alphabetic order): Lu Allington-Jones (GCG Secretary); Cindy Howells (GCG Membership Officer); Nigel Larkin (GCG Conservation Officer); Dr Emma Nicholls (GCG Chair); Robert Theodore (GCG Blog Editor).

Summary of recent issues

Issue 104 (Spring 2023)

Events (Robert Theodore, GCG Blog Editor)

MAGMAX (Massimo Umberto, Curator of MAGMAX)

Ipswich Museums Awarded Designated Status for Post-Cretaceous Geology Collection (Dr Simon Jackson AMA FGS, Collections and Learning Curator (Natural Sciences), Colchester and Ipswich Museums member)

IN MEMORIAM (Cindy Howells (GCG membership secretary))

Subscription (Cindy Howells (GCG membership secretary))

Guess the coprolite photo (Nigel Larkin (Conservation Officer))

Issue 105 (Summer 2023)

Events (Robert Theodore, GCG Blog Editor)

Roy Starkey has been honoured by King Charles with the British Empire Medal for 'Services to Mineralogy' in the King's Birthday Honours List. (Cinzia Ragni, GCG Newsletter Editor)

Subscription (Cindy Howells, GCG membership secretary)

Guess the coprolite photo (Nigel Larkin, Co-opted GCG Member: Conservation Officer)

Issue 106 (Autumn 2023)

Upcoming Event Deadline & other events (Cinzia Ragni, GCG Newsletter Editor)

The origin of life (Cinzia Ragni, GCG Newsletter Editor *with the cooperation do Prof. A. El Albani*)

Ipswich Museums Awarded Designated Status for Post-Cretaceous Geology Collection (Dr Simon Jackson AMA FGS, Collections and Learning Curator (Natural Sciences), Colchester and Ipswich Museums member)

Subscription (Cindy Howells, GCG membership secretary)

Guess the coprolite photo (Fabio Magnani, Fossil preparator Museo Cantonale di Storia Naturale di Lugano)

Future targets:

To be improved in terms of layout

For InDesign training and support to be provided to the Editor as required

Increase the number of new collaborations in order to better describe both new exhibits (UK and non-UK) and methods to simplify or give those working with collections new insights into the handling and display of exhibits.

Special thanks:

Special thanks to Lu Allington-Jones, Cindy Howells, Emma Nicholls and Rob Theodore for their corrections, cooperation and support.

Cinzia Ragni

6. Collections support

The safety of local museum collections remains a key concern, especially with the general move away from subject-based specialist expertise to more general outreach staff and co-curation. The **Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro** and its world class Rashleigh mineral collection is a matter of increasing anxiety. The museum has undertaken a tendering exercise to select consultants to undertake the gallery redesign. There is good news with **Ipswich Museums** being awarded Designated Status for their Post-Cretaceous geology collections.

The Museum Association's collections disposal database is being reviewed as the current system is too "hit or miss". It is hoped that the GCG website "Lost, Stolen, and Strayed" pages, coupled with JISC mail, could provide a more practical alternative for geological materials.

DISSCO-UK <https://www.dissco-uk.org/>, the project to digitise UK natural history collections, remains an area for optimism. At a steering group meeting on Friday 29th September, the Natural History Museum confirmed that the outline bid had been submitted to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for consideration by the UKRI Infrastructure Committee later in the year. This provided a number of options related to differing levels of funding. They hoped to hear informally later in the year if they were to be invited to prepare a full business case for submission to the Treasury, and the result would be announced at a DISSCO-UK community meeting in December. The

DISSCO-UK Life Sciences portal is functioning well - <https://data.dissco-uk.org/> - and the current view is that GBIF should be asked to design a geosciences portal. Another potential source of funding to watch out for is the AHRC **RICHeS** (Research Infrastructure for Conservation and Heritage Science - <https://www.heritagescienceforum.org.uk/what-we-do/riches>) programme.

The amateur collection community is becoming increasingly aware of the need to plan for the future of their collections. The Russell Society held its April meeting on the subject, with a panel of curators from the major national UK museums, including BGS. The meeting was oversubscribed, with all 100 seats being taken by a UK and international audience, but a recording is available on YouTube - <https://russellsoc.org/follow-up-to-what-should-we-do-with-our-mineral-collection/>. Various options were explored from auctions to dealers and private sales to museum donation. As museums struggle for resources and lack specialist curators, this route is becoming increasingly problematic. GCG can assist by providing guidance on minimum metadata standards, but the Collections Trust Spectrum Standard is seen as a growing problem. Following the Spectrum standard is generally taken as necessary for museum accreditation, but many museums apply the rigorous standards more appropriate for works of art than the minimum standards more suited to geoscience samples. The 2023 GCG seminar and 50th AGM, titled 'Building bridges between collectors and museums', continues this initiative.

Dr Mike Howe

7. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

This year has been slow within the EDI role, despite many challenges being faced across the sector. Progress in the EDI role has been hampered by starting my PhD, which is a huge undertaking, and at the end of the 2023 term, I am moving to another role on the Committee that better suits my work pressures.

At the beginning of the year the GCG registered for Neurodiversity Celebration Week and hosted the virtual event NeurodiversiTea: Celebrating Neurodiversity in Geological Collections. This provided a safe space to discuss the challenges faced by neurodiverse members, as well as celebrating the strengths that neurodiversity brings to the sector. Although only attended by a small number of people, this event helped us test whether there was a desire for themed virtual coffee-morning style discussions and realise how best to lead them in the future.

Further discussions have been undertaken about improvements and revisions to the journal policy under guidelines set by the Committee on Publishing Ethics (COPE). Changes will be reviewed to improve transparency and brought into effect in 2024.

Meghan Jenkinson

8. Online activity

8.1 Website

This year the website has continued to perform well, serving the purpose of promoting GCG to a diverse worldwide audience. We have successfully held a number of hybrid committee meetings,

and anticipate continuing to do so, as they enable committee members to participate remotely from anywhere on the globe, as well as reducing the cost of holding committee meetings substantially.

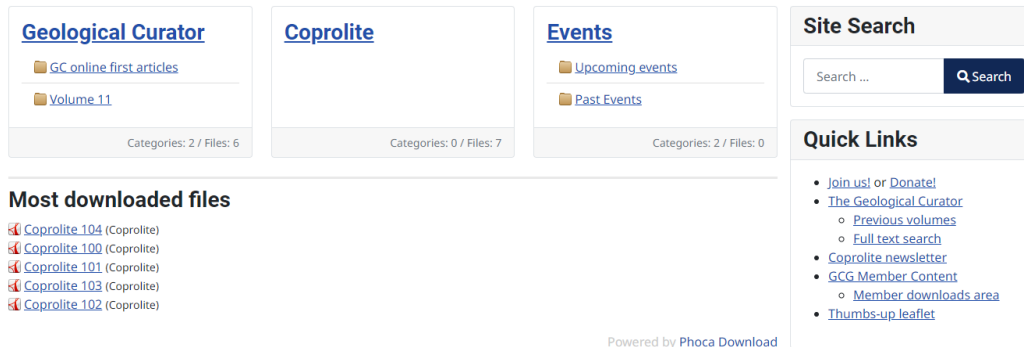
The table below shows the now customary summary of page impressions from the start of 2023 until 6th November – you can compare this with approximately the same period last year in the previous report which you can find [on our website](#).

Rank	Page Title	Hits
1	GCG homepage	39097
2	News from the 48th GCG AGM: CIO progress, membership changes and DiSSCo developments	10572
3	SPPC 2007 Glasgow	10338
4	Article search results	9655
5	The GCG blog	2568
6	Committee Profile: Nigel Larkin	2274
7	Thumbs-up leaflet	2218
8	The Geological Curators Group mission statement	1950
9	SPPC 2010 Cambridge	1638
10	Coprolite 93 - Summer 2020	1341
11	Committee Profile: Dr Emma Nicholls	1233
12	Geological Curator 11(6)	1132
13	Privacy Policy	1024
14	Brighton Medallist 2022: Dr. Matthew A. Parkes, 1961-2020	978
15	Brand new Natural History Museum opening in Sheffield	905
16	Make a donation	873
17	Notice of increase of membership fees	804
18	Geological Curator 10(8) : RTI paper extra content	770
19	SPPC 2008 Dublin	719
20	GCG useful links listing	657
21	Committee Profile: Robert Lowther	621
22	Current Vacancies at the GCG	616
23	The A G Brighton Medal	566
24	Committee Profile: Lu Allington-Jones	564
25	Committee Profile: Mike Howe	521

A significant amount of time this year has been spent upgrading **Joomla!**, our content management system, to the newest version. The previous version reached “end of life” status in late August and continuing to use it past this point would have exposed us to potential security exploits. The upgrade path was a little more complicated than first hoped, and users may have noticed a few visual changes in the layout. We are working on the last few minor points as time permits.

One new feature we are trialling with the upgraded website is a dedicated “downloads area”. This will gather together all of the resources on our website that are not web pages in the strictest sense – so for example PDF files or zip files. From here, they can be browsed in a similar way to files on your desktop computer or linked to in a web page. In the long term, this should make it easier for us

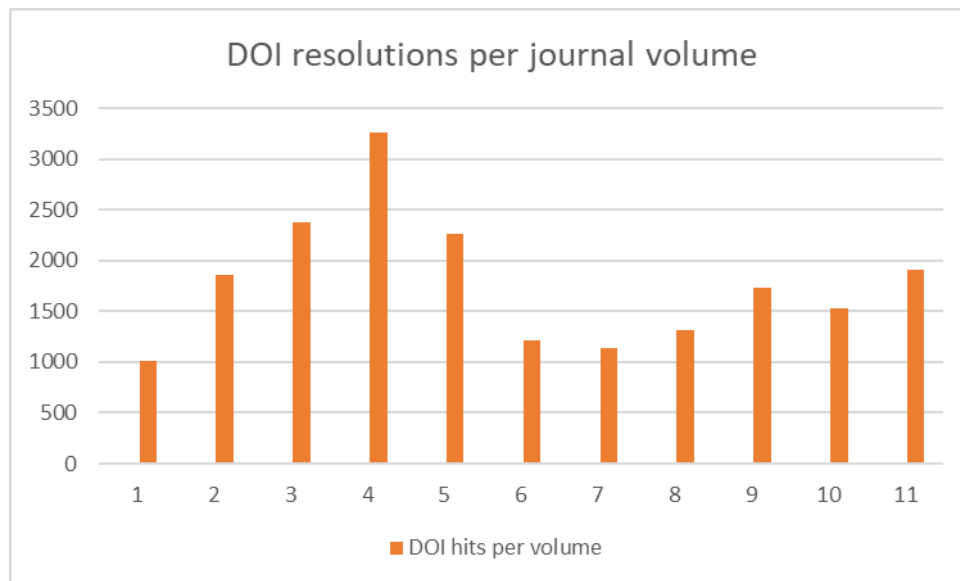
to ensure we supply up-to-date and correct versions of documents from the site.



The screenshot shows a website navigation area with three main menu items: **Geological Curator** (with sub-items 'GC online first articles' and 'Volume 11'), **Coprolite**, and **Events** (with sub-items 'Upcoming events' and 'Past Events'). To the right is a **Site Search** box with a search input field and a 'Search' button. Below these is a **Quick Links** section containing several links: 'Join us! or Donate!', 'The Geological Curator' (with sub-links for 'Previous volumes' and 'Full text search'), 'Coprolite newsletter', 'GCG Member Content' (with sub-link 'Member downloads area'), and 'Thumbs-up leaflet'. At the bottom of the screenshot, it says 'Powered by Phoca Download'.

The downloads area is accessible to all website visitors, but if you are logged in with a paid membership, then you will also see extra content, for example, the latest version of our newsletter. You can access it from the “Quick Links” section visible on the righthand side of every web page.

In conjunction with the Journal Editorial Team, we have also been monitoring the uptake of DOI’s on our journal articles. Each time a DOI is resolved we are able to record the date, time and issue number, and from this we can see that, for the period 1/11/2022 to 31/10/2023, demand is strong not only within the more recent volumes but also in our earlier volumes as well:



Investigating more deeply, we can see the ten most popular articles which span a wide time period and set of subjects. Three articles from our most recent journal appear in the top ten, likely because they were promoted on our website ahead of publication. Note that this is simply the number of times that a DOI has resolved to an article on our website, not the number of times it has been read or cited, and also for this analysis we left in web “crawlers” partly because they are increasingly difficult to distinguish from humans, and also because it stands to reason that popular articles are likely to be crawled more frequently than less popular ones.

Hits	Issue	Article_title
585	11(7)	Publication pressure threatens the integrity of palaeontological research
339	4(9)	Palaeobotany in Museums
314	9(3)	The virtual and physical preparation of the Collard plesiosaur from Bridgwater Bay, Somerset, UK
227	10(1)	Preserving carbonatite lavas
220	11(7)	Creative compliance, neutralization techniques, and palaeontological ethics
185	6(5)	Lost & Found: 237. Plant fossils from the Keele Formation, central England described by Emily Dix (1935)
176	11(7)	The politics of palaeontology: the creation, reduction, and restoration of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments
138	3(9)	Marine reptiles from the Upper Lias of the Yorkshire coast
73	8(5)	Continental trace fossils and museum exhibits: displaying organism behaviour frozen in time
72	7(2)	The work and type collections of the Australian Palaeontologist, Professor Dorothy Hill (1907-1997)

As always, offers of content or technical assistance for the website are always welcomed – please get in touch via e-mail.

Simon Harris

8.2. Blog

2023 has been a year of change and with a new Blog Editor taking over from a very well established system. It has taken time for the new Blog Editor to embed themselves. This change has been reflected in a significant decrease in posts and hits compared to 2022. A total of 12 articles have been published on the blog (<https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/>) since 1st January 2023. The blog received 6,347 hits - much closer to 2021's total. 2022 also included the fantastic and incredibly popular [Rutland Sea Dragon](#) post. It is interesting to note that the views per visitor in 2022 and 2023 are the same, at 1.44. This indicates there isn't a drop in engagement, which is positive, and that an increase in post frequency in 2024 will only be beneficial.

The blog has been visited by people in 95 countries. The top five countries being the UK (3,847), USA (1,932), Australia (192), Canada (176) and Ireland (121). These are the same five countries as our all-time top visitors.

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* (a round-up of forthcoming exhibitions, events, conferences, and workshops) written by Blog Editor Rob Theodore. The Blog Editor has taken their time re-establishing the monthly committee post and building relationships with committee members, with just two contributions so far, but this content should begin to take root in 2024.

Four articles were written by authors external to the committee, some of which are GCG members, others were not. The Blog Editor has a number in the works for the end of the year and aims to generate interest at the upcoming Symposium and AGM.

The top five most read articles between November 2022 and mid-November 2023 are:

1. Excavating the 'Rutland Sea Dragon', the largest ichthyosaur skeleton ever to be found in the UK!
2. The Mineral Collection of the Royal Institution of Cornwall
3. Geological Fakes- Minerals, Gems and Meteorites
4. So Far So Good – The Next Step in a Curatorial Career
5. The Geological Record is Full of Cr*p

If you have anything you would like to advertise in the monthly *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.

Rob Theodore

8.3. Social media

Our social media presence remains healthy on Facebook and Twitter. We thank everyone who has engaged with us over the years. Most news, stories and events are shared across both platforms, and we try to engage in common hashtags such as #MineralMonday and #FossilFriday.

Contributors are reminded of our social media policy, which can be viewed [here](#). Please note, this is a live document, and we will continue to monitor and update it.

Please do get in touch if you have content you would like us to distribute via our social media channels at info@geocurator.org or send us a direct message (DM).

8.3.1. Facebook

We are represented on Facebook in two ways: a group and a page (both called Geological Curators' Group), which have been live since May 2013. All content is posted to both the group and page. There has been a recent surge in spam on the Facebook pages and we urge you to contact a member of the committee straight away should you see anything inappropriate, so that we may remove it. The Facebook Admins are Cindy Howells (membership@geocurator.org), Nigel Larkin (conservation@geocurator.org), and Emma Nicholls (chair@geocurator.org).

8.3.2. Twitter

We have had a Twitter account ([@OriginalGCG](https://twitter.com/OriginalGCG)), since January 2013.

8.3.3 JISCmail

The vast majority of general correspondence goes via our JISCmail list: GEO-CURATORS@JISCmail.ac.uk.

Everyone is welcome to sign up and post to JISCmail, whether a GCG member or not, although we do of course encourage you to [join us!](#) See our website for sign-up instructions.

List subscribers are roughly in line with our GCG membership, although it doesn't correspond completely. There are currently 279 list subscribers, which has remained constant over recent years (see table below). This varies during the year with some people joining as others leave, but overall remains constant. Sometimes this is because they have left the sector, changed email or had signed up for information about a specific topic and had it answered.

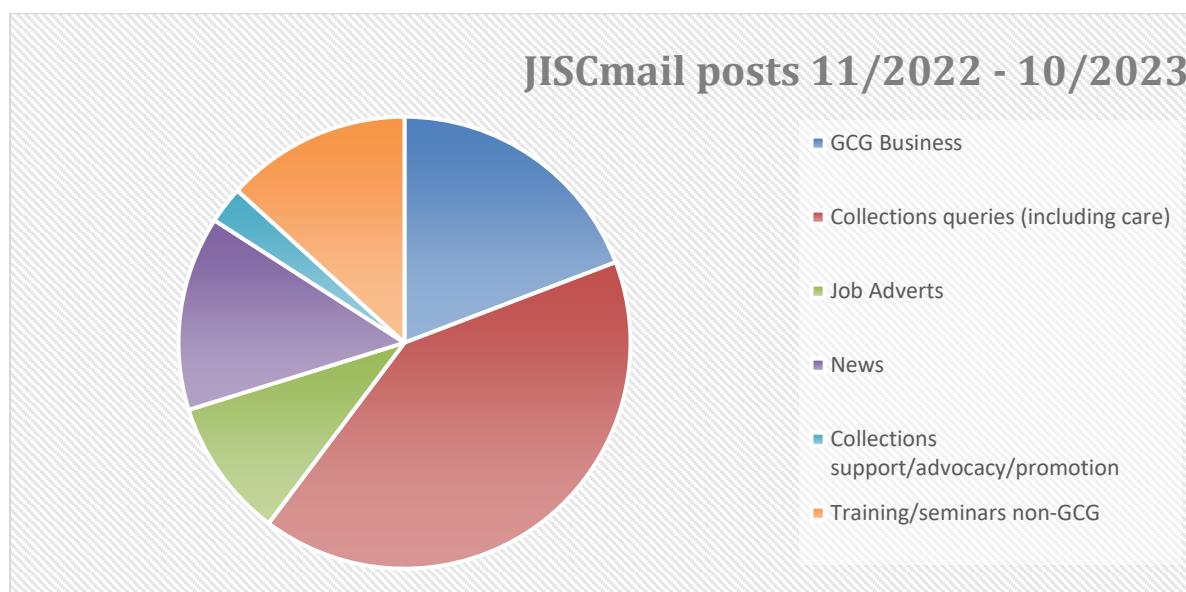
Year	Number of subscribers
2023	279
2022	279
2021	278
2020	272
2019	275
2018	276
2017	272

Table showing the number of JISC mail subscribers since 2017.

It’s worth pointing out that this is purely a list of email addresses and some people have signed up with more than one email. If an email address bounces for 5 or so days in a row, JISC will remove it from the list. If you know there have been problems with your email address, it’s worth checking if you’re still subscribed! If you have any queries or problems, please send an email to secretary@geocurator.org.

Between November 2022 and October 2023, there were 151 posts in total on JISC mail. The majority of posts via JISC concern collection care queries (which also received the most interaction from subscribers), followed by GCG business such as adverts for GCG events.

The graph below gives a breakdown of the number of posts per category:



Total posts 2023: 151
 Total posts 2022: 157
 Total posts 2021: 89
 Total posts 2020: 136
 Total posts 2019: 103
 Total posts 2018: 98
 Total posts 2017: 107

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

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

Lu Allington-Jones

9. GCG – SPNHC (Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections) Rep

Throughout the year, I have advocated for GCG and spread news of our events as wide as possible to the SPNHC community. In Spring this year, I provided a summary of the past year of GCG activity for the SPNHC Connections newsletter. This can be found here:

<https://spnhc.org/spnhc-connection-march-2023/>

A full report of GCG news and activities was also published in the All Business Meeting (ABM) report held at SPNHC 2023 in San Francisco this June. It included standing committee reports, as well as Rep reports from other organisations. The downloadable content for that meeting can be found here:

<https://spnhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-SPNHC-ABM-packet.pdf>

The 2023 SPNHC conference was hosted by the California Academy of Sciences, under the theme ‘Taking the Long View’, encouraging the Natural Science sector to ‘envision the future for our field, our collections, and ourselves. What lessons could be taken from the past to better shape our future?’.

I was unfortunately unable to attend the conference this year, but GCG are very grateful to the SPNHC President (Julian Carter) who was able to distribute GCG leaflets on a ‘SPNHC table of goodies’ in San Francisco where they were very well received by delegates!

The next SPNHC meeting will be a joint meeting with the Biodiversity Information Standards Group and is to be held in Okinawa in 2024. More information on this will be released by SPNHC as the conference details are finalised.

The 2025 conference was due to be hosted by Yale University but unfortunately, they have had to delay their bid to hold the conference. However, there has been interest from a long-term vendor sponsor of SPNHC to host the meeting in Kansas for 2025 and discussions are currently ongoing on the feasibility of this. The SPNHC committee have discussed the potential of holding meetings biannually in the future.

I look forward to continued advocacy on behalf of GCG. If there is any news or information you would like to share with SPNHC, please contact me at spnhc-rep@geocurator.org

Andrew Haycock

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:

Email: info@geocurator.org

Address: Geological Curators Group
(c/o Becky Goddard)
The Geological Society
Burlington House
London
W1J 0BG

Committee for 2023 (from AGM 2022)

(T = trustee)

Chair (T): Dr Emma Nicholls (*Oxford University Museum of Natural History*)

Secretary (T): Lu Allington-Jones (*Natural History Museum, London*)

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator (T): Meghan Jenkinson (*University of Leeds*)

Collections Coordinator (T): Dr Mike Howe (*British Geological Survey*)

Treasurer (T): Robert Lowther (*Imperial College, London*)

Membership Officer: Cindy Howells (*National Museum Wales*)

Programme Coordinator (T): Mark Evans (*British Antarctic Survey*)

Journal Editor (T): Dr Duncan Murdock (*Oxford University Museum of Natural History*)

Web Coordinator (T): Simon Harris (*British Geological Survey*)

Newsletter Editor: Cinzia Ragni (*Università degli Studi di Torino*)

Blog Editor: Rob Theodore (*Sedgwick Museum, University of Cambridge*)

Officer: (Conservation Officer): Nigel Larkin (*Natural History Conservation*)

Officer: (SPNHC Rep): Andrew Haycock (*National Museum Wales*).

Officer: (Outgoing Treasurer) Rachel Walcott (*National Museum of Scotland*)

Officer: (Collections Coordinator Assistant) Sherri Donaldson (*University of Edinburgh*)

Journal Associate Editors	Neil Adams (Natural History Museum, London) Jess McCoy (Northumbria University) Lu Allington-Jones (Natural History Museum, London)
Journal First Stage Production Editors	Jordan Bestwick (University of Zurich) Alexandria Gour (Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and Sea Center)
Journal Second Stage Production Editor	Emily Carlisle (University of Bristol)

Please print your own copy of this document if you need it; GCG is working to reduce paper waste. Thank you.

Geological Curators' Group

50th Annual General Meeting, Online

2023 Accounts

28/10/2022 - 27/10/2023

Income	2022-2023	2021-2022	Expenditure	2022-2023	2021-2022
GCG AGM: 2021		£230.00	GCG AGM: 2021		-£9.70
GCG AGM: 2022	£756.26	£198.00	GCG AGM: 2022	-£222.68	£0.00
GCG AGM: 2023	£95.00		GCG-hosted: ISCPP	-3,781.63	-£9,306.34
GCG-hosted: ISCPP	£4,646.07	£9,518.15	GCG-hosted: Marine Reptiles		-£76.80
GCG-hosted: Marine Reptiles		£225.00	GCG-event: Games Night		-£5.00
GCG Event: Digital Morphology Workshop	£160.00		GCG Event: Dinosaur Trackways Field Workshop	-£10.00	
GCG Event: Dinosaur Trackways Field Workshop	£630.00				
Events & Workshops Total	£6,287.33	£10,171.15	Events & Workshops Total	-£4,014.31	-£9,397.84
Subscriptions	£4,918.00	£5,473.77	Geological Curator Production	-£359.23	-£2,479.88
Donation	£148.42	£30.69	Bank Fees	-£132.07	-£400.07
Bank Interest	£3.50		Committee Meeting Expenses	-£161.54	-£559.39
			Equipment		-£129.87
			Publishing Fees	-£1,437.66	-£202.43
			Sponsorship	£0.00	-£375.49
			Web Hosting Fees	-£607.23	-£470.05
			Brighton Medals [£1,214.86 in fund]	£0.00	£0.00
			Subscription - Duplicate Refund		-£15.00
2023 Income	£11,357.25	£15,675.61	2023 Expenditure	-£6,712.04	-£14,030.02

Treasurer:
 Robert Lowther 14/11/2022
Auditors:
 Sherri Donaldson 27/11/2023
 Mike McDonagh 22/11/2023

Closing Balance as at 27/10/2022 £23,513.14
 Closing Balance as at **27/10/2023** £28,158.35

2023 Profit **£4,645.21**

Geological Collections Group

England & Wales - Charity number 1198339

Accounts

Annual Report for 2022

For presentation at the 2022 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](#).

- | | |
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| 1. View from the Chair | <i>Dr Sarah King</i> |
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| 3.1. Membership and reach | <i>Cindy Howells</i> |
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| 4. Events and participation | <i>Zoë Hughes</i> |
| 4.1. SPPC | <i>Lu Allington-Jones</i> |
| 4.2. Marine Reptiles Conference | <i>Dr Emma Nicholls</i> |
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| 5.1. <i>Geological Curator</i> | <i>Lu Allington-Jones</i> |
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| 8. Online | |
| 8.1. Website | <i>Simon Harris</i> |
| 8.2. Blog | <i>Dr Emma Nicholls</i> |
| 8.3. Social media | <i>Emma Bernard</i> |
| 8.3.1. Facebook | |
| 8.3.2. Twitter | |
| 8.4. JISCmail | <i>Emma Bernard</i> |
| 9. Outreach and profile | <i>Emma Bernard</i> |
| 10. GCG – SPNHC Rep | <i>Andrew Haycock</i> |

GCG information

Previous years' Annual Reports can be found at:

<https://www.geocurator.org/events/156-49th-annual-winter-seminar-and-agm>

1. View from the Chair

Welcome to the GCG Annual Report for 2022. The good news this year has been that we now have our new CIO up and running. The number is 1198339, and more details can be found [here](#). Once our new bank account is set up, we will begin to swap our activity over in earnest and will be able to start winding down the old charity. We are of course still in a transitional period, so do bear with us as things work themselves through. If one thing has become clear over the last few years, it's how much work it takes to keep GCG running. Unlike many other [Subject Specialist Networks](#), we don't have any paid staff to speed things through, so it will take a little time for everything to line up.

Other great news is that at the very end of last year, the DiSSCo (Distributed System of Scientific Collections) UK project finally sprang into life, requesting information from natural science collections in order to get a feel for the number and state of objects, and their requirements for a mass digitisation programme. A total of 83 collections were able to respond in the short timeframe available, and you can see the results [here](#) (also a less detailed page [here](#)). Here you can also download the booklet giving their initial findings. The good news is that they are still accepting responses for their database, so do please get in touch with them so that they can build a fuller picture of geological collections in the UK. This is great progress after many years of planning, and I hope that the momentum will be maintained in order to make real headway into mass digitisation of natural science collections in the UK at last. They have even begun to collect [workflows](#) for various types of collections, so do keep an eye out for more news from them.

It's been another challenging year for the sector and all of us as the effects of the pandemic are still being felt, alongside steeply rising costs, political instability and war in Ukraine. Over the summer, the Royal Cornwall Museum announced that it may have to close after Cornwall Council unexpectedly pulled a large portion of their funding. The Museum houses the internationally important Rashleigh mineral collection. In recent days, an [agreement has been reached with the council](#) for a £100,000 grant in order that the Museum can review its business plans and find new strategic partners, but clearly there is a difficult road ahead. I send them all my best and hope that GCG can support the Museum if and when the need is there.

This is of course my last year as GCG Chair. It's been an enormous privilege to be able to contribute to the shape of the organisation, and I hope that with the new CIO, GCG will be in a strong position to move into its 50th year and beyond. Looking back over the last few years, we have made tremendous progress as a committee, and I would like to thank the whole committee, past and present, for this. We have an excellent new website, which not only serves as an archive for GCG events and resources, but also a vehicle for day-to-day business and events. I thank Simon for the enormous amount of work he has done, and continues to do, here. Pip Brewer transformed *Geological Curator* while she was on committee, and Lu is doing a fantastic job of building on this work, and alongside Simon, indexing the journal archive and adding DOIs, which will massively improve its reach and appeal to authors and researchers, and I thank all three here. Running events during the pandemic has been challenging, but Zoë has run a series of mostly online events which have allowed more people to attend, and attracted a whole new international audience. I thank her for her work here. As the only organisation of its type in the world, events allowing international participation offer a great opportunity for GCG to grow its membership base. In a similar vein, I thank Lu, Emma N and Nigel for organising a series of very successful online and in-person SPPCs

(Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation), and I look forward to seeing how this develops in the next few years.

The last few years have brought unforeseen challenges, meaning I haven't been able to settle in as many new ideas as I had planned, but before I leave the committee, I will pass on a brand new set of bye laws to underpin the new constitution, and some ideas as to how to grow and develop GCG's finances and audiences. GCG has always been run by its members, for its members, and I encourage you all to keep in touch and to consider getting more involved. There are lots of opportunities on committee and wider committee, and new ideas are always invited. I have every confidence that Emma Nicholls will carry GCG from strength to strength, and I hope you will all join me in welcoming her as the new Chair.

Dr Sarah King

2. Accounts

This year has been a reasonably standard year for the GCG financially. Our main income streams have been Membership subscriptions and the joint events we have run this year. Our main outgoing expense is related to the publication of the *Geological Curator*.

This year we had the opportunity to support a number of events either financially, such as this year's Earth Science Teachers Association (ESTA) event, Progressive Palaeontology (Prog Pal) or administratively, such as the 11th International Symposium on Cephalopods Past & Present. Details on these events are reported elsewhere in this report.

With the setup up of the new CIO, the Geological Curators Group needed a new bank account. The decision was made to set up an account with CAF Bank. This account was chosen due to the features offered that will aid not only the Treasurer but the wider committee at a reasonable cost. For online website payments we are staying with PayPal, although once the CAF Bank account is finalised a new PayPal account will be set up to accompany this. The current bank and PayPal accounts will be wound down over the next few years as we move to using these new accounts.

I would also like to give a big thanks to Rachel Walcott for her continued support over the last year as we get our new financial accounts set up.

Geological Curators' Group

49th Annual General Meeting, Online

2022 Accounts

28/10/2021 - 27/10/2022

Income	This year	2020-2021	Expenditure	This year	2020-2021
GCG AGM: 2021	£230.00		GCG AGM: 2021	-£9.70	
GCG AGM: 2022	£198.00		GCG AGM: 2022	£0.00	
GCG-hosted: ISCPP	£9,518.15		GCG-hosted: ISCPP	-£9,306.34	
GCG-hosted: Marine Reptiles	£225.00		GCG-hosted: Marine Reptiles	-£76.80	
Events & Workshops Total	£10,171.15	£30.00	GCG-event: Games Night	-£5.00	
Subscriptions	£5,473.77	£5,536.20	Events & Workshops Total	-£9,397.84	-£30.00
Donation	£30.69	£15.88	Geological Curator Production	-£2,479.88	-£3,455.62
			Bank Fees	-£400.07	-£64.89
			Committee Meeting Expenses	-£559.39	£0.00
			Equipment	-£129.87	£0.00
			Publishing Fees	-£202.43	£0.00
			Sponsorship	-£375.49	£0.00
			Web Hosting Fees	-£470.05	-£256.79
			JISC GB/3D payments	£0.00	£0.00
			Brighton Medals [£1,214.86 in fund]	£0.00	£0.00
			Subscription - Duplicate Refund	-£15.00	£0.00
			Other	£0.00	-£924.41
2022 Income	£15,675.61	£5,582.08	2022 Expenditure	-£14,030.02	-£4,731.71
Treasurer:			Closing Balance as at 27/10/2021	£21,867.55	
Robert Lowther	08/11/2022		Closing Balance as at 27/10/2022	£23,513.14	
Auditors:			2022 Profit	£1,645.59	
Sherri Donaldson	24/11/2022				
Mike McDonagh	29/11/2022				

Thanks go to Sherri Donaldson and Mike McDonagh for auditing the accounts.

Robert Lowther

3. Membership and networks

3.1 Membership and reach

Once again, museums and curators have had a difficult year in many ways, with some institutions still only just recovering from lock-down, and museum staff partially working from home. This is reflected in our membership figures for 2022.

We have welcomed 14 new members for 2022 (16 in 2021, 29 in 2020), and hope that these people will enjoy the benefits we have to offer them, and we look forward to meeting some of you at face-to-face meetings during the coming year, along with others we haven't seen for far too long.

We have unfortunately lost 21 members during the year, and at least the same number again have failed to renew this year despite reminders, and so they will be removed from our lists imminently. I would urge you all to take notice when a payment reminder email comes through from us, as it is very discouraging when people simply don't respond. Please contact membership@geocurator.org if you wish to cancel.

For 2023, we are implementing the new membership rates that were circulated earlier in the year. The basic rate will cover electronic access to the journal, with an optional extra £5 which can be added if you wish to receive the printed copy. This is due to the vastly increased cost of printing and postage. Further details which were presented to membership last year, can be found on our [website](#). These changes will become live on our website soon. With the new bank account, we will be encouraging people to sign up for Direct Debit membership payments. This cuts down a lot of work for us, and gives better protection for members in case there are any problems with the payment. PayPal is also easy for us, and Standing Orders will continue to be accepted. Cheques are also possible.

We can count members from 21 countries, including: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Denmark, Faroe Islands, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, USA, and the UK.

Breakdown of membership figures for this year (October 2021 – October 2022)

Full individual members paid to date	172 (141 UK, 31 OS)
Concessionary members paid to date	30 (27 UK, 3 OS)
Honorary members	8
Institutional subscribers paid to date	42
Total	252

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Personal UK	167	159	169	173	175
Personal Overseas	35	45	39	34	28
UK Institutions	24	19	26	37	38
Overseas Institutions	18	16	19	20	21
Honorary	8	8	8	7	7
Total	252	247	261	271	269

As always, I thank those who pay promptly each year, and also those who let me know when their address, email, or place of work changes. I love to hear from members, and especially when you write offering an idea, a talk, an article, or offer of a meeting venue. Do continue to promote GCG to your colleagues. GCG is relevant to anyone who deals in any way with geological collections, whether you be a student, volunteer, curator, conservator, illustrator, preparator, dealer, photographer, collections manager, or any of the other types of geological roles that professionals and amateurs work within. The membership email address is membership@geocurator.org.

Finally, I'd like to thank Rachel and Rob for their hard work during the year to ensure that the bank accounts run smoothly and helping me with identifying payments that have no reference codes!

Cindy Howells

3.2. Correspondence and networks

As Secretary I attend several external meetings with affiliated groups such as the Geological Society of London each year where I represent the GCG, alongside the Chair.

I attended the Geol Soc's Specialist Groups AGM in June. This is a good opportunity to meet (virtually) representatives from other affiliated and Specialist Groups. Dr Jenni Gilbert is the new Science Committee Chair and updates were given about the future of Burlington House where they are looking seriously at whether they need to relocate. Further details are on their [website](#). Dr Duncan Murdock continues to be our Science Committee Rep.

I have also attended a few meetings of the [Subject Specialist Network Consortium](#) during the past year. This network has representation from all SSN's similar to GCG (e.g., NatSCA). A few emails have come through via the SSN Consortium and I have passed these onto the relevant parties. There continues to be discussion about holding a SSN Consortium conference and hopefully further details will be announced next year.

Most of our correspondence is by our general JISCMail list (see point 8.4 below). A few direct emails arrived in the inbox. As usual these have been for advice on how to get into the sector, assistance with identification, requests to post items to the JISCMail list and information about the journal. Queries are either answered by myself or re-directed to the most appropriate person.

I have also been involved in developing policies and forms to cover sponsorship requests, to ensure the process is clear and organisations asking for sponsorship tie in with [GCG's mission, objectives and values](#). It is important to note, that GCG is itself a Charity and finances are tight, so we are unable to fund all requests, likewise we look for sponsorship opportunities for ourselves.

We need to acknowledge that a lot of work goes on behind the scenes within the GCG committee throughout the year outside of our three regular committee meetings, which is not always seen by our members – lots of emails, meetings, and reports. I want to thank all committee members for their hard work and dedication, especially to Sarah King for providing support, Simon Harris for helping me navigate the back end of the website. Keeping me right about the website and updating emails, and to Lu Allington-Jones for taking minutes and noting actions at each meeting, making my role much easier.

After 10 years, I have decided to stand down from committee. I'm sad to leave, but I think the time is right to allow others to come on board and it will allow me to concentrate on other things. I am passionate about geological collections and museums, so I will still be an advocate for the Group and will be involved with some GCG related work (watch this space)! During my time on committee, I have made some great friends and it has allowed me to meet a diverse group of people and it has provided me opportunities to participate in events I wouldn't normally have had the chance to.

If you are passionate about geological collections and want to give something to the community, I would encourage you to join committee, it is a rewarding experience.

I want to thank everyone who I have worked with over the last 10 years to push GCG forward where we have been able to develop a clear governance structure and improved ways of working. I wish my successor all the best and I will be happy to assist in the transition.

Emma Bernard

4. Events and participation

I am a little sad that I will be stepping down as Programme Secretary, however, I'm very excited to see what my successor will plan. To aid someone stepping into my role, this year I have focussed on the "behind the scenes" elements of the role. I have created a suite of documents which will aid in the planning and running of both in person and online events. This includes task lists, timelines for carrying out each task and forms for all elements of event planning. This will ensure that the new Programme Secretary can jump straight in following the guidance.

Meghan Jenkinson kindly created an extensive document collating all elements of inclusivity we should consider when looking for a venue for in person events. While it may not be realistically possible to achieve all elements, it is great to have an outline of what we should strive for. If you are interested in hosting an event at your institution (or online), please get [in touch!](#)

This year we have had some excellent events, we supported the online Marine Reptile conference organised by Emma Nicholls and Nigel Larkin which had rave reviews. There were 55 registered delegates who attended from five countries.

Last year's annual seminar was the [GCG World Tour 2021](#). We had an excellent selection of talks exploring the global projects brought to life primarily during the pandemic. There were 59 registered delegates from six countries, from four continents.

With another of my hats on I must thank the GCG with the support of a conference I organised at the Natural History Museum; the 11th International Symposium on Cephalopods Present and Past. The GCG hosted the ticketing, so without the GCG this event would not have been possible. Many thanks to Emma Bernard who attended to publicise the GCG to delegates.

I have informed committee that I am happy for the new Programme Secretary to contact me should they need any guidance or advice.

Many thanks to the committee and members who have made my tenure as Programme Secretary a valuable and fun experience!

Zoë Hughes

4.1. The Symposium on Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation (SPPC)

The 31st Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation took place on 21st of September at the Natural History Museum London UK, immediately preceding the 68th Symposium on Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy (SVPCA).

The morning consisted of SPPC platform presentations, with six talks of 15 minutes each, plus five minutes for questions and handover. Six posters were displayed in the refreshment area. One speaker was unwell and could not make the event so extra time was allowed for questions to the other speakers. The afternoon consisted of tours of the Conservation Centre and collections highlights. Please see report in [Coprolite 102](#) for more details. Posters and talk abstracts are available on the [GCG website](#).

A total of 44 external people registered for the SPPC meeting, plus ten internal NHM conservation staff. At least one additional delegate appeared without paying because they had registered with SVPCA. External delegates were charged £24 morning only and £29 whole day (£5 discount for GCG members). This covered refreshments, badges, hand sanitiser, etc. Approx £100 profit was generated for GCG.

The event was co-hosted by Lu Allington-Jones and Kieran Miles. During the welcome address before the SPPC platform presentations, GCG Committee member Emma Bernard advertised upcoming GCG events and the benefits of membership. There was also a stand and poster advertising GCG in the refreshments area.

A few issues arose from being associated with SVPCA, such as confusion with websites and payments, timetabling issues as a result of an additional SVPCA presentation session. The committee will be looking into opportunities to resolve some of these issues for future meetings.

Lu Allington-Jones

4.2. Marine Reptiles Conference

The Marine Reptile Conference (MRC) took place [online](#) in May 2022 as a one day 'mini' conference. There were six oral presentations, followed by six poster presentations accompanied by a dedicated Q&A session. It was very well attended, with 55 delegates from five countries. Feedback received on both the talks and the running of the conference was excellent.

The MRC committee would like to extend a huge thanks to the GCG committee, in particular Simon Harris and Sherri Donaldson, for their time, enthusiasm, and support.

Dr Emma Nicholls

5. Publications

5.1. Geological Curator

[11\(6\) March 2022](#)

This issue was released electronically in March and printed copies were distributed in June. Contents included:

21st Century Rex: maximising access to a privately owned Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton in the digital age by Nigel R. Larkin, Steven Dey, Adam S. Smith and Rachael Evans

Preserving the Nieuwdonk collection, a hidden Pleistocene mammal assemblage from the Flemish Valley (Berlare - Belgium) by Anthonie Hellemond, Shana Van Hauwermeiren, Kevin Nolis, François De Bock, and Sven Van Uytfanghe

Megamammal collections from the Pampean Region (Argentina) in Europe: past and present by Karina V. Chichkoyan 370 The Louis De Pauw Award—A first recognition for citizen scientists in Belgian palaeontology by Anthonie Hellemond

‘Found in all parts of the known world’: Global connections in the collection of John Woodward (1665–1728) by Alice Rose Whitehead

Book review on "River Planet: rivers from deep time to the modern crisis" by Jill Eyers

[11\(7\) December 2022](#)

Dr Jeff Liston is the guest editor for a special ethics edition. Four manuscripts have been released electronically on the journal webpages. Contents include:

Publication pressure threatens the integrity of palaeontological research by Nussaïbah B. Raja and Emma M. Dunne

"Missionary lizards" - Palaeontological exhibits and the creationist agenda by Glenn W. Storrs

[Creative compliance, neutralization techniques, and palaeontological ethics by Donna Yates](#)

The politics of palaeontology: the creation, reduction, and restoration of Grand Staircase–Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments by P. David Polly

DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers)

The Webmaster and Editor have been working on registering DOIs for all articles. A DOI is a persistent identifier or handle used to identify digital objects uniquely and will serve to increase the value of the journal articles. 870 articles have been assigned DOIs and these have been added to the landing pages. Some items were not assigned DOIs: 535 (Lost and Found, Collections Information Network: Geology (CING)) from volumes 1-6 (1974-1998). These are nevertheless still available online, and plans are underway to contract-out the task of assigning DOIs to them.

Editorial Team

Many thanks to the team this year: Lu Allington-Jones (Editor); Jeff Liston (Guest Editor on special ethics issue); Dr Chris Dean (Associate Editor, Palaeontology, particularly Vertebrate Palaeontology); Nicolas Baird (Production Assistant); Emily Carlisle (Production Assistant); Hannah Bird (Production Assistant).

Submitting a manuscript

All submissions should be sent to journal@geocurator.org and should follow the [Instructions for Authors](#). They should be in English, appropriately structured, clear and concise and fully referenced.

Please carefully read through our [Journal Policies and Guidance](#) before submitting a manuscript for consideration.

Issues of Geological Curator

The most recent three issues can only be accessed by current members through logging in to the website. Issues older than 2 years are made freely available via the website. Back issues of some printed editions are also still available [here](#).

Editorial vacancies

Editor; Associate Editor History of Science; Associate Editor Mineralogy; Associate Editor Micropalaeontology. If you are interested in potentially fulfilling any of these posts, please contact: journal@geocurator.org

Lu Allington-Jones

5.2. Coprolite newsletter

Featured articles

Issue 99, December 2021: John Ruskin's Mineral Collection Returns to Brantwood by Howard Hull, Director, Brantwood

Issue 100, March 2022: Unlocking Lapworth's Legacy by Rachel Brown, Project Archivist, Lapworth Museum of Geology

Issue 101, June 2022: There and back again - a geology collection's curational journey by Christina Byrd, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, and Laura Wilson, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS

Issue 102, September 2022: Phil Phillips awarded an MBE by Tony Morgan, Education Demonstrator at National Museums Liverpool; and the SPPC 2022 conference report by Kieran Miles, Fossil Preparator, The Natural History Museum London

Many thanks go to all of the contributing authors. All issues are available on the GCG website [here](#).

If anyone has anything they would like to see included in the newsletter, or would like to volunteer as the next editor, please get in touch with us at coprolite@geocurator.org.

Lu Allington-Jones

6. Collections support

6.1. Collections monitoring

2022 has been a challenging year for Collections in the UK, with plenty of disturbing news, but also progress in possible solutions.

Although the [Museums Association redundancies tracker](#) was discontinued on 30th March 2022, there are unfortunately numerous ongoing threats to museums and collections. Please note that redundancy tracker covers all roles in museums, not just curators or natural history museums.

	Institutions announcing redundancies	Total Redundancies
November 2020		3600
15 December 2020	59	3997
28 April 2021	65	4100
5 August 2021	74	4690
14 December 2021	77	4780
30 March 2022 (Final update)	81	4824

Current concerns include:

Royal Cornwall Museum. In July, Cornwall Council announced that it would no longer provide a grant to the Royal Cornwall Museum, and its future is therefore under threat. Since then, the Museum has investigated the £23.6m investment promised by the government to boost investment, trade and tourism in Truro, but at a Russell Society meeting on Wednesday 21st September, it became clear that none of this was likely to come to the museum.

Stoke-on-Trent Museums. Plans announced at the start of the year to cut back the museums service met tremendous local opposition and were softened, although cuts in opening hours were still planned.

The ongoing replacement of specialist subject curators by generalists is extremely worrying. The Royal Cornwall Museum no longer has a geology curator – or even a natural history curator. They have been replaced by such posts as “learning engagement officer”, “communications and interpretations manager”, “operations manager” and “trainee curator”. Probably consequent on this, and with nobody to champion the world-famous Rashleigh Mineral Collection, plans for a new geology gallery (Making Cornwall) are graphics rich and specimen and content light. At the New Walk Museum in Leicester, academic requests to examine the geology collections are being turned down because no “suitably qualified persons” are available. This trend means that the expertise of

subject specialist networks such as the GCG is increasingly important, and there may be a growing need for freelance peripatetic natural science curators.

Partly to probe the current level of curation in the UK Collections, and partly to improve the [GCG Collections Map and Database](#), GCG intends to run a State and Status Survey in 2023, as it is now 22 years since the last one.

With the continued reduction and turnover of curatorial staff, the days when curators could recognise the labels of many of the major collections have long gone. To help combat this GCG has introduced a [“Lost, Stolen, and Strayed” Section](#) on the Collections page, which the Webmaster, Simon Harris, has populated from past issues of *The Geological Curator*. The format allows the flexible inclusion of images, documents and spreadsheets, and it is the intention to extend this to lists of specimens for disposal. In parallel, the Collector and Dealer labels section on the Resources page is being extended to include Museum numbers and labels. A page for the British Geological Survey (BGS) Collections is available, and I would ask everyone to consider whether a page for their institution’s collections could be beneficial.

Over the Summer, DISSCO-UK launched their [website](#) and published their “Blueprint for the UK” : [Harnessing the Power of Natural Science Collections](#).

DISSCO-UK also launched the UK Natural Science Collections [dashboard](#).

Any collections not yet included are encouraged to join by contacting dissco-uk@nhm.ac.uk. For many museums, this could be the first step in opening their collections for international study, and a good way of engaging with science and research at a time when the Museums Association is encouraging museums to move towards co-curation and reinterpretation.

Dr Mike Howe

7. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator (EDI) is a new role on the GCG committee, therefore much of the year has been spent on how the role can be used to support all of GCG’s outputs and activities. Attention has been focused on recognising areas where greater support is required, as well as on initiatives to increase diversity within the collections sector.

Early in the year, an eight-page accessibility and inclusion checklist for in-person events was produced to support event organisers. This is a live document available on our website.

Manuscripts submitted for the upcoming ethics issue of the *Geological Curator* were reviewed as part of the EDI role, in addition to the normal peer-review process. This was in response to feedback received in relation to the previous ethics edition. Improvements and revisions to the journal ethics policy are underway, which follow guidelines from the [Committee on Publishing Ethics](#) (COPE). These changes will better reflect the needs of an ever-changing scientific landscape and ensure clear transparency between the GCG, authors, and readers. Publication guidelines for the *Geological Curator* will also be revised for greater transparency.

Looking ahead, the GCG is continuously looking for ways to better support our members. If there are any equity, diversity, or inclusion issues which you are experiencing, or you think there is something we could improve upon, please get in touch. We are always open to suggestions about our activities and will actively work with members to implement change wherever possible.

Meghan Jenkinson

8. Online activity

8.1 Website

During the past year we have seen the website continue to mature, and our use of other “tech” services (videoconferencing, cloud storage etc.) has become more consistent and considered, after the knee jerk reactions initiated by the pandemic of 2020. In May, we successfully trialled the use of the Zoom Webinar add-on for the Marine Reptiles Mini Conference which we found produced a much more polished output for this kind of meeting. As a result, we are saving considerable amounts of committee time when it comes to the running of GCG events and at committee meetings.

Visitor numbers to the website are up slightly, and we have continued to add content, for example posters from [#SPPC2022](#) held in September, and recordings of the online talks from our 2021 AGM seminar. The journal fulltext search facility has also benefitted from a series of minor enhancements and now incorporates the facility for us to issue and deliver our journal articles via the familiar DOI system, which provides persistent identifiers for our content. You will be able to read more about this initiative in the Journal section of this report (5.1).

Hardware-wise, we have purchased a budget-priced 10-inch tablet computer. There were many reasons for this, but it is primarily for use at events where people may wish to sign up or check their membership status. We can also use it to access any documents stored on our cloud storage, and it could also be used to lower the barrier to participation on committee if any person does not have access to personal or work devices.

During 2023 we will be upgrading the content management system that drives the website (the current version is not supported by security upgrades beyond August next year) as well as moving our cloud document store and e-mail onto an integrated platform. Work like this is seldom visible to the end user but still consumes large amounts of time, and ultimately has to take precedence over forward-facing tasks such as adding content to the website. Therefore, we have decided to advertise a new Web Assistant role as you may already have seen. If you think this might be of interest, then you can check out the role description [here](#).

Rank	Page title	Hits
1	GCG homepage	39432
2	The GCG blog	2019
3	The Geological Curators Group mission statement	1772

4	SPPC 2008 Dublin	1301
5	SPPC 2007 Glasgow	1167
6	Thumbs-up leaflet	1116
7	Geological Curator 11(6)	888
8	Article search results	851
9	Committee Profile: Nigel Larkin	801
10	Voluntary Roles on the Geological Curator editorial team	788
11	News from the 48th GCG AGM: CIO progress, membership changes and DiSSCo developments	760
12	Make a donation	741
13	Privacy Policy	731
14	Current vacancies on the GCG Committee	634
15	Sign up for membership online	576
16	Committee Profile: Simon Harris	570
17	Geological Curators Group Events Policy	472
18	Geological Curator 5(9)	454
19	Committee Profile: Robert Lowther	447
20	Committee Profile: Dr Emma Nicholls	431
21	Committee Profile: Lu Allington-Jones	423
22	Committee Profile: Mike Howe	415
23	GCG statement on Black Lives Matter - June 2020	409
24	Brand new Natural History Museum opening in Sheffield	390
25	Committee Profile: Lil Stevens	385

Top 25 pages by page impression for 2022 to 12th October. You can compare this with the results of the same query for 2021 in the last annual report available to [download from here](#).

Simon Harris

8.2. Blog

Between 1st November 2021 (date of last annual report) and 21st October 2022, we have published a total of 26 articles on the [blog](#), and received 14,949 hits – over double compared to the previous year (we received 7,358 hits between November 2020 and October 2021).

Blog articles have been viewed by people in 125 countries, across the world and on all continents except Antarctica, which is 34 countries up on last year, proving we are most certainly reaching an international audience.

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* (a round-up of forthcoming exhibitions, events, conferences, and workshops) written by Blog Editor Emma Nicholls.

The remaining articles were written by other authors, most of which are GCG members. The top ten most read articles between 1st November 2021 and 21st October 2022 were:

[Construction of A Modern Boxed Mineral Collection](#) by John Cooke

[The Dinosaurs Rediscovered: The Scientific Revolution in Paleontology - Michael J. Benton](#) by Jenna Davenport

[History of the Fossil Record Through Commercial Boxed Collections](#) by John Cooke

[Tyrannosaurus rex The Perfect Puzzle](#) by Nigel Larkin

[Toadstones and Re-Animated Toads](#) by John Cooke

[Tendaguru: A Decolonisation Perspective](#) by Matthew Porter

[In the Beginning - The Geological Curators Group Story](#) by Cindy Howells

[The Mineral Collection of the Royal Institution of Cornwall](#) by Roy Starkey

[On the Trail of Errant Specimens](#) by Mike Howe

[Geological Fakes- Minerals, Gems and Meteorites](#) by Nadine Gabriel

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

Emma is due to take over as Chair of GCG at the AGM in 2022 and as such, will be stepping down from the role of Blog Editor. She would like to thank all of the amazing authors she has had the pleasure of working with since she took over the role in July 2018, and looks forward to seeing where the next Blog Editor will take us!

Dr Emma Nicholls

8.3. Social media

Our social media presence remains healthy on Facebook and Twitter. We thank everyone who has engaged with us over the years. Most news, stories and events are shared across both platforms, and we try to engage in common hashtags such as #MineralMonday and #FossilFriday.

Contributors are reminded of our social media policy, which can be viewed [here](#). Please note, this is a live document, and we will continue to monitor and update it.

Please do get in touch if you have content you would like us to distribute via our social media channels at info@geocurator.org or send us a direct message (DM).

8.3.1. Facebook

We are represented on Facebook in two ways: a group and a page (both called Geological Curators' Group), which have been live since May 2013. All content is posted to both the group and page.

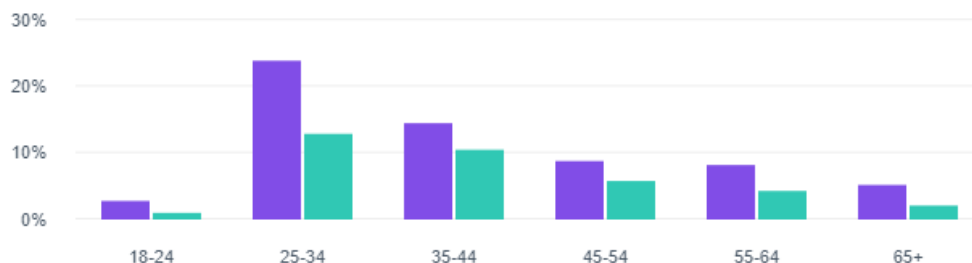
1287 people have liked our Facebook Group with a breakdown of the number of 'Likes' since 2017, below.

Year	Number of likes
2022	1287
2021	1178
2020	1035
2019	1035
2018	985
2017	912

Audience

Age and gender

■ Men 63.30%
■ Women 36.70%



Location

Towns/cities

Countries

United Kingdom	319
United States	158
Egypt	104
India	92
Mexico	67
Italy	42
Canada	36
Spain	30
Brazil	28
Pakistan	25

Above is a breakdown of our audience on the GCG Facebook Group. The stats do not give a true breakdown, as the numbers are only cover profiles where that information is provided. But it does provide a good insight.

We have 749 members on our group page from over 65 countries, predominately from the UK. Approximately three quarters are active members who will interact with the content posted.

Year	Number of Members
2022	749
2021	629
2020	502
2019	350
2018	292
2017	225

Table showing the number of members of the Facebook Page since 2017.

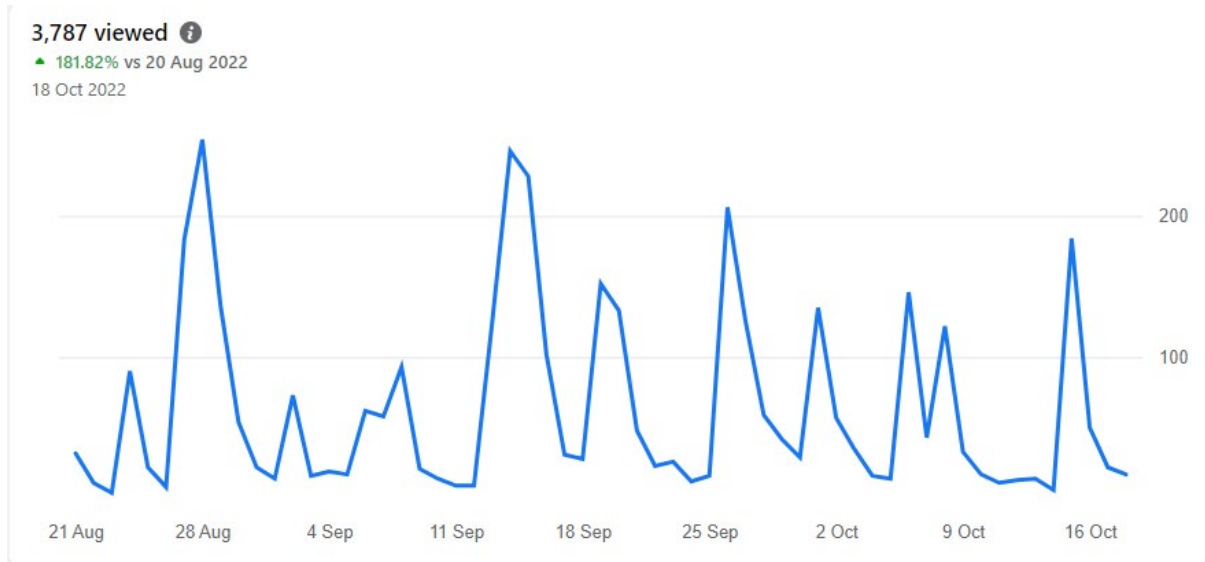


Chart showing the number of people who have viewed our Facebook Group between 21st August and 20th October. Most views tie in when new content is posted.

8.3.2. Twitter

We have had a Twitter account ([@OriginalGCG](https://twitter.com/OriginalGCG)), since January 2013, which was initially set up by Emma Bernard. There are currently 1518 followers which has been steadily increasing over the years (see table below). Typically posts with good images tend to have more interactions.

Year	Number of followers
2022	1518
2021	1445
2020	1355
2019	1227
2018	1068
2017	961

Emma Bernard

8.4. JISCmail

The vast majority of general correspondence goes via our JISCmail list: (GEO-CURATORS@JISCmail.ac.uk).

Everyone is welcome to sign up and post to JISCmail, whether a GCG member or not, although we do of course encourage you to [join us!](#) See our website for sign-up instructions.

List subscribers are roughly in line with our GCG membership, although it doesn't correspond completely. There are currently 279 list subscribers, which has remained constant over recent years (see table below). This varies during the year with some people joining as others leave, but overall remains constant. Sometimes this is because they have left the sector, changed email or had signed up for information about a specific topic and had it answered.

Year	Number of subscribers
2022	279
2021	278
2020	272
2019	275
2018	276
2017	272

Table showing the number of JISC mail subscribers since 2017.

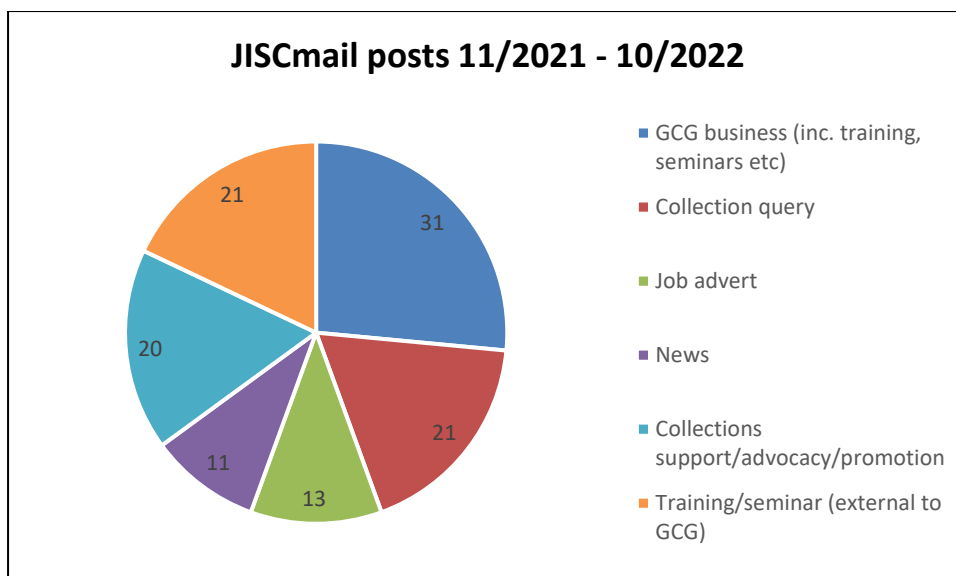
It's worth pointing out that this is purely a list of email addresses and some people have signed up with more than one email. If an email address bounces for 5 or so days in a row, JISC will remove it from the list. If you know there have been problems with your email address, it's worth checking if you're still subscribed! If you have any queries or problems, please send an email to secretary@geocurator.org.

Over the last few years, we have been grouping the posts into six different headings; GCG business (inc. training, seminars etc.); Collection queries; Job Adverts; News; Collections Support/advocacy/promotion and Training/seminar (external to the GCG offer).

Between November 2021 and 23rd October 2022, there were 157 posts in total on JISC mail, of those 117 were unique.

The majority of posts via JISC concern GCG business such as ads for GCG news, events and blog posts. Collection queries and identifications have most interactions with subscribers providing feedback.

The graph below gives a breakdown of the number of posts per category.



Graph showing the breakdown of posts on GCG JISCMail between November 2021 and October 2022.

Total original posts 2022: 157
 Total original posts 2021: 89
 Total original posts 2020: 136
 Total original posts 2019: 103
 Total original posts 2018: 98
 Total original posts 2017: 107

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

The majority of non-GCG specific posts 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. On average there are 13 posts per month.

Total figures are not directly comparable as they don't cover the exact same dates each year. 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 August and September due to SPCC, and in the lead up to events like the AGM in late November/early December.

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

Emma Bernard

9. Outreach and profile

During 2022 many in-person meetings started to make a comeback. However, in this post Covid world there is still space for virtual meetings, especially as it enables us to reach a more diverse audience. Some events like the online Marine Reptile Conference (see Section 4.2), which GCG agreed to sponsor in 2019 were able to go ahead.

GCG were pleased to provide sponsorship for the [Progressive Palaeontology](#) (Prog Pal) conference, which is aimed at, and run by, students, and which was held in June this year. It also gives an opportunity for the GCG to advocate for geological collections and also promote our "[I'm beginning my research. What do I do with my geological collection](#)" online booklet. Thanks go to Meghan for representing us at this meeting. More information about this meeting, can be found on our [blog](#).

As mentioned under Section 4, GCG was able to host and facilitate bookings for the 11th International Symposium on Cephalopods Present and Past, which also featured a day where delegates were able to work in the Cephalopod collections at the Natural History Museum, London.

Sponsorship was also provided for the [55th Earth Sciences Teachers Association](#) (ESTA), which was held in Leicester. A blog about this event, should be published shortly.

We have GCG fliers which can be sent out if you would like to help promote GCG. As a charity we would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in sponsoring a GCG 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, joining the [committee](#), becoming a Trustee, or running an event. We are a friendly group, and it would be great to hear from you! Please contact us at info@geocurator.org.

Emma Bernard

10. GCG – SPNHC (Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections) Rep

I have been very grateful to take on and continue in the role of GCG – SPNHC Rep, reporting back on the business and activities between the two organisations.

This year, I have provided full reports of GCG activity and events for the Spring and Autumn editions of the SPNHC Connection newsletter, as well as a summary for the SPNHC ABM (Annual Business Meeting) held at the Edinburgh [SPNHC conference](#) in June 2022 which I was lucky to be able to attend.

Held in partnership with BHL (Biodiversity Heritage Library) and NatSCA (Natural Sciences Collections Association) at National Museums of Scotland and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, the conference theme was 'Through the door and through the web: releasing the power of natural history collections onsite and online', and included numerous talks, collection tours, demo camps and workshops.

There was ample opportunity to network with colleagues from across the globe to advocate the work GCG do. Thanks go to NatSCA for the opportunity to share table space in the grand McEwan

Hall to help promote our work. Simon Harris, Nigel Larkin and I took turns staffing the table to tempt conference goers with leaflets, journal prints and our very fashionable tote bags!

The June 2023 SPNHC conference will be hosted by the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, under the theme 'Taking the Long View', encouraging the Natural Science sector to 'envision the future for our field, our collections, and ourselves. What lessons can we take from the past to better shape our future? What are our goals as a society and as individual organisations?'

The conference will be hybrid with a virtual program for members who cannot attend in-person, see [here](#) for further details.

I look forward to continued advocacy on behalf of GCG. If there is any news or information you would like to share with SPNHC, please contact me at spnhc-rep@geocurator.org

Andrew Haycock

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:

Email: info@geocurator.org

Address: Geological Curators Group
(c/o Becky Goddard)
The Geological Society
Burlington House
London
W1J 0BG

Committee for 2022 (from AGM 2021)

(T = trustee)

Chair (T): Sarah King (*York Museums Trust*)

Vice-Chair* (T): Emma Nicholls (*Horniman Museum and Gardens*)

Secretary (T): Emma Bernard (*Natural History Museum, London*)

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator* (T): Meghan Jenkinson (*University of Leeds*)

Collections Coordinator (T): Mike Howe (*British Geological Survey*)

Treasurer (T): Robert Lowther (*Imperial College, London*)

Membership Officer: Cindy Howells (*National Museum Wales*)

Programme Coordinator (T): Zoë Hughes (*Natural History Museum, London*)

Journal Editor (T): Lu Allington-Jones has been acting Journal Editor

Web Coordinator (T): Simon Harris (*British Geological Survey*)

Trustee: Lu Allington-Jones (*Natural History Museum, London*)

Trustee: Rachel Walcott (*National Museum of Scotland*)

Newsletter Editor: Lu Allington-Jones (*Natural History Museum, London*)

Blog Editor: Emma Nicholls (*Horniman Museum and Gardens*)

Officer: (Treasurer support) Alex Peaker (*Dinosaur Isle*)

Officer: (Conservation Officer): Nigel Larkin (*Natural History Conservation*)

Officer: (Archive support): Lil Stevens (*Natural History Museum, London*)

Officer: (SPNHC Rep): Andrew Haycock (*National Museum Wales*).

* Denotes a new role in the CIO.

Proposed committee for 2023

Trustees

- **Chair:** Emma Nicholls (*Horniman Museum and Gardens*)
- **Secretary:** Lu Allington-Jones (*Natural History Museum, London*)
- **Treasurer:** Robert Lowther (*Imperial College, London*)
- **Web Coordinator:** Simon Harris (*British Geological Survey*)
- **Programme Coordinator:** Mark Evans (*British Antarctic Survey*)
- **Journal Editor:** Duncan Murdock (*Oxford University Museum of Natural History*)
- **Collections Coordinator:** Mike Howe (*British Geological Survey*)
- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator:** Meghan Jenkinson (*University of Leeds*)
- **Communication Coordinator:** Juned Zariwala (*University of Bristol*)
- **Ordinary Member (Outgoing Treasurer):** Rachel Walcott (*National Museum of Scotland*)

Non-Trustees

- **Membership Officer:** Cindy Howells (*National Museum Wales*)
- **Blog Editor:** Rob Theodore (*Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, Cambridge*)
- **Newsletter Editor:** Cinzia Ragni (*University of Turin, Italy*)
- **Conservation Officer:** Nigel Larkin (*Natural History Conservation*)
- **Society for the Prevention of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) Rep:** Andrew Haycock (*National Museum, Wales*)
- **Committee Assistant:** Alex Peaker (*Dinosaur Isle*)
- **Collections Coordinator Assistant:** Sherri Donaldson (*University of Edinburgh*)
- **Associate Editor (fossil vertebrates):** Neil Adams (*Natural History Museum, London*)
- **Associate Editor (microfossils and geoheritage):** Jess McCoy (*Northumbria University*)
- **Associate Editor (conservation, preparation and replication):** Lu Allington-Jones (*Natural History Museum, London*)
- **First Stage Production Editor:** Hannah Bird (*Freelance Editor & Content Creator*)
- **First Stage Production Editor:** Nicolas Baird (*American Museum of Natural History and Columbia University*)
- **Second Stage Production Editor:** Emily Carlisle (*University of Bristol*)

Thank you to outgoing committee members

- **Chair:** Sarah King (*York Museums Trust*)
- **Secretary:** Emma Bernard (*Natural History Museum, London*)
- **Programme Coordinator:** Zoë Hughes (*Natural History Museum, London*)
- **Archive Assistant:** Lil Stevens (*Natural History Museum, London*)

Please print your own copy of this document if you need it; GCG is working to reduce paper waste.
Thank you.

Geological Curators' Group

49th Annual General Meeting, Online

2022 Accounts

28/10/2021 - 27/10/2022

Income	This year	2020-2021	Expenditure	This year	2020-2021
GCG AGM: 2021		£230.00	GCG AGM: 2021	-£9.70	
GCG AGM: 2022		£198.00	GCG AGM: 2022	£0.00	
GCG-hosted: ISCPP		£9,518.15	GCG-hosted: ISCPP	-£9,306.34	
GCG-hosted: Marine Reptiles		£225.00	GCG-hosted: Marine Reptiles	-£76.80	
Events & Workshops Total	£10,171.15	£30.00	GCG-event: Games Night	-£5.00	
			Events & Workshops Total	-£9,397.84	-£30.00
Subscriptions	£5,473.77	£5,536.20	Geological Curator Production	-£2,479.88	-£3,455.62
Donation	£30.69	£15.88	Bank Fees	-£400.07	-£64.89
			Committee Meeting Expenses	-£559.39	£0.00
			Equipment	-£129.87	£0.00
			Publishing Fees	-£202.43	£0.00
			Sponsorship	-£375.49	£0.00
			Web Hosting Fees	-£470.05	-£256.79
			JISC GB/3D payments	£0.00	£0.00
			Brighton Medals [£1,214.86 in fund]	£0.00	£0.00
			Subscription - Duplicate Refund	-£15.00	£0.00
			Other	£0.00	-£924.41
2022 Income	£15,675.61	£5,582.08	2022 Expenditure	-£14,030.02	-£4,731.71

Treasurer:

Robert Lowther 08/11/2022

Auditors:

Sherri Donaldson 24/11/2022

Mike McDonagh 29/11/2022

Closing Balance as at 27/10/2021 £21,867.55

Closing Balance as at **27/10/2022** £23,513.14

2022 Profit £1,645.59