

Date: 3rd March 2018

Dear Geology Curators Group,

One of your members came to our annual conference held in Keele University last October and suggested that maybe the members of our two organisations were not aware of each other! I would be most grateful if the following could be added to contributions for your Coprolite newsletter, blog, website. In return I would like to put a similar piece in our ESTA newsletter to highlight GCG. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dear Geology Curators Group members,

I write on behalf of the Earth Science Teachers Association (ESTA) members. ESTA members and yourselves have probably been in very close proximity but just not made the links!

<http://www.esta-uk.net/>

Many of you are aware I am sure, that unlike other science or humanities subjects, Geology has always been one of the smaller uptake subjects, despite the amazing selling points of fieldwork experiences, and the core topic materials which focus on the fundamentals of things around us and the future of the planet, being able to “look backwards to look forwards” when looking at specimens in museums is an amazing thing.

Support was galvanised and geology successfully made it through the most recent round of curriculum revisions for A level and GCSE, but the continuing squeezes on schools and colleges mean that there are fewer places that offer the subject for potential students to study it. This will obviously impact longer term on a suitably qualified workforce.

We are trying to widen the connections of ESTA, in terms of membership and also awareness raising to strengthen and increase the future potential of geology as a subject. So, making contact with organisations who have a similar field is vital, GeoCurators are one of the most diverse in terms of locations and specialisms of your members, and you (and the displays you curate) are front line in meeting a very significant number of visitors each year which plays a part in inspiring geologists of the future. Both ESTA and GCG are have links to The Geological Society of London too.

GeoCurators may be able to signpost others towards our group (or our teachers), of course they would be extremely welcome to join us too. Like yourselves we have an annual conference (in London 28-30 September 2018!), and journals etc. We have a similar mission to advance the status of geology and improve knowledge of all things geological. We need more people talking about geology and creating a “buzz” so that more people come to see specimens in museums as well as get fired up to want to study the subject too. I would hope that if you see a teacher with students looking at the specimens in your exhibits that maybe links could be forged, which may help the subject in the future.

Many thanks (in advance) for your support

Jo Conway

Earth Science Teachers Association Chair March 2018