

CURATOR'S REPORT 2023

The regular members' open days that resumed in July 2022, after an absence of more than two years, were almost back to the pre-Covid number of events in 2023, with 17 taking place during the year. However, the attendance has remained generally low with an average of 5 people present for all or part of the day, and just 19 members making one or more visits. As reported last year it seems that some members who came regularly prior to the suspension of our activities have yet to return. It is hoped that members will make fuller use of our building in 2024.

I followed up my articles on the history of past curators, that had been published in the 2021 and 2022 issues of the journal, with one on the composition of the collections. This appeared in the March 2023 issue and aimed to inform members of the available resources for verification of specimens. It also highlighted both those areas where the representation was strong and those where there are substantial gaps that it is hoped future acquisitions might fill. This led to an offer of named parasitic Hymenoptera, which is eagerly anticipated. It was also stated that our native ant lion *Euroleon nostras* was represented only by French specimens, a photo of which was included in the article. This resulted in an immediate response from David Wilson, who has ant lions breeding in his Suffolk garden. He kindly donated a series of this species that has enhanced our collection.

Monitoring the building for signs of infestation has not found any problems but only partial checks of the collections occurred in 2023, and a further complete check of all cabinets is desirable.

I thank Ivan Perry for further substantial donations of Diptera, and Jon Cooter for donating some scarce Coleoptera that were additions to the collection. I am grateful to Marc Taylor for his continuing support at open days.

PETER CHANDLER