

# Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of *Field Bryology* – the new and improved *Bulletin* of the British Bryological Society!

Over the past few years there has been a growing realisation within the BBS that it would be timely to review the aims of the *Bulletin*, particularly in relation to the *Journal of Bryology*. There is no doubt that the *Journal* is a prestigious, high-quality publication, but its increasingly academic focus means that it now contains relatively few articles of interest to amateur bryologists. This has left a gap in the communications activities of the Society. Following discussion at the BBS Council it was therefore decided that the *Bulletin* should be revised.

The main aim of the revision has been to widen the scope of the *Bulletin* so that it contains a greater range of popular and accessible articles on bryology. As indicated by the new name of the *Bulletin*, the emphasis is on subjects that will be of general interest to the field bryologist.

In tandem with the change in content, the style and format of the *Bulletin* have been updated, so that *Field Bryology* has a more modern and visually attractive look. It will also be published three, rather than two, times a year.

It has not been possible to introduce all the proposed new features of *Field Bryology* at once. However, I hope that this first issue provides a clear indication of the type of material that I intend to include on a regular basis.

Firstly, *Field Bryology* will contain well-written, informative articles on bryophyte ecology, distribution, taxonomy and identification. For

example, this issue includes details of a new species of *Grimmia* in the British Isles, a fascinating account of the apparent spread of *Colura calyptrifolia* in Wales, and a description of capsules in *Timmia megapolitana*. I firmly believe that articles of this sort should form a mainstay of *Field Bryology*.

Secondly, there will be regular columns and features covering subjects such as reports of BBS meetings, bryophyte recording and conservation, and book reviews. New vice-county records will continue to be published in *Field Bryology*, and in the next issue they will be supplemented by a new feature containing records of ‘rare and interesting bryophytes’. The next issue will also contain the first in a series of articles on prominent bryologists of the past.

Finally, but very importantly, *Field Bryology* will continue to include the familiar details of Society business and activities, e.g. notices of future meetings, minutes of AGMs, and details of BBS committees.

My intention is that *Field Bryology* will evolve over time, in response to the requirements of its readership. So I would urge all of you to get in touch and let me know what sort of articles and features you would like to see in the future. Tell me what you like about the new format and content ... and what you don't. Offers to write articles or contribute photographs would be particularly welcome. I look forward to hearing from you.

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