

When first approached to have my name put forward as the new Editor of *Field Bryology*, I realized immediately that, if elected, I would find myself in a position where I would have to follow in the footsteps of my two immediate predecessors, Marcus Yeo and Des Callaghan – a challenge indeed. I take this opportunity to thank them for all they have done to date in building up the magazine to its present state of good health.

However, the responsibility for this magazine has for now fallen to me. Part of my time in my 'day job' is taken up working on the membership magazine for another society – the Society for General Microbiology (SGM) – and I hope to bring to *Field Bryology* some of the ideas that have helped to make the SGM membership magazine, *Microbiology Today*, the success that it is.

As soon as this issue drops through your letter-box or lands on your desk, you will notice a change in the appearance of the whole magazine. It is a good idea to revisit the look, as well as the content, of a publication such as this every few years. It helps to renew interest and keep the magazine fresh. I hope you like the new design for 2008.

In time I hope to introduce some new regular features; four of these can be found in this issue. **Hot off the Press** (p. 62) contains summaries of a selection of papers published recently in our own research journal, *Journal of Bryology*, and in other academic journals available through the BBS reading circle, but written in such a way as to make the findings of these papers accessible to those members who may find the academic nature of the full papers offputting. **Bryophytes Abroad** (p. 39) – the title really speaks for itself, the idea being to provide a regular spot where members can read about bryology outside of the UK. In this issue Rod Seppelt and Ryszard Ochyra introduce us to the Antarctic bryophyte flora. Items of

more general interest will appear in another new section simply entitled **News** (see p. 69). At the end of each issue, I intend to introduce **Opinion**. This will be a forum where personal views, even those that may be quite controversial, can be aired to stimulate debate. Our retiring President, Sean Edwards, has obliged us by writing the first of these (p. 80). If *you* have an opinion you would like to express, please let me know!

The articles in these new sections will usually be solicited, but I will always welcome and consider unsolicited material.

Of course, all of this is in addition to all the usual contributions of high-quality, informative articles and reports that form the backbone of the magazine and that the membership looks forward to reading in every issue. I urge you all to always think of this magazine as the place to publish your articles on all aspects of field bryology – ecology, conservation, recording, distribution, taxonomy and identification, reports of field meetings and historical anecdotes. Importantly, it will also continue to be the official record of all Society news and business activities, including plans of forthcoming meetings and reports of those that have already taken place.

A set of guidelines for authors are available on the BBS website at www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk, but if you have any questions about submitting an article to the magazine, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I will always be happy to receive feedback and suggestions from you the members. From the professional academic through to the experienced field bryologist to the novice amateur, this is your magazine and it is my aim to make it as useful, informative and enjoyable a read as possible for all of you.

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