

Editorial

Hello,

Thank you Merriol and David for your kind comments on my taking over as Newsletter Editor. I hope to maintain the high standard already set by David and with the help of members of the society help to build upon the firm foundation already laid.

I have already met a good number of the membership of SBGAS, both here and overseas and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at future events, or here in Horbury if you are passing through. In the meantime I enclose a photograph so you may see with whom you are dealing!



My membership of SBGAS commenced in March 1992 after accidentally wandering into Hutton's bookshop in Launceston - (thanks Patrick and Felicity) and when David recently handed over a complete set of newsletters I thought it would be a useful exercise to look back to the origins of our Society. I eagerly read David's first 'Editorial' dated 1989 (reproduced on p.10) which names James Sunnucks as the first member and refers to Lt. Colonel Warwick CalmadyHamlyn giving family approval for SBGAS to 'go ahead'.

Since those early days Merriol has kindly taken over as President and the regular newsletter, combined A.G.M and 'Meet' have clearly proved such a wonderful and enjoyable way of discovering previously unknown information about SBG, his family and his influence.

To add to the many valuable contributions from members which have featured in the newsletter, we now have Harold Kirk-Smith's "Now The Day is Over - The Life and Times of Sabine Baring-Gould." This work is also reviewed by David Shacklock in this issue. There is also Becky Smith's reprint of Sabine's first Yorkshire based novel "Through Flood and Flame" which along with other titles has been added to the publication list inside the back cover. These activities combined with an ever increasing membership bodes well for the society's future and places us in a good position to leap into the next millennium. Any ideas to celebrate this event in true SBG style would, I am sure, be most welcome.

As I prepare this newsletter, the AGM and Meet will soon be here, and for those of us able to be in Devon on the 25th October there will be the benefit of the "Red Spider" experience organised by our Treasurer Sybil and Secretary, Roger. A full report of events will appear in the next edition.

I am fortunate to have access to a computer, printer and scanner to assist me in my editorial duties. Of course learning to use them correctly is one thing but another is the certainty that as a deadline nears, things start to go wrong! Having said that, there will be only three

deadlines a year so, if I can manage that, perhaps you would help by inundating me with contributions. (Thanks for those received so far)

I hope no one will feel offended by the introduction of a little light entertainment in the form of an SBG based crossword, which my wife Sylvia has helped me formulate. There are no prizes but we hope you will find it entertaining and the answers will be published in the next issue. Should anyone else feel the urge to 'have a go' please let me have your contribution.

Finally, while looking down our expanding mailing list it suddenly strikes me that to do my job properly I should perhaps use more mid-Atlantic expressions and spellings. On that note, we recently met a guy from the center of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who confidently told us that Bill Gates (owner of Microsoft Computers) will gradually convert the quirky English language to U.S. standards. I suppose that remains to be seen, but some computer spell checkers do leave much to be desired and while older generations recognise and alter the variations in spelling, will our young people react to it? I wonder what Sabine's opinion would have been about this?

Keith Lister.