

EDITORIAL

Dear Members

As we approach the longest day of the year it doesn't seem twelve months since Sylvia and I were preparing for our journey to North Cape. I wonder where the last year has gone!!

The main article in this issue is a very interesting contribution from our Secretary Roger Bristow who has prepared a series of literary reviews of SBG's John Herring published anonymously in 1883. These critiques are very enlightening since they give us a valuable independent glimpse into Sabine's generally well-hidden strengths and weaknesses. There was also just sufficient space for a short article of my own which

I hope readers may find thought provoking. We also have more selected quotes from "Thoughts of S. Baring-Gould" supplied by Sybil Tope.

Some of you may also be pleased to know that the question of the provision of back numbers of our Newsletters has now been satisfactorily resolved. Our member Philip Weller has been supplied with original newsletters from which he has kindly volunteered to supply single or multiple copies upon request - please see details elsewhere.

A constant theme that I have picked up as Editor is the dismay, shock and yes, even horror at what has been done in the name of the hymn Onward Christian Soldiers which is now no longer protected by copyright. To say the least the latest version,

entitled Onward Christian Pilgrims by Michael Forster in New Anglican Edition of Hymns Old and New, is rather limp compared to the original. Before it is eroded even further I wonder if there might be a case for some proactive publicity in support for Sabine's original words?

Your response (or lack of it) is eagerly awaited.

Finally the next issue will be my last after which I shall be handing over to Rebecca Smith* who is to produce a new cover to take us into the Millennium. If you have any articles for the October issue, please send them to my home address or via my new e-mail address: keith@listerk.freemove.co.uk Don't worry about inundating me with items since any excess items will give Becky a good start in February!

Keith Lister