

Initiatives (Editorial)

One of the characteristics of our often maligned Victorian forbears that must surely be an inspiration to us who follow is that so many of them were inventors, pioneers, initiators. Some would cynically say that SBG was an 'inventor' of facts that were often found to be without substance. Perhaps it can fairly be said that he did not always make the distinction between fact and imagination sufficiently clear - but his pioneering spirit we can admire without reserve.

A society that exists to foster his memory, enjoy his 'inventions', and research his life also depends in its turn on the initiatives of its members. Thankfully that spirit is in plentiful supply - and this issue bears witness to that.

Roger Bristow's bibliographical efforts fall well into this category - see page 2 for a sample of his latest update, now available to members. Sybil Tope and Rebecca Smith are to be congratulated on the re-issue of *Red Spider*, excellently produced in its distinctive red glossy cover - with the declared intention of more SBG titles to come. Jim Sunnucks and the community in East Mersea continue to arrange SBG related events (see p. 9f), as does Image Briggs in the Westcountry (see. p.16).

At the time of writing, the Two Bridges event looks to be the front runner for this year's major gathering, with the possibility of a short AGM at the start of the day's proceedings. Hurstpierpoint and Horbury are in contention - their turn will come - but watch STOP PRESS for the latest news. In any case, please respond to Image's letter - see the latest members' list (for which we thank the Hon. Secretary) to find her address.

Finally, membership analysis now shows:

West - 19; South - 12; East - 5; North - 4; USA - 8; Total - 48, of which 19 are 'family'.

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