

THE PHYCOLOGIST



The Newsletter of the British Phycological Society

Editor: Bruce Osborne

Home page: <http://www.brphycsoc.org/>

Number 63

November 2002

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Editorial

Who was it who sang 'Now is the time to say goodbye. Now is the time to yield a sigh', as part of the finale to their television programme? Was it the Goodies? Was it Monty Python? It certainly could have been something from either Spike Milligan or the Goons* Well, now it is my time to say goodbye. After, I think, 5 years in the post, I have finally decided to give up the editorship of 'The Phycologist'. With a sigh? Well, yes, with a sigh. Although sometimes onerous it was never going to be an all-demanding task, it is the accumulation of a multitude of different tasks, one of which is producing this newsletter, that have resulted in a major demand on my time and effort. Besides, it's almost always constructive to bring in new individuals to posts within the Society with fresh ideas and approaches and now is as good a time as any for change. Whoever takes over the job, I wish them well!

Clearly the Society faces increasing challenges for the future. If we are honest most of us recognise that support for phycology is dwindling and we have already entered an era where a strict phycological distinction may soon be no more, or certainly much diluted. We may not like this, but we need to be prepared to adjust to changed circumstances if we are to maintain the Society as the vibrant and active organisation it is and to embrace all those who have even a peripheral interest in phycology.

Personally I believe that more resources should be invested in publicising the Society, whatever form that takes, and for providing a voice on relevant scientific issues. There has been a debate in the past, for instance, about on-line publication of the Newsletter, an issue that council and the membership may have to re-think. Whatever form the newsletter takes it can and should be, an important vehicle for publicising the Societies activities and, importantly, its opinions/views. The

