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Editor:
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Contents

So how was the year 2000 for you? For some, like me, it was a new beginning for others the final end to long and distinguished careers. Two notable losses this year were David Hall and Peter Fay. Although not specifically a phycologist, David Hall was internationally recognised for his work on photosynthesis and bioproductivity and certainly worked extensively with microalgae and cyanobacteria. Peter Fay was perhaps more familiar to those in the phycological field and made major contributions to the physiology, biochemistry and ecology of cyanobacteria. An obituary of Peter Fay, written by Tony Wallsby, will be included in a subsequent edition of The Phycologist.

But how did phycology do in the year 2000? We heard a lot about mad cow disease and CJD, climate change and its potential impact and, of course, AIDS and its origins. Perhaps I am mistaken, but I cannot remember that much publicity for phycology, aside from toxin production and fish kills, that reached the public domain. Don't get me wrong, even a casual glance through the back issues of Nature or Science for the year 2000 will indicate that phycological research is thriving and its importance clearly recognised. But are the public/politicians aware of this? Of course we cannot rely on the emotive language and direct medical significance of many more widely publicised topics, but phycological research does make an important contribution to human kind in a number of areas, including biotechnology, medicine and climate change, but these are often overlooked. I know that many of us, like me, often feel uncomfortable with the idea of publicity, or making information available to the public in a form that is clear and understandable. But times and priorities change and we all have to realise the importance of a public understanding of the significance of phycology in all its various forms. Perhaps 2001 should, as far as the man on the street is concerned, be the year that phycology finally comes of age.

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If anyone doubted that phycology was thriving then they should look at the programme for the winter meeting which is included in this issue. This clearly contains something for everyone with a broad range of applied and fundamental phycological topics, covering everything from ecological studies to molecular investigations, with presentations by experienced international scientists and postgraduate researchers. A key feature of the programme is the presidential address, given by **Chris Gibson**, who will give a lecture based on his extensive studies of the diatoms of Lough Neagh.

All that remains for me to do is to encourage you to attend and for everyone to fill out the booking form for the meeting as soon as possible. **DEADLINE: 8 December**.

THE BPS WINTER MEETING PROGRAMME UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL 2-5 JANUARY 2001

The following is the programme for the winter meeting. For oral papers the presenting authors' are shown in bold. Please bring this information with you if you are attending.

Tuesday 2nd January

14:00-19:00 Registration

19:00 Poster Session in the Reading Room

Alster, A., Colby, C.J., Cox, E.J., Doe, S., Fishbein, T., Kinross, J., Ní Cháthâin, B., Ruiz, Z., Shubert, L.E., Sigon, C., Vinten, A. & Yehoshau, Y.	Two days in the life of a Scottish pond, or what can be discovered during an ecology training course.
Ball, L.A., Maberly, S.C. & Raven, J.A.	The importance of CO_2* on the spatial and temporal distribution of chrysophytes in lakes.
Campbell, C.N., Tompkins, J., Bolch, C., Day, J.G., Proudlock, P. & Butterwick, C.	The Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa: A Resource for Phycology in the 21st Century.
Cocking, A.J., Fleck, R.A. & Day, J.G.	Cryo-conservation of the algal chytrid *Zygorhizidium planktonicum*.
Crawford, R.M.	Sputter-coating diatoms for light microscopy can improve the image
Davey, M. & Taylor, A.R.	Phytoplankton iron limitation; probing plasma membrane reductases and their role in iron acquisition.
Dean, A., White, K. & Sigee, D.C.	Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in a eutrophic freshwater lake: interactions between phytoplankton, zooplankton and bacteria.
Delahunty, R., Bowers, D. &, Mills, D.K.	A comparison of photosynthetic parameter estimation by a shipboard simulated *in situ* technique and a Fast Repetition Rate Fluorometer in UK coastal waters
Fleck, R.A., Day, J.G. & Benson, E.E.	Cryopreservation recalcitrance in *Vaucheria sessilis*.

Gabrielson, T.M. & Rueness, J.	Genetic variation within and among populations of *Ceramium tenuicorne* (Ceramiales, Rhodophyta) from Skagerrak and the Baltic Sea.
Harper, K.J., Parry, J.D., Day, J.G. & Smith, R.J.	Development of HIP 1 PCR typing technique to analyse the diversity of cyanobacteria.
Holmes, M. J. & Brodie J.	A study of chromosome numbers of *Porphyra* species (Bangiales, Rhodophyta) from Britain.
Johnstone, C., Benson, E., Jefferies, C. & Day, J.	Assessing the effects of environmental change in urban aquatic ecosystems using algal species diversity and stress physiology as impact indicators.
King, L., Dent, M.M., Gibson, C.E., Jones, R.I. & Maberly, S.C.	Paradigm lost:- does phosphorus-limitation prevail in upland oligotrphic lakes?
Lourenço, S.O., Barbarino, E. Bispo, M.G.S., Borges, D.A., Coelho-Gomes, C., Lavín, P.L. & Santos, F.	Effects of light intensity on growth, inorganic nitrogen storage and gross chemical composition of four marine microalgae in batch culture.
Massalski, A. & Shubert, L.E.	A model for understanding the taxonomy of *Desmodesmus* using LM, SEM and TEM.
McIvor, L. & Sluiman, H.J.	Application of AFLP techniques to analyse the population structure of the green tide alga, *Enteromorpha compressa*.
Pottas, J.	Morphological variation in *Fucus spiralis*.
Raven, J.A., Beardall, J., Chudek, J.A., Scrimgeour, C.M. & McInroy, S.G.	Evolutionary significance of altritol synthesis in *Notheia anomala* (Phaeophyceae: Fucales).
Reid, G. & Williams, D.M.	Morphological investigation of Eunotia hispida (Skvortzov) Reid & Williams.
Rose, D.T.	Ecophysiology and taxonomic discrimination of widely distributed diatoms used as indicators of pollution.
Taylor, A. & Brownlee, C.	Characterisation of ion currents in the plasma membrane of the coccolithophore *Coccolithus pelagicus*.

Wednesday 3rd January 2000

0745-0900 Breakfast

Session A

Special session: Ecology/Population Genetics

Time	Session A	Title
9.00	Introduction	
9.10	**Engel, C.**, Destombe, C. & Valero, M.	Mating patterns in the red haplo-diploid alga, populational and experiemental approaches.
9.30	**Billot, C.**, Rousvoal, S., Kloareg, B. & Valero, M.	Population fragmentation and long-term currents highly structure kelp populations in the English Channel.
9.50	Olsen, J.L. & Stam, W.T.	Up close and personal – kinship and genetic neighborhoods in *Ascophyllum nodosum* in Brittany.
10.10	**Coyer, J.A.**, Veldsink, J., Peters, A.F., Stam, W.T. & Olsen, J.L.	Genetic differentiation in the intertidal seaweed, *Fucus serratus*, as determined by microsatellite analysis.
10.30	COFFEE	
11.00	**Van der Strate, H.J.**, Olsen, J.L., Van de Zande, L.L. & Stam, W.T.	Clones and sex – small-scale genetic structure in the haplodiplo alga *Cladophoropsis membranacea*.
11.20	**Engelen, A.H.**, Stam, W.T., Breeman, A.M. & Olsen, J.L.	The contribution of habitat factors in relation to small-scale population structure in *Sargassum polyceratium* in Curaçao.
11.40	**John, U.**, Groben, R. & Medlin, L.K.	Phylogenetic studies of the *Alexandrium tamarense* species complex in European waters using Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphisms (AFLP) and development of species- and strain-specific rDNA probes.
12.00	Vacharapiyasophon, P. & **Hayes, P.K.**	The characterisation of gas vesicle genes and gas vesicle strength in clonal isolates of *Nodularia spumigena* (cyanobacteria).
12.20	Discussion	
12.30	LUNCH	

Session A

Special Session: Algae, Nature Conservation and new European legislation

Time	Session A	Title
1.50	**Martin, A.** & Carvalho, L.	Lagoonal charophyte conservation: tolerance to enrichment and salinity change.
2.10	**Stephen, D.** & Moss, B. and the ECOFRAME consortium.	Introducing ECOFRAME: Combining expertise with pragmatism.
2.30	**Barker, T.**, Carvalho, L., Beklioglu, M., Stephen, D., Williams, A.E. & Moss, B.	Long term nutrient-chlorophyll a relationships in three linked Cheshire meres.
2.50	**Maberly, S.C.**, Finlay, B.J. & Lund, J.W.G.	Biodiversity of phytoplankton in response to changing environmental conditions: analysis of 32 years of data from Windermere.
3.10	Discussion	
3.30	TEA	

Session A

Application of flow cytometry to examining phytoplankton populations

Time	Session A	Title
4.00	Groben, R., Lange, M. & **Medlin, L.K.**	rRNA probes for identification and characterisation of marine phytoplankton, with an emphasis on toxic algae.
4.20	**Boddy, L.**, Wilkins, M.F. & Morris, C.W.	Analysis of phytoplankton populations using artificial neural network analysis of flow cytometry data.
4.40	**Osborne, B.**, Tarran, G.T., Jonker, R., Rodríguez J. & Gieder, R.J.	Flow cytometric assessment of optical properties of phytoplankton.
5.10	**Geider, R.J.**, Tarran, G., Jonker, R., Rodríguez, J. Osborne.	Flow cytometric observations of phytoplankton populations: a comparison of what different flow cytometers measure.
18.00	Dinner	

Session B
Manton Prize

Time	Session B	Title
1.50	**Clegg, M.R.,** Maberly, S.C. & Jones, R.I.	Behavioural ecology of freshwater flagellates.
2.10	**Harper, K.J.,** Parry, J.D., Drinkall, J., Day, J.G. & Smith, R.J.	Diversity of picocyanobacteria in Esthwaite Water.
2.30	**McIvor, L.,** Maggs, C.A. & Stanhope, M.J.	Do molecular data support the segregation of the genera *Aglaothamnion and Callithamnion?*
2.50	**Browne, L.,** Roedde, R. & Dring, M.J.	Cultivation of *Palmaria palmata* in the sea.
3.10	**Bickerdike, R.,** Smith, V.J. & Paterson, D.M.	Production of a < 3 kDa antimicrobial peptide by the diatom *Phaeodactylum tricornutum.*
3.30	TEA	

Session B – *Lakes and nutrients*

Time	Session B	Title
4.00	**Kilinc, S.** & Moss, B.	Can eutrophication be a natural process?
4.20	**Wong, J.P.K.,** Leadbeater, B.S.C., Callow, M.E., Everall, N. & Crymble, S.	Evaluation of the ecological impacts of artificial circulation in lakes.
4.40	**Fisher, J.,** James, C. & Moss, B.	Nitrogen-driven lakes: more common than convention claims?
5.10	**McGowan, S.,** Ryves, D.B. & Anderson, N.J.	Application of a diatom-conductivity transfer function to sediment cores from two lakes in West Greenland to reconstruct Holocene climate.

Thursday 4th January 2000

0745-0900 Breakfast

Session A – *Special session: Symbioses*

Time	Session A	Title
9.00	Introduction	Bruce Osborne
9.10	**Adams, D.G.**	Signalling in the cyanobacteria-bryophyte symbioses.
9.30	**Duckett, J.G.** & Ligrone, R.	The cytology of bryophyte-cyanobacterial associations.
9.50	**Crittenden, P.D.**	Lichen – what's in it for phycologists?
10.10	**Osborne, B.,** Black, K. & Bruce, C.	The *Gunnera-Nostoc* symbiosis.
10.30	COFFEE	

Presidential address

Time	Session A	Title
11.15	**Chris Gibson**	Diatoms and silica in Lough Neagh: From the Tertiary to the present.
12.30	LUNCH	

Special session: Symbioses continued

Time	Session A	Title
1.50	**Kraberg, A.**	Possible evolutionary consequences of the relationship between *Ascophyllum nodosum* and *Polysiphonia lanosa.*
2.10	**Raven, J.A.,** Walker, J.A., Jenson, K.R., Handley, L.L., Scrimgeour, C.M. & McInroy, S.G.	Kleptoplasty in sacoglossans: functional studies using the natural abundance of stable carbon isotopes.
2.30	**Douglas, A.E.**	Does the molecular diversity of symbiotic algae in corals really matter?

Session A

Ecology, life histories, taxonomy

Time	Session A	Title
2.50	**Taylor,** R., Jurk, C.A. & Raven, J.A.	Survival strategies of *Enteromorpha* from eutrophic sites.
3.10	**Russell, G.** & Ruuskanen, A.	Sea temperature and reproduction in Baltic *Fucus vesiculosus.*
3.30	TEA	
4.00	**Rindi, F.** & Guiry, M.D.	Life history and phenology of the species of *Trentepohlia* (Trentepohliales, Chlorophycota) in western Ireland.
4.20	**Lewis, J.,** Ellegaard, M. Rochon, A., Harding, I. & Daugbjerg, N.	Towards a resolution of the Spiniferites enigma.
4.45	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
19.30	Conference reception	
20.00	Conference Dinner	

Session B
Lakes, seasonal variation and algae

Time	Session B	Title
2.50	**Karacaoglu, D.** & Dere, S.	The seasonal variation of the phytoplankton of Lake Uluabat (Bursa-Turkey)
3.10	**Dalkiran, N.** & Dere, S.	The seasonal variation of the epipelic algae in Lake Uluabat (Bursa, Turkey).
3.30	TEA	
4.00	**Dere, S.,** Elmaci, A., Dülger, B., Karacaoglu, D., Dalkiran, N., Sentürk, E.	Epipelic diatom flora and bacteriological investigation of the Nilüfer stream (Bursa-Turkey)
4.20	**Kilinç, S.** & Gürkan, B.	Lost treasure lost species.

Friday 5th January 2000

0745 Breakfast

Session A – *Light and nutrients in algal ecology*

Time	Session A	Title
9.10	**Forster, R.M.**, Morris, J.P. & Kromkamp, J.C.	Seasonal changes in pigments and surface optical properties of microphytobenthic algae in the eastern and western Schelde estuaries.
9.30	**Dring, M.J.**, Wagner, L.A., Franklin, L.A., Kuhlenkamp, R. & Lüning, K.	Seasonal and diurnal variations in UV-B and UV-A irradiances at and below the sea surface at Helgoland (North Sea) over a 6-year period.
9.50	**Pearson, G.**, Serrão, E., Dring, M. Schmid,	Non-photosynthetic blue- and green light signals for gamete release in the brown alga, *Silvetia compressa*.
10.10	**Young, E.**, Berges, J. & Dring, M.	Diel variation in nitrate reductase activity in relation to tidal cycles in brown algae from Strangford Lough.
10.30	COFFEE	
11.00	**Morris, E. P.**, Forster, R.M. & Kromkamp, J.C.	The influence of temperature on the fluorescence parameters of benthic microalgae.

Session A
Miscellaneous Topics

Time	Session A	Title
11.20	**Garcia, M.**	*Psammococconeis*, a new genus of Bacillariophyta based on *Cocconeis* Ehr, from brazilian sandy beaches.
11.40	**Werner, A.**, McConville, M., Gordillo, F.J., Savidge, G. & Dring, M.J.	The potential use of brown macroalgae as biofilters in an urban sewage treatment works in Northern Ireland.
12.00	**Berges, J.A.**, Franklin, D. & Harrison, P.J.	Evolution of an artificial seawater medium: Harrison's ESAW 20 years later.

Session B

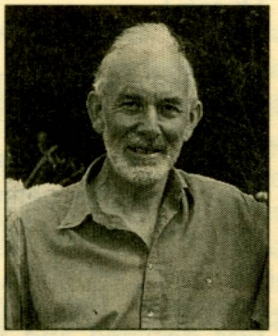
Miscellaneous Topics

Time	Session B	Title
9.10	**Morrison, L.F.**, Beattie, K.A., Best, J.H., Metcalf, J.S. & Codd, G.A.	Adsorption and biodegradation as environmental fates of the cyanobacterial hepatotoxin microcystin-LR.
9.30	**Metcalf, J.S.**, Hyenstrand, P., Beattie, K.A., Pflugmacher, S. & Codd, G.A.	Immunodetection of cyanobacterial hepatotoxins (microcystins) and of microcystin detoxication products, and analyte loss avoidance during immunoassays.
9.50	**Thomas, D.N.**, Kattner, G., Gianelli, V., Kennedy, H & Dieckmann, G.S.	Dissolved organic matter production by Antarctic sea ice algae.
10.10	**Iglesias-Rodríguez, D.**, Brown, C., Doney, S., Klepyas, J., Kolber, D., Kolber, Z., Hayes, P.K., Medlin, L. & Falkowski, P.G.	Representing phytoplankton functional groups in carbon cycle models. I. Coccolithophores.
10.30	COFFEE	
11.00	**Sigee, D.C.**, Levado, E. & Donker, V.	Phytoplankton heterogeneity within the water column: an X-ray microanalytical study.
11.20	**Fitzgerald, O.**, Stengel, D.B. & Guiry, M.D.	Internal iron concentration and *in vivo* fluorescence in fucoid algae.
11.40	**Spijkerman, E.**, Maberly, S.C. & Coesel, P.F.M.	Desmids: exclusive CO_2 users?

THREE NEW HONORARY BPS FELLOWSHIPS

The following three people, **John Dodge, Joanna Jones** and **George Russell**, were recently awarded honorary BPS Fellowships for their outstanding services to phycology and their major contributions to the British Phycological Society. What follows is a short biography of each new Fellow.

John Dodge



I was born and brought up in Kent in the countryside of what used to be called 'The garden of England'. After the village school I went to Maidstone Grammar School where I found Biology to be by far the most interesting subject. In 1954 I went on to Queen Mary College (QMC), University of London, to read Botany. QMC was an old-fashioned Department at that time, apart from Maud Godward, who brought into her lectures all the latest work on cytology and the algae, especially the rapidly advancing structural developments. This was exciting stuff and, after completing my degree, I took advantage of the offer of a DSIR (earlier version of the SRC) studentship to do cytological research under Dr Godward.

My research brief included algae and radiation, but where to begin? I set off around the country to gain knowledge of techniques and ideas. At Plymouth Dr Mary Parke proved extremely

helpful and encouraged me to work on cultures of dinoflagellates, which she had isolated. Having discovered that they had large chromosomes and that little was known about these fascinating organisms I decided to concentrate on them. I had great fun in working out some of the features of chromosome structure and of the mitotic spindle as well as trying to work out what happened to the nuclei after cells were irradiated.

In 1959 I moved to Birkbeck College as Assistant Lecturer in Botany and in 1960 completed my PhD, being examined by the formidable Professor Irene Manton. Soon I was able to acquire a small electron microscope and, with support from the SERC and a small team of research students and research assistants, we started to reveal some of the secrets of the unusual ultrastructure of dinoflagellates. Later we also worked on cryptophytes and some other algal groups.

Following an outbreak of paralytic shellfish poisoning in the North East of England, NERC funded work on the taxonomy and distribution of marine dinoflagellates around the British Isles. The resulting flora was published in 1982. Before this, however, I had moved to Royal Holloway College in 1977 as Professor and Head of the Botany Department. I took my ageing TEM from Birkbeck and was able to obtain a scanning electron microscope with NERC help. This enabled us to look at the details of the plates that cover armoured dinoflagellates and are such an important feature in their taxonomic identification. This dual EM capability was utilised in studies of the sexual reproduction of the freshwater *Ceratium hirundinella* and, later, similar work on *Scrippsiella minima*.

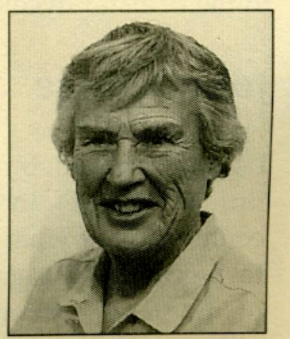
A new line of investigation started in 1982 when Jane Lewis came to work on a joint project with SAMS at Dunstaffnage on the dinoflagellates of Loch Creran, in which salmon hatching and farming was taking place. It seemed sensible to find out about the 'seed' of cysts in the bottom of the loch which were responsible for the survival of the main bloom species *Linulodinium polyedra* and other dinoflagellates, from one year to the next. Thus began work into the taxonomy and ecology of dinoflagellate cysts around the British Isles.

Early on, from 1967 to 1972 I served as Honorary Secretary of the BPS and then in 1981-1982 as President. I have lost count of how long I served on the Council. In 1983 I was awarded the DSc by the University of London for my work on dinoflagellates. This was also a tribute to all those who worked with me over the years.

In 1987 the Biology Department was formed at what had now become Royal Holloway and Bedford New College and I took the opportunity of a brief release from administrative responsibility to take my one and only sabbatical. I had a wonderful four months visiting many of the marine laboratories in Australia, with a stop-over in Tasmania, to talk about and work on their dinoflagellates, whilst at the same time soaking up lots of information about the unique flora of the country. Back home I did a five year stint as Head of Biology and, with a further Departmental merger planned, decided to take early retirement.

Three years ago we moved from Surrey to the slopes of Bredon Hill in Worcestershire where we found an ancient farmhouse in serious need of tender loving care, with an old stable which I have converted into a splendid study and laboratory. So, work on dinoflagellates continues and has been enhanced by the discovery of species, previously unrecorded in the UK, in my own backyard and in a village pond. I am very much enjoying the new mix of local activities, arts and crafts, gardening and outdoor activities when it is fine and laboratory work when it is not. Retirement is proving a very active way of life.

Joanna M Jones
(Kain)



I was born in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1930 but shortly afterwards my English mother persuaded my New Zealand father to move to London. We evacuated the day war was declared and for a while lived in other peoples' houses, which resulted in frequent school changes. Eventually I scraped a minimal School Certificate but had to add a language to

matriculate. Being hopeless at French, Latin seemed more logical and pronounceable so I was coached by a retired prep school headmaster and learned the art of stifling yawns. With still no equivalent of A-levels I applied to University College London (UCL) to do Intermediate, together with a host of ex-National Service men, and was accepted a week before term started. On the same day I was offered a job as a stable girl!

Zoology had always seemed more attractive than botany but at UCL it became apparent that plants have inner workings and are not just names or apparently all-important arrangements of petals, sepals etc. In fact the families were barely mentioned and we were taught photosynthesis at the time when there were conflicting hypotheses on the biochemical pathways, by two contrasting personalities. The Professor, W. H. Pearsall, pointed out the ecological implications of the process while Phil Syrett explained the hypotheses and examined the evidence for and against them. Then of course there was Tony Fogg, who started his first lecture with a Greek (or was it Latin?) quotation which meant 'nothing is as foul as an alga' and then effectively proved this to be wrong. On a field trip to the west of Ireland Jack Heslop-Harrison, who could name any plant or Beethoven theme, took us to the shore and introduced us to lots of reds.

In the meantime my father had become keen on sailing and we wandered around the English Channel where the newly available mask, snorkel (with a ping-pong ball valve) and fins opened a new world. UCL did not run a marine field course at that time but Bedford College did and I was allowed to join them when they went to the Isle of Man. This left me in no doubt about which plants were most interesting.

For the required unsupervised summer vacation research project, I chose to look at the possible effect of the double tides of the Solent on zonation around the Isle of Wight. My parents gallantly swayed the surveying pole and helped lug the dumpy level around various shores. This must have been successful because it was suggested that I stay on for a PhD with Tony Fogg, funded by the Institute of Seaweed Research. Unfortunately they were more interested in the culture of planktonic algae than macroalgae so the latter had to be kept in abeyance for a few years. But who could mind this when the grant included a summer at Plymouth and the tutelage of Mamie Parke.

When appointed 'Algologist' at the Port Erin Marine Station I had misgivings about taking a post on an island 90 miles from the parent university (Liverpool). Marjory Knight, retired in Port Erin, urged a limit of three years but somehow that advice got forgotten with marriage to another member of staff, the arrival of two children and expansion of the 'Station' to a full teaching Department under the direction of Ernest Naylor and later Trevor Norton, now a best-selling author.

The then recent availability of the aqualung and the mystery of the rocky subtidal combined to form a fortunate opportunity in the late 1950s. At first diving had to be on a line, but later buddies became available, including my husband Norman. Later still, a full time Chief Diver, Mike Bates, was always in sight underwater.

Not being very good at identifying algae, in spite of the efforts of Peter Dixon and Bunny Burrows, I decided to concentrate on one, the most important in the area, *Laminaria hyperborea*. The work of Klaus Lüning was very encouraging and *'Laminaria*-talk' was continuous whenever we met. Half a career seemed enough for one plant so I switched to the reds, particularly their phenology and was fascinated to find that that of *Delesseria* was controlled by photoperiod.

I joined the BPS at the first Winter Meeting at Queen Mary College in 1953 and have attended, if my counting is accurate, a total of 42 January meetings. I was Honorary Secretary for 7 years from 1977, Vice-President 1985-6 and President 1987-8. Society meetings have always had a friendly and lively atmosphere in addition to providing very good science. I shall miss them after moving to Australia but now grandchildren, in both hemispheres, have to compete with the algae

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George Russell

This story is one of people and themes. It begins with an outstanding botany master at George Watson's Boys' college in Edinburgh, one of several excellent teachers who redeemed the otherwise oppressive regime there. He was sufficiently enlightened to take a group of his pupils to the Institute of Seaweed research at Inveresk, a seminal experience for me.

Undergraduate and postgraduate years were spent at the University of St. Andrews. My decision to specialise in marine algae was influenced by the teaching of Helen Blackler and by the example of David Irvine, then completing his doctoral thesis. David was a fine botanist and a marvellous companion in the field. John Burnet, recently appointed Professor of Botany, provided strong support and it was he who introduced me to the work of Goran Turesson. John also persuaded me to read a paper at the 1958 Seaweed Symposium in Galway. I owe him a lot.

In 1958 I took up an assistant lectureship at the University of Keele. Unfortunately, Keele was too far from the sea to be much good for marine research, although R. G. Evans, a marine zoologist, was also on the staff. Through him I came to meet T. A. Stephenson and Anne Stephenson at Aberystwyth. The Stephensons showed me that science and aesthetics were not mutually exclusive and their work, a highly pictorial kind of pattern analysis, gave me an abiding interest in community ecology.

In 1960 I was appointed to the staff of Liverpool University, based in the Marine laboratory, Port Erin. Liverpool was then very much a force in UK phycology with Joanna Kain (Jones-see above) at Port Erin and Elsie Burrows and Peter Dixon on the main campus, so it was a real privilege to join them. In 1965 Dixon went to Seattle for a sabbatical year and I was asked to replace him. He never returned and I became a fixture at the University. In the 1960's the Botany Department housed a distinguished school of flowering plant taxonomy and its presence did much to encourage me in the problems of brown algal systematics, which is still intractable I note! In this I had expert help from Bob Fletcher. Throughout my years in Liverpool I was fortunate in my students. They included Peter Morris, Alan Fielding, John Bolton, Rob Reed, David Garbury, Andrew Young, David Thomas, Saara Black and Alan Jemmett. Some of them were co-supervised by Julian Collins, a friend and colleague of many years who added physiological insights to my own ecological wooliness.

The 1980's were marked by my growing interest in the Baltic Sea, an interest that went back to student days when I read Mats Waern's account of the algae of the Öregrund archipelago. Although I had loved the Nordic countries from my first visit to the Swedish west coast in 1960, I had not, until 1983, seen the Baltic proper. The decision to work at Tvärminne Zoological Station in Finland was largely intuitive but it proved a lucky choice. Tvärminne is a superb laboratory and Baltic algae have unfailing fascination.

As a postgraduate I felt that the important unit in algal ecology was the infraspecific population. I was also sure that the forces of natural selection were crucial to our understanding of the evolution of these populations. I still hold to that view.

PHYCOLOGICAL TIPS

Hints for optimising the performance and resolution of microscopes
II. Measures for enhancing the resolution of images

(a) Optical equipment

The previous remarks about light filters apply exclusively to routine work where non-immersion of the condensers is a very minor sin. When it comes to critical work near the limit of resolution, measures must be taken to enhance and to maximise the performance of the microscope. The same is also the case when photomicrographs are to be taken. As far as the

more easily and better than with brightfield illumination. If the depth of focus is too small to cover an object, the condenser may be stopped down, the effect being readily visible to the eye. The manufacturers generally offer a limited number of Wollaston prisms, which are designed to be used with one, or sometimes two objectives only. I found it quite worthwhile experimenting with other objectives, not intended for this method by the makers. Even though the contrast may then not cover the entire field of view, the lens can be used in cases where that is not necessary.

Reimer Simonsen

CHANGES AT THE EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PHYCOLOGY

The current editor, **Chris Maggs**, has now joined forces with **Matt Dring**, as joint Editors-in Chief of the European Journal of Phycology. Matt is being replaced as Associate Editor for Macroalgal Ecology by **Gareth Pearson** (Portugal). **Bruce Osborne** (Ireland) has also been appointed as book review editor.

The work of the two Editors in Chief has been split in the following way. Chris will oversee Cell Biology (**Diedrik Menzel**), Molecular Biology (**Bill Martin**), Macroalgal Systematics (**Bob Sheath**) and Microalgal Systematics (**Paul Kugrens**). Matt's responsibility will include Macroalgal Ecology (**Gareth Pearson**), Microalgal Ecology (**Jacco Kromkamp**), Physiology/Biochemistry (**John Raven**) and Applied Phycology (**Assaf Sukenik**). The belief is that these new arrangements will provide an improved and more efficient service for contributors to the journal.

NEW ISI IMPACT FACTORS

The new (1999) ISI impact factors became available in July of this year. The European Journal of Phycology has strengthened its position somewhat, rising from 1.54 to 1.628, with a cited half-life of 3.4. This is a pretty good performance, making it 30th out of 135 in the plant sciences and 11th out of 70 in Marine and Freshwater Biology-the top third for both categories. This compares very well with the Journal of Phycology which is 23rd in the plant science category and 7th in the other.

MICROBIAL INTERACTIONS IN AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS

The Environmental Microbiology Group of the Society of General Microbiology (SGM) is organising a joint Symposium with the British Phycological Society on Microbial Interactions in Aquatic Environments. The symposium will take place during the Societies 149th Ordinary meeting at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, from the 10-13 September 2001. Although not yet finalised this session will probably be held on either the Tuesday or Wednesday of that week.

The SGM was founded in 1945 and is now the largest microbiological society in Europe with over 5000 members. The SGM holds two main meetings annually at different venues throughout the UK. Each meeting consists of a main symposium, other symposia and workshops, including oral and poster presentations and a trade exhibition. Details of the other sessions being held at the meeting can be found at the following web site:- www.sgm.ac.uk/MTGPAGES/uea.htm.

The Norwich meeting will consist of a number of invited contributions (see below), as well as offered papers and posters, emphasising interactions between dissolved organic material and exoenzymes and viral bacterial, algal and protozoan components of aquatic assemblages. The invited speakers have been choosen to cover both water column and benthic processes and to illustrate the interactive and dynamic nature of the aquatic microbial environment.

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