

## EDITORIAL

The contents of *Research Communications 21* highlight Braziers' preoccupations, both past and present. The first paper on 'Developments towards the making of a conscious group' presents an important aspect of the early years of Braziers' history. Simon Nisbett's article, 'Permaculture - Positive Solutions by Design', introduces the philosophy behind the increased activity seen on the estate during the past three years. Both relate to process and consciousness, the first stressing continuity, and the second, sustainability. All four concepts are of greater importance to Braziers now than they were even when the last publication celebrated Braziers' 50th Anniversary and its status, we understand, of being the longest surviving, intentional lay community in the U.K. Evelyn Woodcock's talk at the following Members' weekend, recommends a beneficial practice whereby to improve mutual understanding within a group. Based on her experience, 'Sharing Our Dreams, an Extension of Open Dialogue' argues the increased benefit of dream analysis, both to the individual and to the group, when interpretations are part of regular group meetings.

The last feature printed here, 'Open Space Technology' by Maurice Roth, records Braziers' experimentation with a new discussion technique which allows all participants to be actively, and continuously, engaged in exploring the vital subjects of their choice. In addition to listening and talking, a rigorous reporting system ensures that the whole group recommends the issues to be followed up. This weekend generated such energy that it provided the impetus for the current serious and concentrated look at Braziers' future, an ongoing task the outcome of which should form the basis of a future publication.

Responding to the climate of change, the new Editorial Board has decided to experiment with the format of *Research Communications*. Consequently, the choice of size and desk-top publishing should combine the benefits of a magazine with the potentiality of making Braziers' ideas more widely available on the Internet.

The debt owed to John and Evelyn Woodcock, who have retired from the Board after seven years as co-editors of *Research Communications*, must be acknowledged here. John steadily expounded Norman Glaister's thought in relation to modern developments in scientific knowledge and contributed illuminating and creative interpretations of group situations, structures and trends. Evelyn's sense of order and meticulous attention to detail made for accuracy and style in the finished product. It is pleasant this year to be able to feature her in the role of original contributor, rather than as the more familiar reporter and editor! The diligence and dedication of both John and Evelyn have always been greatly appreciated.

*The Editors.*

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