Introduction

At the start of a new decade the format for the Proceedings of the Cumberland Geological Society has changed. The Council had become aware that the cost of outside assistance in the production of the Proceedings was out of proportion to the income of the Society and a decision was made to move to a more cost-effective in-house approach. At the same time it was decided to move to an A4 format to, inter alia, improve the layout options in the future. So, The Cumberland Geologist was born.

It was decided to maintain our tradition of including Original Articles about Cumbrian geology as well as detailed accounts of Excursions. The Excursions in the last two years have continued to reveal new geological features to the participants. It is hoped that detailed accounts will enable any reader to undertake the Excursions on their own. We are most fortunate in having new articles about our local area. I am most grateful to all our contributors, especially those who have made multiple contributions, for their articles and excursion reports.

Contributions to future editions are most welcome and should be submitted to the Editor.

This publication has benefitted from the eagle eye and attention to detail of Chris Thompson who has reviewed all the articles and I thank him for all his hard work.

I do not have any IT experience and I have not used the 'Microsoft Publisher' software before; therefore, it was decided to keep the publication as simple as possible this time and then consider adding complexities in future editions. I am most grateful for the help from the authors and Vic Parsons.

The Council of the Society has seen resignations of two of its senior members this year, Alan Smith and David Powell and we miss their contributions. Alan has been a member of the Society for over 50 years, led numerous excursions and has been our President for 2001, 2002 and 2003. Alan also edited the Proceedings for a number of years. It is pleasing to note that he is still actively involved with the Society and has co-authored a paper in this volume and contributed the photograph below. David Powell has been a member of the Society for 43 years, has led excursions and was our Librarian. He is also still fully involved with the society including organising the IT etc for speakers at our indoor meetings.

Helen James

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Talkin Tarn, an enclosed kettle hole within the Brampton Kame Belt. The view is from the eastern side looking west towards the low sandy ridges that encircle the tarn. A bulk sample of the organic sediments on the tarn floor was cored from a small inflatable boat. The sample provided a radio carbon date and is one of the sites referred to in the article on 'The Deglaciation of Cumbria: Insights from some Recent Dating Studies' on page 14. Picture: Alan Smith.