

# A thank you to Jane Hanrott

Without Jane's diligent, kind and professional support of the SSR team, the journal would quite simply not be in the position it is today as we launch the latest format. For much of her long career at ASE, SSR was just one part of Jane's varied role on the journals and other publications. However, her dedication to SSR was such that even when she stepped back from many of her other roles, Jane continued with her support of the journal. Right up until the November 2024 issue, Jane was organising the peer-review process, critical to maintaining the standards of the journal.

A current member of our editorial board, as part of the numerous thank you messages to Jane upon her retirement, commented that even though Jane does not get the frontline glory and her name is hidden in the small print, her contribution to science education has been noted and greatly valued.

Former editor Geoff Auty recalls below his first contact with Jane when, as a teacher in the 1960s, he published his first-ever article in SSR. Geoff expresses thanks to Jane for her support during his long period of service as editor of the journal, support that she has continued to give to the current editorial team.

Thank you, Jane.

*Helen Harden, Commissioning Editor*

## Reflections and an expression of thanks from Geoff Auty

My first article for SSR resulted from an unintended incident. As part of a teacher demonstration, the entire contents of a jar of iron filings were pulled out by magnetic attraction onto a sheet of glass. Instead of the usual two-dimensional pattern as seen in textbooks, I had an illustration of a magnetic field in three dimensions. Students called it 'Auty's hedgehog': even when met in the street years later they would comment on it.

At that time the Nuffield science projects were being developed, and experienced teachers around the country were designing new apparatus. When I showed the unexpected observation to my head of department, his immediate reaction was 'You should send it to School Science Review'. It was eventually published in SSR in November 1968, by which time Jane had joined the staff. I have been contacting Jane ever since.

During my time as editor of SSR (2006–2022), Jane acted as intermediary between me and the people offering articles. This involved interacting with contributors and helping to manage the movement of articles from submission to contact with members of the editorial board and editorial associates, who acted as referees to consider the accuracy, readability and suitability of articles. Thankfully, the creation of the Internet (as well as the telephone) enabled easy contact despite us living about 300 miles apart.

From my viewpoint as editor of SSR, Jane has always been there! An analogy could be that she has been like the oil that keeps the engine running smoothly. With the scattered nature of this operation, it felt safer to have two people keeping watch. It was like having a remote yet very reliable secretary. Jane will be a hard act to follow.