

## Editorial

Well, this is something new, and a little bit of something old, a joint publication between CMA's RANGER magazine and SCRAmble, the publication of the Scottish Countryside Rangers Association (SCRA). I welcome this opportunity to return as lead editor for this unique edition and in this special year, when the 5<sup>th</sup> International Ranger Federation is taking place in Stirling in June. I have relished the chance to work with ranger colleagues in Scotland, to promote and celebrate the work of rangers from around the world. What must it be like to be a ranger in one of the coldest places in the world, well in this edition you can find out from one of the rangers who works there? If you are going to Stirling, then you will probably meet him and many others, who I am sure, can tell a tale or two about their particular rangers experiences.

As you can see from the cover, CMA is celebrating 40 years as an organisation. Yes the name has changed, the world has moved on a lot since 1966, but fundamentally the countryside and greenspace management profession remains the high profile visible link between the countryside, the greenspace and the communities who use it. The CMA has pushed itself forward to be recognised as the voice of the countryside profession; it is now listened to at the higher levels of government, but it has remained an intimate organisation, still in touch with the broad membership through its network, its regional structure and through RANGER magazine of course. Please read the story of SCRA and their role in developing the name of the ranger in Scotland, it is an impressive record, paralleling that of CMA in many ways, except they of course have kept their original name. The two organisations have a lot in common.

Three years before the forerunner of CMA was formed in 1963, conservation of the natural environment was getting a name for itself; Rachel Carson had recently published *Silent Spring* and the environmental movement was beginning to get some forward momentum. So it was perhaps timely, that an Association directly representing those working on the ground should be founded and it is impressive that it is still doing so today. I suppose what impresses me and perhaps moves me emotionally as well, is that rangers from around the world are no longer on their own; they are part of an organisation, the IRF, that also had humble beginnings. Bob Reid tells the tale in this special edition of RANGER and SCRAmble.

I can look through this magazine, see and feel things happening; a gathering of the international ranger community in Scotland, the founders of IRF and the organisers of this 5<sup>th</sup>. Congress must be so proud. This joint edition of RANGER and SCRAmble is a celebration of something big- happening both nationally in the UK, and indeed internationally and I'm really glad to be part of it.