

Black Country Society Annual General Meeting 2022

Editor's Report

Brian Ridout and I had an excellent working relationship, and his loss is significant. As the 'Ad Man', he was responsible for dealing with advertising and marketing, as well as negotiating with printers and dealing with some distribution. The Spring 2022 edition, then, was dealt with in a different way. What the loss of Brian has brought to light was how little I (and others) knew about the nuts-and-bolts of advertising, printing and distribution of the magazine, and without the help of Scott Wharton from JD Printers, and his colleague Steve, the magazine would have failed to reach its deadline.

My concern for the future is that we urgently need to decide whether we continue a relationship with JD Printers (or if, indeed, they're prepared to continue along the same terms as with the Spring edition) and if not, what the alternative is. As well as this, I have, over the last three editions, had to work particularly hard to find the necessary (and acceptable) articles to fill the space in the magazine, coupled with the fact that I work full-time and am in the throes of the last part of my PhD, it has made working on the magazine an unpleasant chore.

As a matter of priority, the committee must make some swift decisions about the printing of the magazine from here on.