

The Black Country Society AGM 2021
Editors Report

The Blackcountryman Magazine

The magazine has, I think, evolved over the last year, into something that looks more like I wanted it to. I believe that Brian and I work well together, and I value his hard work and ideas in the composition and production of each edition. There has been a mixed, but generally positive response to the changes that we have made, and I think this reflects the importance that members (and non-members) place on the magazine as a signifier of what the Black Country Society is about.

When I took over the role as Editor, I was keen to bring as much of the Black Country 'now' into the feel and the articles, because although we all realise the history of our region is important, it has a thriving and vital present that I wanted to include through, for instance, articles about 'Black Country Creatives'. In short, I wanted to bring the magazine up to date (a bit.) The result has been the inclusion of articles about Black Country arts and creativity intermingled with fascinating articles about 'lost histories' and information about the new and important academic work that is beginning to take place in and about the region. I'm very pleased about this.

As a result of some members' observations regarding errors and omissions, the question of proof-reading arose, and I'm very grateful to Keith Hodgkins for his assistance with this, and believe that Keith, Brian and I now have a good, efficient system to ensure the magazine looks its best.

One of the highlights was when The Black Country Living Museum agreed to take copies of the magazine to sell in their shop. I'm delighted that we have this connection with the museum.

It is notable that the number of articles I receive has begun to dip, despite asking for submissions in my 'Editor's Letter' in every edition. This, I can foresee, will entail a lot more scouting about on my part in the future, but I am in now-and-then conversation with Tony Gray from the Jerome K. Jerome Society and will perhaps pick his brains about further articles so that The Blackcountryman magazine can continue to serve the Society and its members well.

Kerry Hadley-Pryce
1st May 2021