

Media Liaison Officer Report

Over the last year there have been a number of media enquiries, including local radio and local newspapers. These I have referred to appropriate people in the regions involved.

There is a fair amount of interest in caving. A lot of people see it as one of the few areas of original exploration, however it continues to have a reputation so enquires start with "What have you discovered? and who has died recently?" So, we have to be very careful.

In addition, there have been a number of requests to help make television programmes. Again, film makers don't take a lot of notice of cavers and it is very difficult to be helpful when they refuse to take notice of what you are telling them. They also have a wonderful habit of a scattergun approach where they talk to a whole load of different people involved in caving without mentioning to any of them that they have spoken to somebody else. Beware!

However, there have been some rather good articles in the media. A certain amount of positive publicity flowed from the Royal Geographical Society event and indeed the Kendal Film Festival. The Geographical Magazine of China has recently produced an article, unfortunately only published in Chinese but it was written by Tony Waltham and looks very good.

The National Geographic of America is producing a major article on caves for their autumn magazine. Films on drones across Britain and in caves are pending and another film on somebody yet again spending time in a cave without any knowledge of the time of day and night to see what becomes of their daily rhythms.

I will be getting others to take over parts of my media liaison role, particularly Dave Rose and if anybody else is interested in giving me a hand, please can they approach me. I see my role in this connection as distributing enquiries to the appropriate people.

Andy Eavis

1 June 2018

Publications and Information Officer's report - 2018

Looking back at last years report, I find myself reporting a similar position concerning Publications and Information this year as previously.

Primarily any volunteer organisation relies on a small number of volunteers to carry out a large amount of the work. The volunteers working under the Publications and Information heading have certainly stepped up to the mark and continued to keep the Publications and Information services of BCA functioning throughout the last year. They have their own specific reports to present, so I have little to add except to take this opportunity to give my thanks for the work they have done.

Again I would particularly like to thank Dave Cooke for the continuing work he has done maintaining BCA's web presence, and to those officers and others that have helped maintain the information within our website. A website in this day and age is a prerequisite for any organisation but is a massive amount of work to keep up to date, work that in our case is mostly carried out by volunteers.

I would like to thank David Rose for stepping into Robin's shoes and producing the Newsletters this year, and to all the officers and others that have contributed material to it.

Both the Website and Newsletter are an important part of communicating with our members but it's generally a lot of work for a small number of people and their efforts are not necessarily recognised by our members.

Web services continue to provide BCA's online IT systems and also provide reliable hosting for many caving institutions, thanks to all that have helped in keeping this service professional and reliable for the users.

I have enjoyed my tenure as P&I Officer but I must resign from this position, as I find myself in a new position on Council. It is not a particularly onerous post and I hope a volunteer comes forward to fill it.

Les Williams
Publications & Information Officer