

## **BMC South West Area - Annual Report 2021-2**

I'd like to start by thanking a number of volunteers who are stepping down or have stepped down this year.

Helen Wilson has been our representative on the Members' Council (previously the National Council) for six years (the maximum term allowed). I know she has put in hundreds (if not thousands) of hours work in on our behalf, particularly working on the re-organisation of the BMC. (Not a job I'd like to do.) She has also been very helpful behind the scenes in hosting and organising our zoom meetings. Thank you.

Alan Dovey has been our secretary for the last two years; he's stepping down because of other commitments. Thanks for your help and support.

Mark Courtiour has been the BMC Cheddar Gorge Climbing Warden since 2017. He was instrumental in negotiating the improved access to the gorge for climbers. Mark stepped down this year, but is continuing as the access representative for the rest of Somerset. Thank you Mark. Owen Wynne-Griffith has taken over Cheddar from Mark.

Julian Wills has been our area youth co-ordinator for 3years. He was closely involved in discussions of how the Youth Climbing Series is organised and run and many of his suggestions were taken up (including the splitting of the SW area into two for competition purposes). I think this has significantly improved the competition. Julian stepped down this year, thank you Julian. Jay Jackson and Anna Kommers have taken over as AYC for the SW (south) area and is running this year's youth climbing series.

This year we have held 3 area meetings on line (using Zoom). These were generally well attended, typically about 20 people. Today's meeting is our first face to face meeting since the start of the pandemic - It has not proved possible to attend this meeting on line.

Our main focus this year has been access issues. We have successfully negotiated an access agreement for the climbing on Tintagel Island (Il Duce etc.). We are still involved in discussions with the National Trust over access arrangements / bird bans for Carn Gowla, but climbing continues. Unfortunately we have lost the access to The Needles on the Isle of Wight, but negotiations continue.

In the Wye Valley, the re-equipping of Wintour's Leap continues. Thank you to all the volunteers involved.

**Mark Kemball**  
BMC South West Area Chair