Being the BSG President for the last 5 years has been a privilege. It has given me that chance to observe, and contribute to, the recent development of the Society. I have been impressed with how a succession of Chairs and Executive Committees have been able to run the Society despite serious challenges such as the Covid pandemic. I think the Society is now stronger and more sustainable as a result of all the hard work they have put in. It has been particularly good to see the rise in professional geomorphological participation in the BSG, and also the growing involvement and commitment of many post graduate students and early career researchers to our activities. The monthly online seminars organised by the professional geomorphology committee are an excellent and popular initiative which I hope will continue. It was also very good to see the first ever 'Co-Chairs' of the BSG when Richard Jeffries and Katy Kemble shared the role, and also to witness several people in key roles take maternity leave and return with enthusiasm afterwards. Our participation in the Black Geographers' led FiWi Road initiative in partnership with the Royal Geographical Society with IBG has been very inspiring. But, apart from attending committees and generally being supportive, what does the President actually do?

According to the 'job description', the President of the BSG is "...responsible for ensuring good governance of the society and that the activities of the Executive Committee are in line with the society's strategic aims". The President is there to support the Chair and the Executive Committee, providing encouragement and challenge where necessary. They are also in charge of the BSG Fellowships' scheme. In this role, I have enjoyed working to enhance the number and diversity of BSG Fellows, although I am very aware that more needs to be done to ensure a vibrant and representative Fellowship. The President also chairs the Society's Annual General Meeting and hands out the medals and awards – which is always a great pleasure. I shall miss the role once I step down in September, and hope that my successor enjoys it as much as I have.

Heather Viles 12th August 2024