

EDITORIAL

John Gunn and David Lowe

As we closed our Editorial for Issue 52(2) we looked forward to Britain's most important annual meetings of cavers, *Hidden Earth* at Llangollen and the *BCRA Annual Cave Science Symposium* – held this year at Bristol University. Both proved to be highly enjoyable and well attended events, and abstracts of the papers and posters presented at the symposium form part of the contents of this Issue. We hope that some of them will become full articles, submitted to *CaKS* in due course.

Our previous Editorial also appealed for photographs suitable for the front and back covers, and we are grateful to Chris Howes, who has provided some excellent images for the current edition. However, our plea for contributions to the 'Photo Feature' have not yet been successful and, consequently, there is no feature in this Issue. Surely there must be some amongst our readers who have an interesting photograph (or up to 3 photos) that they would like to share with others?

Moving to the Contents of this Issue, we are pleased to report that these include 4 papers and 2 reports, relating to several widely differing topics, both within the British Isles and across the globe. In their order of appearance within the journal these include:

- Mike Rogerson, Vasile Ersek, and Jo White, examine some of the responses of groundwater to heavy inputs of meteoric water related to storm events, based upon studies in the Peak District of Derbyshire, UK;
- Martin Lavery documents the results of a study of available information related to aspects of caves and karst as described by many authors within relevant surviving historical records of Sarawak from before the formation of Malaysia in 1963;
- Trevor Faulkner considers the relationships between glaciation/deglaciation and speleogenesis, with particular emphasis on the significance of research carried out by Arthur Raistrick in the Yorkshire Dales, UK, and by Arne Grønlie in Norway;
- Phil Murphy, Kang Xie, and Chris Fox report on a recent U-series date from a speleothem sampled in Canal Cave, Nidderdale, UK, with discussion of the date's implications for the history of local valley incision;
- Philip Chapman presents historical results concerning elements of the cave fauna collected in the Bau area of Sarawak during 1980, including details of the many international authorities who contributed time and expertise to the project by providing determinations of his sampled specimens.
- Kang Xie, Martin Lee, Cristina Persano, and John Faithfull describe a cave developed in Precambrian gneiss on the island of Iona (western Scotland) and discuss the local and broader implications of a U–Th isotopic date obtained from a calcite speleothem sampled in the cave.

The remainder of the Issue is occupied by a *Forum* section that, as mentioned above, comprises mainly the abstracts of papers and posters presented at this year's (36th) *BCRA Annual Cave Science Symposium*. One more *Forum* page is dedicated to another Abstract, this one relating to a recently successful PhD defence, and prefaced by a slightly different treatment of our traditional Editorial plea for successful research candidates to share and publicise their achievements by finding the time to submit their abstracts for publication in *CaKS*. As also mentioned above, there is no Photo Feature in this Issue, and the final *Forum* page presents a Note for Authors, in the form of a "lament" and advice concerning some of the more common authoring issues that many reviewers and editors of scientific papers find irritating...

Being the third Issue of the Volume, it is now our pleasure to acknowledge the contributions of those photographers whose images have been provided freely for use on the front and back covers of the journals, and those experts – in many fields – who have delivered reviews of submissions made to *Cave and Karst Science*. Unusually in Volume 52, the front and back cover images of each Issue were provided by the same photographer. Phil Wolstenholme provided all the cover material for 52(1), John Gunn for 52(2) and Chris Howes for this Issue – 52(3). Thank you all for your support, your expertise and your time.

Whereas a proportion of submissions were reviewed by the editors or by members of our *Editorial Advisory Board*, most reviews have depended, as usual, upon the good will, knowledge and time provided by specialists – scientists, historians and more – scattered around the world. So, in alphabetical order, we recognize and thank the following reviewers, with the "*" symbol indicating review of more than one contribution: Augusto Auler, Donovan Blissett, Andrew Chamberlain*, Phil Chapman, Rosi Crane, Jo DeWaele, Ian Fairchild*, Michal Filippi, Hans Friederich, Francis Howarth, Chris Hunt, Joyce Lundburg, Don McFarlane, Bogdan Onac, Gheorghe Ponta, Roger Portell, Richard Walters, and Wookey. Your efforts are invaluable to the ongoing success of *CaKS*, and all of your contributions are deeply appreciated.

Readers will remember that, after several years of relative stagnation, the *CaKS Editorial Advisory Board* has recently been rationalized and revitalized. Depending upon the nature of the submissions that we receive, we hope that in the future we will be able to include members of the Board more regularly in the wider editorial process. Meanwhile, all Board members are thanked again for agreeing to remain in post.

As usual, we also thank Phil Wolstenholme, our Graphics Advisor and third member of the Editorial team, for continuing his essential and dedicated contribution, optimizing the journal covers and internal illustrations to obtain the best possible quality of print reproduction and on-line clarity. Your skills, efforts, patience and understanding really are greatly appreciated Phil.

Finally, we are delighted to close this Editorial with a 'stop-press' announcement. On 12 November 2025, the 43rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference, meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, made an official proclamation concerning the establishment of an *International Day of Caves and Karst (IDCK)*, to be celebrated annually on 13 September!

The proposal, which was submitted by the Slovenian Government, was developed by, and involved substantial input from, the International Speleological Union under the leadership of its former President, Nadja Zupan Hajna. The BCRA and the BCA sent a joint letter of support for the proposal and, in view of the outcome, we can all look forward to celebrating the first *IDCK* in September 2026.

