

BCRA Research Funds and Grants

Cave Science and Technology Research Fund (CSTRF)

The BCRA has managed a research fund for many years and in 2005, after the fund had been boosted by several bequests, a new Cave Science and Technology Research Fund (CSTRF) was created. Since that date the BCRA has allocated £5000/year to the fund and this is set to continue until at least 2028.

The objective of the fund is to raise interest in caves and to further our understanding of them and the technologies employed to enter and explore them. The BCRA Cave Science policy focuses on four major themes: speleogenesis (taken to include karst hydrogeology), archaeology/palaeontology, biology and technology. However worthwhile projects in other areas of research will also be considered. At the core of our intentions is a desire to make the caving community and the scientific community more aware of the scientific importance of caves – and the synergy between exploration and science. It is a requirement of awards that the findings of the research be published in a BCRA journal and recipients are encouraged to present their results at a BCRA Cave Science Symposium and/or at the annual national caving conference, Hidden Earth.

Further details of the fund, including rules, guidelines and an application form, can be found on the web site at bcra.org.uk/grant-aid or from the research fund administrator: <https://bcra.org.uk/researchfund/>

Ghar Parau Foundation (GPF)

The Ghar Parau Foundation, which used to be a BCRA sub-charity but is now an independent charity, provides grant-aid assistance to British caving expeditions that travel to all corners of the world. In particular the charity looks for expeditions whose aims and methods include an element of innovative exploration or scientific study, distinguishing them from the typical sport-caving venture.

For further information please visit the GPF web site: gharparau.org.uk

The E K Tratman Award

The Tratman Award is awarded annually for a caving-related paper-based publication in memory of E K Tratman, who died in 1978, to recognize excellence and encourage future improvement. Initially administered by the Ghar Parau Foundation, when it was a sub-charity of the BCRA, it was first awarded for the publications of 1979. In 2019, the award's management was passed to the British Cave Research Association. It is still judged by a team of independent cavers (convened by Chris Howes of Wild Places Publishing) who make their recommendation for the award to the BCRA's committee for ratification.

UK Cave Conservation Emergency Fund (UKCCEF)

The UKCCEF is a charitable fund administered by the British Cave Research Association. The objectives of the Fund are to support projects that further the conservation of caves and cave features. Reference to a cave or cave feature is intended to include historic mines, caves and other places of speleological interest within the United Kingdom. Further details of the fund are available at bcra.org.uk/ukcceff/index.html

BCRA Publications

For information about BCRA publications please contact our office at The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG, United Kingdom, or e-mail: publications-sales@bcra.org.uk. Information is available on the BCRA web site at bcra.org.uk/pub

Cave and Karst Science (CaKS)

Published three times annually, this is a scientific journal comprising research papers, reports, occasional “features” of general interest, reviews and a discussion *Forum*, on all aspects of speleological and karstological investigation, including geology and geomorphology, hydrology/hydrogeology, archaeology/palaeontology, biospeleology, speleo- and karst-history and topics related to exploration and expeditions.

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BCRA Annual Review

Since 2015 the BCRA has published an Annual Review that appears in October, shortly before our AGM. It contains reports of the previous year's activities, together with annual reports from BCRA officers and a copy of the annual report and accounts that are sent to the Charity Commission. This Review is primarily an on-line PDF publication, although it is shipped on paper to BCRA Member Clubs (those that receive CaKS on paper) and to overseas Journal Exchange partners. Paper copies may be purchased at BCRA meetings and ordered online, whilst the limited print stock lasts.

Cave Studies Series

A series of booklets related to various speleological or karst-related topics.

An up-to-date list of titles in print can be found on the BCRA web site [bcra.org.uk/pub].

BCRA Special Interest Groups

These groups within the BCRA hold their own meetings and some issue their own publications. Further information can be found at bcra.org.uk/sig

The **Cave Archaeology Group** (CAG) exists to help members of the caving community become aware of and promote interest in the existence of archaeological remains, in and around caves. Its website provides a focal point for information on cave archaeology.

The **Cave Biology Group** (CBG) was formed in 2018 by cavers with an interest in speleo-flora and -fauna. It is an informal group where members can share ideas, work on projects together, and continue to develop their understanding of speleobiology.

The **Cave Radio and Electronics Group** (CREG) promotes the theoretical and practical study of cave radio and the uses of electronics in cave-related projects. The Group publishes a quarterly technical journal and organizes seminars and field meetings.

The **Cave Surveying Group** (CSG) is a forum for discussion of matters relating to cave surveying, including methods of data recording, data processing, survey standards, instruments, archiving policy, etc. The Group organizes seminars, training sessions and field meetings.

The **Explosives User Group** (EUG) provides information to cavers using explosives for cave exploration and rescue, and liaises with relevant authorities. The Group operates an Internet discussion group and organizes seminars and field meetings.