BCRA

BRITISH CAVE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, BUXTON, SK17 8RG ◆ **bcra.org.uk** ◆ UK Reg. Charity No. 267828

COUNCIL REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31st December 2025

Council Report

The Council presents its annual report and accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025.

The objects of the British Cave Research Association (BCRA) are to promote the study of caves and associated phenomena wherever they may be situated, for the benefit of the public. BCRA is a registered charity (number 267828) and is administered, in accordance with its Constitution (last amended September 2020), by the members of the Council. The Association's correspondence address is The Old Methodist Chapel, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 8RG.

Governance and Management

The Council consists of: The President, the Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, up to seven representatives of the personal members and any further members (to a maximum of three) co-opted by the Council. All members of Council are Trustees of the charity.

All members of the Council, other than the President, are elected for a year term, but are eligible for re-election. Nominations for all positions on the Council, other than the President, must be proposed and seconded by voting members. In the event of a contested election, the election shall be determined by a postal ballot. The Council appoints the President to serve for a period of three years.

Council members serving during the year ended 31st December 2025 and up to the year-end were as follows:

Simon Bottrell	President
John Gunn	Chairman
David Shearsmith	Secretary and Safeguarding Officer
Andrew Farrant	Treasurer
Andrew Eavis	
Russell Myers	BCA Chairman (co-opted)
Jenny Potts	Library Co-ordinator
Michael Rogerson	(co-opted)
Chloe Snowling	(co-opted)
Rostam Namaghi	
Emily Tilby	(co-opted)
Jo White	
Les Williams	
Linda Wilson	

Council meetings are held at least three times a year and all major decisions on the running of the Association and the furtherance of its objects are made at those meetings. In 2025, all Council meetings were held online via Zoom with the exception of one held in person at Glutton Bridge. Council is supported by two committees: the library committee, which organises the day-to-day running of the British Caving Library; and the Cave Science and Technology Research Fund panel, which considers the merits of grant applications for cave research projects and approves projects for funding.

In addition, the Association has a subsidiary charity and a charitable fund, which it oversees. The subsidiary charity is the BCRA Library and Heritage Fund, which was established to support the national caving library and BCRA cave archive. The charitable fund administered by the Association is the UK Cave Conservation and Emergency Fund (UKCCEF). It has its own committee, whose members are approved by BCRA's Council, which considers and approves applications for funding.

Finally, there are several Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which act in the name of the Association. The SIGs consist of people with a common interest in a specialised subject and, whilst supported by the Association, contribute to their own funds for their own needs.

A review of our achievements and performance

Financial Review

Membership of the Association in 2025 comprised 337 individual Members and 51 Group members (2024: 355 and 55 respectively), plus 75 Associate Members (2024: 76).

Gross income for the year was £30,174, a slight decrease from the previous year (£32,699), largely because there was no Gift Aid claim this year. Income from publication sales, gifts and donations and royalties all increased slightly.

Publication sales of the 'Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales' books were marginally down, although both have now recouped their printing costs. There was a much larger increase in sales of other BCRA publications. Many of the Cave Studies books are now old stock.

Membership income and royalties were up slightly compared to 2024. The Gower Book (published in 2023) saw a slight increase in sales, but sales remain slack. As in previous years, BCRA received a grant from the British Caving Association (BCA) towards the costs of running the library. In 2025, this amount was static at £12,000.

Direct charitable expenditure decreased very slightly from £31,695 in 2024 to £31,413 in 2025. The money spent on producing and distributing Cave & Karst Science and the Review was very similar to 2024. Contributions to the British Cave Science Centre remained static at £1250. Grant expenditure, mostly via the Cave Science and Technology Research Fund was down slightly. Expenditure on library purchases and expenses (including rent) was down slightly to £13,642 (£14,427 in 2024), although the rent remained static. This year a donation of £2000 was made to the Ghar Parau expeditions fund.

Reserves Policy

The Association needs reserves of funds to provide working capital for its ongoing activities, particularly the library, and to absorb the variability in its income. Therefore, the Trustees (members of Council) consider that it is prudent to keep in reserve a sum at least equivalent to a year's expenditure; reserves currently exceed this minimum.

Membership

Membership of the Association is only open to members of British Caving Association (BCA).

Progress on Objectives

The Association undertakes a number of initiatives in support of its objective of promoting the study of caves and associated phenomena for the benefit of the public. Progress on these initiatives is outlined below.

Cave Science and Technology Research Fund

BCRA supports cave science through the Cave Science and Technology Research Fund (CSTRF), which provides grants to individuals undertaking worthwhile cave research projects. Funding was initially provided through a £25,000 allocation in 2006 and the £20,000 Jack Meyers legacy received in 2009. In 2020, Council approved a further £25,000 from unrestricted funds to support the scheme for the next five years, and in 2025 a further £25,000 was allocated for a subsequent five-year period. Applications are assessed three times a year by a panel of BCRA members with expertise in cave geology, biology, technology, history and archaeology.

During 2025, grants were awarded to support a diverse range of projects, including research into microplastics in caves (P. Verney), radiocarbon dating of faunal remains from Hallowe'en Rift (V. Simmonds), and the upgrading of cave archaeology gazetteers on the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society website. A small number of previously awarded grants were written back after projects were either not undertaken or secured alternative funding.

The CSTRF continues to provide successful and ongoing support for cave science, benefiting undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic researchers and amateur scientists. In 2025, grants totalling £3,025 (2024: £6,100), including £2,545 through the CSTRF, were awarded (see Note 7 to the accounts). By December 2025, the scheme had supported 89 projects.

The British Caving Library and Archive

A comprehensive library is fundamental to cave research. The former BCRA Library at Matlock has been combined with other collections to form the British Caving Library, now housed in rented premises at Glutton Bridge near Buxton, providing public access to an extensive collection of caving literature from around the world.

The library is managed by Mary Wilde, the BCA-employed librarian, with support from Jenny Potts, the volunteer Library Coordinator and BCRA Council member. Additional assistance with library operations and

cataloguing is provided by Karen Lydon and Katie Eavis, both employed by the BCA.

The online catalogue is available at http://caving-library.org.uk, which also hosts the BCRA Audio Archive of interviews with notable cavers, together with digitised historical publications and photographs donated to the library. Martin Laverty maintains the online catalogue, John Gardner manages the BCRA Online Archives, and Chris Hunter curates the Audio Archive. A team of volunteers also assists with cataloguing surveys, maps and other collections.

The British Caving Archive, comprising unique unpublished records documenting cave exploration from the 1920s to the 1950s, has been stored in climate-controlled vaults at the British Geological Survey, Keyworth, since 2009. Thanks to the efforts of numerous volunteers, the entire collection has now been digitised and is accessible through the library website.

The British Cave Science Centre.

The British Cave Monitoring Centre (BCMC) was established by the BCRA at Poole's Cavern, Buxton, in 2018 in partnership with the Buxton Civic Association. Renamed the British Cave Science Centre in 2020, it supports long-term cave science through continuous environmental monitoring.

A network of sensors records parameters including temperature, humidity, airflow, barometric pressure, drip rates, radon and CO_2, with data automatically transmitted from the cave and made publicly available online. The facility provides a valuable resource for students and researchers investigating cave climate and environmental processes, with support from Gemini Data Loggers through the provision of monitoring equipment, including radio-linked temperature loggers.

Publications

Three issues of Cave and Karst Science were published during 2025, and the journal remains one of the principal ways in which the Association fulfils its objectives. It continues to provide high-quality scientific papers for the speleological community while serving as an important forum for the exchange of ideas and information between professional and amateur cave researchers. The Association is particularly grateful to the editorial team, especially John Gunn and David Lowe, for the considerable effort involved in producing the journal.

The trend towards digital publication continued, with increasing numbers of members choosing online access rather than printed copies. In 2025, the mailing list for Cave and Karst Science comprised 154 individual members (2024: 234), 25 group members (2024: 34) and 51 associate members (2024: 52), giving a total print circulation of 231 copies (2024: 320).

The tenth issue of the BCRA Annual Review, covering activities in 2024, was published in 2025. The Review is available as a free PDF download, with printed copies available through the BCRA online bookshop. During the year, 24 member clubs (2024: 34) received a complimentary copy, together with 42 international caving organisations (2024: 42) participating in the Journal Exchange scheme. Including other miscellaneous distributions, a total of 73 printed copies were circulated. The Annual Review includes reports from BCRA Officers, details of BCRA publications, reports from Special Interest Groups, information on grants and awards, summaries of Cave Science Symposia and Field Meetings, and the minutes of the 2024 BCRA Annual General Meeting.

Four issues of The CREG Journal (Nos. 129-132) were also published during 2025, produced by Mike Bedford, Rob Gill, Luc Le Blanc and Chris Ross. No new books were issued during the year, although proposals and ideas for future publications are always welcomed.

Cave Conservation

The UKCCEF is a charitable fund administered by the British Cave Research Association as a constituent member of the BCA. The objectives of the Fund are to support, by loans or grants, projects that further the conservation of caves and cave features, including historic mines and other places of speleological interest within the United Kingdom.

Meetings

The 36th BCRA Cave Science Symposium was held at the University of Bristol's School of Geographical Sciences on 11 October 2025, organised by Professors David Richards and Fiona Whitaker with assistance from Steve Hobbs and Linda Wilson. The programme featured nine oral presentations and a poster session covering a wide range of cave science topics. Symposium abstracts were published in *Cave and Karst Science* (Vol. 52, No. 3, pp. 131-138, 2025).

The meeting opened with a session on palaeoclimate reconstruction from speleothems. Tim Lawson discussed the application of high-resolution U-Th dating techniques to speleothems from Assynt, northwest Scotland. Stacey Carolin presented research on annually laminated stalagmites from northwest Yucatán, Mexico, demonstrating how they can be used to date and quantify rainy-season droughts and assess their impacts on Maya civilisation. Samuel Hollowood examined stalagmite evidence for the role of tropical plumes in driving mid-Holocene rainfall across the northwestern Sahara.

The second session focused on cave fauna, climate and conservation. Danielle Schreve presented findings from the archaeological excavations at Gully Cave, Somerset, illustrating how cave deposits can provide valuable records of past climate change and biodiversity while informing modern conservation and ecosystem restoration. Sam Walker described a 75,000-year-old Arctic cave deposit from Scandinavia that preserves a remarkable record of past faunal diversity and palaeoenvironmental conditions in northern Europe. Alicia Sanz-Royo presented a new biochronology and taphonomic assessment of mammalian remains from Reindeer Cave, Assynt, providing fresh insights into ecosystem dynamics during the Late Glacial and early Holocene in northwest Scotland.

The third session explored karst hydrology and hydrochemistry. Mike Rogerson reported on research into hyperalkaline speleothems at Poole's Cavern, showing how cave monitoring is helping to improve understanding of groundwater contamination from historic lime and industrial waste sites and the gradual weathering of centuries-old lime waste. John Gunn described the hydrological impacts of Storm Babet on the Castleton karst system, where rapid groundwater rises triggered flow switching between underground conduits and activated new drainage pathways, highlighting the increasing complexity of flood prediction in karst environments. Phil Murphy presented a re-evaluation of the morphology, hydrology and geological setting of Stump Cross Caverns, suggesting that hypogenic karst processes may have been important in the cave's development.

The final session covered a range of cave science topics. Lee Knight reported on baseline surveys of cave invertebrates in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu and Ogof Draenen, recording 84 taxa in each cave and increasing the known totals to 123 and 124 taxa respectively. The surveys established an important ecological baseline and identified key species and communities for future conservation monitoring. Andy Farrant reviewed nearly five decades of cave research in Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak, since the Royal Geographical Society's first expedition in 1978. The symposium concluded with a presentation by David Hardwick and Adelle Bricking on recent discoveries from Fishmonger's Swallet near Bristol, a site interpreted as a late Iron Age ossuary.

Five posters were also presented. Femi Ilesanmi outlined speleothem-based palaeoclimate reconstructions from West and Central African karst regions arising from the 2023-2024 National Geographic Society Speleological Expeditions. Mike Rogerson presented research on the spatio-temporal dynamics of speleothem growth and glaciation in the British Isles, while Lee Knight showcased current investigations into groundwater habitats in Scotland and recent records of several stygobitic crustacean species. Tim Atkinson contributed two posters: one detailing a speleothem-derived palaeoclimate record for the western Mediterranean from Gibraltar, and a second examining north-south oxygen isotope gradients in precipitation between Greenland and Gibraltar during the Last Glacial.

The symposium was followed by a series of field trips on Sunday 12th October. Three contrasting trips were arranged. Andy Farrant led a trip down GB Cavern to look at the speleogenesis and evolution of the system, whilst Dave Hardwick took a group to look at the Late Iron age excavations at Fishmonger's Swallet. Wayne Starsmore took a trip to Pen Park Hole, one of the best examples of a hypogenic cave in the UK.

The monthly online webinars were continued in 2025. A diverse range of speakers delivered presentations on:

Microbial Nitrogen Cycling and Cave Passage Modification in Mulu National Park
J. Max Koether (University of Alabama) examined how microbial activity associated with bat and bird guano may drive cave enlargement through nitric acid production in the caves of Gunung Mulu, Sarawak.

Sulfuric Acid Speleogenesis: How Can We Recognize It and What Can It Teach Us?
Jo De Waele (University of Bologna) reviewed the occurrence, morphology and significance of sulfuric acid caves worldwide and their role in understanding hypogenic cave development.

The Underground Mistakes of My Career: Lessons Learned from Maaras Cave, Greece
Christos Pennos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) discussed hydrogeological and geomorphological investigations of the Maaras Cave system and the lessons learnt from studying this complex karst environment.

Palaeontological Perspectives on Caving in Thailand. Spyridoula Pappa (Natural History

Museum) presented palaeontological research from caves in Thailand, focusing on fossil deer remains and their implications for reconstructing Pleistocene environments and climate change.

Limestone, Dirt and Iron: Using Cave Magnets to Understand the Past. Beth Fox (University of Huddersfield) demonstrated how magnetic minerals preserved in cave deposits can be used to reconstruct past flooding, environmental conditions and climate change.

Expedition Medicine: The Art of Applying Science to Cavers. Rostam Namaghi explored the medical and scientific challenges associated with cave expeditions and remote fieldwork.

Forgotten Voices Speak: Recording Historic Graffiti in Kents Cavern, Torquay
Linda Wilson described work documenting and researching historic graffiti and inscriptions as part of the conservation and interpretation of Kents Cavern.

Cave Exploration, Guano, and Prehistory in Malaya and Borneo, 1870s-1960s.
Katherine Enright (University of Cambridge) examined the history of cave exploration, archaeology and guano extraction in Southeast Asia and their influence on understanding regional prehistory.

Scientific Investigations in Greenland's Caves: Unlocking High Arctic Climate Histories
Gina Moseley (University of Innsbruck) showed how cave deposits from northern Greenland provide unique records of Arctic climate, permafrost dynamics and environmental change during past warm periods.

The Symonds Yat Cave System, Forest of Dean: Initial Scientific Findings in the Recent Redhouse Lane Swallet Discoveries
Mark Tringham presented the first geological and speleogenetic results from newly discovered sections of the Symonds Yat Cave System in the Forest of Dean.

Emily Tilby has done an excellent job in organising the webinars. Thanks also to the speakers for some great talks. The online events also included the regular BCRA Council Meetings. These worked well, with the additional benefit of saving travel costs.

Hidden Earth, the UK's National Caving Conference was held at the Royal International Pavilion, Llangollen in North Wales over the weekend of *26-28th September 2025*. This was the second conference to be held at this venue, and it was a great success, so much so that the venue was booked again for 2026.

Other Association News

Special Interest Groups

The work of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continues to enhance the portfolio of BCRA. The Cave Survey Group (CSG), the Cave Radio and Electronics Group (CREG) and the Explosives User Group (EUG), are active to varying degrees, producing informative publications and hosting field meetings such as digital cave surveying courses. The Cave Biology Group is currently dormant. The Cave Archaeology Group has been revived and run some successful field meetings. CREG held a successful field meeting in the Yorkshire Dales over the weekend of 18–19 October 2025.

British Caving Association

BCRA is a constituent body of the BCA whilst remaining a separate legal entity, concentrating its efforts on supporting cave science. It does this by running meetings, channelling grant funding, maintaining the British Caving Library and facilitating publication through its journal, Cave and Karst Science, and continuing with its series of occasional publications, including the successful Cave Studies series.

Some Council members of BCRA are also council members of BCA and there is close cooperation between the two organisations. Accordingly, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102, transactions between the two associations are classified as being between "related parties". Membership subscriptions for the Association are collected by BCA. In addition, BCA has collected publication sales income and incurred costs on behalf of BCRA. These transactions are detailed in Note 11 to the accounts.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and accounts (financial statements) in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including the applicable Charities SORP.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Approved by the Trustees on the 16th of September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

John Gunn, Chairman.



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT to the Trustees of the BCRA for the year ended 31st December 2025

I report on the accounts of the BCRA for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 4 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Name: James Gamgee
Address:10 High Street, North Scarle, LN6 9EP
Date: 16/09/2026

ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31st December 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31ST DECEMBER 2025.

Income & Expenditure Account	Year to 31st December 2025 Unrestricted Funds	Year to 31st December 2025 Restricted funds	Year to 31st December 2025 Total	Year to 31st December 2024 Total
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	8,250	-	8,250	8,193
Gifts & Donations	475	-	475	300
Gift Aid	-	-	-	2,608
Grants Received	12,000	-	12,000	12,000
Royalties Received	114	-	114	74
Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales Vol. 1	400	-	400	291
Caves and Karst of the Yorkshire Dales Vol. 2	330	-	330	471
Publication Sales	2,393	-	2,393	1,846
Field Meets & Conference Surpluses – see Note 8	5,039	-	5,039	5,266
Miscellaneous	39	-	39	103
Income from Investments	-	-	0	-
Bank Interest Received	954	180	1,134	1,548
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**29,994**	**180**	**30,174**	**32,700**
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Cost of Publications – see Note 5	9,055	-	9,055	7,595
Distribution of Publications	285	-	285	1,776
Cave Studies		-	-	21
Review	1,537	-	1,537	1,625
Dales, Gower & other books	619	-	619	102
Grant Expenditure – see Note 7	3,025		3,025	4,899
British Cave Science Centre	1,250	-	1,250	1,250
Donation to Ghar Parau	2,000		2,000	
Library Purchases and Expenses	13,642	-	13,642	14,427
Total Direct Charitable Expenditure	**31,413**	**-**	**31,413**	**31,695**
Other Expenditure				
Bank Charges	751	-	751	185
Administration Expenses – see Note 6	518	-	518	207
Independent Examination Fees	500	-	500	450
Miscellaneous Expenses	288	-	288	130
Depreciation of Fixed Assets - see Note 2	88	-	88	96
Total Other Expenditure	**2,145**	**-**	**2,145**	**1,068**
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**33,558**	**-**	**33,558**	**32,763**
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE PERIOD	(3,564)	180	(3,384)	(63)
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 31st DECEMBER 2024	119,007	23,804	142,811	142,874
Transfers between funds				0
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31st DECEMBER 2025	115,443	23,984	139,427	142,811

ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31st December 2025
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Balance Sheet	**31st December 2025**	**31st December 2024**
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS – see Note 9	4,274	4,827
CURRENT ASSETS		
Other Debtors – see Note 11	3,262	5,827
Prepayments and Accrued Income	0	1,523
Special Interest Groups	0	0
Bank Deposit Accounts	0	100,053
Bank Current Accounts	147,391	46,005
Cash in Hand	0	0
	150,653	153,408
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Special Interest Groups	6,765	3,192
Accruals and Deferred Income	8,735	12,232
Other Creditors	0	0
	15,500	15,424
NET CURRENT ASSETS	135,153	137,984
NET ASSETS	139,427	142,811
RESTRICTED FUNDS – see Note 12		
BCRA Research Fund (Restricted)	0	0
UK Cave Conservation Emergency Fund	20,679	20,524
Library and Heritage Fund	3,305	3,280
	23,984	23,804
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
BCRA Research Fund (Unrestricted)	25,191	2,736
Hidden Earth Conference Fund (Unrestricted)	27,764	25,000
BCRA General Fund	62,488	91,271
	115,443	119,007
	139,427	142,811

The notes below form an integral part of these accounts. These accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 16th September 2026.



John Gunn, Chairman

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31st December 2025.

1) Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention. They have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (the 'Charities SORP') (second edition issued January 2019) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) Section 1A *Small Entities* (issued September 2015) and the Charities Act 2011. No restatement of comparative items prepared under previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice has been required.

The Association constitutes a public benefit organisation as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Association's ability to continue as a going concern.

There are several Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which act in the name of the Association. The SIGs consist of members of the Association with a common interest in a specialised subject and, whilst supported by the Association, contribute to their own funds for their own needs. The accounts of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have not been incorporated into these accounts on the basis of materiality.

The United Kingdom Cave Conservation Emergency Fund (UKCCEF) is a fund administered by the Association as a constituent member of the British Caving Association (BCA), which prepares separate accounts. The UKCCEF accounts, which are drawn up to 31st December, are included in these financial statements.

The BCRA Library and Heritage Fund was a subsidiary charity (Registered Charity 267828/2) until April 2015. The Trustees concluded that it was no longer necessary to be constituted as a separate charity; its functions and responsibilities have been transferred to BCRA. The charity does not prepare separate accounts but is included in these accounts as a restricted fund.

Membership Subscriptions

Subscriptions are stated on a receipts basis. No adjustment is made to account for late receipt of subscriptions, as in the opinion of the Council it is prudent not to assume renewal of membership in the event of a delay in receipt of the subscription.

Legacies

Legacies are credited as income in the year in which they are receivable.

Grants

Grants are accounted for when paid or received. CSTRF grants are accounted for when offered, i.e. when the liability is incurred.

Annual Conference and Field Meetings

Income receivable from Field Meetings and the Association's Annual Conference is stated in the Statement of Financial Activities net of expenditure. While these meetings are an essential part of the Association's activities, the intention is that admission fees should cover costs. Hence, in the opinion of Council, it is appropriate to show net income or expenditure from these activities.

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets, which are all tangible, are stated at cost less a charge for depreciation. There are no assets held under any finance lease or hire purchase agreement.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each individual asset, less its estimated residual value, over its expected useful life, on the following basis:

Computer Equipment	20% straight line
Other Equipment	20% straight line

Investments

These are stated at cost.

Stocks

The Association holds a small stock of publications for resale. The stock is valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value. The valuation does not include any proportion of fixed or variable overheads.

Foreign Currencies

There are no assets or liabilities in foreign currencies as of 31st December 2025 (2024 nil). Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the rate of exchange ruling on the date of each individual transaction. Exchange differences are considered on an arising basis.

2) Special Interest Groups

There are several Special Interest Groups, which act in the name of the Association. These are self-financing groups, which have undertaken to present their own accounts. The turnover of the Special Interest Groups does not exceed £5,000 in total per annum.

3) UKCCEF

The UKCCEF is a fund administered by the Association as a constituent body of the BCA. The objective of the Fund is to support, by loan or grant, projects that further the conservation of caves. The accounts of the Fund, which are drawn up to 31st December, are incorporated within these financial statements.

4) Subsidiary Charities

The BCRA Library and Heritage Fund was a subsidiary charity (Registered Charity 267828/2) until April 2015. Until that date, it was run by the Council of the Association, who administered the national cave library and cave heritage collection. The Council continues to run the Fund for this purpose, and it is included in these accounts as a restricted fund.

5) Publication Costs

For *Cave & Karst Science*:
Year to 31 Dec 2025, 3 issues, £7,594.94 (includes accruals from 2024)
(Year to 31 Dec 2024, 3 issues, total £11,558.77)
The Review for 2025 cost a total of £1,625.09 (£1,404.00 in 2024).

6) Administration Expenses

Administration expenses are expenses incurred by the Trustees and other officers of the Association, either in attending Council meetings, or in fulfilling their functional responsibilities within the Association.

The Trustees have not been remunerated during the period. No Trustees were reimbursed for expenses related to the Association's business in 2025 (2024, nil). The payments related to attendance at Council meetings and the AGM in 2025 were £47.00 (2024: £187.90), the balance being the cost of undertaking functional responsibilities within the Association.

Travel costs in 2025 were significantly less than prior to 2020 due to the move to online Council meetings via Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many trustees do not claim travel expenses.

7) Award and Grant Expenditure

In addition to grants made from the Association's research fund, we also make small award payments and some grant expenditure from general funds. These are all shown in Table 1 below. The Hidden Earth annual conference normally makes grant payments from its accumulated annual surpluses.

8) Annual Conference awards

The 2025 Annual Conference "Hidden Earth" was held in Llangollen. The list of award winners is given at https://bcra.org.uk/awards.html

9) Fixed Assets

See Table 2 below

10) Investments

Investments belonging to the Ghar Parau Foundation were transferred on the 30th of September 2019.

11) Other Debtors (Related Party Transactions)

Included in Other Debtors are amounts due from a related party, the BCA. Membership subscriptions for the Association are largely collected by BCA. In addition, BCA has collected publication sales, and incurred publication and other costs on behalf of the Association.

The amount due from BCA on 31st December 2025 was £5749.38, including £2846.77 from 2024, leaving a balance for the year of £2902.61 (31st December 2024 was £2846.77).

12) Restricted Funds

The Association is responsible for some restricted funds and subsidiary charities.

The BCRA Research Fund

This fund was established to promote research into all aspects of speleology in Britain and abroad. From the fund's original donation part of the monies held were restricted for the purpose of the fund. Additional monies have been transferred from the Association, which are unrestricted in nature. The two constituent parts of the fund are shown on the Statement of Financial Position as of 31st December each year.

The United Kingdom Cave Conservation Emergency Fund (UKCCEF)

The UKCCEF is a fund administered by the Association as a constituent body of the BCA. The objective of the Fund is to support, by loan or grant, projects that further the conservation of caves. The accounts of the Fund, which are drawn up to 31st December, are incorporated within these financial statements.

The BCRA Library and Heritage Fund

The BCRA Library and Heritage Fund was a subsidiary charity (Registered Charity 267828/2) until April 2015. Until that date, it was run by the Council of the Association who administered the national cave library and cave heritage collection. The Council continues to run the Fund for this purpose as a restricted fund within the Association. The charity did not prepare separate accounts, and it is included in these accounts as a restricted fund.

The movement and analysis of the net assets by fund is shown in Table 3 below.

13) Future Capital Expenditure and Future Commitments

No capital expenditure was contracted for as of 31st December 2025 (31st December 2024, nil) and no capital expenditure remained authorised but not contracted for as of 31st December 2025 (31st December 2024, nil).

The Cave Science and Technology Research Initiative, announced at the Annual Conference in 2005, aimed to provide £25,000 over five years towards cave research from the Balcombe legacy of 2001. The Jack Meyers legacy of £20,000 was added to this programme in 2009. In 2020, the Council approved the allocation of a further £25,000 from unrestricted funds to cover the next five-year period. The first grants were made in June 2006. As of 31st December 2025, grants totalling £6,100 (31st December 2024 £4,924) had been made under the Initiative for the year. This year some previous years grants (£2,768) were returned as they had not been used or claimed, leaving a balance of £3,332. A total of over £80,000 has been awarded since the inception of the CSTRF grant scheme, of which over £75,000 has been paid. The figure includes paid and accrued grants still to be claimed, less previous grants awarded but not claimed or no longer required. Other grants and awards awarded this year totalled £567.

14) Joint Venture Poole's Cavern

The BCRA has contributed a further £1,250 to continue the British Cave Monitoring Centre (now renamed the British Cave Science Centre) at Poole's Cavern in Buxton, with an additional £1,250 of co-funding from Buxton Civic Association.

Table 1 – Award and Grant Expenditure

Table 1: Grant expenditure

	Year to 31st December 2025		Year to 31st December 2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Research Fund (Restricted)	Total
	£	£	£
Tratman Award	60	-	150
Alex Pitcher Award	-	-	-
BCA Expedition Grants	-	-	-
Other grants and awards	420		317
Hidden Earth Awards	-	-	100
CSTRF (Designated Fund) grants:			
K Xie Late Holocene environmental change	-	-	1,500
VJ Simmons Human remains, Somerset	-	-	1,000
J Cooper Safety Structure Harry Thomas Cave	-	-	500
C Snowling Stalagmite Sampling Eastern Crete	-	-	1,600
R Dinnis Radiocarbon dating, Wogan Cave	-	-	1,500
VJ Simmonds Halloween	400	-	-
University of Bristol Speleological Society (G. Mullan)	1,500	-	-
P Verney Microplastics	1,845	-	-
Prior year grants returned/written back	-1,200	-	-2,768
Total CSTRF grants	*2,545*		*3,332*
Total Grants made	3,025	0	3,899

Table 2 – Fixed Assets

2. Fixed assets

	Computer Equipment	Other Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
At Cost			
As at 01/01/25	5,477	11,128	16,605
Additions during the Period	805	325	1,130
Disposals during the Period	-	-	0
As at 31/12/25	6,282	11,453	17,735
Depreciation			
As at 01/01/25	5,477	6,301	11,778
Charged for the Period *	197	1,486	1,683
Eliminated on disposals during the Period	-	-	0
As at 31/12/25	5,674	7,787	13,461
Net Written Down Value			
As at 31/12/24	0	4,827	4,827
As at 31/12/25	608	3,666	4,274

* Depreciation for the year includes £1,595 relating to Hidden Earth conference assets, which has been deducted from the HE conference surplus for the year (Note 8) and £88 for other assets, as shown in the Income and Expenditure account.

Table 3 – Restricted Funds: Movement and Analysis of Net Assets

3.Analysis of funds

		Restricted Funds:		
	Unrestricted Funds	BCRA Research	UKCCEF	BCRA Library & Heritage Fund
	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance	119,007	-	20,524	3,280
Income for the Period	29,994	-	155	25
Expenditure for the Period	(33,558)	-	-	-
Transfer between funds		-	-	-
Closing Balance	115,443	0	20,679	3,305
Held as:				
Fixed Assets	4,274	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-
Current Assets	126,669	-	20,679	3,305
Current Liabilities	(15,500)	-	-	-
	115,443	0	20,679	3,305