

EDITORIAL

This year, the gestation period of *Lithics* coincided with that of our daughter, Freya – resulting in a slight delay to publication! Newborn babies do not sleep half as much – either during the night, or day – as we had been led to believe. However, we hope that this volume is worth the wait!

Again, this issue is decidedly eclectic in tone, reflecting the very broad interests of an international readership. Clive Bond's contribution is the final paper from the 2010 "Past Lives from Cold Stone" 30th anniversary conference, in which he offers some thoughts on the how flint scatters can be used as sources of evidence. The aesthetically very beautiful handaxes from the Barkly Tableland, Australia (including the example that graces the front cover of this volume) provide a salutary lesson in the dangers of using typology as a means of dating – a lesson reinforced by Jackie Sommerville and Emma Tetlow's contribution on the mixed assemblage from Rainbow Bar in Hampshire. The authors demonstrate that Rainbow Bar is likely to be a geological accumulation, rather than a behavioural concentration of artefacts. However, Geoff Halliwell and I (BS), in our short note on a handaxe from the Alkham Valley, blithely ignore all these warnings to suggest that it is of likely late Middle Palaeolithic date! In another short note, Ann Graf gives an update on her work on the Palaeolithic Waite collection from the Nuneaton area, a detailed catalogue of which is no available online through the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

Intentional breakage of two kinds is well covered in this volume – *El Presidenté* (Hugo, now Anderson-Whymark!) discusses the phenomenon in the British Neolithic, whilst

Diane Coles uses the experimental knapping skills of John Lord to demonstrate that heat treatment was probably necessary to work local beach pebbles from Luce Sands into lead-shaped arrowheads. Rather fittingly, Wei Chu has also reviewed a recent publication on experimental work (McCall 2010), and Cate Frieman a recent volume on the life and death of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint work (Van Gijn 2010)

The members' area of the website continues to attract attention; here you can find supplementary data, colour copies of some of the articles, and PDF copies of recent issues (http://www.lithics.org/Members_Area/). For the membership year 2011/2012, the login is "Lithics" and the password "Jersiaise". Equally active is the Society's Facebook group (Lithic Studies Society) – well worth joining for frequent updates on conferences and fieldwork opportunities of interest to members, as well as frequent "what flint is that?" debates between members! Many new members have joined the "real" LSS after joining us on Facebook, especially our growing overseas contingent.

Lithics will continue to accept submissions by electronic copy only, and updated notes for contributors and a cover form for submission are available on the website. The submission deadline for *Lithics* 33 is June 15th, and submissions from all members are very welcome. And, this year of all years, do please excuse any minor errors on the part of the editors....we are currently operating on minimal sleep!

Beccy Scott and Andrew Shaw