

## EDITORIAL

Taking on the editorship of *Lithics* in the aftermath of both *Great Prehistorians* and Rob Hosfield's ruthlessly efficient reign as editor has been something of a baptism of fire! Not only have we felt that we have an awful lot to live up to, considering Rob's efforts to bring *Lithics* back up to date, but the excellent contributions that made up the last volume have attracted a lot of papers from contributors new to the pages of *Lithics*. Not content with the challenge this already presented, we then decided to include papers based on the excellent 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference held in Oxford in January 2010. This *Past Lives from Cold Stone* special volume, then, again constitutes something of a bumper issue; it is fortunate, therefore, that in our first attempt at editing *Lithics* we were joined by the conference organisers as co-editors; Hugo Lamdin-Whymark, Cate Frieman, Matt Pope and Barry Bishop. We are enormously thankful to them for all their help with the reviewing process, and to Cate in particular for taking charge of this part of the volume.

The papers which resulted from this conference are as eclectic as the interests of society members themselves, spanning the Lower Palaeolithic (Foulds) to the Chalcolithic of Romania (Klimscha), as well as methodological suggestions for fieldwalking and dissemination of results (Cummings). Alan Saville's history of the society provides a fascinating overview of the first 30 years of the society — and is also available in glorious technicolour on the LSS website. This multi-period tendency extends to those contributions which were not presented at the conference; an extremely attractive *bout coupé* from Essex (Doman) through to the Middle Bronze Age (McLaren). Eagle-eyed readers will note that contributors to this volume as a whole now hail from as far afield as Australia and the USA — a reflection of the growing international membership of the society. At least in part, this tendency reflects the excellent, recently revamped LSS website ([www.lithics.org](http://www.lithics.org)), courtesy of Dave Underhill-Stocks.

The new website not only gives us the chance to reach out to an entirely new membership — and one which may not have previously had any involvement in archaeology or lithic

studies — but it also means that we can provide more information to accompany papers published in *Lithics*. Thus, the website now also includes a “members only” area ([http://www.lithics.org/Members\\_Area/](http://www.lithics.org/Members_Area/)), in which you can find supplementary information, and PDF copies of articles published in *Lithics* ahead of the three year “moving wall” for free online access. For membership year 2010/2011, the login and password for the members area are both “Lithics” (we hope to provide more imaginative passwords in future years...).

We also plan to add shorter contributions to the members only area throughout the year (those articles which now make up the “Letters and Notes” section of *Lithics*), whilst still publishing them in paper form in December/January. This hopefully will speed up the time between short contributions — which often relate to recent finds or fieldwork — being submitted and published. So, please do keep them coming. In relation to which — a plea; we have a number of short contributions for which we do not have an up-to-date email address, and so have not been able to include in this issue. If you have submitted a note to *Lithics* and have not heard back from us, then do please email us and make contact ([RScott@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:RScott@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk))! *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.

As electronic communication becomes ever faster, so paper communication becomes more expensive and a significant cost to the society. At the AGM this year it was agreed that the society would switch to communication by email only (though *Lithics* will remain a physical journal), so do please supply the membership secretary (Andrew Shaw; [a.d.shaw@soton.ac.uk](mailto:a.d.shaw@soton.ac.uk)) with a current email address if you have not already done so. Any members who do not have internet access can still choose to receive paper mailing — simply complete and return the enclosed slip. Updates are also regularly posted on the society Facebook group; however, for now, sit back, and enjoy this fine, paper edition of *Lithics*!

Beccy Scott and Andrew Shaw