

My translation, if you so agree, to the Chairmanship is I hope sufficient indication that I still wish to continue to do what work I can for the Society, and I hope, indeed how can it be otherwise, that you will get a Secretary who will give more to our work than I have been able to do for some years.

February 3rd, 1960.

L. A. HARVEY.

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ANNUAL REPORT for 1960

In introducing myself, I have to admit to accepting the position of Honorary Secretary with some misgiving and feelings of inadequacy. I made it clear at the time of my election that I possessed no special qualifications to fit me for the office vacated by my very able predecessor Professor Harvey, who had skillfully guided the Society since its inception in 1946. Therefore I ask you to regard me as a temporary custodian of the Minute Book, prepared at any suitable moment to hand over to anyone chosen to succeed me.

1960 has been a transitory year, culminating in the realization that our Warden, Mr. W.B. Workman, would be leaving us at the beginning of the following year. The Secretary visited the Island on two occasions, each of one week's duration, and had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Dudley Iles, acting in the capacity of Assistant Warden for several weeks and who worked with the Warden in restoring and making effective the Garden Trap. In addition he contributed useful field work and effective observation during his stay.

It was obvious that the Fabric of the Old Light was in need of a major overhaul internally and externally after 14 years of occupation by the Society, and the rigours of the exposed situation. With this in mind, we were to benefit from a visit of the Council for Nature Conservation Corps, a voluntary body of young people whose expressed purpose was to spruce up the Old Light. Another domestic problem, regrettably unsolved, was our failure to find anyone willing to take charge of the catering arrangements. This is an annual requirement and we will be very glad to hear of anyone skilled in the culinary arts who would be prepared to take charge of the kitchen during July and August.

It is perhaps worth recording that a small archaeological exploration was undertaken during the summer, resulting in the discovery of a rectangular room 12'x13' at the base of Puffin Slope some 100 yards west of the North East Fortification. A large fireplace and hearth still showing traces of ash was also uncovered, together with a granite seat to the right of the hearth. The rear wall, set into the slope, reached a height of 10 feet. The collapsed sloping roof had been thatched with thrift. Apart from cutting through one of several burrows, revealing the skeleton of a Manx Shearwater (ringed by David Mapp in 1956) no identifiable objects were found, all timber having been removed for kindling, but the siting suggested that the building served as a guardroom for the North East Fortification and was possibly of Civil War period.

Finally, I wish to thank our President and his family for their continuing interest in the Society's affairs; Professor Harvey for his help and kindly advice; and all officers and members who have been patient and forbearing with the Secretary.

JOHN DYKE.