

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1969

At the time of the AGM in March we bade farewell to Professor Harvey on his retirement from Exeter University and in doing so lost the last link without founders from 1946. In gratitude for his work on our behalf firstly as Secretary and later as Chairman, but always as friend and mentor, we presented him with a painting by John Dyke from the Society, and we have had a charming letter of thanks from the Professor's retirement bungalow in the Scillies.

Only three weeks after the last AGM, Lundy was put up for sale. As you all know the National Trust expressed immediate interest but had insufficient funds available for purchase. Various bodies then set about raising money but the Lundy Field Society was the first in the field and was able to donate a sum of over £248 to the Lundy Appeal fund. This fund had been started by three North Devon Members of Parliament and aimed to raise £75,000. It was rather overtaken by the most generous gift of £150,000 made by Mr Jack Hayward to the National Trust who were therefore enabled to buy Lundy. The Lundy Appeal was thereafter aimed at providing money to be used for the repair of buildings on Lundy, and in making our donation we specified that our sum was to be used on the Old Light and its outbuildings.

The National Trust have leased Lundy on a long term lease to the Landmark Trust. Immediately we knew of this the Chairman and I contacted Mr John Smith M.P., founder of the Trust, who kindly met us and allowed us to explain the work and aims of the Lundy Field Society.

Mr Smith has been most sympathetic to our cause and members will be delighted to know that he has most generously offered to instal and pay a resident Warden of our choice in the Old Light. This means that the Society will be free of the burden of maintaining the fabric of the building and free also of the burden of paying the Warden's salary. We shall of course have to maintain those items on Lundy which are strictly ours, such as the traps and Scientific equipment. The Old Light will be run as a Hostel with the Warden in charge. Accommodation there can be hired by parties and I hope that members will use this facility to fill the Old Light at periods of greatest interest to the various aspects of our field work.

Being free of these financial burdens, we should be able to devote more of our income to the publication of scientific material.

We have now closed the Albion Harman Memorial Fund and have joined our collection of over £52 to the moneys sent by non-members to Mr Gade. Our committee member H. Colyear Dawkins has most kindly offered to supervise the joint fund and will advise on the choice of trees to be planted in Millcombe.

During 1969 several important field projects were carried out. The largest of these was the Archaeological investigation in July carried out by K. S. Gardner and Professor Charles Thomas which is reported fully elsewhere. Operation 'Seafarer' was undertaken on a national basis during May and June and the LFS organised an extensive count of nesting seabirds during this period under the general direction of R. Britton. Dr R. Colin Welch made a survey of Lundy beetles, and Martin Mills continued his investigation of Lundy caves. Dr D. E. G. Irvine led a party of phycologists in a study of Marine Algae which he hopes to continue in 1970. Colin Taylor continued his studies of the island Geology, and Mrs Hubbard completed what many have felt is an impossible task—that of taking an island tree census. We hope to publish her Report next year.

The book placed in the Marisco Tavern in which visitors are asked to record observations has been a great success and will probably be retained even when we have a Resident Warden again.

The year has not been without its misfortunes—the collapse of the Beach road early in the year faced the islanders with a tremendous problem, but keen botanists have noticed how the movement of rock and soil has spread the

localised growth of *Brassica Wrightii* so that by August the entire area of raw rock was covered by the yellow flower of the Lundy Cabbage.

Despite the tremendous amount of work done in 1969, there is still more to do in 1970 and the need for fieldworkers has not abated. Apart from skilled workers there are many tasks that can be undertaken by careful amateurs and I shall be delighted to hear from any intending visitor who is willing to help.

I am therefore most happy at the future outlook for our Society and we are most grateful for the support the Landmark Trust has shown and for their interest in the preservation of the island as we would wish it to be preserved.

A. F. LANGHAM.

TREASURER'S REPORT

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY			A. P. HARMAN MEMORIAL FUND		
Income	£	s. d.	Expenditure	£	s. d.
Donations	50	17 0	Nil	—	— —
Interest on Deposit Account ..	1	5 11			
	<u>£52 2 11</u>			<u>— — —</u>	

Transferred to 'Lundy Arboreal Fund' on 28th October 1969, £52 2s. 11d.

A. J. VICKERY, *Hon. Treasurer.*

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY			'LUNDY APPEAL FUND'		
Income	£	s. d.	Expenditure	£	s. d.
Donations	250	0 0	Petty cash	6	7 10
Interest on Deposit Account ..	4	17 3	(Stationery, Postage, etc.)		
	<u>£254 17 3</u>			<u>£6 7 10</u>	

Transferred to National Appeal Fund on 28th October 1969, balance of £248 9s. 5d.

A. J. VICKERY, *Hon. Treasurer.*