

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1978

The year-end has been overshadowed by the death of Mr Gade, who, as one of our founder members, contributed so much and in so many ways to our work, and whose friendly advice and guidance will be deeply missed.

Earlier in the year the island welcomed Col. Bob Gilliat as the new agent; he has shown great interest in the Society and we have established a close contact. Mrs Gilliat shares her husband's enthusiasm for Lundy and is herself a keen ornithologist. The year also saw the appointment of the first marine warden on Lundy. Nigel Thomas lived on the island for five months in the summer and the results contained in the Report of his stewardship make impressive reading, and are a splendid example of what can be achieved.

Bob Britton has worked hard, as ever, for the L.F.S. Apart from managing our finances he has found time to organise the Easter working party which has become an annual feature and which this year opened the 'Coveway Path'. He also organised the four field course weeks for visitors, and carried out the annual inspection of Gulls' nests.

We were all very sad when Mick and Win Rogers announced that they were leaving Lundy. Mick has been a most conscientious and helpful representative of the Field Society on Lundy and we were fortunate indeed to have his skilled and devoted services. We offer him our very grateful thanks for his work on our behalf and wish them both well in their new home at Portland Observatory. Richard and Martha Campey joined the staff on Lundy during the year and Richard has agreed to help us by representing us on the island.

This Annual Report contains some of the results of fieldwork undertaken during the year and we are pleased to include the first of what we hope will be a regular series of reports on the state of the domestic and feral animals by John Ogilvie.

The year has not been without its problems. Lundy suffered badly from oil pollution in the autumn following the damage to a supertanker in the Irish Sea and considerable numbers of seabirds were affected. The findings of a survey of the island grazing undertaken in the summer give rise for concern.

The Excursion again produced the handsome profit necessary for us to carry on our work. Our Conservation Plan is being studied by the new agent and the manuscript of Nick Dymond's book, which has been eagerly awaited, is now complete and means of publication are now being sought. A Symposium on Lundy was held at Bristol by the Extramural department of Exeter University in May and was successful enough for consideration that the event might be repeated.

Through all our work, we have continued to have the help and support of the islanders and, above all, the support and encouragement of the Landmark Trust. We owe to both Mr and Mrs John Smith our deepest gratitude for their giving Lundy so much of their time and attention within their benevolent and unique foundation, the Landmark Trust.

A. F. LANGHAM.