

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1979

I try to reflect the year's events under one heading and this year 'caring concern' expresses the broad sweep of the year's activities.

We welcomed Col. Bob Gilliat and his wife last year and they had far more 'concern' than many others. The Beach Road, still breached after the winter gales, produced a crisis when it was found that visitors might have to be turned away as all supplies had to be man-handled up what was left of the Beach Road.

Col. Bob had all this to contend with and it is some measure of our 'causing concern' that I had so many letters praising Col. Bob's efforts.

I wish to express my appreciation of the work of the Committee as although they only devote three sessions each year they have wider and deeper interests in Lundy. It is in no small way due to their efforts that our membership is now 389 with 900 further Lundy lovers. Our Committee have 'caring concern' for conservation on Lundy and the National Trust Conservation department at Cirencester has been in contact with us as places like Lundy become more important as pressure on wild places increases.

Our 'caring concern' is not exclusively parochial and we have made a token contribution to the Bardsey Island appeal by Naturalists to avoid commercialisation.

We held field courses and many free-lance field workers have provided much new knowledge and as part of our 'caring concern' we have offered some financial help in any further investigations.

You will remember that last year we were beset with problems following an oil spill in the Celtic sea. Evidence has suggested that the breeding seabirds may not have been so adversely affected as was feared. It is hoped that Lundy will be included in a national survey that is being funded. We hope to mount some sort of count this year.

The 'caring concern' by Landmark Trust, the wonderful repairs at the Castle and repairs afoot at the original surrounding walls when a professional archaeological investigation takes place.

On a flying visit, Douglas Hague, Director of ancient monuments in Wales, exposed two of the four inscribed stones in the cemetery. They are about to be protected by putting them under cover. Keith Gardner's manuscript on the archaeology of Lundy is virtually complete.

Don Shiers has been quietly researching Lundy wrecks and he has a book in embryo.

On a sadder note the Committee have felt unable to finance Nick Dymond's opus on Lundy birds owing to the increased printing costs and sadly declined his offer. He is currently trying to get it published by the Devon Bird-Watching and Preservation Society.

As most of our past Annual Reports are out of print we have been contemplating publishing a series of booklets on various Lundy subjects and the first two on wrecks and mammals are being costed. We try to show 'caring concern' but we rely heavily on our annual excursion. If it should cease for any reason we should be in a serious position. The annual subscription was raised to meet our basic costs to £3 from 1st January, 1980 with 50p for any additional family members and £6 for group membership. We no longer offer Life Membership but a reduced rate of £2 for members over 60 years of age has now been agreed.

After 34 years Exeter University is still a great source of strength and in expressing our thanks to Ian Lynn for all his hard work and liaison we ask him to also pass on our gratitude to the authorities.

We still give our thanks to John Smith and the Landmark Trust's care about Lundy but most of all we care that when all this is just a faint memory the island will still be there, unspoilt, for future generations to enjoy.

A. F. LANGHAM