

## HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1980

As you know in these reports I have to summarise the many things that have happened to the Society during the year. I think it would be right to say that 1980 was a quiet year — a year of uncertainty and perhaps of change, and yet one which has seen a tremendous strengthening of the Society.

At committee level we have felt for a long time that we needed to increase both our membership and our income. In the summer Col. Gilliat kindly gave me a photocopy of the 1250 names and addresses of subscribers to the sadly missed 'Illustrated Lundy News'. From this I removed names of those who were already members and eventually had 968 people who were potential new members. The committee approved spending postage on contacting them, I wrote to them all, and was delighted by the response which brought us 151 new members plus another 24 from our island Representative who works so well in our cause. We now have a membership approaching 600 which means that the printing of the Annual Report will now almost break even.

This is essential as we have long relied on the Excursion to subsidize both printing and Courses, and the future of the Campbell steamers is now in doubt. As an indication of our responsibility as a serious scientific society we have been placing some of our capital in medium term investments as our Treasurers Report reveals.

Among our activities this year has been support for Dr Trudy Watt of Oxford University who has been studying the effects of weather and overgrazing on Lundy grass. This to me shows an excellent example of the way the LFS can work to aid the Landmark Trust and Lundy.

Actual field work included the replanting of Quarter Wall copse last autumn, and I am pleased to report that the Field Study Holidays produced a profit. We had an extremely good Excursion, and we have supported the scientific work of the divers.

Douglas Hague the Archaeologist has carried out some investigations and proposes to move and protect the inscribed stones in the cemetery during 1981.

We have been involved in the printed word — not only our papers and Annual Report but also in supporting works by Nick Dymond and Keith Hiscock. We are supporting an application for a three year study on Lundy of Sika deer and we have contributed to the F W Gade Memorial Fund.

In this my last Annual Report I would like to thank all those who have made my term of office so pleasant. We can never forget the debt we owe to Martin Harman, Albion Harman and to John Smith and his wife and their Landmark Trust.

I am not going to name you all — so many have helped so much — but we have much in common. We have a shared ideal, and our aim remains the same — the enjoyment, protection, and investigation of this unique place.

A. F. LANGHAM