

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1983

The NCC has continued to work towards the establishment of a statutory marine reserve around Lundy and for part of the year their liaison officer, Robert Irving, was resident on the island. The Field Society strongly supports this endeavour and indeed would welcome the formal adoption of a conservation plan for the island as a whole. The National Trust have been asked by the Landmark Trust to prepare a comprehensive archaeological report to guide them in their future management and the Society has been happy to assist in this matter.

In early summer the Field Society advertised the availability of a few small research grants and in order to facilitate a quick response to applications a Grants Sub-Committee was set up. Grants were made for: a census of the large herbivores on Lundy; a study of the diet and feeding habits of the Lundy ship rat, *Rattus rattus*; further studies of the vegetation of Lundy. An interest free loan was made to assist a working party from the Underwater Conservation Society. These grants and the loan were facilitated by our continuing financial well being which stems in the main from our annual excursion, which although of long standing must be regarded as ephemeral, and from our investment income; our Treasurer Doug Kestell deserves thanks for his excellent work.

The Annual Report, the Newsletter and two editions of the Birdwatchers Supplement were published this year. The importance of these publications in joining together the members of the Society cannot be over emphasised and we are most grateful to those of our number who spend much time on their production, particularly Ray Smith who has so ably edited the Annual Report for many years.

Sadly at the end of 1983 John Smith retired as President of the Lundy Field Society because he considered that he did not have the confidence of the members. This is a matter of considerable regret and we thank him for his past services and are pleased that he remains a member of the Society. We would remind you all that the stewardship of Lundy lies with the Landmark Trust and that our objective has always been, and will continue to be, to work closely and amicably with the Trust.

P. B. F. COLE
Spring 1984