

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1985

A small but important step towards the possible establishment of a statutory marine nature reserve around Lundy took place early this year with the formation of the 'Lundy Marine Consultation Group' and details of this are set out elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Throughout the whole of May work continued on the excavation of the Castle Parade under the direction of Dr. David Thackray, Archaeological Secretary to the National Trust. The bulk of the labour force was supplied by NT Acorn Campers who were joined for one week by a party from the LFS. The exploratory work is now finished and evaluation of the findings is taking place. Work on the consolidation of the site was started towards the end of the year by employees of the Manpower Services Commission. This work on the castle is a most worthwhile enterprise with which we are pleased to be associated.

The Field Society gave a grant to a research student from Sheffield University to examine the population and feeding ecology of guillemots on Lundy in support of work he is carrying out on Skomer between 1985 and 1987. The Society also published the first of what is intended to be a series of pamphlets concerning various aspects of Lundy. Available now at modest cost to any visitor to the island are those on Botany, Geology and Underwater Life.

1985 saw the retirement of two of our long serving officers, Ian Linn who had been Chairman since 1975 and Ray Smith who had edited the Annual Report from 1959 to 1984. Glowing tributes were paid at our AGM in March and they were both warmly thanked for their services. Dr. Keith Hiscock was welcomed as the new Chairman as were Ann and Tony Taylor as Editors of the Annual Report. The Landmark Trust has asked the Field Society to co-ordinate all bird ringing on the island on its behalf and this task is also being undertaken by Tony Taylor. Anyone visiting the island for ringing purposes, whether LFS member or not should consult Tony before going to the island.

This year saw the end of the regular helicopter passenger service to the island and, in part, this most convenient form of transport has been replaced by the provision of 'The Islander' a launch that can make the journey from the mainland to Lundy in under the hour. It is important that members are aware that it is the Landmark Trust who provide the regular all year round transport to and from the island making possible the holidays and working visits on Lundy which we so much enjoy.

P. B. F. COLE
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