

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1986

On the 21st November 1986 the waters around Lundy became the United Kingdom's first Statutory Marine Nature Reserve. This is a matter of great satisfaction to all those who have worked towards this end for a number of years. The Nature Conservancy Council is soon to publish a code of conduct for the area and will also draw up bye-laws in conjunction with the Devon Sea Fisheries Committee.

The Lundy Field Society was pleased to welcome Sir Jack Hayward as their new President. Sir Jack has been a Vice-President of the Society since 1969 when his generosity enabled the National Trust to purchase Lundy.

The Society was founded at Exeter in 1946 so that this year's AGM marked its 40th Anniversary. Among the speakers at this meeting was Professor L.A. Harvey, a founder member, former secretary and chairman of the Society. His death, later in the year, was regretted by all who knew him.

It was agreed that as part of our policy of carefully husbanding the Society's funds subscriptions should be raised, the last time this happened was in 1980. One of the tangible results of this policy was our ability to publish two further leaflets in our 'An Introduction to Lundy' series, covering Pond Life and a South End Walk, making a total of five to date which are available for sale on the Island at no profit to the Society and which have been well received by visitors.

The Field Society welcomed the appointment in February of Neil Willcox as full time warden to the Island, the first for a number of years. He is funded by the Landmark Trust and the NCC with some support from the Field Society.

This year also saw the purchase and bringing into service of the MS Oldenburg by the Landmark Trust. This vessel which has a capacity for over 200 passengers as well as freight, is now Lundy's regular carrier and is proving to be a most worthwhile acquisition.

An LFS working party spent a week on the Island in early spring, improving the path and steps to Diver's Beach, renewing fixed ropes to Mermaid's Pool and Quarry Beach and installing a fixed rope to Pilot's Quay. It is our intention to endeavour to supply such parties in the spring and autumn of each year. There is a continuing flow of tasks to be carried out and it is a splendid way of demonstrating our support for the Landmark Trust in their work on Lundy.

P. B. F. COLE
Summer 1987