

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1989

In April 1989, 'The National Trust Archaeological Survey Lundy Island, Devon' was published and a copy presented to the Field Society. The authors state that the report cannot be considered exhaustive but is intended as an outline of features relevant to archaeological resource management. They go on to suggest that, "Lundy ... has a unique position in the history of the British Isles. Unlike areas of land on the mainland, Lundy represents an intact and discrete record of historical land-use and settlement such as does not normally survive." David Thackray and his wife Caroline, together with their team, are to be warmly congratulated on their continuing work. Archaeological investigation is also being carried out by John Schofield, working in close consultation with the National Trust, and the Society is pleased to be associated with both of these endeavours. The Landmark Trust is to be thanked for the full support which it is giving to these important projects.

Bird ringing on Lundy continued to be coordinated by the Society while the Annual Excursion was a great success, taking place in July aboard the M.S. Oldenburg. Field Society working parties were present on the island in February and October. During the former, preliminary work was carried out on clearing the inclined plane, once used to lower stone from the Terraces to Quarry Beach.

Andrew Gibson has come to the island as warden and he and his wife are welcomed by the Society. We are pleased to have purchased a telescope to help with his work. Grants have also been given to assist with current archaeological work on the island, and two smaller awards to assist with auk counts. A one-off donation has been given towards the cost of feeding the island ponies.

At the Annual General Meeting in March, agreement was reached for a revision of the constitution. This enables members to serve for a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms on the committee, instead of a single period, in certain carefully defined circumstances. This will allow the Society to obtain maximum benefit from particularly experienced and/or knowledgeable members. Agreement was also reached for an increase in subscriptions with the intention that they should cover the cost of the Annual Report and Newsletter, together with postage. Healthy finances are vital to the continuing needs of a healthy Society.

At the end of the year Doug Kestall relinquished the post of Hon. Treasurer which he has filled most ably for the last eight years. Ann and Tony Taylor retired after four years as Editors of the Annual Report while Jenny Langham is succeeded as Sales Manager by Jane Maggs. Peter deGroot retired after three years as a committee member and John Schofield was elected in his place. All are thanked and congratulated on their excellent work.

P.B.F.COLE
May 1990.