

### AGENT'S REPORT FOR 1989

1989 was one of the busiest years on record for Lundy; we had a great number of staying visitors and the M.S Oldenburg carried some 17,000 trippers to the island.

The weather during the summer was some of the best I have known here; little rain was experienced causing some difficulty with water supplies. However, in July a water diviner made contact and offered to help us find any hidden reserves. She quickly located two sources, one behind the Black Shed and one just north of the water tanks. We made use of our resident quarry workers and drilled a hole 50m deep at each site and found water. Small pumps were lowered and we pulled out 150 gallons per hour, enough to keep us going for the rest of the summer.

Due to the lack of financial support the jetty scheme has been shelved for the time being; however, we have decided to complete the road to the cove beach. The road looks very grand cutting its way through the cliff below the South Light and providing our denuded beach with a wonderful surface of fine stone. It is hoped that once we have completed the road we will make a start on a small extension to the cove jetty enabling the launch to come alongside at all stages of tide.

A few members of staff left during the year including Stirling Melhuish, our farmer. Although he has been replaced, farming on the island is always a struggle and stocking levels have been greatly reduced allowing staff to concentrate on other duties.

The aerogenerator was out of action for much of the year due to a gearbox failure. A new unit took us almost five months to acquire and the machine was back in use just before Christmas when, of course, the wind failed to blow.

J. PUDDY  
April 1990

### WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 1989

I was appointed Warden at the end of May. For the two years prior to that, I had been the first Warden of the island of Flat Holm, 50 miles further up the Bristol Channel. The lighthouse was made automatic a few months after we moved to the island and once the keepers were withdrawn, my wife Lorna and I were the only residents. The island is owned by Trinity House and leased as a nature reserve by South Glamorgan County Council. It has an area of 50 acres and is only half a mile in diameter. The appointment was for a fixed term of two years, as South Glamorgan were convinced that the isolation would make us go 'funny'. Towards the end of our stay, the island was beginning to feel very small, however a management policy of keeping visitors to a minimum, coupled with some excellent weather, gave me the opportunity to complete many of the projects I wanted to finish before leaving.

A fairly major change has occurred in the farming on Lundy since last year. Aggressive farming has not proved viable and in consequence the stocking levels have been reduced. There are now only 200 breeding ewes instead of 400 and the beef herd has also been reduced. It is hoped that all the beef cattle will be pure Devon from now on. The reductions will affect the grazing and we are closely monitoring the situation with regard to the numbers of Soay sheep, deer, goats and rabbits, to see whether they can cope with the extra grazing available, particularly in areas such as Middle Park. There is already a marked increase in bracken and we are having to take steps to check its spread.