

time being we are without a milking cow. Young people who come to the island like to have close contact with farm animals, so we are looking for one or two donkeys to fill the void left by Daisy's departure.

GENERAL

During the season I have given talks and walks around and about Lundy. The shore walks proved particularly popular, if a bit energetic at times. I always hope that the group will be about eighteen strong as this number is easily managed. On several of the shore walks the numbers were over forty. Not only do larger numbers become difficult to control, but I become reluctant to take them to the more sensitive areas, for fear of damage.

I would like to thank the Field Society for providing the plankton trawl and the magnifying lenses and also for their contribution towards the natural history display in the Church. The new information booklet in the cottages has also been well received — there are still a few spare pockets available and if anyone has ideas for extra topics, I would like to hear about them. On the last Balmoral trip of the year, the crew challenged the island staff to a cricket match. They then came ashore in full whites and they even had things like pads. It was quite an effort to make up a team and despite its somewhat unorthodox appearance, I am pleased to report that the Lundy team won by two runs.

During the year, I expect to see Brazen Ward cleared of rhododendron; we have already seen work started on the road to North End and one workparty is coming out specifically to work upon Three Quarter Wall. A volunteer group with climbing instructors will be looking at improving the routes to Pilot Quay and the Montague Steps and, following the successful promotional trip by the Oldenburg, a group of prizewinning volunteers are to create a path on the east sidelands. Incidentally, the two promotional trips to Bristol were both well supported by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society and this goodwill is reflected in the increased number of sailings by Waverley and Balmoral this year. However, I hope that we get to choose the challenge game this year as cricket is a game rarely played on Lundy where all the fields are regularly grazed by sheep and cattle — we could always have a game of golf!

I want to finish with another type of challenge. There are a number of projects on Lundy which are held up for lack of funds. Last year the idea of a sponsored swim was banded about and I would hate to see such an excellent suggestion lost in the cold light of dawn. I have no doubt that we on the island can provide suitable backup and safety and also come up with a suitable cause. I will accept that a circumnavigation of the island is over ambitious, but how about a sponsored swim under the Field Society's banner from the Breakwater to the Knoll Pins?

A. GIBSON
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OBITUARY: F. R. SMITH

It was with a great sense of loss that we heard of the death of Ray Smith in February 1992 at the age of 86.

Already a knowledgeable and important person in the ornithological world, he joined the Lundy Field Society in 1946 and for many years delivered the bird report at our AGM. A member of the Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society, from which the Lundy Field Society grew, Ray served them as recording officer for fourteen years. On the national scene he was secretary of the British Birds Rarities Committee from 1963-1975. Perhaps Ray's greatest service to the Field Society was the improvement in presentation and content of the Annual Report which he achieved during his term as editor from 1959-1984.

P.B.F.C.