

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR 1996

Yet again Lundy had a very turbulent year. The Royal Air Force had to fly animal feed to the island early in February when the Beach Road was swept away. They did a wonderful job and three Hercules flying over the top of Admiralty Lookout and dropping ten tons of animal feed around Pondsburry was something to be seen. Not long after this, the *Sea Empress* struck over on the Welsh coast and we had a considerable number of oiled birds washed up on the shoreline. Emma Parkes, our Warden, and a band of island volunteers were soon down there sorting them out. We lost very few.

Emma has now moved on to sunnier climes and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her on the island. We wish her well in her new life and hope that she will visit us soon. The position of Warden on the island has been passed into the very capable hands of Liza Cole, who most of you will know.

There have been many other staff changes on Lundy in the past twelve months. The most important of all is the appointment of Paul Roberts as General Manager. Paul has been busy applying for grants to improve the Island's infrastructure and it is hoped that within eighteen months some of the work can commence. Our wish list consists of items such as a new aerial generator, new water tanks, new power and water supplies, a new power station, repairs to the Beach Road and general repairs to the properties.

Staff have also been very busy on the island with a new roof to Admiralty Lookout and also new sash windows throughout, repairs to Millcombe's roof so that it no longer leaks, and a decorating programme throughout the whole of the Island properties. A new 100 kw generator has been installed in the generator shed. This supplies power to all the night storage heaters on the Island so we hope it will make life a lot more comfortable for our guests.

We have now appointed a new farmer, James Jenner. He has been with us since September and is progressing well, although at Christmas he had a slight accident when charged by one of the rams. He broke his leg so, at the time of writing he is recuperating, getting himself ready for lambing.

The Lundy ponies are doing extremely well. Sabine, our stallion, has been examined by the officials from the Lundy Ponies Society; he has passed muster and is at the moment the only fully registered Lundy stallion. Sabine has sired five foals to date; these are up for sale and will be moved up to Exmoor in the spring where they will be used as children's riding ponies.

There will be some important celebrations on Lundy in 1997. including the centenary of St. Helena's, the Island church. The priest in charge, Bill Blakey, will mark the occasion with a special service on the 7th and 8th June.

There will also be a set of stamps issued to mark the occasion. Another stamp issue will mark the centenary of the lighthouses, which is also in 1997, so hopefully it will be a bumper year for stamp collectors!

REG LO-VELL
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