

## LUNDY GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT FOR 1999

1999 has certainly been an eventful year, particularly in relation to the ongoing projects. The start of 1999 saw our supply and passenger ship, MS Oldenberg, go in for an extended dry dock period. During dry dock we carried out some major improvements to the ship which included two new engines and refurbishment of the hull and some of the interior fittings. Passengers have been delighted with the end result and in particular the reduction in journey time which from Bideford to Lundy is now under 2 hours and the fastest crossing from Ilfracombe so far is 1 hour 20 minutes. Those who suffer from 'mal de mer' (like myself) are particularly grateful.

The other major project was the building of the new Lundy jetty which saw the contractors move onto the site at the end of March. I don't know whether it was sod's law or the 'Lundy Factor' (probably both) but what should have been a 12 week contract turned out to be a protracted 22 week project. As well as having difficulty in drilling the sockets in the sea bed to accept the steel piles, there was the unfortunate accident of the collapse of the Charlotte Louise jack-up platform. The jetty finally came into service on 1st September and has certainly proved its worth so far with huge benefits to visitors. The disembarkation and embarkation time of passengers visiting Lundy has reduced significantly, giving day visitors at least an additional hour in which to explore the island. The other benefits are the ease with which passengers are able to walk down the ship's gang plank straight onto dry land and the fact that we are not quite so susceptible to cancelling sailings during easterly winds.

During the summer of 1999 Lundy saw some tremendous weather. In fact we had so much sun and so little rain that at one point our reservoir was down to 9 days supply. This prompted a telephone call to South West Water who eagerly offered their services. In typical Lundy fashion, on the day that South West Water loaded 12 tonnes of water aboard the MS Oldenberg, the islanders greeted the boat in a heavy downpour of rain!

August also saw the publication of the Friends of Lundy newsletter, the first for some time, and all Friends should have received a copy. It was the year that we also launched the official Lundy website: [www.Lundyisland.co.uk](http://www.Lundyisland.co.uk)

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