

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORTS FOR 2000 & 2001

2000

This year was another successful one for the LFS and saw two major innovations. The first was the work put in by committee member Maggie Shaw on the membership. Simply putting a return address on mailings allowed us to discover many inaccuracies in our membership database but Maggie also began a rolling programme to contact members whose subscription is in arrears. This has reduced the total number of members slightly but increased the subscription income collected. Nineteen new members also joined during the year. The other innovation was due to the foresight and generosity of Keith Denby who noticed that the internet domain name lundy.org.uk was available, registered it, and transferred it and his Lundy web site to the LFS. I have been updating the site since, adding more LFS material to Keith's original.

During the year many members enjoyed an LFS week on the island following that held to celebrate the 50th anniversary in 1996. This replaced an excursion. Other events of note during the year were a successful grant application to Yorkshire Electricity by David Molyneux and Ann Westcott's securing sponsorship of the Newsletter from Carlton Westcountry television and the St Austell Brewery. We also heard that, following the death of his widow, Leslie Harvey's archive of research notes had been given to the Marine Biological Association's library in Plymouth. This obviously contains a lot of information on his work on Lundy in the early years of the LFS and it is good that this will be preserved.

CHRIS WEBSTER
September 2001

2001

After the successes of 2000, this year saw the scourge of Foot and Mouth Disease, which closed the island for a while and prevented much fieldwork throughout the country. Luckily the closure and then strict disinfecting procedures prevented the spread of infection to the island but the ban on animal movements was a severe problem. The epidemic also had knock-on effects including preventing the Hon. Editor from travelling to work at an agricultural college. Combined with illness this prevented the completion of the Annual Report (for 2000) during 2001 as planned. The committee decided that rather than try to rush out a late report for 2000 and a thin report for 2001

(as there was little work to report) we would produce this combined volume at the usual time in 2002.

It was also decided not to run an excursion but to circulate a list of suitable dates and take block-bookings on scheduled sailings. This was partially successful, although there were not enough members on each trip to obtain a discount.

The web site has continued to grow, and during the year we were notified that an album of photographs taken by the LFS's first warden was being auctioned on the internet. Copies of the photos were obtained before it was sold and these can now be seen on the LFS site. The album was bought, for a surprisingly large amount, by a lighthouse museum in Canada.

Finally, the end of the year saw the retirement of our chairman, Professor Jennifer George. Jenny has undertaken this duty since 1998 and, despite an ever-increasing workload outside the LFS, very rarely missed a meeting. She made an outstanding contribution to the Society and also to the study of the freshwater inhabitants of the island.

CHRIS WEBSTER
September 2002