

OBITUARIES

JOHN DYKE

1923-2003

Nobody who had the pleasure of knowing John Dyke, particularly during his long association with Lundy and the Field Society, will be spared feelings of great sadness and loss.

John was born on May 16 1923 in Denbighshire. In 1987 he gave a talk at the AGM which outlined his involvement with the island, and this he did in typically modest and humorous manner. It was then 50 years since he had made his first contact with Lundy and Mr Gade, when he was still an art student, and when there were Puffin coins still in the Store. Later he wrote to Mr Harman about visiting Lundy, and received with the reply the gift of a set of 1939 stamps. Arrangements were made to spend two weeks in the hotel in May of 1940, with travel in the *Lerina*, but "Dunkirk intervened and the trip had to be cancelled."

During the war John served in the Service Corps and the camouflage unit of the 2nd Army. He drew one of the invasion maps needed for the Normandy landing, and then was engaged in mapping traffic routes through to Luneburg Heath, where the German army capitulated. After that he was posted to Cowley Barracks to make a series of maps to record the campaign.

In 1944 he married Joan, they lived in the north and had one son, David, and one daughter, Jilly. John worked free-lance, mainly for the Hulton Press, when he contributed to *The Eagle* amongst other things. In 1948 he joined the LFS, and finally achieved his visit to Lundy, when he crossed in the *Girl Joyce*, stayed at the Old Light with the LFS, and met Mr Harman and Professor Harvey. From that time on he was a regular visitor and a staunch Lundy enthusiast.

In 1951 the family moved to North Devon to be nearer to the island. From that date John was engaged, as partner in the Atlantic Coast Studios, in the design of Lundy stamps, paintings of Lundy, the delightful series of drawings which embellish the Annual Reports of the Field Society from 1948-1970, and various guides and other publications. Then, from 1959 to 1966, he served as the Secretary of the society.

In 1970 John was invited by the Landmark Trust to take up residence on Lundy with his family, where he produced the *Illustrated Lundy News* from 1970 to 1975, and took responsibility for the items he and others contributed for the intended Lundy museum. The family lived in the northern of the two Signal Cottages behind the castle until the *Illustrated Lundy News* was closed down, and John and Joan were very much missed when they left the island. John then worked for the National Trust at Boscastle, Saltram House and, finally, Bohetherick. On his retirement John and Joan moved to Bideford and, lastly, to Abbotsham.

John was always kind, was always fun, and was a lovable person. He enjoyed all the byways of Lundy's history, had a talent for highlighting all the island's oddities, and a great gift for puns. Combined with this was a very deep affection for, and a broad knowledge of, the island and its people. His death is indeed a sad loss for his family, his friends, for Lundy, and for the Field Society that he served so generously.

John Dyke will live on in the rich legacy of his stamp designs, his drawings and paintings, in the unique and valuable archive found in *The Illustrated Lundy News*. And in the happy memories of times spent with him by his many friends.

MYRTLE TERNSTROM
December 2003

MICK ROGERS

With great regret we have to record the death in 2003 of Michael (Mick) Rogers. He took up the post of barman on the island in 1975 so the he could act as the Society's unofficial representative and warden in his free time, both in bird observations and ringing. In that first year he recorded details of six rarities, and another five in the following year. When he and his wife left to go to Portland Observatory in 1978, Tony Langham, as Secretary, wrote "Mick looked after the Field Society interests on Lundy with great skill and great devotion during some difficult times. He kept the ornithological record meticulously. We are much indebted to him for all his hard work for the Society and for the fact that he was a volunteer."

MYRTLE TERNSTROM
October 2003