

LUNDY GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT FOR 2003

2003 started with the introduction of a Winter Helicopter Service following our decision to take Oldenburg out of passenger service between the months of November to the end of March. The response from visitors was sufficient to encourage us to implement the full Winter Helicopter Service that starts during the first week of November and will run through to the end of March 2004.

With the appointment of a designated Waste Management Officer on the Island, we have this year made great inroads in laying the foundations for a Waste Management System.

Exeter University were employed to carry out a study during the summer to not only quantify the scale of the Waste Management problem but also to look into ideas that would enable us to move to a more sustainable environmentally friendly system. Whilst most of the analysis and research is being carried out in 2003, the full implementation will not be put in place until early 2004.

Due to the introduction of the Winter Helicopter Service bringing more visitors to the Island through the colder months, we have had to re-think the staffing regime on the Island. Whereas in the past we have had a small core team all year round and supplemented with Seasonal workers in the summer, we are now finding that we are unable to significantly reduce the staff numbers in the winter as we have previously done. This then highlighted the need for additional and improved staff accommodation which has resulted in a complete re-ordering of Quarters which had previously housed some staff but also provided dormitory style accommodation for up to 10 people staying in a relatively basic style.

As of the end of 2003 we are now able to offer a visitors Quarters accommodation for 5 people (3 bedrooms) to a much higher standard whilst at the same time we have gained 3 additional staff units.

Overall 2003 has been a successful season for Lundy. With a very dry sunny summer our daytripper numbers were at a 6-year high and the occupancy of the holiday accommodation also at an all-time high.

With more visitors coming to the Island it is even more important that footpaths are maintained and this is very successfully achieved by the Volunteer Scheme which is ably assisted and supported by our Ranger, Rod Dymond. This year has also seen an exceptional amount of rhododendron below the lower east side path cleared and we are extremely grateful to all those Volunteers that support the conservation work on the Island.

At the end of 2003 we saw the restarting of the Seabird Recovery Project.

PAUL ROBERTS
March 2004