

KEITH GARDNER

1932 - 2008

Keith joined the Field Society when it – and he – were in their young days. As an amateur, Keith took an early and keen interest in the archaeology of Lundy, which at that time had been little studied. Information on the subject was virtually non-existent, except that it was known that some supposedly medieval or Viking skeletons and beads had been found in 1856 during the course of building works in Bulls Paradise, and that some small follow-up excavations had been carried out there by visitors in the 1930s.

Between 1956 and 1969 Keith organised and conducted a series of archaeological investigations on the island, and published 15 papers of the results in the LFS Annual Reports, as well as two articles in *Current Archaeology*. In these investigations he was assisted by Trevor Miles and other archaeologists, and in 1969 he joined Charles Thomas and Peter Fowler for the important excavation of the old burial ground on Beacon Hill.

After the island became the property of the National Trust, David and Caroline Thackray were appointed to make an archaeological survey of Lundy, with whom Keith gladly shared his knowledge, his records, and his assemblage. As a result of this joint work, English Heritage recognised several Lundy sites as important, and these are scheduled for their protection.

Keith's invaluable *Archaeological Field Guide* was published in 1972, and his book, *An Archaeologist on Lundy* (2006) was warmly welcomed as a record of his archaeological work, as well as for the descriptions of Lundy in his early days on the island. His later years were taken up by his business concerns, his hobbies, and his work as organiser and editor for the South-Western region of the Council for British Archaeology. Latterly health problems curtailed his opportunities for spending time on Lundy, but his interest and involvement were constant, and he was always generous in sharing the results of his work with others.

The Society is enormously indebted to Keith for his pioneering work that first put Lundy's archaeology on the map, and his name will stand prominent in its annals.

We extend our deep sympathy to his wife, Ann, and their two sons on Keith's sudden and sad death on 9 February 2008.

MYRTLE TERNSTROM
August 2009