

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

The summer of 2008 will be remembered for its frequent horrid weather, no doubt dampening some opportunities for fieldwork on Lundy. However, Society members carried on contributing to our ever increasing knowledge of the wildlife and historical features of this small island, as well as doing valuable work through the 'Conservation Breaks' and maintaining facilities such as the LFS Library in the Tavern.

I was reminded of the true meaning of fieldwork during 2008 when I was pleased to be able to lead a team to re-survey shores that had originally been censused by one of the founding members of the Society, Professor Leslie Harvey, in the late 1940's. The fieldwork was the fun bit. But anyone undertaking serious work on the island knows that the work isn't finished until the paperwork is done and published. Now, there is a Journal as a part of our range of publications. The success of the Lundy Field Society Journal, launched in 2008, is testament to the hard work of its editor, Jenny George, and the dedication of all of the contributors – thank you.

Something that I have felt needs addressing by the Society is ensuring that we maintain a record of all work relating to the history, natural history and archaeology of Lundy. From time-to-time we see work undertaken on Lundy published in journals that are not ours or in limited circulation reports. As part of maintaining and improving the information resources of the Society, we intend to list those publications in future Annual Reports. Please do draw any that you discover to the attention of the editor of the Annual Report so that we can cite them as part of maintaining as complete a record as possible of fieldwork or other relevant observations on and around the island.

Thanks to all who have handed on Society work to others. Tony Taylor, who has edited the bird reports for many years, has handed on the task to Tim Davis and Tim Jones. Thanks to Tony for the meticulous work that he has undertaken on behalf of the Society. Kate Cole finished her tenure on the Committee in 2008 and we express our thanks to Kate for her contributions to the Society. David Molyneux handed the task of organising the conservation breaks to Trevor Dobie during 2008 – thanks to David for past work and to Trevor for the future.

Two ex-Committee members died in 2008. Elizabeth Hubbard, who had been Membership Secretary from 1972 to 1994, and Ken Rodley who had served on the Committee from 1993 to 1999 and 2000 to 2003. Our condolences go out to their families.

The Society would not be able to operate successfully on Lundy without the support of the islanders and particularly the Island Manager Derek Green and Wardens Nicola Saunders and Sophie Wheatly. Thanks to all of you.

KEITH HISCOCK
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