

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Your Society has had a busy year and, in my foreword, I would like to mention some highlights and look forward to activities in 2010.

We are a learned society that does all the things that a learned society does – we provide facilities for members to publish the results of their work, we provide grants to help in undertaking studies and in conservation work on the island, and we keep members informed of both the science of those studies as well as the background activities that are, sometimes, more fascinating than the results of the studies. We have a resource that will become more and more important – the website. Already that website is highly informative and is maintained by Chris Webster who has contributed to a meeting of the (new) publications sub-committee when we especially looked at how the website can be developed to better serve the aims of the Society and its members. We would like the website to be a better source of reference information about Lundy's history, archaeology and natural history. A new bibliography is needed that is underpinned by a database providing flexible access to references by author, subject, keywords etc. There are volumes that are out of print and that we would like to place on the website, with appropriate permissions. Additionally, there are scientific publications that we can make accessible in an electronic form so that you can download them yourselves from the comfort of your own home.

One of the highlights of the year for members is receiving the newsletter; full of fascinating articles and the 'sub-text' of some of the activities that the LFS undertakes. The newsletter started life as a cyclostyled publication with a limited circulation some 30 years ago. It soon became of core importance to the activities of the Society under the imaginative and hard work that Ann Westcott has undertaken. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Ann as the editing of the newsletter moves on to Tim Davis.

I have been pleased to represent your Society on the Lundy Management Forum where the success of good management of the island is clear. Your Society also provides the Secretary, Robert Irving, for the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group. As we develop the MNR into the first Marine Conservation Zone (which happened on 12 January 2010) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act, there will be opportunities to review boundaries and conservation objectives. It should not go without mention that Lundy has been the first voluntary marine nature reserve (estd. in 1973) and the first statutory marine nature reserve (estd. in 1986) in Britain – both designations that were greatly helped by the work of the Society.

I represented the Society at the celebrations to mark 40 years of ownership of the island by the National Trust and its management by the Landmark Trust. It was also very pleasing that Diana Keast, one of our Vice-Presidents and a previous co-owner of Lundy, was able to attend the celebrations. It is important to mark such events and, especially bearing in mind the many difficulties that had to be faced in getting the island onto the successful footing it holds today, the vision and hard work of the late Sir John Smith and all those who have worked for the Landmark Trust to manage and run the island. Such work continues and we greatly value the support of the islanders; in particular the Island Manager Derek Green and the Wardens Nicola Saunders and Sophie Wheatley.

You have an excellent and hard working Committee as well as members who, whilst not on the Committee, have made significant inputs to the work of the Society. Chris Webster has done magic (well, to me) things with the website and Tim Davis has contributed good ideas for, and has agreed to take over the task of editing the newsletter.

KEITH HISCOCK  
May 2010