

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

2011 was another busy year for the Lundy Field Society. Tangible benefits for members are the publications that we produce and the LFS library on Lundy. Less tangible is the role that the Society plays in contributing to research, to the management of the island and to helping visitors enjoy what Lundy has to offer. The grants that we give, the financial contribution to the Conservation Breaks (working parties) and the financing of various publications about Lundy are all important. However, much of our activity in 2011 was 'work in progress' and will be the subject of accounts in the 2012 Annual Report.

The highlight of the year for me was the celebration of 40 years of marine science and conservation at Lundy, including a reception on the *MS Oldenburg* at Bideford. Our thanks go especially to the sponsors, EMU Environmental Consultants (one of their Directors, Nigel Thomas, was the first marine warden on Lundy in 1978) and WWF-UK (who have supported marine conservation at Lundy for over 25 years), and to the Lundy Company for hosting the event.

The LFS Committee does most of the hard work and contributes a huge amount to the continuing success of the Society, as will have been witnessed by members who attended the Annual General Meeting in Exeter in March 2012. But we also need a strong membership and for existing members to support the work of the Society. You can do that by, for example, promoting the LFS to others, by contributing to working parties and, ultimately, by making it known if you would like to contribute to the work of the Committee.

There will often be difficult matters to address and, during 2011, members have expressed disquiet about the proposed Atlantic Array windfarm just 13 km north of the island. We have put our name to the letter of concern sent from the Lundy Management Forum and will continue to offer advice and comment on scientific aspects of proposals.

The support of the Landmark Trust staff on Lundy is essential to what we do, and our thanks go to Derek Green and all of his colleagues. We have continued to liaise closely with the wardens on Lundy and to support their work, especially via the LFS Conservation Breaks, of which there were two in 2011, both reported in the 2011 LFS Newsletter. We were sorry to hear that Sophie Wheatley, Assistant Warden on the island for six years, had decided to leave in late September [but we were delighted to welcome her back as marine warden in January 2012].

Paul James, who had done sterling work as Honorary Secretary for three years, stepped down from the post in the autumn, the role subsequently taken on in an acting capacity by Michael Williams. We have benefited enormously from Paul's dedicated and careful work. Colin McShane, too, retired from the Committee and his role as editor of the Annual Report, having produced three excellent editions for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010. And Simon Dell, who completed his tenure on the Committee during 2011, did not seek re-election but continues to contribute to the activities of the Society. Grateful thanks to all three.

I have had an excellent Committee to work with during 2011 and I thank them for making the LFS such an enjoyable and interesting organisation.

KEITH HISCOCK  
March 2012