

## HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

As Keith Hiscock notes in his Chairman's foreword, of especial note in 2011 was the 40th anniversary of marine conservation in the waters around Lundy. The year also saw the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the statutory Marine Nature Reserve, now the Marine Conservation Zone. In recognition of this milestone, *A Guide to Lundy's Marine Wildlife* was launched by the Landmark Trust during the 3rd July celebrations on board the *MS Oldenburg* – as reported by Andrew Cleave in the 2011 LFS Newsletter. Keith has been closely involved in Lundy's marine conservation from the very start and a book describing the work, written jointly by him and Robert Irving, will be published by the LFS in 2012.

The plans for a members' activity holiday on the island, 'Discover Lundy', made good progress and over 50 people are looking forward to a week of diverse activities in May 2012.

Progress was made with the third volume of the Journal, to be published in spring 2012, under the guiding hand of Professor Jenny George. Professor John Hedger continued his work to produce a guide to Lundy's fungi. Considerable investment was made in the LFS library collections with the acquisition of many new guides and reference books. We hope you find it a valuable resource (see p.18).

The Society, through Keith Hiscock, continued to be represented on the Lundy Management Forum, and Andrew Cleave represented the LFS at several meetings of the committee considering the future of the church.

A small working group, under the chairmanship of André Coutanche, charged with revising the Society's constitution concluded its work and the new constitution will be considered for adoption at the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

A grant was made to Kirsty Monk to investigate fungi developing on rhododendron brash.

During the LFS Conservation Break in March 2011, the last of the rhododendrons were cleared from the east sidelands, marking the completion of phase one of the eradication programme. However, much work remains to be done before the island can be declared rhododendron-free. LFS members have mixed feelings about the clearance and will miss the splash of colour and the wildlife cover it provided, but we recognise that rhododendron is an aggressive coloniser not native to Lundy and needs to be controlled. Whatever the balance of feelings, everyone who has visited Lundy can see the great amount of work put into this programme and the organisers and conservation volunteers are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts.

Lastly, I took on the role of Acting Honorary Secretary towards the end of the year on the retirement from the post in October of Paul James after three years. I'd like to offer Paul my personal thanks for the excellent job he did in his time as Hon. Secretary.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS  
March 2012