

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

2012 was a highly productive and successful year for the Lundy Field Society.

Our grateful thanks to Michael Williams who so diligently and competently organised the 'Discover Lundy' week at the end of May and beginning of June. It was a very large task and went incredibly smoothly, and we congratulate Michael for a job extremely well done.

In mid-June, we learned of the award of the British Empire Medal to LFS Vice President, Dr Myrtle Ternstrom. The citation was for services to the LFS but was really a reflection of the enormous contribution that Myrtle has made and still makes to our knowledge of the history of Lundy. Our congratulations to Myrtle.

'My' highlight was the publication, with Robert Irving, of *Protecting Lundy's marine life: 40 years of science and conservation* in September, for which we received significant sponsorship.

During the year, your Committee has followed the evolution of 'The Harman Family's Lundy'. Whilst we had hoped to publish the volume in 2012, it was eventually launched at the Society's AGM in March 2013. Myrtle Ternstrom, Diana Keast and André Countanche worked hard on behalf of members of the Society to bring together a marvellous record of the years when Lundy was owned by the Harman family, and I thank them for all of their considerable efforts.

Other aspects of 'productivity' included the publication of Volume 3 of the Journal, the preparation of what is now our Bulletin, *Discovering Lundy*, and the research grants that we give and the conservation breaks we sponsor. I mention all of the above to emphasise that, for a small society with a very reasonable annual subscription, our funds are stretched over many activities, and to pose the question: How can we keep it that way? What is obvious is that we are a 'mixed economy'. Our sources of income are varied and, because we have successfully brought in funds from sales, sponsorships, donations and other sources in the past few years, we have staved off any increase in subscriptions. The value of donations and legacies is very important and your Committee would like them to become more so. In particular, increased income from such sources would not only allow us to maintain a low subscription, but would put us in a position where we could consider commissioning some research rather than wait for grant applications.

What the LFS does could not be achieved without having a well-run island to go to. The support of the island staff (ashore, afloat and on-island), particularly the General Manager, Derek Green, is much appreciated. Our closest contacts are of course the wardens, with whom we have continued to liaise. Following the departures of Nicola Saunders and Sophie Wheatley, Derren Fox and Donald Malone were in post for 'the season' in 2012. Their departure at the end of October left a hiatus in natural history advice for visitors that was ably filled by the Society's representative on Lundy, Grant Sherman, who we thank warmly.

My thanks as always to your excellent Vice Presidents, Officers and Committee members who make my role as Chairman a pleasure. Many of you help in one way or another to make this Society enjoyable, interesting and successful – whether through joining in conservation breaks, entering your observations in the LFS logbook in the Tavern, offering contributions to the Annual Report, Bulletin or Journal, promoting the Society to your friends, coming to the AGM, contacting us to offer ideas and support, or just appreciating what we do on your behalf. Do keep it up.

KEITH HISCOCK
April 2013