

LUNDY WARDEN'S REPORT

The Lundy Conservation Team (Beccy MacDonald and Steve Pratt) were joined by Ashley Millman, as Voluntary Seasonal Assistant Ranger, and Aislinn Mottahedin-Fardo, as Voluntary Seasonal Assistant Warden, throughout the 2013 summer season. Our thanks go to both Ash and Ais for their hard work and dedication to the island and we wish them all the best for the future.

Visitor events were well attended throughout the year with approximately 50 walks, 50 talks, six Rockpool Rambles and ten Snorkel Safaris. Whilst most events were delivered by Beccy and Aislinn, on a number of occasions walks were guided by Simon Dell and Grant Sherman. Jonny Aird kindly assisted with Snorkel Safaris when Beccy was unwell. Our thanks to all who continued their enthusiastic support of the island's events.

Visitor engagement has been further developed through a collaboration with MarineLIFE through their Wildlife Officer programme. On each Saturday sailing throughout 2013, a Wildlife Officer was present on *MS Oldenburg*, assisting visitors with wildlife spotting and species identification.

Splash In!, the annual underwater photography competition, was held on 29 June and was a great success with 21 participants. Some minor changes were made to the rules of the competition to ensure that all participants had a fair chance; photographs had to be entered in their original state and could not be altered or manipulated in any way. The entries were wonderful and showed the wealth and beauty of the marine life around Lundy. Congratulations to all the winners and runners-up:

- Marine Ambience: 1st Mark Lavington with 'Dancing seal'; 2nd Jo Crewsdon with 'In the frame'; 3rd Mike Deaton with 'I know you're in there'.
- Marine Abstract: 1st Jonny Aird with 'Lightbulbs'; 2nd James Wright with 'Big nose'; 3rd Jeff Pravit with 'Jelly in the sun'.
- Mega to Macro: 1st Mike Deaton with 'Jewel of Lundy'; 2nd Daniel Taylor with 'Swimming seal'; 3rd Robert White with 'Laughing seal'.
- Overall winner: Mike Deaton with 'Jewel of Lundy'.

The Lundy Olympics were organised by the Ranger team and took place during the August bank holiday; activities included both individual and team sports such as Rhody Quoits and the four-legged race. The overall winner on the day was Aaron Jones (Cargo & Maintenance).

The school education programme offered by Lundy developed further in 2013 with outreach talks provided by Simon Dell and island visits guided by Beccy, Aislinn and Simon. Eleven school groups visited the island in 2013 taking part in various activities, mostly guided walks with history and wildlife themes.

Visitor education is furthered through the provision of leaflets and interpretation boards. In 2013 a new Bird Ringing leaflet was developed and is now available in the Tavern, Shop and Shore Office. A new seabird interpretation board can be found in St Helen's Church.

Marine monitoring was undertaken by the Warden as required by Natural England. Monthly seal population surveys revealed a maximum (observed) population of 180 individuals, and around 30 pups were born during the year. Concerns were raised regarding disturbance to the seal population by boats, divers and snorkelers, so a Seal Code of Conduct poster was produced and widely distributed to raise awareness.

Table 1. Numbers of cup corals in Devil's Kitchen, 2013 and 2012

	2013		2012	
	No. of scarlet & gold cup corals	No. of Devonshire cup corals	No. of scarlet & gold cup corals	No. of Devonshire cup corals
Site 1	23	3	33	6
Site 2	86	5	94	None

The annual survey of cup corals in the Devil's Kitchen populations of took place in August and those visible were counted (see Table 1) and measured. The counts suggest that the numbers of scarlet and gold cup corals had decreased in sites 1 and 2 since last year, and that the number of Devonshire cup corals had increased at site 2 but decreased at site 1. It is possible that individuals were not visible due to siltation, as a count of scarlet and gold cup corals by Beccy MacDonald and Keith Hiscock in April found only 15 at site 1 and 61 at site 2.

Productivity monitoring was carried out for Kittiwakes, Puffins and Guillemots with the following results:

Guillemots

St Mark's Stone: 19 young fledged from 27 active sites (productivity = 0.70)

Inland of St Mark's Stone: 7 young fledged from 13 active sites (productivity = 0.59)

Kittiwakes

Aztec Zawn: 27 young fledged from 53 active sites (productivity = 0.50)

St Mark's Stone: No success

Puffins

Jenny's Cove: 22 successful sites from 31 occupied nests (productivity = 0.70)

The Manx Shearwater survey (using playback calls), led by Helen Booker and David Price, was undertaken in June. The population increase has surpassed all expectations, the estimated 1,105 pairs of 2008 having increased to an estimated 3,451 breeding pairs – an increase of 179%.

Roger and Rosie Key along with Steve Compton – sporting appropriate jumpers stating 'Yes I'm counting cabbages' – completed the 20th year of counts of Lundy Cabbage: 12,952 plants were in flower out of an estimated population of 15,000, the largest number recorded in flower to date.

In all, 2013 was a very busy year on Lundy – in fact so busy that there is too much to mention! However, I hope you have enjoyed the highlights.

BECCY MACDONALD
April 2014