

SIR JACK HAYWARD OBE, 1923–2015

Vice President of the Lundy Field Society 1971–1985, President 1986–2015

Sir Jack was not at all as one might imagine a wealthy, free and distinguished man to be. First and foremost, he was devoted to everything British and, fortunately, this came to include Lundy. Secondly, he was open, friendly and without any shade of pomposity. In 1969, after months of uncertainty about the future of Lundy following the death of Albion Harman, the island was for sale. In his memoir *My Life on Lundy*, Felix Gade described some of the overtures from would-be owners that he dealt with, and his own anxieties. At worst, the island might have been an enclosed enclave for some way-out exclusive sect, or its unique status used for offshore purposes of questionable description. Those most concerned for the future of the island focused on keeping the island as it was, including to protect its status as a wildlife and ecological haven. As if by the wave of a magic wand, Jack Hayward settled all doubts. He bought Lundy outright and, after a few days of ownership, presented it to the National Trust.

My first contact with Jack Hayward was when we were seeking funds for the early publication of Felix Gade's memoirs, because 'Gi' (short for 'Giant', as Mr Gade was called) was in his 80s and in poor health. We did hope to have the pleasure of presenting him with the first published copy. In answer to our request for help, we received an immediate loan of £11,000 free of interest and with no pressure for a repayment date. Gi's reaction on being presented with the resultant copy number one was, "It's a real book!"

When Sir Jack visited the island with Mrs Hayward just after his presentation of the island to the National Trust, they received a very warm and enthusiastic welcome from the islanders, whose celebratory serenade was led by Dave Davey on his accordion. John Dyke designed and executed the decorative scroll to record the happy occasion which was presented to Mr and Mrs Hayward. The text reads:

"To Jack Hayward Esq OBE

We the islanders of Lundy whose names appear below desire to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your great act of spontaneous generosity in providing the National Trust with the money to purchase Lundy thus preserving this beautiful unspoilt island for all time. Not only we who live here honour and thank you, but many thousands of people who delight in visiting Lundy to enjoy its beauty, its peace and freedom from the stresses of modern life, join us in acclaiming you as a warm hearted and far sighted benefactor."

Jack Hayward gave us a generous and important gift when we asked him to support our proposed day-long symposium in Exeter to mark the Society's 60th anniversary, by which the LFS purposed to bring Lundy into the Devon limelight, and to establish mainland contacts – particularly with natural history and environmental organisations. He funded the entire expenses and these included the publication of the *Proceedings* in 2007. One hundred and ten delegates attended on the day, enjoyed the talks, the displays, and full hospitality of meals and drinks. For the LFS, it was an opportunity to meet members of societies in greater Devon whose areas of interest and activities were similar to our own, and to promote Lundy.

We were privileged to have Sir Jack's interest and support, and we are indeed sad at his loss. He will have a very special place in our LFS history and in the recollections of those privileged to know him.

MYRTLE TERNSTROM