

LUNDY WARDEN'S REPORT

Chloë Nicholson and Nick Herbert joined the Lundy Conservation Team (Beccy and Steve) as the Voluntary Seasonal Assistant Warden and Ranger. We wish them both all the very best and thank them for all their hard work in 2014.

Splash In!, our annual underwater photography competition, was held on Saturday 14 June with 17 contestants. The competition included the launch of the *Iona II* Dive Trail which has been designed to allow licensed divers to engage more with the protected wreck and to provide Historic England (previously English Heritage) with information to support the monitoring of the wreck. A new leaflet on the Dive Trail is now available on the island. All of the participants had a wonderful time and were joined by the rest of the island visitors for the famous BBQ and music from the Dambuskers. This year's prize-winners were as follows (all images can be found on the Lundy Conservation Team Facebook page):

- **Spirit of the Marine Protected Area:** 1st: *Left over right* by Jo Crewdson; 2nd: *Pretty in pink* by Yvonne Davis; 3rd: *Looking up the chain* by Mike Deaton
- **Marine Abstract:** 1st: *Devil crab* by Jonny Aird; 2nd: *Snakelocks anemone* by Jonny Aird; 3rd: *Jelly in the sun* by Jeff Pravitt
- **Mega to Macro:** 1st: *Cheeky Chappy* by Jo Crewdson; 2nd: *Spider crab* by Maggs Ashton, 3rd: *Jewel in the crown* by Jeff Pravitt
- **Iona II:** 1st: *Stern Post* by Mike Deaton; 2nd: *Boiler Life* by Owen Atkinson; 3rd: *Pair of Boilers* by Mark Lavington
- **Overall winner:** *Left over right* by Jo Crewdson

Visitor events throughout the year have become increasingly popular, with high attendance. Overall, Chloë and myself led 58 guided walks and 14 snorkel safaris, and gave 51 visitor talks. Our thanks to all those LFS members who gave talks or led walks for visitors. Visitors have also begun to engage more with the bird ringers, with many seeking out the ringers to learn more and see demonstrations of the work they do.

A Moth Night and Whale Watching Week also took place in 2014 and were enjoyed by all. Thanks to Andrew Cleave and Chris and Sharron Blackmore. These are planned again for 2015.

The island's collaboration with MARINELife continued throughout 2014 with the provision of Wildlife Officers on board MS *Oldenburg* each Saturday throughout the sailing season. This will continue in 2015 along with a MARINELife surveyor course in June which has already sold out.

The new Lundy website (www.lundyisland.co.uk) has been fully developed for visitors to find out more about the island before their visits. The website has also provided an opportunity to expand the information available to schools to support their visits to the island. This is currently under development along with educational resources. We had ten schools visit the island and have been able to expand the availability of outreach talks to schools as Francis Stuart has offered to assist and support the talks which Simon Dell currently provides.

The island's marine monitoring programme (for Natural England) continued with seal surveys throughout the year (see Table 1), along with cup coral (see Table 2) and rockpool community surveys. For the latter survey there was little change to the communities overall; however, there was a notable increase in the presence of the green seaweeds *Ulva* spp. which is most likely due to the increased rainfall and consequent freshwater runoff during the winter of 2013/14. The Seal Code of Conduct, produced in 2014, was well supported by local charter boats and dive clubs, and has been adopted elsewhere in the country.

Table 1. Grey Seal population surveys, 2014.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Dec
No. observed	15	71	13	5	84	107	166	88	70

Table 2. Devil's Kitchen Cup Coral populations, 2013 and 2014.

	2013		2014	
	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	26	9
Site 2	86	5	102	None

To continue the work of the full island survey of the Manx Shearwater population in 2013, a smaller number of monitoring plots have now been established and will be surveyed annually using the playback calls method. More information on these surveys will be available in 2015. Productivity monitoring was carried out for Kittiwakes, Puffins and Guillemots, with the following results:

Guillemots

St Mark's stone: 72 fledged from 51 active sites (productivity = 0.71)

Inland of St Mark's stone: 0 fledged from 11 active sites (productivity = 0)

Kittiwakes

Grand Falls zawn: 61 fledged from 90 active sites (productivity = 0.68)

Puffins

Jenny's Cove: 15 successful sites from 35 occupied nests (productivity = 0.43).

While this lower than in 2013, the overall numbers of breeding Puffins in Jenny's Cove has increased.

In spring and autumn the Conservation Team were supported by groups of enthusiastic LFS members as part of the Working Parties organised by Trevor Dobie. We always look forward to these special weeks and are very grateful for the ongoing support shown to the island by LFS volunteers. Most of the rhododendron eradication programme is carried out during these weeks and the management plan developed by our Ranger, Steve Pratt, is an ongoing success and we are on target for a full eradication of the species.

We hope to see you on the island in 2015, particularly for the celebrations to mark The Landmark Trust's 50th anniversary.

BECCY MACDONALD
April 2015