

## HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

2014 was a successful year for the Society but we started 2015 with the news of the passing of our President, Sir Jack Hayward. Sir Jack purchased Lundy in 1969 and immediately gave it to the National Trust. He continued to support Lundy in many ways, including funding the Society's 60th anniversary symposium in 2006. His obituary appears later in this report.

During 2014 we awarded grants to Luke Sutton for the study of Lundy's peregrines and to Geoff Billington who is researching bats and their migration. Andrew Cleave assisted with the British Entomological and Natural History Society field trip in July and Society members continue to provide talks and activities both on and off the island. These include history and wildlife talks, films shows, walks, fungi forays and moth-trapping demonstrations. We participated in National Moth Night on 30 June in which around 20 people took part.

The 4th volume of our Journal was launched at the AGM in March and we continue to move forward with the fungi guide which will reflect recent taxonomical changes. In May we held the first Committee meeting on the island since 1996. This coincided with the Devon Birds day-trip which we were able to support by providing guided walks and talks. A number of Society members came across for the day and the weather was kinder than in the previous year.

Chris Dee was co-opted to the Committee in August. Chris is a bird ringer and a regular Lundy visitor since the late 1970s. He runs an IT consultancy and has joined a sub-committee to revamp the Society's website. We expect to be able to launch the redesigned website during 2015.

We continue to be represented on the church restoration committee and our Chairman represented the Society at two meetings of the Lundy Management Forum. During the year the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group changed its name to the Lundy Marine Protected Areas Advisory Group to reflect that it is a combination of different designations (see the report on the Lundy MPA Advisory Group, p.16).

Our chairman, Keith Hiscock, discussed with Defra personnel the very poor reference to features of conservation importance in the designations and in the associated information for Marine Conservation Zones and Marine Protected Areas in general. Although not part of a public consultation, Keith received a draft copy of the 'Lundy Site Improvement Plan' – part of the 'Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites' (IPENS) – which refers to the marine area around Lundy and addresses reef habitats and species.

There were three LFS Conservation Working Parties in 2014, with 23 members filling a total of 35 places. As ever the work of the groups was varied. In March, tasks completed included burning rhododendron brash, rebuilding one of the garden walls in Millcombe, seed planting and de-heading Alexanders on the Beach Road. In September, a fence was constructed in the Lighthouse Field and there was further rhododendron burning, during which former Warden Nicola Saunders joined in for a day. Despite a one-day delay in October, there was further burning of rhododendron on a scaffold platform and controlled stack burning. The 'H' on the helipad was also repainted!

We are grateful to Grant Sherman who continues as our Island Representative supervising the library and providing walks and talks in the Warden's absence.

The Society has been registered as a charity on eBay, enabling any seller to donate a proportion of the sale price for any item to the Society. This also attracts Gift Aid if applicable and has already generated an additional income of several hundred pounds.

During 2015 we will be supporting The Landmark Trust's 50th anniversary 'Golden Weekend' in May and moving forward with our plans for another 'Discover Lundy' week in September 2016.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS  
April 2015

## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership of the Society continues to increase and I would like to thank members for their continued support in paying their annual subscriptions, making donations, purchasing books, contributing to our publications and for giving their time and energy on Conservation Breaks. Many members send donations to the Society along with their subscriptions, and however large or small they are all very much appreciated. Some life and honorary members also give donations which are very much welcomed.

### Gift Aid

Gift Aid adds a substantial amount to the Society's income, if you have not already completed a Gift Aid declaration form and are a UK tax payer, I would urge you to do so. Forms can be found on the Society's website – [www.lundy.org.uk](http://www.lundy.org.uk) – or I could send you one through the post. Please send your completed form to me at my address below. You only have to complete a Gift Aid form once, so if you have filled one in in the past you do not need to do so again. If you are unsure then please complete one anyway; or if you would like me to check if I have one on record for you, please contact me.

### Subscriptions and membership news

Subscriptions become due in January each year, for which reminders are not normally sent. However if members have not paid by the middle of the year, I do have to send out reminders, which of course takes time and costs the Society money. From 55 reminder letters sent to members last year, I'm pleased to report that just over half resulted in paid-up subscriptions, while non-paying members were removed from the membership database.

You will find enclosed with this edition of the Annual Report a letter detailing future subscriptions along with a Banker's Order form. Please contact me if you need any further information.

I indicated above that membership continues to increase, from 350 members in 2008 to 399 at the end of 2014. Some of the memberships include 'family' members, so the actual number of members will be 500.

It is with regret that I have to inform you that two of our members passed away last year, Mr Don Mayes and Mr Peter Harman-Jones, while Sir Jack Haywood passed away in January 2015.

Thirty-six new members (46 individuals) joined the Society in 2014 and are listed below along with their main interest when given at joining.

Lawrence and Carol Bragg  
Luke Sutton (Peregrines)  
Carolyn Waddell (marine biology)  
Graham and Katharine Firman (church bellringing)