

## LUNDY GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

2015 marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of The Landmark Trust and turned into one of the busiest years in recent memory.

*MS Oldenburg* completed 98 scheduled sailings to Lundy, with bad weather cancelling 12 trips over the summer. She carried 14,666 passengers, a slight decrease on the previous year's 15,598 passengers. Notably, day-trip numbers were reduced whilst staying passenger numbers increased. *Oldenburg* also played host to six river cruises and eight private Lundy charters as well as remaining a popular day out on her relocation cruises from Bideford to Ilfracombe. The winter helicopter service had a busy season with 39 scheduled flying days, carrying 1,354 passengers, an increase of 17% on 2014. Total attendance (16,020) by both ship and helicopter over the year was slightly down on the previous year's 16,713 visitors. Meanwhile, property occupancy across the island was healthy at 80% over the year; an increase of 3% on 2014.

*Oldenburg* dry-docked in Sharpness again as in previous years, with major works completed to her windlass (winch) and foredeck. The annual cost for dry-docking for 2015 was an all-time high of £180,000. There were celebrations for long-serving members of the crew, with Ships Superintendent Jack Bater reaching his 25th year of service aboard, and First Officer Brian Slade retiring after 24 years. Lundy is extremely grateful for their dedication and commitment to the ship.

On a sad note, regular rope man at Ilfracombe, Nick Perrin, tragically died after falling into the harbour at Ilfracombe. The crew are to be commended for their actions while attempting to rescue him. Nick was a popular member of our team and will be sadly missed.

Back at Lundy we welcomed the return of *MV Balmoral*, restored to service following a heroic volunteer effort after she was sold by previous owners Waverley Excursions Ltd. The island also enjoyed visits from *PS Waverley* and cruise liner *Ocean Nova*.

On the staff front we welcomed new island manager and his wife, Rob and Sue Waterfield. Sue has since taken over the management of the shop following the retirement of 'Arkwright' (Nigel Dalby, right). We also bade farewell to Ben Clarke and Kate Johns following the birth of their daughter Mya in September.

We were sad to learn of the death of Sir Jack Hayward, a true friend to Lundy whose generosity in 1969 helped save the island for the nation. Known as 'Union Jack' for his patriotism, Sir Jack's ashes returned to Lundy with his family in July and were appropriately scattered beneath the Union Flag on the Ugly. A lasting memorial of thanks has been placed in the Wheelhouse in recognition.



Landmark's 50th anniversary was celebrated in style on Lundy. Among the many highlights was the installation of DAZE IV – a remarkable sculpture, part of the Land series by artist Sir Antony Gormley – which through most of 2015 graced South West Point. A 'Golden Weekend' took place in May during which Millcombe, with help from members of the LFS, opened its doors to the public. A special anthem for Landmark was performed on Millcombe lawn and a Golden moment was held simultaneously at Landmark properties across the country at 3pm on a glorious afternoon.

*Ship Superintendent Jack Bater inspects Oldenburg's propellers during the annual dry-dock at Sharpness. Photo: Derek Green*



*New arrivals on Lundy during 2015: the air-sea rescue helicopter, making its first visit after entering service, and the converted Land Rover fire truck. Photo: Derek Green*

Other notable events to mark the anniversary included a new issue of Lundy stamps featuring Landmark properties across the country. A special 50th anniversary beer was brewed and a special peal was rung in the church.

Media coverage of the anniversary was extensive and Lundy featured in a Channel 4 programme showing the restoration of the lower lantern room. Celebrations continued throughout the summer, culminating with the island's own version of the Wickerman Festival in October.

Other events across the island included the marriage of Kim Welsh (daughter of Kevin the farmer) and Gavin Cann. August brought the Lundy's annual 'fly in' and the Lundy 'lympics on a wet summer Sunday, and an all-island 50th birthday party held in a transformed lambing shed for Mr Fred Deakin.

In the autumn we said farewell to an old friend when RAF 22 Squadron Search and Rescue was disbanded as the iconic Sea King helicopter reached the end of its useful life. A regular visitor to

Lundy, they will be sadly missed. However, when the new Coastguard rescue helicopter paid its first visit, we were encouraged and delighted to find some of the regular Sea King crew had transferred across to the new service. We were assured that normal service would continue; thus we can expect to see the rescue helicopter regularly practising around Lundy and en route to and from the island with *Oldenburg*.

The island also took delivery of a new fire truck in October when a converted Land Rover was delivered from the mainland to replace the ageing Ford Ranger.

An extensive maintenance programme was undertaken during the year, with works continuing to Old Light, the Tavern, the lambing shed and the church. The appeal to raise funds for the church continued and, whilst reasonably well supported, more funds are urgently required to bring the Heritage Lottery Fund project to life.

Inside the island's letting properties, further improvements include anglepoise lamps and LED lighting to improve reading in the darker properties, while duvets have been introduced to replace blankets, and toasters are now a permanent feature in the cottages.

Back on the mainland it was a busy year for the Bideford and Ilfracombe shore offices, which underwent an extensive IT review, including the development and implementation of a new ticketing/booking system with help from our Landmark colleagues at Shottesbrooke.

All in all, 2015 was an extremely busy year for Lundy's dedicated team and our loyal volunteers, and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support.

Lastly, as we approach the 70th anniversary of the founding of the LFS, everyone on Lundy would like to wish the Society a very happy birthday year.

All the very best.

DEREK GREEN  
May 2016



*Derek (front right) with the LFS team on Millcombe lawn during The Landmark Trust's 'Golden Weekend' 50th anniversary celebrations.  
Photo: Rob Waterfield*