

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Each year brings some new activities for your Society as well as the 'usual' events and our 'usual' contributions to study and conservation on and around Lundy. In 2015, we were pleased to assist the island during the Landmark Trust's 'Golden weekend' by showing visitors around Millcombe House. We also continued our support for the island through our contributions to the Lundy Management Forum meetings – something that especially helps us to be a part of the 'Lundy family'.

Some of my duties as Chairman are a mixture of sadness and pleasure. Representing the Society on 25 July when some of the ashes of our past President, Sir Jack Hayward, were scattered on the island was one such. Before that event, at our AGM, we had elected Diana Keast as our new President. I was delighted that Diana was willing to take on that role. She has been active, as Vice-President, in our Committee meetings and is a font of knowledge about the island and its history: not surprising as the daughter of Martin Coles Harman and someone who has visited Lundy since being a small girl.

Sometimes, I need to answer for myself an 'is it true?' question. I did that in June by seeing that the number of Puffins breeding on the island is indeed remarkable following the eradication of rats. I have yet to participate in a shearwater ringing night but the LFS provides central support for that programme and, especially through Tony Taylor, will continue to support research into another remarkable story of recovery.

It was very important to the Society that, at the 2015 AGM, members voted in favour of raising subscriptions so that we would no longer function at an operational deficit. It is also, I feel, a very good thing that the Society can contribute to the costs of the warden on Lundy: something we have not been able to do for many years.

Whilst 2015 was a 'no-journal' year, the work of considering submitted papers and getting them refereed was a major one: thanks to Jenny George for editing and to all of the referees. The Bulletin (*Discovering Lundy*) and the Annual Report are both high-quality and informative publications and my thanks to Belinda Cox and Tim Davis in particular for their roles in producing those publications.

Our Committee meetings are mostly held in the comfort and hospitality of the Coutanche residence in Bristol: something we greatly appreciate.

As always, thanks especially to the Lundy General Manager, Derek Green, and the Warden, Beccy MacDonald for their support for the LFS. In 2015, Beccy was again assisted by Chloë Nicholson. The island Ranger, Steve Pratt, supervised our LFS Conservation Break teams which were organised by Trevor Dobie. The LFS representative on Lundy, Grant Sherman, continued his good work for the Society and provides a font of knowledge about seabirds (Guillemots in particular), astronomy and much more.

As for me, the role of Chairman continues to be a pleasure with such a strong and able Committee, as well as working with a well-managed and friendly island.

KEITH HISCOCK  
April 2016