

OBITUARY

PETER ROTHWELL 1946–2019



Peter was born in Manchester and moved to North Devon as a child where he developed a love for the area, particularly Lundy. Peter studied art at Dartington College, later teaching and lecturing, and achieved notable success with his own work, often inspired by the North Devon landscape. Jointly with Ann Westcott, he ran the Westwell Sketching Breaks during the 1990s, with the group staying in and taking their inspiration from Millcombe. Ann and Peter would also regularly stay in Tibbetts, his favourite property which inspired his writing.

He published a number of books about the island, including *The Lundy Granite Company: an industrial adventure* (jointly with Myrtle Ternstrom) and *Lundy: An Island Sketchbook*. With Ann he produced the collectible *Lundy Island: a monograph*, a reprint of one of the earliest Lundy books, written by J.R. Chanter in 1877.

A long-standing member of the Lundy Field Society, Peter served on our committee from 1997 to 2005.

In 2010 he was appointed as Librarian for the Landmark Trust in the South West, including

Lundy, curating the collections of books in each property. He continued in this role until 2018, making annual trips around each building.

In 2012 Peter published *Ancient Sunlight*, a novel set in North Devon and Lundy and capturing the unique landscape of the area. The book brought him an award for historical fiction from The Winston Graham Trust.

Despite illness, he maintained his independence and continued working until shortly before his death, still painting and dealing in rare books. He was determined to reach Lundy again in 2019 as it would mark the 60th anniversary of his first visit. Sadly, this proved not to be possible.

He is greatly missed by his family, friends, former students and everyone connected with Lundy whose lives he touched.

Michael Williams

With thanks to Peter's wife, Sally