

FOREWORD

Alan Rowland (LFS Chair)

I am writing this shortly after your committee took the decision to postpone the 2020 Annual General Meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Much heart-searching took place before we came to this unprecedented conclusion; the heart said 'go ahead', the head said 'postpone'. By the time you read this, you will be aware of the wisdom – or otherwise – of our decision.

Those of you who regularly attend the AGM will be aware that the demography of attendees strikingly mirrors the age-range histogram of those most at risk. The last thing we wanted to do was provide a vector from a group of potential carriers back to Lundy through our guests from the island and export it to our favourite place. Thus, you will need to be patient to hear about, and witness, the detail of the busy year that was 2019 until we are able to reconvene the AGM.

During the year I attended two meetings of the Lundy Management Forum, one at Croyde and the other on Lundy, as well as a Lundy Vision Workshop also held at Croyde. Forum meetings are attended by representatives of statutory bodies and offer a forum at which complicated issues can be addressed and, in some cases, resolved face to face. Examples are proposals to refurbish the Heligoland Trap and to source granite from the Quarries to repair the dam under the track up to Brambles. The Vision Workshop sought to identify what is special about Lundy and to elaborate a long-term vision for wildlife, the pinnacle of which is the reintroduction of the White-tailed Eagle.

In 2019, your Membership Secretary and I carried out our first Lundy Cabbage survey, continuing the 25-year study by Steve Compton and Roger & Rosy Key. We and others from the committee represented the Society at the Landmark Trust's 50th Anniversary celebration on Lundy in September. We also stayed on to assist with the collation and distribution of the Anniversary Stamp issue.

At the time of writing, the Society is looking forward to helping the Marine Festival, being held at Lundy over the summer, both financially and by our experts giving their time and knowledge. We are also supporting the Warden with donations towards the installation of Swift nestboxes, as well as providing a grant to a researcher to 'explore the relative influence of tidal currents and weather patterns on cetacean presence around Lundy*'.

Our publications continue to grow both in size and content, so much so that we are actively looking at ways to minimise our expenditure on printing and distribution. This Annual Report reflects the first steps in this process, with the long lists of species records formerly shown in the *Fauna and Flora* reports now being made available online on the LFS website.

We are now actively planning and anticipating our third 'Discover Lundy' event due in May 2021, at which we hope to see many of you.

**Owing to the Coronavirus lockdown, the grant and the study have been deferred to 2020. Ed.*