

WELCOME

John Hedger (Editor)

The problems of 2020 for Lundy seemed to be fated to continue in 2021, beginning with a Covid lockdown in January, but improved with the opening of the island from April onwards. The adventures of working under the Covid regulations for the rest of the year are described by island manager Derek Green in his annual report (see p.13). Derek also details some silver-linings to the 'Covid-cloud', including the opportunity to complete a number of projects such as the Lundy Heliport helipad and repairs to the Jetty, which will be of benefit to us all. A silver-lining for the LFS itself has been the success of the online events organised by Michael Williams which must have helped in the recruitment of 93 new members in 2021, some of whom are listed by Sandra Rowland in her Membership Secretary's Report (see p.8), bringing the total to a record 604.

The increased number of sailings and helicopter flights made access to the island again possible. As a result the LFS logbook (now to be found again in the bookcase in the Tavern in case you did not know) was well used by visitors and staff and had a very creditable number of entries duly abstracted by our hard-working LFS recorders, whose accounts of the different groups occupy most of this report. Well done. They included a number of new finds for Lundy, ranging from birds to invertebrates, plants, mosses and fungi. Some of them were national rarities, such as the gill-fungus *Porpoloma pes-caprae* found on the Airfield (see p.130), one was a new record for the whole of the UK, the tiny moss *Didymodon tophaceus* subspecies *sicculus* discovered on the mortar of Government House by Peter Martin (see p.128) but even this is eclipsed by the Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus* seen by David Price near Old Light on the 8th of June, new for UK and a second record for the whole of the Western Palearctic, (see p.72 and cover picture). Complete listing for all the Biological Records for Lundy in 2021 will be available on the LFS Website www.lundy.org.uk/records/2021 once they have been entered and checked. The overall species total for Lundy is impressive for such a small land area; it is still growing and is of national significance. Well done everyone, keep on observing.

The departure of Warden Dean Jones and his partner Zoë Barton for Northern Ireland in the autumn of 2021 has meant the loss of one of our chief sources of records and photographs of the birds of Lundy but also of a wide range of other wildlife (even the occasional fungus!). Some of their legacy records and photographs feature in this report. Rosie Ellis has been an excellent choice as Dean's successor and her account of the activities of the island's Conservation Team under the 2021 lockdown, including working with the LFS volunteers, can be found on p.17. The new Assistant Warden, Stuart Cossey, and his partner Megan Hollywood Harry seem to have wide-ranging interests like Dean and Zoë, so all seems to be set fair for the entries in the 2022 Annual Report.

The LFS achieved its 75th Anniversary in 2021 but celebrations were thwarted by the Covid regulations, as discussed by Michael Williams in his Honorary Secretary's report overleaf, which also includes the activities of your committee and a wide range of happenings in the LFS year. Sadly the latter included the passing of Diana Keast, the uncrowned 'Queen of Lundy', and Michael has written an obituary for Diana (seen p.24), illustrated with a picture of her looking very regal standing beside Island Manager Derek Green. We shall miss her very much.

Finally, thanks from me to Tim Davis, the previous editor of the Annual Report, for much good advice as well as practical help with the layout. Could not have done it without you, Tim.

Pictured left: Members of the October LFS Working Party erecting one of the poles at the start of the restoration of the Terrace Heligoland Trap (photo: Hilary Winsor).