



▲ Dave Preece in typically robust mode on a working party clearing *Rhododendrons* in September 2010 (photo: Trevor Dobie).

DAVID PREECE (1944-2022)

In early December 2022, we heard the very sad news that Dave Preece had passed away after a long illness.

Dave was a Life Member of the Lundy Field Society after joining in 1996, and had visited Lundy on numerous occasions, mostly participating on LFS working parties and often as the group leader and sometimes with his son Robert. He was a wonderful fount of knowledge and always willing to help with decision making. When tackling any task, Dave could be relied upon to have a suggestion (or two) which were invaluable.

Dave made many, many friends when he was on Lundy, both with staff, other LFS volunteers and visitors. He acquired the nickname, *Brummie Dave*, when, on one working party, there were two chaps named Dave. One was a taxi driver; *Taxi Dave* was his name for the week, and it was decided that *Brummie Dave* was appropriate for Dave Preece, due to his obvious Birmingham accent. On his 60th birthday, Dave persuaded some climbers to help him climb Devil's Slide, a feat which he was very proud to share with people.

Dave suffered several mishaps on working parties, including a slip on the steps to Quarry Pond on departure day, resulting in a broken arm, not diagnosed until several days later! On another occasion, Dave slipped on granite on the East Sidelands when the group were clearing up after a day of Rhody bashing. It was wet and cold, so Dave did not look at any possible body damage until he returned to the Barn. It then became obvious that he had badly injured his arm and when the Warden, Beccy MacDonald, saw it she arranged for the Ilfracombe lifeboat to transfer Dave to hospital. On his very next visit, Dave organised a 'Shave Dave' night where any implement could be used to shave his face and head, with a donation to the RNLI given in return. £395 was raised, and Dave presented it to the Ilfracombe Lifeboat crew soon after.

His skull and crossbones, or a recycled flag of England, were often raised on a suitable rock or fence.

Dave ceased attending working parties, very reluctantly, a few years ago. He held the distinction of completing 25 years of continuous volunteering trips, often more than once each year. The LFS Chair Alan Rowland presented Dave with a framed certificate at the 2019 Society AGM at Crediton to mark the occasion, of which Dave was rightly very proud. His funeral and cremation were attended by several past and present LFS members, including a previous Lundy Warden and a Ranger, and some fellow volunteers.

Brummie Dave will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but his memory will live on.

Trevor Dobie