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Richard Breese	(2023-2026)
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Jennifer George	(2021-2024)
Keith Hiscock	(2021-2024)
Tim Jones	(2022-2025)
Chris Pawson	(2021-2024)
Chris Webster	(2021-2024)

Co-options
John Hedger – Annual Report Editor
Robert Irving – Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group Representative

Non-Committee posts
Island Representative: Sue Waterfield
Lundy Bird Observatory Representative: Tim Jones
Honorary Independent Examiner: Robin Hall

◄ *Sea Pink on Rat Island in May (photo: Paul Dean).*

WELCOME

John Hedger (Editor)

I hope you were able to visit Lundy in 2023. If not, this edition of the Annual Report will enable you to get up to speed on what happened on the island in the year, the work of your committee and the records of the wildlife made by yourselves via the logbook and by the Lundy Conservation Team. However, you will find that the content has changed. We have had a loss, but also made a gain!

In previous years around twenty to thirty pages were always occupied by the detailed reports on all the species of birds seen on Lundy during the year. In addition, there were accounts of bird ringing activities and results. Both will no longer appear in print and have migrated to the website of the newly formed Lundy Bird Observatory where you can find them at **lundybirdobs.org.uk**. You will still be able to read about highlights of the birds seen in 2023 in the unchanged 'Review of the Birding Year' which is written this year by the new Lundy Warden Joe Parker (see page 31).

I mentioned a gain; it is a surprise. We now have a completely new section in the reports on records of Lundy Wildlife-the **Amphibia**. The 2023 records of the **Common Toad** on Lundy are discussed by Jenny George and Alan Rowland on pages 55-57 and Alan goes on to speculate about other possible records of 'exotic' vertebrates on Lundy. I heard the male Toad calling at Quarry Pond in May 2023 and was convinced, having heard one a few weeks previously near our own pond at home. However, nobody has seen a toad, so there is a challenge!

Tony John was a stalwart Moth and Butterfly recorder and compiler of the Lepidoptera reports for the Annual Report, and it was a pleasure for myself, and my predecessor editor Tim Davis, to receive his beautifully drafted accounts of the butterflies and moths. We shall very much miss him. His obituary, written by Tim, appears on page 22. I am grateful to Kristin Reid and David Rowe for agreeing to take on the tasks of butterfly and moth recorders respectively. Their reports appear on page 85 and 87 and include 12 species of moth new to Lundy. 2023 also saw new records of other species of invertebrates including the **Gorse Spider Mite**, as well as a **Comb Footed Cellar Spider**, found in a cave behind landing Beach, described by Mark West on page 71. Other new records included 61 species of fungi, discussed by Mandy Dee on page 98 and including the **Scarlet Caterpillar Club**, one of the currently topical 'zombie' fungi which take control of their insect hosts. I have been searching for this fungus on Lundy for 20 plus years and have yet to see it, so congratulations to Mandy.

Thanks to all those who entered observations in the Logbook, and who sent in their photographs of wildlife. Please keep doing it. Without the hard work of the contributors and record compilers, the report would not be possible; the LFS is indebted to them. Mandy Dee has helped a lot with editing the photographs and Robin Padian has done his usual excellent job on the layout. Thanks also to Anwen Page for proofreading the text. You will notice that the Lundy maps, missing last year, are now back in place at the end of the report following an update by the designers Tim Davis and Tim Jones. Thank you both. This will be my final Annual Report; next year there will be a new editor, Kathy Weston. I wish her good luck and prompt arrivals of all the reports!

I often wonder if anyone reads the Welcome page? Our secretary Michael Williams does, and he answered the question that I posed last year when we included a report by David Ifold on granite mineralogy '*when was the last Annual Report that contained a geology report*?' He says it was 1992- quite a long gap!