

# WELCOME

*Kathy Weston (Editor)*

This is my first year as Editor of the Lundy Field Society Annual Report. Unusually for this role, I'm not an expert in any aspect of Lundy's flora and fauna, merely a Lundy enthusiast. As I lack the vim and vigour to stride around the island with an LFS work party spotting rhododendrons on precipices and rebuilding dry stone walls, editing the Report seemed like a better option for me. I hope that I will manage to follow in the footsteps of my illustrious predecessors without stumbling too badly.

This year's report has some exciting stuff in it, and I recommend a thorough perusal, beginning with Honorary Secretary Michael Williams's excellent summary of the year. Those of you who attended this year's AGM in March will have heard Derek Green discuss the plans for bringing solar and wind power to Lundy, and you can read about that and much more in his Island Report, which also includes (whisper it!) some thoughts about the future of the Oldenburg.

I'm not the only new face in this Report: Lucy Lo-Vel has written her first report as Membership Secretary, and John Shelley, our new Treasurer, provides some reassuringly healthy accounts. And we have two changes to the species compilers: Chris Blackmore has done a fantastic job with the Reptiles, Land Animals and Bats, and Ben Long, with new Assistant Warden Tara McEvoy-Wilding, presents this year's Seal Studies, which are fascinating as always.

Some sad news too: David George and Steve Wing, two of the LFS's most valued members, died in 2024. Their obituaries, which appear in this Report, paint pictures of two people I dearly wish I'd had the pleasure of knowing. We send our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

One of the best things about taking on this job has been the revelation that on Lundy, everyone's observations matter. Previously, I thought that there was little I could contribute to the body of knowledge about the biological bounty on and around Lundy, but it turns out that we amateurs are actually wanted and needed! Most of our expert compilers can't be on the island the whole time, and they like nothing better than hearing about what the rest of us have discovered in their absence.

The birds (and birdwatchers!) of Lundy fill me with awe, but I've now found that many equally interesting things on Lundy move a lot slower than birds, and are more amenable to being looked at before they disappear into a bush. You don't have to be an expert to take a note (and preferably a photo) of something that intrigues you, and then record what you've found in the Logbook, or at the nightly Wildlife Log sessions in the Tavern. Some of our compilers have even given you email addresses on which to contact them if you'd like an expert opinion: please take them up on it. In 2025, let's all make a resolution to get something into the Logbook when we visit the island. Let's find the elusive toad that has been heard calling but never seen, more examples of the lichen *Heterodermia leucomelos*, the lichen parasite *Zyzygomyces bachmanii*, some bryophytes (no-one recorded any in 2024), the resurgent rabbits, and most definitely, our cover star the **Common Lizard!**