

***The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-1969* by  
Members of the Lundy Field Society**

Lundy Field Society. 2013. 144 pages. ISBN 978-0-9530532-4-7. Paperback £12.99 plus postage available from the LFS website at [www.lundy.org.uk](http://www.lundy.org.uk).

After almost a century when all the books on the subject of Lundy could probably be counted on the fingers of both hands, a flood of new books is now appearing year upon year. All are received with delight by those who can never read enough about Lundy, even though some are of doubtful value.

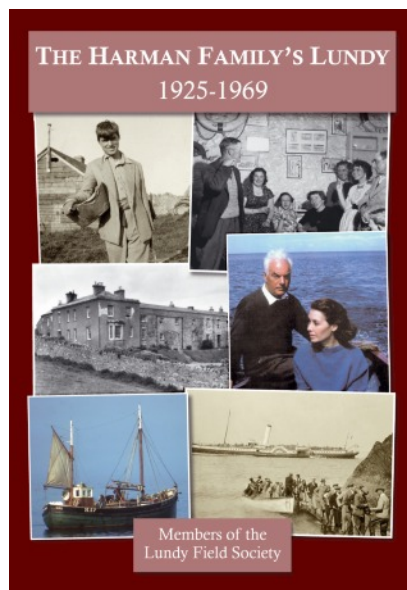
This, the latest addition to a Lundy library, the story of the Harman family on Lundy, has long been awaited and fills a very wide gap in island history and reference material. Myrtle Ternstrom has been instrumental in covering the historical periods of the Grenvilles, the Heavens and the Christies, and now a working group of members of the Lundy Field Society (Myrtle Ternstrom, Diana Keast and André Coutanche) have laid before us the final period of Lundy private ownership, the Harmans, in this beautiful book.

It is full of photographs from cover to cover, most of which have not appeared in previous publications. The book starts at the beginning, with a brief account of the immediate family of Martin Coles Harman (MCH) and then tells us of the first visit he made to Lundy in 1903, with a photograph, when the idea of owning Lundy first came to him.

The story moves on to the 1920s and 1930s and the everyday life of the residents on Lundy, with many archival photographs of buildings and scenes long gone. These include the Coastguard and Signal Cottages, the Quarter Wall Cottages as they were in 1921 and the fisherman's huts on the lower Beach Road. The parlous state of the castle in those early days is also made obvious.

Other Lundy characters are brought to life in pictures and anecdotes: Alfred Blackwell, Captain Dark, Fred Allday, Reverend Muller, Eileen Heaven, Stanley Smith, Tubby Harrison, John Dyke, Kenneth Keast and many others. Pictures of all the Harman family are included, including the parents of MCH and his children on the holidays they spent there every year. The unforgettable photo of Albion Harman and his beautiful wife Kay appears on the front cover and inside. What is made very clear is that MCH wanted to beautify and embellish Lundy in any way he could; the additional animals he introduced; the control he took over visitors that they should enjoy Lundy but be aware of the need to care for and conserve the beauty of the place.

The old Manor Farm Hotel is given a chapter to itself and many pictures of its interior and bedrooms are included which make it look as though it was very cosy and comfortable. There is also a floor plan of both levels. The history of the ill-fated golf course is there as well with pictures of its opening day in 1927. A colour photo of the writer of this review swinging a club is also to be found there, bringing this story right up to date.



Little is left out of this book that happened on Lundy during the Harman regime; there are chapters on the Lighthouse, the deaths of John Pennington Harman and of MCH himself and his wife, the arrival of the Gades and their management of Lundy through all the long years they were there, the Lundy stamps, shipping and the Queen Mother's visit.

What shines through this book is the love that all the Harmans had for their wonderful island, and how it came to be the dominant theme of all their lives. The final photograph in the book says it all – our dear Diana with a great smile on her face, holding a bouquet of flowers in the church.

*Roger Allen*