

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the sixth volume of the LFS Journal. Lundy birds have flown strongly into this issue with 50% of the papers dealing with their population numbers and behaviour.

In 2014 a seventeenth century document, the Clayton manuscript, describing the buildings, agriculture, birds and fish of Lundy came on to the market and was bought by four members of the LFS Committee on behalf of the LFS. *Alan Rowland* with support from *Michael Williams*, *André Coutanche* and *Roger Chapple* has written a fascinating account of the manuscript discussing its authenticity and provenance, then proceeding to an interpretation of the text of the document.

The first birds to fly into the volume are the Kittiwakes whose numbers have been in decline for decades particularly in northern areas of the UK. *Thomas Dickins*, *Kirsty Neller* and *Robert Spencer* have been studying clutch size of one colony on Lundy for two seasons. This study is part of a larger programme of measuring productivity and the ecological factors affecting this declining species.

There has been very little research carried out on the carnivorous Sundew plant on Lundy and *Barbora Lekosyte*, *Stephen Kett* and *Martijn Timmermans* have studied the invertebrate prey that the plant catches to supplement its diet. The use of DNA barcodes to identify the prey is probably the first such study carried out on this plant.

Population numbers of the cliff-nesting Lundy seabirds have been monitored since 1981. *Helen Booker*, *Peter Slader*, *David Price*, *A.J. Bellamy* and *Tim Frayling* give an account of the recent 2017 monitoring which shows further increases in numbers of several species since the rat eradication.

The Lundy Cabbage (*Coincya wrightii*) usually harbours pollen beetles, but in 2007 they were present in very large numbers on the plant. Their effect on the reproductive success of the Cabbage that year is discussed by *Rosy Key*, *Roger Key*, *Mohine Alam* and *Stephen Compton*.

Puffins are one of Lundy's most popular and photogenic birds and their behaviour on the open sea has been studied by *Peggy Liebig*, *Henrietta Pentony* and *Eleanor Tarrant Taylor*. Their research provides insight into specific behaviours observed on the water.

Lundy House Sparrows have been studied for 26 years on Lundy and the paper by *Julia Schroeder*, *Isabel Winney*, *Sophie Bennett*, *Alfredo Sánchez-Tójar* and *Antje Girndt* examines the advantages and disadvantages of infidelity between pairs in relation to breeding success.

Are the Lundy Black Rabbits descended from Tudor ancestors? By using DNA techniques on tissue from animal carcasses, *Martijn Timmermans*, *Hanna Elmi* and *Stephen Kett* attempt to answer this question.

The eight papers are followed by a short communication from *Charles Ellis* who has been researching the monumental standing stones in the burial ground on Lundy and the people who may have erected them.

Jennifer George
Editor
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