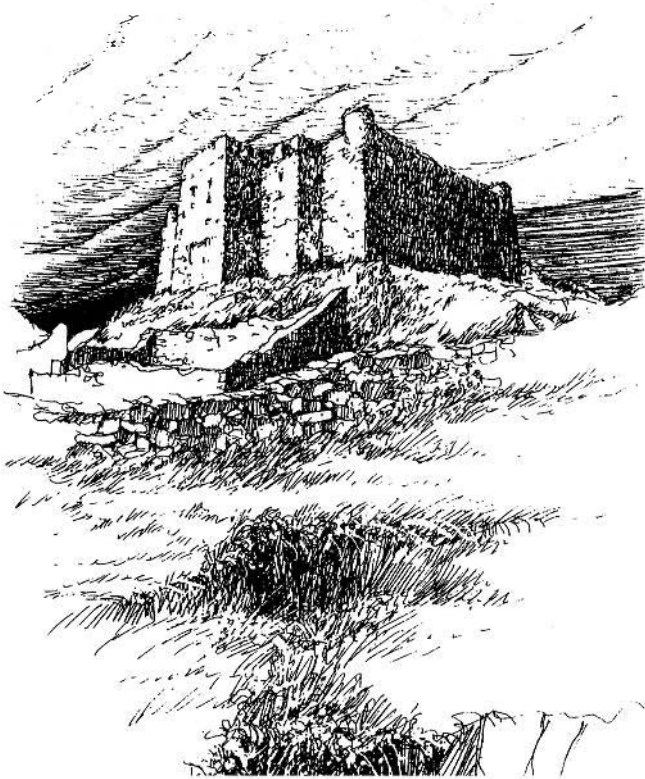


# *Lundy Field Society Newsletter*

No 34



*Spring 2004*

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## LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY AGM

Sat. 6th Mar. 2004 at the Peter Chalk Centre, Exeter.

This was a particularly interesting and well-attended meeting, with an excellent series of talks. The Society bade farewell to Chris Webster as Secretary, and he was warmly thanked for past services, and for continuing to organise the LFS website. If you want to talk to him about it, his address is 38 Greenway Avenue, Taunton, Somerset. Our new Secretary is Frances Stuart. Richard Castle (Birds) is now a Committee member.

Paul Roberts (Lundy's General Manager) gave us his report as the first one after the business part of the meeting. He reported that the helicopter's complete winter of replacing the Oldenburg (while she refits) places the service on a sound financial footing (and may have produced a fresh lot of persons 'bitten by the Lundy bug'). The Quarters have been lost to letting because of the need for more staff housing, and of course, there's the fabulous new let at the West End of the block (where the Warden and the Agent used to have accommodation). Shirley Blaylock was at the meeting: the National Trust are 'consolidating' Quarry Cottages. [Ed.'s Note: It was particularly nice to see her husband Dr Blaylock and their son Aubrey also at the meeting.]

Paul Roberts gave special praise to the 'Estate Conservancy Work' (footpaths, walls, rhododendron clearance), undertaken by Rod Dymond and his volunteer teams. Speaking of conservancy, Paul R told the AGM that the new Quarters' and new let were heated by heat 'recovered' from the generators. He gave us an update on Island Waste Disposal: the old burn-it-or-throw-it-over-the-cliff has been replaced. The Environment Agency says that much will have to be sent off, so there is a sophisticated colour-coded bags arrangement at work in all the cottages. Exeter University has made a study of environmentally valuable waste disposal methods, so there's a state of the art composter on the Island for waste from the Tavern. There's also a shredder: paper can be recycled as animal bedding (and can be added to the compost). The Lundy Lamb project is still going strong – SELF SUFFICIENCY is the name of the game. A DEFRA grant has been secured for restoring the Millcombe garden walls (a possible tree nursery), all that compost needs to go somewhere useful.

Ben Sampson's (Warden) report followed Paul R's. He said that 2003 was a very busy year for conservation: the 'Sea Bird Recovery Programme' was particularly mentioned. The NO TAKE ZONE off the East Side was also particularly mentioned. The new NTZ information boards and leaflets had just arrived for the new season. Devon Sea Fisheries will enforce the NTZ.

There is a new patrol boat for 2004, which will make contact with divers easier.

Last year's Assistant Warden James Roberts will be returning.

A walrus-tusk was found in Jenny's Cove, part of the original cargo.

2003 was a quiet year for basking sharks – 5 sightings only: very few herring and mackerel: lots of dolphins, however, in schools up to 50. May and June saw lots of jellyfish including Pelagia Noctiluca. Crawfish were seen in the NTZ. The NTZ will benefit fans and sponges as well as crustaceans. The rat removal shows encouraging signs: shearwaters were observed below Tibbetts for the first time in years. There were also more pygmy shrews observed (dead unfortunately). It was a poor year for the cabbage (1998, 10,000, severe decline to 2002 – but may have stopped). There's been a slight increase (no cull for 2 or 3 years) in soays and goats. Sikas are stable, 60s to 70s. The heathland suffered in the good summer of 2003. Shirley Blaylock is working on the Museum. 160 volunteers worked 880 volunteer working days. [Editorial Comment: "Well done, those men."] LFS volunteers are specially welcomed.

Richard Campey is setting up a website [www.lundybirds.co.uk](http://www.lundybirds.co.uk). The LFS bird log goes directly to it, the website can be linked to the Lundy website which Chris Webster has responsibility for, and updates, and would welcome contributions thereto.

There were 6 pairs of nesting Puffins, but how successful they were breeding-wise is not known. Rabbits, however, number 20,000 – too many to cull. The cemetery is being rabbit-proofed.

Roger Chapple followed Ban Sampson and particularly stressed that a membership drive should be undertaken, with a view to bringing in sufficient income to cover the annual deficit. If each member brought in one new member, this would do the trick. RC was pleased to report to the meeting that the 1946 foundation of the LFS was recorded in the 'history' displays in the Lundy Museum. He also told us of the death of John Shearn, maker of that redoubtable vessel, the Shearn, which Roger Hoad (sometime Master of the Oldenburg, and now a River Pilot at Bideford) has bought and is restoring.

RC also told the meeting of the death (Christmas 2003) of John D'Oyley Wright, a regular visitor to Lundy for many years. He was a spy-camera-pilot during World War II. Myrtle Ternstrom has published a collection of Lundy gleanings "Frivolling and Scurrifunging": as always, an attractive and useful archival addition to one's Lundy library. Lundy will celebrate this year (2004) the 75th anniversary of Lundy stamps, with a special issue. From 3rd - 10th July Peter Rothwell and Ann Westcott are running their admirable sketching breaks at Millcombe. Applications for a place to ASW. 2006 is the LFS' 60th birthday, and an anniversary year for the wreck of the Montagu – discussions are going forward as to ways of marking these key occurrences.

Tea was taken after the Chairman's remarks.

After tea, Richard Castle (using Tony Taylor's contributions as well as his own, and those of the Lundy log book) gave the meeting an account of the highlights of the Birding Year. May '03 was under-recorded. If you are visiting the island in May (or indeed at any time) do fill in the log book. Richard C told us '02 was a better year for swallows than '03. March and April saw bullfinches and manx shearwaters and there was a hooded crow in early May and a red-footed falcon at the end of May. A red-breasted starling was seen in June. July brought Canada geese and tufted duck and a red-breasted flycatcher, though there were lower counts of puffins and shearwaters than in some previous years. In August a treecreeper and a melodious warbler were seen, and at the end of August, 25 pied wagtails were observed going South for the winter. The last swift was seen on 18th Aug. 350 willow warblers left in August. A rose-coloured starling was on the island from 8th Sept to 22nd Oct. A jay was seen on 1st Sept. In late Sept swallows and housemartins left in thousands. A corn crane and an ortolan bunting were observed in Sept and a desert wheatear (the first to be ringed on Lundy) in Oct (no Snow Buntings). On 28th Oct, 15000 chaffinches passed through. Cettis warblers seem to be spreading further North. A yellow-browed warbler also was seen. A yellow wagtail of the Eastern Race was reported in Nov, and the last housemartin on 18th/19th Nov. On 4th Dec there were 4 coal tits.

The RSPB representative, spoke about the seabird regeneration (rat cull). There was not a great deal he could tell the meeting as the whole process is in such early stages. Ian Linn (LFS Vice-President) asked what other means of protecting seabirds might be possible, if rat eradication didn't work. (Rat shields are being used on mooring ropes). Another question asked was, is any campaign being mounted against seabirds' food being fished (for cat food for example). There are no such plans at the moment.

The next speaker Kim Blasdel, told the meeting about her research into rat-borne viruses. She was asked to present her extremely interesting paper because a large supply of deep-frozen Lundy rats was available to her for research purposes. (Could one call this a happy coincidence?) No cowpox or indeed any viral infection was discovered in any of the Lundy rats. Some bacterial infection was found, not capable of transference to humans.

The next speaker was Prof. Hedger, to whom the LFS gave a grant to survey fungi on Lundy in Oct 2003. He was over with a party including Prof Jenny George (LFS Vice-President). This was, for your Editor, one of the most most rivetting presentations since Peter W James on lichens. No matter how little one knew about fungi, Prof. Hedger's pleasure in his subject was most powerfully infectious. He spoke of the opportunities available for fungal growth in woodland (sparse on Lundy); grassland; rushes; heathland; dung; fresh water; and Marine wrecks. The thing that was so exciting was Prof. Hedger's discovery that 'wood rotters' were on the 'wrong' trees – they had host-jumped; he compared them with Darwin's finches on the Galapagos. Prof. Hedger found marvellous extra species of freshwater fungi in Pondsbury. He reckoned the island's dung would provide new samples too. The 'magic' mushroom was found – but clearly, for Prof. H, all fungi are magic. His subject looks as if it could provide a field for useful research for potential grant appliers, from university zoology departments.

Following Prof. H was John Allan, Curator of Antiquities at the Exeter Museum, who talked about the pottery discovered by Shirley Biaylock during the 'rescue' dig when the new water and electricity pipes were being laid in the village (2002). There were 1450 sherds, principally from the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. (Earlier digs at Pigs Paradise had produced pottery not made on Lundy but in Barnstaple, Bideford or Great Torrington. There is also Bronze Age pot made on Lundy.) JA spoke of 'Bronze Age settlements across the island,' and clay imported in pre-history. A particularly interesting sherd from the village collection was from Saintonge in SW France; such sherds are relatively common in the Scillies, detritus from the French Wine trade. Another sherd in the village assemblage was from Seville.

This quite exceptionally rich collection of speakers made for a splendid meeting. A post-meeting conviviality continued at the Rougemont – now called something else – a Thistle hotel, I think.

## **EDITORIAL/LETTERS/NEWSPAPER TRAWL**

Abbreviations: pic = picture/photograph/image NDJ = North Devon Journal  
WMN = Western Morning News MLOL = "My Life on Lundy"

When I came to put this year's Editorial together, I found that the disentanglement of "pure" editorial, letters, personal comment, and the Newspaper Trawl was nearly impossible, so I've attempted a blend.

I am sure all LFS members who knew John Dyke will be sad to hear of his death in December, and join me in sending our sympathy to all his family. It is a measure of the pleasure he and his work have given to so many of us that, even at his funeral, in the midst of our sadness, there was still the strong memory of that pleasure. Both the NDJ (11/12/03) and the WMN carried obituaries that admirably caught this pleasure. If you happen to have a complete set of his Illustrated Lundy News, or sets of his Lundy stamps, or the set of Lundy prints, or, indeed, any Dyke product, you have real bringers of happy memories.

Roger Allen sent me this piece about the Collectors Club Meeting. "On Saturday and Sunday, 24th and 25th July 2004, the Lundy Collectors Club will be holding their annual summer weekend in Ilfracombe. On Saturday 24th the Club members will be making a day trip to the island on the MS Oldenburg. The tide times are in our favour and there will be a good number of hours ashore on Lundy that day and the ship will depart early. Walks and other activities will be organised on the island by the Club and there will certainly be souvenirs of some sort to commemorate the day.

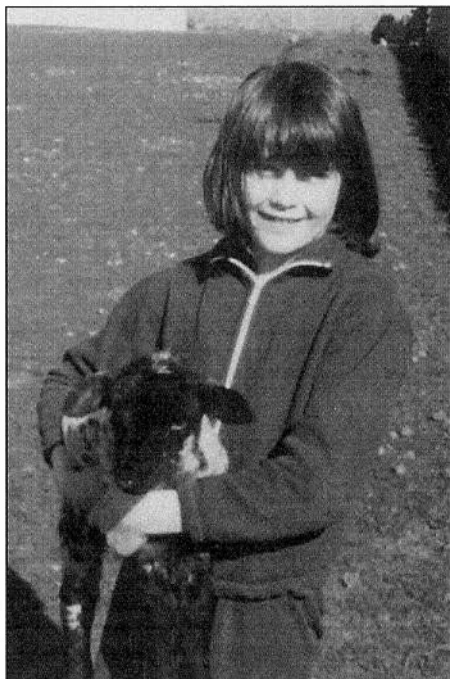
"The whole day of Sunday 25th, from 10.00 to 5.00, will be devoted to the Club meeting in the Landmark Centre, Ilfracombe. The activities of the day will include dealers' sales and the sale and exchange of members' spares. The afternoon will

include the Club auction run by Mike Thompson. This summer however, there will be a special event to mark a sad year, in which we saw the death of John Dyke. An exhibition of his work will be held in the Landmark, displaying items contributed from the collections of various members of the Club.

"This exhibition will contain examples from as many as possible of the different areas of John's unique artistic skills. It will include original artwork of Lundy stamps, many of which he designed, postcards, Christmas Cards, book illustrations and designs and drawings for National Trust products, plus many other items. John's work can be found all over North Devon, in some of the most surprising places and this exhibition will try to bring together as many of them as possible. All Lundy Field Society members will be welcome and we hope that there will indeed be representatives of the LFS at that event."

John Shearn also died this year. Anyone who ever got off the Polar Bear or Oldenburg on to the Shearn will remember her nice steps to walk down and the wonderfully solid feel of her flat "deck" and will enjoy Roger Chapple's pics of her - he's also got videos of her being made. (See pp 36 & 37.)

Liz Ogilvie and David Williams were married in October (see pics below & overleaf). John (and later Penny Ogilvie and daughters Kate and Liz) lived on Lundy from the middle 40s to the early 80s. John was the farmer and Penny was Mr Gade's amanuensis. The wedding reception was at the Royal Hotel in Bideford, where Jan and Chris Goodall are now - Jan went there from managing the Tavern on Lundy.



Liz Ogilvie as a young girl on Lundy



The bride and groom,  
Liz (Ogilvie) and David Williams,  
on the Kathleen and May following  
their wedding 25/10/03



	Ben Ross	Alan Ogilvie		Peter Ross	Kate	Suzanne Ross	Tim Ross	
John Samsworth		Jo Ogilvie	David & Liz Williams		Penny	Mary Forsyth (nee Ogilvie – worked on Lundy)	Rosie Ogilvie (worked on Lundy)	Moira Ross

Richard Cashmore (manager at the Lundy Shore Office) is engaged to marry Sarah Ella – they hope to marry next year at the Botswana Game Park where he proposed to her this year. RC's pic was in the NDJ (11/12/03) – he's perching on a Trafalgar Square lion (base of Nelson's column) and holding aloft a St George's flag emblazoned "Well Done From Lundy" to celebrate England's rugby victory (RC is a member of Bideford RFC).

Steve (Lundy carpenter and handyman) and Gemma, his partner, (both still working on the Lundy team) have a daughter Carla Louise, born this year.

When I was on the island in October 2003, I met Louise (nee Labouchène) and her husband, Henry Wainwright. Their daughter Charlotte was with them, and Claire Melhuish (Louise's daughter by her first marriage – Stirling Melhuish was the Lundy farmer in the 70s). Louise and Henry are running an international business from Kenya; they breed beneficial insect predators, to sell to agri-businesses instead of polluting insecticides. Charlotte is at school in Norfolk and coming up to A levels. Claire is now a lawyer.

As I was turning over some of the piles of unpacking attendant upon a house move,

I found the tape of an "Entertainment" produced in the Church, when Susie Betts was working on Lundy. She and her husband Seamus (they were married on Lundy – reception at Millcombe) are in Jakarta (Indonesia) with daughters Jessie and Hanna, until 2006. Seamus is with the FCO and Susie is working for the UN. Susie and her brother Moff worked on Lundy. Moff is a doctor in Llandridnod Wells. His "The Wooden Book of the Human Body" is being published in America. It's for laypersons who would like to know more about how their bodies work. Tom Betts is now Business Development Manager for ITV (the merged Carlton and Granada TV). Ann and Christopher are living in Charlbury. Ann still designs a garden or two, and Christopher is gently working on a translation of Perrault's Fairy Tales.



Left to right: Mary (Wicksteed) ● Brian (see p180 ML0L), Nikolai Tolstoy and his bride Georgina. Patrick ● Brian

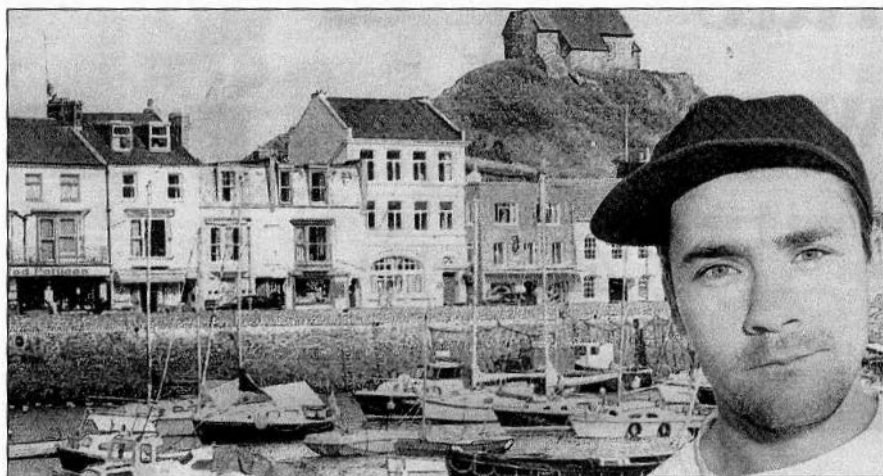


WMN 06/11/03 carried a full page article on the Rat Cull/Fight to Save the Puffins (WMN's headlines). The pic illustrating the article was the stunning and archivally useful view of the SE end of the island, used last year in the newsletter.

The Sunday Times "Culture" (16/11/03) had a pic of Russell Crowe as Master and Commander, and the Sunday Times (30/11/03) one of Patrick O'Brian (Count Tolstoy's stepfather) at NT's wedding. The latter pic accompanied an article (about PB) by NT, whose parents met on Lundy. NT was at Trinity College Dublin when Penny Ogilvie (then Ruddock) was there. (See p7.)

The NDJ (05/02/04) published an article on the Combe Martin Silver Mines Research and Preservation Society. No mention is made of Bushell's connection with the mines, but it is splendid to see the Society's interest following, nonetheless, in his footsteps. A piece of pottery from the 16th century, from Seville, has been found - the article comments, "only 5 pieces of the same pottery have ever been found in Britain, and all the others were found in major cities," so the Lundy piece of Seville (see Editorial p4) is exceptionally exciting.

WMN 28/02/04 has a full page spread on Damien Hurst's new restaurant on Ilfracombe quay - now open: if DH's portrait-head were not in the way you could see the Lundy Shore Office, (see pic below). NDJ 04/02/04 had a double page spread on the 4-year project at the old White Hart.



NDJ 25/02/04 reported on John Smith (son of Stan and Audrey and brother of Wayland and June - see numerous entries in "My Life on Lundy" by Mr Gade). John's hobby is producing precision parts for model boats; he supplies "to two factories and five shops in the UK," mainly model guns and armaments.

WMN 20/03/04, Ranulph Fiennes, the Arctic Explorer, is reported as sponsoring a new young Arctic Explorer: RF is also entering politics. Ralph Fiennes the actor is the narrator for the 2 D-Day programmes on Channel 4, commemorating D-Day's 60th anniversary. (Fiennes is the family name of the Lord Saye and Sele who spent his declining years on Lundy - sickened by 17th century politics)



John Smith pictured in his workshop with the precision parts he makes for model boats.

The NDJ 08/04/04 reported "national and international attention" attracted by the "Are You Ready For Island Life" ad. for new Lundy staff. The WMN (05/04/04), reporting on the RSPB seabird survey, "Seabird 2000" said that the survey found that the only English breeding populations of manx shearwaters and storm petrels are on the Scillies and Lundy.

The Daily Telegraph (10/04/04) used two headlines, "...the battle that stopped an invasion," and "... halted the Japanese advance into India," to commemorate the battle of the Tennis Court at Kohima (where John Harman won his VC). JH wasn't mentioned, but the 2 VCs that were awarded were recorded. It seems as

if only now is recognition of the battle's importance being allowed, then, as a veteran said, "ours was not just the 'Forgotten Army,' nobody back home even knew about us."

WMN 14/04/04 headline, "Round Britain Kayak fundraiser heads for Welsh Coast." Police Sergeant Marley is raising money for RNLi and the Marine Conservation Society. He rested 3 days on Lundy (between Hartland and Angle, Pembrokeshire). The trip should take about 6 months. Support messages, or sponsorship offers, can go to [www.expeditionkayak.com](http://www.expeditionkayak.com).

Peter Christie (NDJ 15/04/04), using a series of articles in the WMN of 1904 as his base, recorded the late 19th century discussions on a "Harbour of Refuge" on Lundy.

Britain's top 10 finalists in the competition to be Britain's Finest National Wonder has Lundy at No 10. The award scheme is being run jointly by Channel 5 and the Radio Times. Lion Television are making the TV programme. The WMN again uses the spectacular Lundy SE pic, this time in colour.

The WMN 14/05/04 recorded Jenny (Langham) Clarke becoming Chairman of the Lymptone Parish Council. She tells me her special interest will be promoting a playground for the very young, and a youth club for the more senior. Her husband Tony (as a part-time coach) is training Marines (there's a base at Lymptone) to use power boats. Alex (Langham) and Nick Sanders are returning to Devon - NS has a nice new

## Britain's top 10 finalists are.....

Giant's Causeway in Ireland.  
The White Cliffs of Dover.  
Jurassic Coast in Devon and Dorset.  
Cheddar Gorge in Somerset.  
Dan-yr-Ogof Caves in Wales.  
St Kilda in Scotland.  
Loch Lomond in Scotland.  
Staffa in Scotland.  
Cwm Idwal in Wales.  
Lundy Island in North Devon.

job. Liz S is at Kelly College, Tavistock, and Em S will go to Peter Symonds School at Winchester for A levels (they have a special provision for returners from Far Flung Outposts like the Falklands).

Linzi Takagi and Nigel Walker who memorably ran the Tavern on Lundy are featured (NDJ 20/05/04) with their Magical World of Chocolate museum. This museum is a natural development from their "Walkers Chocolate Emporium" in High Street, Ilfracombe and has a mini-cinema, a cafe in Ilfracombe High Street for light lunches, as well as the chocolate drinks, cakes and cookies you'd expect in Cafe Cocoa, and you can buy Linzi's hand-made chocolates, (which are gorgeous, especially the brandy cherries - Editor's note).

The 10 finalists of Britain's Finest National Wonder, run jointly by Channel 5 and Radio Times



Linzi Takagi and Nigel Walker at their chocolate museum in Ilfracombe.

IF YOU AND YOUR NEWS AREN'T HERE, IT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SEND ANYTHING TO ME. I SHOULD HAVE LOVE TO RECEIVE SUCH NEWS. ATVB

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

from **Roger Chapple**

Once again your Chairman makes no apology for mentioning a drive for increased membership.

Please seriously consider the future of the Society by making a conscious effort to recruit those you feel suitable to experience our love of the island, and with whom you would be happy as a fellow Lundy Field Society member.

Suggested modifications to the constitution of the LFS

The objects of the Society shall be:

- a) To further the study of Lundy and in particular its history, natural history, archaeology, and Marine Nature Reserve, and to undertake investigations in these fields.
- b) To further the conservation of wildlife and antiquities of the island, and to provide volunteer working parties to assist in this.
- c) To produce an annual report on these activities.
- d) To liaise pro-actively with university societies in the appropriate disciplines with the object of attracting students to Lundy for research, and to provide grants to this end.

from **John Fursden** - (to **Diana Keast**)

It was so kind of you to ask me to the Lundy meeting which I enjoyed very much indeed. The last speaker spoke best; I could hardly hear anything the scientist girl said but luckily the screen provided all necessary information! With so much high tech visual aid, all items excellent, a simple microphone would clearly be an advantage! The Pembrokeshire Island people will be most interested in Lundy's latest anti-rat news. Eradication has worked well on Ramsey, off St David's, also Cardigan Island, as reported by LFS, so careful checking of imports will be closely monitored, as LFS mentioned. Emphasis was made on Shearwaters, not Puffins, for the Lundy (Puffin) Isle! but I do hope that 'Puffins from Pembrokeshire' will soon begin to colonise Lundy, albeit slowly, if an overflow permits.

from **Nigel Williamson**, Mullacott Cross, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 8NZ

The background to this contribution is that I attended a college in the USA in the 1970s and, like most American Colleges, they have a quarterly Alumni Magazine which includes a section called 'Keeping In Touch' for news about Alumni.

When I moved from London to Ilfracombe five years ago I wrote a short note to the Alumni Magazine to advise them of the move. A few months later my contribution appeared in the magazine. Imagine my surprise when I received a letter in June 1999 from an unknown American woman:

"Dear Friend,

Seeing your class note I just could not resist a response although we never met. For many years I carried on a 'pen friend' correspondence with the Agent on Lundy Island, Felix Gade. After the war, my parents visited him there several times. After his retirement, my husband and I were able to visit him and the island for several days. We also spent several happy days in Ilfracombe where during the summer holiday time we were able to experience the Music Hall entertainment.

Many happy memories! Enjoy Ilfracombe,

Martha Lois Willis"

Naturally I was curious as I had not mentioned Lundy in my original piece, so I wrote back to Martha Lois Willis in Indiana to ask how it came about that she knew Felix Gade. In August 1999 I received a response:

"Dear Nigel,

I started High School in Indianapolis, Indiana and my freshman English teacher told us that his job was to teach us to write (for college entrance) and practice was needed, therefore we would all acquire pen friends and report, as well as do classroom writing and assignments. He gave each of us 3 addresses to write to, asking for school children correspondence. Mine were Glasgow, Scotland; Invercargill, New Zealand; and Lundy. I got response from all three! But Lundy had no school at the time and Mary (Gade) was too young, so "Gi" answered. I was able to meet them all over the years.

It was a project which surely added spice to my life! Also to my parents when they began to travel in 1952. And even to my children when they studied in Europe.

Best Wishes,

Martha W"

After reading this letter, something seemed familiar about this story and a scan of *My Life on Lundy* by Felix Gade produced the answer. Referring to the New Edition 1996, page 362 to the end of page 364, Martha Lois Willis was formerly Martha Lois Wilson, and Mr Gade recounts this tale in these pages. It is interesting to compare the same story from two different aspects.

It is perhaps worth reflecting that this is also when Felix Gade first realised that the Puffin population had seriously declined in comparison to the pre-war numbers.

from **Myrtle Ternstrom**, Pittville Circus Road, Cheltenham GL52 2QE  
Byways in Lundy Collecting

*Rural Amateur* by Clifford Hornby, published by Collins, London, in 1943 (wartime paper!)

Chapter 5, (pp53-61) concerns Lundy, when, to their shame, and even with Mr Gade's assistance, the author and his companion took away two fledglings from a peregrine's nest on the East Side.

**Carol Andrews to Myrtle Ternstrom** (passed on to ASW)

I am desperately trying to find the whereabouts of the parish Records from the Church on Lundy and have recently written to Rev. Goodey at Bideford.

According to a family diary written by my Gt Gt Grandfather, John Cousins, his grandfather William Cousins (Cozens) died and was buried on Lundy. William's son, also William, was born there and left for Ilfracombe with his mother Mary (nee Parker) when he was about three years old. He was then baptised in Ilfracombe on 24 August 1796 and grew up and brought up his family in Whitestone & Lee Bay, near Ilfracombe. John Cousins visited his grandfather's grave on Lundy three times. John also worked for a Robert Smith, who surveyed the Island for Mr Heaven.

William Cousins (Cozens) Snr and Mary Parker were married on 9th August 1791 in Bideford. It says he was something to do with the lighthouse but I understand that it was not built until 1820 so maybe he was a pilot or lookout or something similar. Apparently, Mary was from a well-respected rope making family in Ilfracombe. William Jnr helped build the Tunnels Beach and the Capstone Hill paths at Ilfracombe and John invented the herring bone walls with fuchsias on top at Lee.

**Myrtle Ternstrom to Carol Andrews, Cornish Gardens, Bournemouth BH10 4HS**

First I am afraid to say I cannot give you any hard information about your forbears. Parish records for Lundy do not start until 1912 – very late indeed. In fact, so far as is known, Lundy has never been a parish, or part of a parish, and so there is a huge gap in the history.

Unfortunately William Cousins must have been on Lundy at a time we know very little about. It was then owned by John Cleveland, of Tapeley (Instow), who did not live there. I have a record of the population in 1787, which did not include any Cousins, but that is no reason why your William Cousins could not have been there between then and 1796, possibly after his marriage in 1791? There was talk of a lighthouse in the same document of 1787, and a site was selected, but nothing was built until the present Old Light was begun by Trinity House in 1819. So he could have had some involvement in the preliminaries.

Does the Ilfracombe parish register for 24 August 1796 give Lundy as the place of birth for Wm Cousins junior? I will be interested if so, as it is a new addition to the list of Lundy births. Mr Heaven bought Lundy in 1834/36 but the survey you mention has not survived among the Heaven archive. There is no grave marked with the name Cousins to be found on Lundy now, unfortunately – though in the 1830s it is quite possible that it could have been pointed out to John Cousins as within local knowledge, or perhaps with a wooden marker or a stone that has been lost or is buried. There are over 200 burials in the burial ground, only a mere handful of which are identified.

At the time that Wm Cousins was on Lundy it was just a farm, so he would have worked on the land, or possibly as a blacksmith or a fisherman/boatman, a builder, a general hand or in domestic service for Cleveland, who did keep his own house there and visited from time to time. I don't think that as a pilot he would have been likely to have lived on Lundy with his family, though it is not impossible. The pilots were governed from Bristol at that time – I don't know if Bristol Record Office could help you or point you in the right direction for any records that might survive? It was a period of rampant smuggling, in which Lundy and the pilots were undoubtedly involved.

I am at a loss to suggest how you might further your research, I'm afraid. The Clevelands estate at Tapeley is now owned by the Christie family, having passed down through female succession. As far as I know they have no records from that time. However, it is always useful to have your sort of information to hand, and should I come across anything that might possibly lead in the direction you need, I will certainly let you know. Research is ongoing!

From the Cousins diary:

### **Inventions**

It is wonderful what has been invented in the last 200 years. I will try to think of some of them since my Grandfather's time, he died about 45 years before I was born.

I have no written record of what Grandfather Cousins was before he married my Grandmother. But, by what I was told by my father I think he must have been a seafaring man of good standing, for at that time he had to do with the Lighthouse on Lundy Isle, and he used to come up to Ilfracombe to see his intended. Now she that became my Grandmother belonged to the family of Parkers, that at that time were rope-makers, and was a very respected family in Ilfracombe. At that day they used to make ropes of all kinds for ships, then chain-cables were unknown, and they made some very large anchor-ropes, and ropes of all sizes, according to the weight they had to carry. So I think Grandfather must have been a seafaring man of good standing, or he would not have been accepted in the Parkers family at that time.

Now the invention of Chain-cables ruined their trade. My two grandfathers and two grandmothers died all of them about 40 or 45 years before I was born – so my grandfather Cousins must have seen some of the old type of ships, I have seen in pictures, bowling past Lundy Isle, rolling up the water in front of blunt bows, regular bruise waters they were. But that was beginning to change even then, for they had begun to build finer models of ships, but all wooden ships, for iron had not begun to be used.

At that time no one believed iron would swim. But at present the greatest number of ships are built almost entirely of iron. The ropes are made of iron wire, so soft that they are used for running gear, and rope wire is used for all purposes on board.

### **Some things about Lundy Island**

The land my grandfather died in and was buried in – and where my father was born 40 years before I was born.

The Island of Lundy is about 3 miles long and 2 miles wide. My father was the only child, and when my grandfather died, my grandmother left the Island, so there was no one of our family left on the Island. But as grandfather lies buried there, I have visited the Island three times.

My master Mr Smith surveyed the Island for a gentleman named Haven, who bought the Island. So one day I was making some rock-work around a fish-pond for Mr Smith at Lee. I said to him, "Some good ferns would look well here, if we could get some Royal ferns – the "Osmund Regales" would look fine here."

Mr Smith said, "I know where there are acres of them on Lundy Island. If you like I will write you a note to take to the Governor of the Island, and I think he will let you take as many as you want."

So I was glad to go, not so much to get the ferns, but over-joyed at the chance to see the Island. So the first excursion steamer that went there I went with. I took my note to the Governor and he was very pleased and had me into his room and gave me plenty to eat and drink. I told him my father was born there, so he was more pleased, and told me to look over the Island, and take any ferns I liked. I found many variations of ferns, and had a good look over the Island.

The next time I went it was a few years after. It was a very hot day, I went into a store where they sold drinks of all sorts to the visitors. I sat myself on a cask and had something to eat and drink, and whilst I was there six Islanders came in, and I noticed that five of them had black eyes. So when they had settled I asked if they had had a civil war.

"Well," they said, "the lighthouse men were here a night or two ago and we all got drunk together, and a row between us and the lighthouse men began, and ended with all the men on the Island, 19 of us, pumpling one another. But next morning it was all over, except these black eyes. But it was drink, and no police to stop it." The three men at the stores all had black eyes trying to stop the quarrel. I enquired of the oldest man if he knew any Cousinse living on the Island.

"No, I never heard in my time, or hear my father say anything about the Cousinse family. It must be a long time ago that any of that name lived here."

"Well," I said, "my father was born here 45 years before I was born."

The last time I was there someone had set fire to the beautiful Royal ferns and burnt them all, and the Governor stopped all from landing except he gave permission to land.

I saw granite had been worked there at some time. Large blocks were hewn ready for shipment, and some old trolleys on iron rails leading to an old wharf, all in a state of decay. At a safe distance from the quarries were some well built houses. I suppose they were built for the quarry men, but I saw no one nearer than a mile of all the ruins. I saw plenty of rabbits about. But nearer the proper place to land there was a big

farm with fine corn and a lot of fine cattle on it.

So I think although it is a rough windy place a great part of the Island could be cultivated and no doubt plenty of fish could be got.

I saw not long ago that the Island was for sale. Dear old grandfather lies there, and many thousands of shipwrecked men lie there buried on Lundy Island.

from **Dave Preece**, Alvechurch Road, Birmingham B31 3PW

Longstanding Lundy Field Society member Dave Preece, as some of you may appreciate, has recently been seriously ill and we are pleased to report he now looks hale and hearty and his old self – how can we forget all those badges!

To celebrate his recent 60th birthday he ascended Devil's Slide, and writes:

"Lundy 27th April 2004. With the help of my son Robert and warden Ben, my second ambition came to fruition, a climb on the Devil's Slide coinciding with my 60th birthday.

"We set off after lunch on a sunny, slightly windy afternoon with Emma (Ben's girlfriend) with our climbing gear to walk to the slide, scrambled down the left hand grassy side to the ledge about 2/3 of the way down and prepared to abseil to the bottom.

"A couple of extra viewers were a nanny goat and her kid making a mockery of my climbing by running backward and forwards across the slide and scaling 'Albion' with ease.

"After my abseil I wrote some postcards to fulfil the last part of my ambition and then with Ben on the safety rope and Robert filming, I started to ascend. Up and up, handholds, footholds, climbing down and closer to Ben and my goal. After what seemed a very long time, I reached Ben, my ambition achieved an exhilarating experience. As I stated at the AGM if anybody would like to donate some money to Cancer Research for recognition of my climb, then please send cheques payable to D J Preece, 176 Alvechurch Road, West Heath, Birmingham B31 3PW.

Many thanks to Robert and Ben for their help and to anybody who wishes to sponsor me, Dave, the Brummie Grockle. Watch this space for my third ambition!"

From **Christopher G Russell**, New Square Chambers, London, WC2A 3SW

You may perhaps remember me from many years ago, when I spent most of my school and university holidays on the island with my uncle and aunt, Albion and Kay Harman.

I write to raise a question which has puzzled me since I was 13 – the inscription under the clock on the church. It reads "tempus sator aeternitati". One would think that this means "time the sower of electricity" – which makes perfect sense. The problem is that it does not mean this: for it to do so it would require the genitive "aeternitatis". The dative "aeternitati" is meaningless. I have asked no fewer than three classics dons at Oxford, all of whom agree. The Reverend Heaven, who built the church, was a scholar and headmaster of Taunton School. Victorian scholars and headmasters knew their Latin. The church was very carefully and very cleverly designed. The meaning must lie elsewhere. It may be part of a quotation, or perhaps an anagram – self contained or with other words.

Do any of your readers have any ideas?



Report given by **Rod Dymond** to ASW on Lundy  
April 17th 2004

Lt Justin Dymond is a Trainee Weapons Engineer aboard the destroyer HMS Liverpool, having qualified as a Civil Engineer at Cardiff University. On Nov 3rd 2003 HMS Liverpool was en route from Portsmouth to Liverpool for a Civic Visit. Although Mrs Dymond had visited the vessel, RD had never done so. As the Liverpool was to pass Lundy some 50 miles to the West of it, Lt JD asked if they were going any closer to Lundy than 50 miles, as his father had never visited the vessel. First the answer was "No," but reconsideration allowed an exercise to take place, 2 to 3 miles off the West side. The Liverpool would come in on the East side at 11.00 am (3/11/03) to do "a couple of dummy anchorages." Then she went North up the East side, then South down the East side, and then a 180° turn in the Landing Bay (see pic below). She moved her guns to various firing positions, and then went North again up the East side, and then round to the West side. There was a Westerly 6/7 blowing, and (in that wind and on the NW side, and facing America across 3000 miles of Atlantic Ocean), Liverpool performed a helicopter exercise. The ship's helicopter took off and landed several times. At 12.55 RD was telephoned on the Island, to say the warship was off to Liverpool, and off they went, after this marvellous and sizzling demonstration of naval speed, skill and manoeuvring.

RD also gave me news of Adam Dymond (No 2 son), who has graduated from York and is now working there as a freelance TV/Radio journalist and for newspapers. he does scripts and production work for TV/Radio. Amy D is still working for Marcus Tregoning at the Kingwood House Stables, (part of the Shadwell Stud Group), and they're looking forward to a good 2004, with several very good racing prospects.



# THE CRICKET MATCH

Chris Price

For some years, if possible to coincide with Mr Gade's birthday (July 10th), a cricket match was held between Lundy and the Rest of the World.

One year, I think in the early 70s, Lundy was batting and a plumpish, middle-aged left-hander was bowling. Suddenly, in the middle of his over, a cry went up that someone who had climbed Everest had fallen off a cliff or Long Roost and broken both legs.

So, several tractors and the only Land Rover were commandeered and we rushed up there. When we arrived, it turned out that the only doctor on the island was our left-arm bowler who, protesting that he was nowadays only in administration, was nevertheless lowered down the cliff by the rest of us who disposed ourselves in various places down it.

Then the helicopter arrived and, after frantic signals that it was blowing everyone off the cliff, landed on top of the island, and waited for us to haul the climber up by rope. After he arrived, up heaved the puffing doctor whose only comment was "How I wish I could have finished my over!"

But that isn't quite the end of the story because on the way back to the off-shore island, the helicopter ditched off Hartland and the poor climber had to be floated off on his stretcher into the Bristol Channel, whilst another helicopter was summoned from Chivenor.

**Souvenir Score Card**

1890

## GRAND CRICKET MATCH





Tent Field, Lundy Saturday July 11th.  
1970.

### F. W. Gades XI. v Gentlemen of Wessex.

1970

F. W. Gades XI.	
1. R. Glover c Milton b Down	14
2. R. Smith c Symons b Down	10
3. V. Rodway retired	34
4. R. Gannon b Down	0
5. E. Townsend retired	7
6. K. Pickard st Symons b Muskett	0
7. A. W. Strick not out	3
8. R. Doney not out	1
9. J. Shaw, A. MacPherson and	
10. W. Cann did not bat	
11.	
Extras b. 3 lb. w. 1. nb.	4
<small>Fall of wickets</small> 25 33 40 61 73 6 7 3 3	<b>TOTAL 73</b>

Gentlemen of Wessex	
1. C. J. Symons lbw b Glover	0
2. Capt. D. J. Jones b Gannon	8
3. P. Jebb lbw b Glover	0
4. R. Hill c Rodway b Pickard	0
5. G. Chang b Rodway	1
6. C. M. Price c Strick b Pickard	33
7. T. Down not out	14
8. A. E. Muskett c MacPherson b Strick	0
9. A. Milton not out	0
10. R. Wonnacott } did not bat	
11. T. G. Oertan }	
Extras b. 3 lb. w. 5. nb.	8
<small>Fall of wickets</small> 0 2 0 2 38 49 57 58 6	<b>TOTAL 64</b>

A DIFFICULT WICKET    BOWLING HIS OFF STUMP    CAUGHT OUT    RUN OUT

\* The game restricted to one hour for each innings.

from **John Morgan**  
**Cordon-Bleu on Lundy**

It is a fact universally acknowledged that from John o'Groats House one can rotate the torso through 360 degrees and 320 of them will have a sea view.

Seafarers may check this with a sextant, but landlubbers will have to make do with a protractor.

What a site, therefore, for a three star restaurant, and away with the Boggitburger and Vimto takeaway which has lowered the tone of the east end of the dining room for so long.

Accordingly, accompanied by two of my grandchildren, I set off for the North End from the Radio Room at 8.00 am on Sunday 1st Sept 2002 equipped with the following: 2 large slabs Tescovian Smoked Salmon, 1 Lemon, several thin slices of brown bread and butter, 2 half bottles of Moët en Chandon vintage Champagne (you used to be able to get these from Bottoms Up, but they've now bottomed out), 3 plastic plates (couldn't risk the Meissen), 3 acrylic champagne flutes (ditto the Stuart Crystal), the sold silver cutlery from the Radio Room.

Thus a Smoked Salmon and Champagne breakfast was enjoyed in idyllic weather, and we hope has set the tone for future Cordon-Bleu efforts.

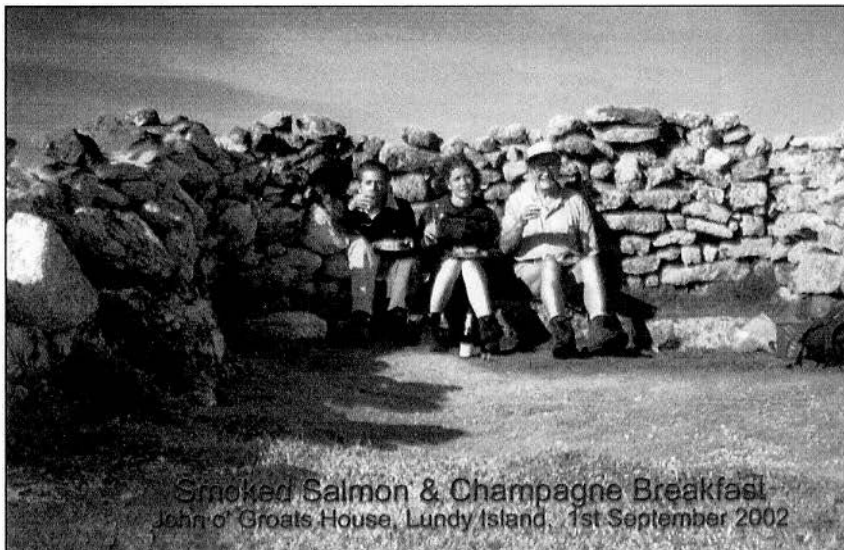
Be sure to book a table by the window!

We celebrated this excellent start to the day by skipping down Puffin Slope, inspecting the North East Lookout, and clambering back up the cliffs towards Gannets Combe, by which time the champagne had worn off.

Back at the shop, we purchased a pair of Reg Tuffin's excellent tapered candles, stuck them in the empty bottles, and enjoyed candlelit dinners in the Radio Room for the rest of the week.

On our last night, we took this illumination with us into the Tavern, whereupon our waitress enquired whether there was some special celebration.

Quick as a flash, granddaughter Susan replied, "Yes, I'm 21 and three quarters." Who said eccentricity wasn't hereditary?



Smoked Salmon & Champagne Breakfast  
John o' Groats House, Lundy Island, 1st September 2002

## ISLAND WITH WELL-HIDDEN TREASURES

by Leigh Turner

from Financial Times website - FT.com - 5th Sept 2003

Amid the cliffs that form the west coast of Lundy Island, the Battery clings to a rock ledge. The squat granite gun-house is roofless now; the gunners who once fired blanks to warn ships off the rocks in fog left a century ago. Two rusting 18-pound cannons stare out to sea. I find Alice and Tilly, 14, from Winchester, face down on the ledge, their heads over thin air. They're watching Atlantic waves smash into the island. "Lundy's my favourite place in the whole wide world," Alice says, "I've been here six times." Where else has she been? "Hong Kong, Thailand, Borneo. Lundy's better. It's so fresh and clean, away from everything. Last year, we went swimming off a boat with the seals. They came right up to me." It's Tilly's first visit. "I haven't seen much yet. The smuggler's cave. The lighthouse. But I love it already."

Twelve miles off the North Devon coast, Lundy Island is three miles long and has 23 properties to rent, including a castle, a lighthouse and an Admiralty look-out post. It's an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and surrounded by England's only statutory marine nature reserve.

But none of this explains why such a small island generates such strong emotions. A place children rave about where there isn't a disco or a sandcastle in sight. Where some people come back again and again, while others wish they'd never come.

"I met a man once outside the Tavern who'd just arrived for a fortnight's stay," says Ann Westcott, editor of the Lundy Field Society newsletter. 'Is this all there is?' he asked me. 'Yes,' I said, 'this is all there is.' He got straight back on the steamer."

In fact, the island packs in an astonishing variety of landscapes. While the forbidding cliffs on the west side rise 400ft from the Atlantic, the east side is sheltered. Paths criss-cross lush woods and plunge through thickets of rhododendrons between quiet bays and overgrown 19th century quarry workings. In the north, the island tapers off into bleak moorland, studded with bronze-age hut-circles. In the south lies the village, complete with shop and excellent pub (The Marisco Tavern). There are no cars on Lundy or, indeed, roads.

Orli Rhodes-Kelmer and Deirdre Price from south London are camping with Aiden and Christian (both seven) and Danielle (18 months). "The campsite is terribly windy," Orli says. "We thought the tent would blow away. We ran out of warm clothes. But it's nice, everywhere's open, there are no boundaries, no limitations. It gives you the freedom to sit and talk to your children, to discuss with them what to do. The first morning we opened the tent there was a chicken outside."

"We liked chasing the chicken with water pistols," Christian says. "And fishing, and watching the seals."



The interior of the Casbah, Millcombe Valley c.2001

"I liked climbing the lighthouse," Aiden says. "There's no TV, no PlayStation. It's great. Except for the weather."

"One of Christian's favourite phrases is, 'I'm bored, I'm bored,'" Deirdre says. "We haven't heard that once."

Lundy has a colourful history as a pirate lair, rabbit breeding, royalist stronghold, convict colony, smuggler's den and, from the mid 19th century, tourist trap. The island attempted to issue its own coins in 1929, and still issues its own stamps. It did not become part of Devon until 1974.

Peter Rothwell first came here in 1957. He shows me round Tibbetts, the isolated lookout from which you can allegedly see 14 lighthouses on a clear night. "There's nothing between the window above my bed and America," he says, "except the Atlantic Ocean. The hooks for the naval ratings to hang their hammocks on are still on the walls. So are the fittings for rifles, bayonets and pistols, and a rack for the telescope." Outside, the wind whips across the plateau, laden with rain and the calls of sea-birds. The main island track runs nearby on its way to the North Lighthouse. The route is marked every few yards by granite cubes weighing a ton apiece.

Peter says Lundy's less romantic nowadays. "Tibbetts is the last bastion of how it was: ramshackle and easy-going. It was quirky. So were lots of the people that came here."

Ann Westcott nods. "They still are, I'm pleased to say." That's true. Shinichi Nakagawa, from Saitama in Japan, is doing a PhD on the molecular ecology of sparrows. When I meet him striding across the top of the island, I ask if it's true he climbs ladders with a black plastic bin-liner over his head. "Yes," he said, "it's true. At the start of the season it worked really well. The sparrows didn't recognise me." "Does it work now?" "Now, the sparrows recognise me. They're very intelligent."

Jim Czul, George Fabian and Duane Larson, from Chicago, are the leading lights of the Lundy Collectors Club USA. This is their ninth visit. "Why do I come here?" Jim says, "I can't say what the mystique is. Just the beauty, solitude, peace, whatever you want to make of it."

"Maybe it's the weather," Duane says. "It's windier than Chicago," Jim says. In one week in mid-July, I meet fishermen, model glider buffs and a couple of Belgian radio hams (T-shirt: "My wife said, if I didn't get off the radio, she'd leave me OVER"). The log books in my cottage record visits by archaeologists, bell-ringers, bird-watchers, divers, naturalists and rock-climbers.

Others come for peace and quiet. Frances Stuart is a teacher from north Somerset. "I do very little," she says. "I sit and gaze out to sea. There's no compulsion to do anything. As a woman on my own, it feels very comfortable, very safe. You get addicted. I've made 23 visits since 1994."

Orli too says she'll be back. "We'd like to make it an annual ritual and let the children grow with the island. Our story for them this week has been *Treasure Island*. This is a bit of a treasure island, isn't it?"

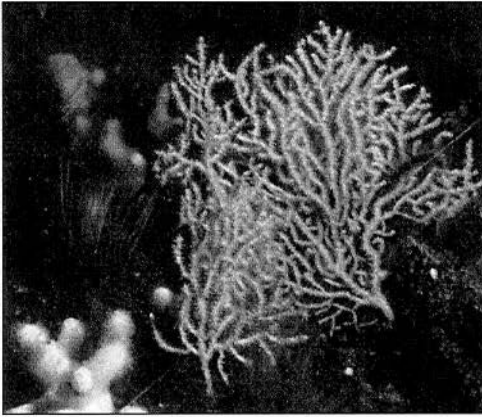
## **TROUBLED WATERS**

by Joe Taylor

from *The Big Issue* 15th-21st Sept 2003

Where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Bristol Channel, off the coast of north Devon, lies the island of Lundy. At three and a half miles long and half a mile wide, it is a peaceful, unspoilt retreat from the modern world.

The wide variety of underwater habitats surrounding the island – such as steep cliffs, boulder slopes, canyons and plains of mud and gravel – means that the waters around Lundy are home to an abundance of marine wildlife not usually found off British shores. The site is also home to England's only marine nature reserve.



Healthy Pink Sea Fan

Yet over the past few years, conservationists have noticed an unexplained decline in fish and coral, prompting them to launch a special monitoring project in an attempt to solve the mystery.

A team of marine biologists has been hired by English Nature to collect samples of species which have been disappearing from the reserve, such as pink sea fans and sunset cup corals.

These species should be thriving around Lundy, as its waters are uniquely protected under both British and EU law for the diversity of their sea life. Under these laws, it is strictly prohibited to remove or touch any of the marine life within a

mile of the island.

But conservationists have been baffled to discover that, in spite of this protection, many of Lundy's marine species are dying out.

They include red band fish – which once existed in their thousands, and have now dwindled to almost nothing – as well as John Dory fish, rare corals and crawfish (a type of lobster).

No one understands why this is happening, although theories have included changes in sea currents and increases in water temperature.

Chris Davis, the conservation officer in charge of the monitoring programme, says this latest study will give experts accurate scientific data which could shed some light on the mystery.

Marine biologists will take part in dives to examine Lundy's habitats and collect samples of infected species, which will then be passed on to a specialist research unit.

There the samples will be examined by experts appointed by English Nature who will try and work out what disease or pathogen is affecting the island's marine life.

"The divers will study an area about one mile square, and count everything they can see that has been affected," says Davis. "They will repeat this at different sites to get an overall picture of what is happening.

"They will also collect samples of any infected sea fans that they come across, and these will be passed on to the research unit which will look into what is causing these declines."

Similar programmes are happening in marine conservation areas around the Isle of Wight and Plymouth Sound. However, Davis says it will take at least six months to collate all the data from these studies, so the findings will not be revealed until early next year. But in the long run the information will help English Nature – the government agency responsible for the countryside – to understand why Lundy's sea life is disappearing.

Marine biologist Dr Keith Hiscock, who set up the first monitoring programme on Lundy in 1983 admits that at present it is all still a mystery.

"The island is particularly important for its cup corals and sponges, but a lot of these species have been in decline since the 1980s," he says. "When I went diving off the island in 2001, I realised that a lot of the sea fans were dead and covered in a fouling growth. The Marine Conservation Society later found that Lundy had the most

fouled population of sea fans, which could no longer resist the invasion of other organisms."

Dr Hiscock, who is employed by English Nature, which manages the reserve, says that it is still not known why this is happening.

"We still need to find out why it's happening and why it's going on. It's a worrying decline, especially because it's for these species that the island is considered special."

The numbers of red band fish, which were discovered off the east coast of Lundy in the mid-1970s, have declined from 14,000 to almost none in the island's waters.

And crawfish have all but disappeared from the area, according to Dr Hiscock's studies.

He started monitoring changes on Lundy in 1983 as part of an Underwater Conservation Society expedition. The following year, the Nature Conservancy Council established a formal monitoring programme.

In 1994, Dr Hiscock published data collected from the study between 1983 and 1987 in an article for the Biological Journal of The Linnean Society.

The article, *Marine Communities At Lundy: Origins, Longevity and Change*, concluded, "Overall trends in the abundance of southern species at Lundy are downwards."

The marine nature reserve was established around Lundy in 1986 in order to protect the huge diversity of life in the waters around the island.

The 400ft high granite island is a haven for all types of wildlife and in January this year the government set up the first No Take Zone around it, which means that no living natural resources, including lobsters, crab and fish, can be taken away.

But Chris Wood, who runs Seasearch, a national project to monitor changes to Britain's marine environment, feels more can be done to protect these unique waters.

"More research needs to be done to discover what's going on," he says. "There is a lot of very diverse life on Lundy, but if there are particular problems, they need to be identified now."

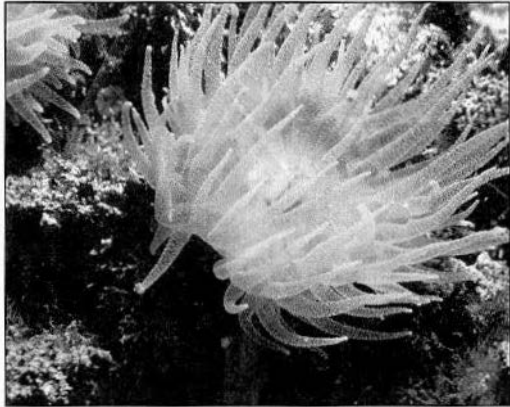
"The sea fans are clearly dying and are in a much worse state. It's certainly an area we are concerned about. Cup corals are also a very slow-growing species. The monitoring work that is going on in Lundy is showing no new cup corals forming."

Professor Jim Atkinson, an expert on red band fish, who closely studied marine life off Lundy between 1974 and 1981, said it was possible that nothing could be done about the apparent decline.

He said the fish and corals produce larvae which float on the surface of the water, so a change in sea current could dramatically affect their population.

"Certainly when we were on Lundy there were thousands of red band fish," he recalls. "It could be that the population that were recruiting then are no longer around, for some reason."

Like Atkinson, many of those involved in the study at Lundy have possible theories and explanations for the strange decline. The painstaking research over the next six months will finally reveal the real reasons for this, thus helping scientists and conservationists to form a solution to help protect the island and its wildlife.



Healthy Sunset Coral

Myrtle Ternstrom passed this on to ASW:

## THE STORM

R E Dark

My father was a mariner,  
Who sailed to Lundy Isle,  
In summer and in winter time  
Just over twenty mile.

And with him sailed his eldest son,  
A gallant lad was he;  
And old Tom Holman with them sailed  
A goodly company.

One day when close to Lundy Isle,  
A mighty wind did blow,  
And to the leeside of the Isle,  
My father had to go.

When suddenly the wind veered round  
And furious blew the blast;  
The wild seas swept his well built craft,  
But she was anchored fast.

Soon all too soon, the darkness fell,  
The gulls screamed louder now,  
"May God preserve all Mariners!"  
Old Tom cried from the bow.

Lashed by the fury of the wind,  
The seas rose mountains high;  
When close upon the starboard bow  
My father heard a cry.

Lit by the lightning flash he saw  
A schooner flounder past;  
Her wheel was wrecked, her sails were rent,  
And she had lost a mast.

He saw the faces of her crew,  
As on the rocks she crashed,  
He saw her sink beneath the waves  
Just as the lightning flashed.

This verse was found in a book, *Poems*, by R E Dark, published in London by Arthur H Stockwell. Written inside was the following: "R E Dark, brother of Capt Fred Dark and Capt Alec Dark, who carved the font cover in the church, or so I understand."

Capt Wm P M Dark.

Sons:

Capt Fred Dark  
Capt Alexander Dark (Army)  
Alfred Charles Dark  
George Henry Dark  
John Thomas Dark  
Sidney Harold Dark  
Reginald Ernest Dark  
Capt Walter Francis Dark of the Blue Funnel Line  
Miss Caroline Carol Dark  
Mrs Florence Mary Williams"

Daughters:





Landing Bay 1947: if you would like more information on how to order a copy contact Sue Ryall or Alistair Simmons at Simmons Aerofilms Ltd, The Astrolabe, Cheddar Business Park, Wedmore Road, Cheddar, Somerset BS27 3EB. Tel 01934 745820



© Peter Rothwell

Almost the same view c.2001 showing the old telephone line to the South Light

# REVEREND HENRY HEZEKIAH LANE

Rector of Lundy 1922 - 1924

from Alan Rowland

## Introduction

The Rev. Hudson Grossett Heaven, CAS Muller and others are comparatively well known for their care of Lundy. Henry Hezekiah Lane (henceforth HHL) was Rector for barely two years and little was known of him or of his tenure. This is an attempt to illuminate those two years and shed some light on the man himself.

HHL was relatively unknown until he made a big splash in the local and national press when he was instituted and inducted to the rectorship of Lundy, 'The first rector the island has had for 567 years.'<sup>1</sup>

I had collected a few references from the Hartland & West Country Chronicle in researching into Lundy and Welcombe sources. In discussion with the Lundy Historian, Myrtle Fernstrom, I was persuaded to further these researches with this article as a result.

## Background

For anyone researching those who work in the Church of England, Crockfords Clerical Directory is an early port of call. I checked various years to come up with a basic chronology of his career. There was no mention of university degrees or other academic qualifications which are normally listed which is sufficient to say that he had none.

A bare outline was obtained from Crockfords of HHL's career between 1906 and 1925. Of most interest are:-

- 1915 - 1916 Permanent Curate Welcombe Devon and living at St. Nectan's Hut, Welcombe
- 1922 - 1925 Rector Lundy Island

## Welcombe

A little further background was gleaned from the Hartland & West Country Chronicle under the reports for Welcombe. The patron of the Parish of Welcombe, Lord Clinton, offered the benefice to HHL. It further states that, 'Mr. Lane was ordained in 1906 in the diocese of Nova Scotia, and after doing some missionary work in the backwoods he went to the city of Ottawa as rector of St. Barnabas. Leaving Canada in 1909 on account of the climate, he returned to England [indicating an English origin?], and for a short time acted as SPG chaplain in Belgium and Germany. In 1910 he became curate at Feniton, in East Devon, under the Rev. Dr. Hart, and stayed there a year. Lord Clinton then presented him to the vacant parish of Abbots Bickington with Bulkworthy. The living of Welcombe is worth £200 net, but at present there is no vicarage house.'<sup>2</sup>

Rev Hezekiah Lane was instituted and licensed by the Lord Bishop of Exeter on Wednesday, Jan 27th, to Welcombe P.C.<sup>3</sup>

Here we have the first mention of a Mrs Lane - but whether wife or mother is unclear. 'Mrs Lane is asking for funds from the parish in order to provide Xmas gifts for those young men who have joined the Army from Welcombe.'<sup>4</sup>

He left Welcombe to look after the Waifs and Strays (The Waifs and Strays was founded in 1881 and later became the Church of England Children's Society, now the Children's Society). 'The benefice of Welcombe, which will shortly become vacant by the resignation of the Rev. H.H. Lane, has been offered by the patron, Lord Clinton, to the Rev. A.J.R. Wheeler, A.K.C., B.A., rector of Sutcombe, who has accepted it. The outgoing incumbent has been appointed a member of the organising staff of the Waifs and Strays Society and will work in the dioceses of Winchester and Salisbury.'<sup>5</sup>



In the Church Porch  
after the Ceremony.  
L to R: the Bishop of  
Crediton, Rev H H Lane,  
and Mr F Allday

#### After Welcombe

Between 1916 and 1922

Waifs and Strays – Winchester & Salisbury  
Church of the Royal Yacht Squadron Holy Trinity  
at Cowes Isle of Wight.  
Back to diocese of Exeter.

#### Lundy

So HHL was no stranger to islands, and later we see he was no stranger to isolation.

Local and National newspapers all carried the story, with pictures, that after 567 years, Lundy would once again have a Rector.

However, it was reported in June 1922 that HHL was licensed as Bishop's domestic chaplain and placed in spiritual charge of the island and vessels in the vicinity. In July HHL is quoted as intending to run a vessel from the mainland in time for church services on the island. Mr. May, the lessee, endorsed this idea, stating that Ilfracombe and Barnstaple would be the ports of departure. No evidence of this wish coming true can be found. 'During the summer season, Mr. Lane said it was intended to run a vessel from the mainland in time for Church services on the island. This was subsequently endorsed by the lessee, Mr. May, who in conversation with a reporter, said these trips were contemplated from Ilfracombe, and also from Barnstaple when the tide served.'<sup>6</sup>

It was about this time that the Lerina was coming into service although the investiture party sailed to the island on the Devonian. It was early in 1922 when the Lerina was altered at Appledore to increase her passenger carrying capacity so perhaps HHL was forecasting what he understood was being planned.<sup>7</sup>

The photographs published at the time of his investiture show a young looking and smart man around 40 years of age. He had other ideas as well as sailings. He wanted to induct the islanders in the 'mysteries of campanology'; as a church bellringer of five years standing, I can be certain that he did not accomplish this in the two years available to him. He also planned to begin a day school for "the handful of children".

'After the induction service a peal on the Church bells was rung by a band of ringers from Ilfracombe. In an interview the Rev. H. H. Lane said there was no band of ringers on the island. However he was initiating some of the islanders into the mysteries of campanology, and he trusted they would have an efficient band of ringers before very long. He was a lover of Nature and isolation, and there was much work he intended to do. He was going to conduct a day school for the handful of children there, and he anticipated that a great deal of his time would be devoted to the mariners who visited the island'.

Through the initiative of the lessee, Mr. C. Herbert May, the Royal Mail Motor Yacht *Lerina* has been certificated by the Board of Trade to carry some 80 odd passengers over the Bar to Lundy in one direction and Padstow and Bridgewater in others, and a considerably larger number on shorter trips to Ilfracombe, Bude, etc. She is the only boat of her type with a B.o.T. passenger certificate, and apart from its particular convenience in enabling Lundy to be reached is an acquisition to the coast.

The yacht which has been running regularly to the Island for the past two years has been entirely stripped, overhauled and refitted by Messrs James Brown & Sons, Ltd., engineers, of Middlesborough, and provided with accommodation for passengers, including a ladies' deck cabin, and weather covering, qualifying for No. 3 steam passenger certificate. S

Messrs P and A  
Campbell's SS  
*Devonia* took a large  
party to Lundy from  
Ilfracombe. The Rev  
H H Lane and Mr  
Letcher (formerly of  
Ilfracombe) bidding  
goodbye to the last  
boat-load to leave  
the island



He was described as "an agreeable man with a keen sense of humour" and once dressed as Father Christmas to deliver presents to all on the island, "he wrote agreeable verse".<sup>9</sup> He was also described as a lover of Nature and Isolation.<sup>10</sup>

Was it he that named "Tent Field"? There is a report from the Hartland Chronicle dated 16th October 1923<sup>11</sup> *The Christian Herald* for Sept 6th, has a photo by F. Lumbers of our Rector [HHL] preparing his evening meal at his tent door.

The Electoral roll of 1923 confirms HHL's address on Lundy as The Villa together with Mary Letitia Lane: alongside their names is their qualification to vote.

"HH Lane - R.O" (through Residence and Occupation) Pretty conclusive that he was living there.

'ML Lane = H.O.' (qualification through husband) So, she is his wife, not his mother. This does not confirm whether he was British or Canadian as I am unsure whether the qualification at that time included British or Commonwealth subjects.

Mary Letitia could be described as compassionate and resourceful: in Welcombe, she organised a collection for funds to provide Christmas gifts to soldiers who had joined the army from Welcombe,<sup>12</sup> and she presided at the Church Organ and was made Rector's churchwarden when Miss Sage (the hotel proprietor) was made People's churchwarden in 1923.<sup>13</sup>

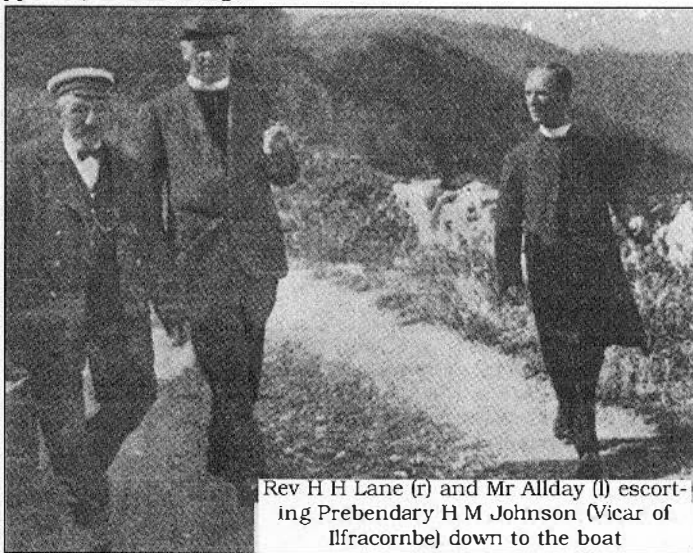
On 30th June 1924 HHL resigned but was given permission to officiate in the Exeter Diocese from 1925 and Rev CAS Muller, vicar of Appledore was invited to take over.

"Rev. H. Lane resigned the rectorship on June 30th, and the Bishop requested the Vicar of Appledore, who has already thrice visited the island and taken services which have been well supported, to take charge."<sup>14</sup>

Shortly afterwards the island was sold to Martin Coles Harman (Oct 1925), FW Gade (11 Nov 1926) took over as agent and Mr Allday shortly afterwards left (1926).

### Residents

We have reports of various events that took place in the early 1920s from which it is possible to build a picture of the residents at that



Rev H H Lane (r) and Mr Allday (l) escorting Prebendary H M Johnson (Vicar of Ilfracornbe) down to the boat

time and thus HHL's potential congregation.. In August 1922 there were 44 residents; 'The island has now a population of 44, including several women and children.'<sup>15</sup> of which 13 were voters

The owner was Augustus Langham Christie (who bought the island because he 'did not want to see anything he did not own from his house' at Tapely Park. <sup>16</sup>

HHL and Mary Letitia were living in the Villa

the Lessee was Mr. C. Herbert May

During his incumbency HHL had no marriages or deaths to officiate at, but there were two baptisms.

Reginald Charles son of Charles and Rose Parminter 16th July 1922 Charles was a carter.

Ronald George son of Charles and Lydia Easton 10th December 1922 this Charles was the smith adding further names to the population.

Mr H Bain Coastguard was married to Emma who died in January 1922 after a long illness, and Mr Bain remarried Florence Owens in October 1922 (Ref.

Mr Maskell was at the South Lighthouse

Mr Symons was a Coastguard

Mr. Barker Chief Signalman at Lloyds Signal Station

A Dance in 1924 lists more residents <sup>17</sup>

Miss Sage - who ran the Hotel

Mr. Mrs and Miss F Sleep - Mr Sleep Chief Officer at Lloyds Signal Station

Mr and Mrs Otley

Mr and Mrs Barker

Mr B, Mrs and Miss Rene Smith

Mr and Mrs Hayward - Mr W H Hayward lived at Manor House Gardens

Mr and Mrs Lang - William Henry and Sarah Georgina Margaret Lang WH Lang was storekeeper (according to the electoral roll)

Miss Coaker

Mrs Enyon

Mrs C and Jack Parminter - Charles and Rose Parminter the carter

Mr and Mrs Worth

Mr Sam Stocks

Miss Alford

Mr Javosky

### Observations

As agreeable, humorous and resourceful as he appeared to be, HHL apparently could not settle down. His list of appointments showed that he never stayed anywhere for more than 3 or 4 years.

We do not yet know where he was born, but he returned to England from Canada around 1909, spent some little time in Belgium for the SPG (Crockford's - Society for the Propagation of the Gospel), then began moving around England. Was he unhappy or did he not get on with people? Whatever the reason, he continued to move around although it must be said he seemed to find his home in the West Country. After leaving Welcombe in Devon, for the Diocese of Winchester and Salisbury he



The new Rector having a chat with a Farm labourer

returned to the Diocese of Exeter where he spent his last years. At 1 Mount Lane, Topsham 1926 - 1932 before removing to Trelawney Cottage Morchard Bishop 1932 - 1935

Various newspapers, *Western Morning News* and *Express and Echo*, report HHL's demise:

LANE - at the Devon & Exeter Hospital, on August 26th, after an operation, Henry H lane, sometime Rector of Lundy, aged 53 years. Funeral at Clyst St Mary Church on Thursday at 11.45. Address Elmfield, Countess Weir, Exeter.

An obituary followed in the *Express & Echo*:

Funeral of Rev H.H. Lane at Clyst St Mary.

The funeral of Rev. Henry H Lane took place quietly to-day in the little churchyard at Clyst St. Mary, where the deceased had often taken duty during interregnums.

The Rector (Rev. GLA Heslop) officiated, and the mourners were the widow, Capt. and Mrs. GP Cann (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mrs Martyn, and Miss Chapman. There were several of deceased's personal friends present, among them being Rev. G Isaac, Messrs. F Drew, Tipper, Orton, and Chowings, from Morchard Bishop, where the deceased resided. Many beautiful floral tributes were received, including one from Mrs Hamilton-Gell and Mrs. Radcliffe, of Winslade.

#### Full Chronology

1882c	Born	
1906	Ordained deacon }	by Bishop of Nova Scotia, Rt Rev Dr
1907	Ordained Priest }	Clarendon Lamb Worrell.
1906 - 1907	Curate (missionary)	Neills Harbour, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
1908 - 1909	Rector ,	St. Barnabas, Ottawa
1909	SPG Chaplain in	Belgium and Germany
1910-1911	Curate at	Feniton East Devon
1910	No appointment -	living at Greens Norton, Towcester, Northants
1911	No appointment -	living at 4 Haldon Terrace, Dawlish
1911 - 1915	Permanent Curate,	Abbots Bickleigh + Bulkworthy and living at Brandis Corner, Devon
1915 - 1916	Permanent Curate	Welcombe Devon and living at St. Nectan's Hut, Welcombe
1922 - 1925	Rector	Lundy Island
1926 - 1932	Topsham	Devon
1932 - 1935	Morchard	Bishop
1935	26th August -	died at Devon and Exeter Hospital

#### List of Sources

Electoral Roll - Devon Record Office Autumn 1923  
Lundy's Ecclesiastical History - AE Blackwell  
St Nectan's Welcombe Church Guide.  
Hartland & West Country Chronicle - Various years  
Kelly's Directory 1923  
Crockford's Clerical Directory 1921-23, 1925.  
Ilfracombe Chronicle & N. Devon News 12 August 1922  
The Times 11 August 1922  
The Western Morning News and Mercury 10 August 1922  
Illustrated Lundy News and Landmark Journal Vol 2 No 3 issue 9 1972  
Lundy Packets - Tedstone - 2001

- 1 Ilfracombe Chronicle & N. Devon News 12 August 1922
- 2 H&WCC No 219 - Dec 1914
- 3 ibid No 220 Jan 1915
- 4 ibid No 230 - Dec 1915
- 5 ibid No 241 Nov 1916
- 6 ibid No 303 Jul 1922
- 7 Lundy Packets - M Tedstone 2001
- 8 H&WCC No 304 Aug 1922
- 9 Blackwell - Lundy's Ecclesiastical History pp88-100
- 10 The Western Morning News and Mercury 10th August 1922
- 11 H&WCC No 317 Aug 1923
- 12 ibid No 230 Dec 1915
- 13 ibid No 311 May 1923
- 14 ibid No 325 Jul 1924
- 15 ibid No 304 Aug 1922
- 16 Langham - The Island of Lundy Sutton 1994
- 17 H&WCC No 322 Apr 1924

## **TRANSACTIONS OF THE DEVONSHIRE ASSOCIATION CONTAINING LUNDY PAPERS.**

Report by Roger Allen.

The Devonshire Association advises that they have for sale surplus copies of their annual 'Transactions' containing Lundy related papers, details of which are given below. Each volume is priced at £2.00. The annual 'Transactions' are quite substantial volumes and consequently a further £2.00 should be added for postage.

The address to write to for these volumes is Michael Tamlyn, 36, Elm Grove Road, Topsham, Exeter, Devon. EX3 0EJ. Telephone 01392 876309.

Volume 92. 1960. Paper entitled "Lundy's Ecclesiastical History" by A. E. Blackwell. Read at South Molton.

Volume 108. 1976. Article entitled "Notes on the Administration of Lundy by Sir John Borlase Warren" by John Thomas. Read at Bideford.

Volume 110. 1978. Paper entitled "The History of Lundy from 1390 to 1775" by John Thomas. Read at Tavistock.

Volume 118. 1986. Paper entitled "The Heaven Family of Lundy 1836 to 1916" by Myrtle Langham. Read at Buckfastleigh.

Volume 129. 1997. Paper entitled "The Giants' Graves: a nineteenth century discovery of Human Remains on the island of Lundy" by Myrtle Ternstrom and Keith Gardner. Read at Crediton.

Volume 130. 1998. Paper entitled "The Ownership of Lundy by Sir Richard Grenville and his descendents 1577 to 1775" by Myrtle Ternstrom. Read at Exmouth.

Volume 134. 2002. Paper entitled "Lundy's Legal and Parochial Status" by Myrtle Ternstrom. Read at Plymouth.

The names of all the above authors will be well known to LFS members and the quality of these papers and the research put into producing them is undoubted. The Devonshire Association will be moving out of its spacious premises at Bowhill in Exeter later this year. It will have no space for surplus stock of Transactions in its new Headquarters and so any LFS members requiring copies of these volumes should not delay in obtaining them before they are destroyed.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK ON LUNDY 1955-1969

### A PERSONAL VIEW

Keith S Gardner FSA; FRSA

It was in the mid-1950s on the island of Steep Holm in the Bristol Channel that I was first directed to Lundy. We were staying on the island with Ted Mason and the then new Steep Holm Trust, and included in the party was the Trust's Chairman and Secretary, Harry Savory, then in his late 60s and well known and respected as a Natural Historian, pioneer photographer, (with Herbert Balch), of Mendip caves, an ornithologist and a falconer.

We were sitting watching the evening sunset when, discussing my great interest in islands and in archaeology, he stretched out his arm, and, like Millais' "Boyhood of Raleigh," pointed south west saying, "Then you must go to Lundy." There, he said, I would find a lifetime's archaeology that no one knew anything about. He wrote me an introduction to the owner's Agent, Felix Gade, and urged me to contact him.

I wrote accordingly and a few weeks later, as there was a hiatus in sea-borne transport at the time, I found myself motorcycling down to RAF Chivenor in North Devon, where a few years earlier I had enjoyed the dubious pleasure of serving his late Britannic Majesty. At that time I had been able to carry out a study for the Council for British Archaeology Group XIII (ie the SW) on the Mesolithic coastal sites of North Devon, and excavated at Elmscott on the towering cliffs south of Hartland. Researches in the North Devon Athenaeum had revealed that flints of a similar type to those coming from Elmscott had apparently been found on Lundy, and so I had the excuse I needed to go there.

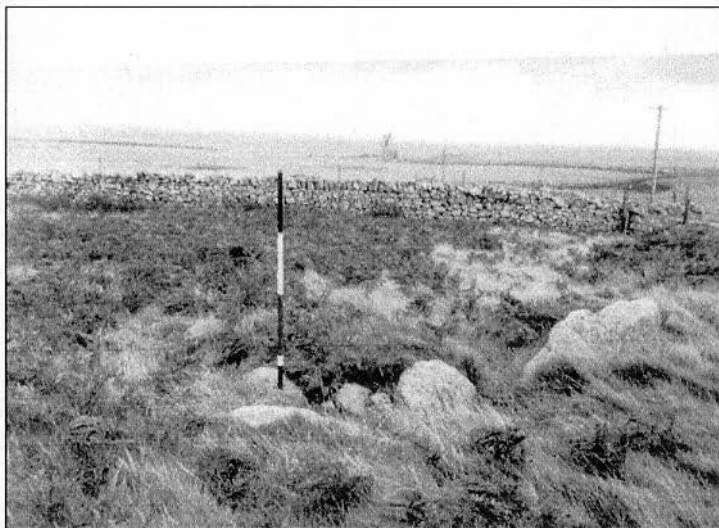
At 4pm on 8th August 1955, I presented myself, complete with rucksack, tent and sleeping bag, at an ex-RAF hut on the Peri-track at Chivenor to meet the flamboyantly moustached pilot Maurice Looker, owner of Devon-Air Ltd and of the 'Puffing Aero Club'.

The flight cost 30/- (£1.50) each way, ("rucksacks carry a surcharge of 5/-") and was made in Looker's Auster. Squeezing in between a tractor tyre, a basket of bread and the mail-bag I settled into the only spare seat, and we took off over the dunes of Braunton Burrows and, hugging the coast path Clovelly to Hartland point, cut across the short stretch of Atlantic to the island.

Here we flew in low and circled the island at cliff-top height which would be a joy to any archaeologist - the island's surface was thick with field systems and "humpty-bumps!" The landing was entertaining, to say the least, uphill from the south west across Acland's Moor, bumping along a white-washed stone avenue no more sophisticated than a megalithic cursus. Awaiting us was a horse and cart, and my baggage was soon on its way to the recommended camp site - a walled paddock east of the cemetery in the shadow of the Old Light.

My first night on Lundy was not among the most pleasant of experiences. At 500ft, and exposed to 3000 miles of empty Atlantic to the west I had my first real experience of a westerly Gale - with rain.

My 2-man bivouac (5/- = 25p per tent per week) let it in all ways. My groundsheet was awash with water percolating up from the ground around me, and the wind howled like a banshee through the old Celtic cross over the wall in the cemetery. Fortunately come the dawn a lugubrious figure peered over the wall and enquired whether I had had a good night. This was Professor L A Harvey, then Secretary of the Lundy Field Society and seeing the state of my furnishings, he invited me for a cup of tea into the adjacent Old Lighthouse, hostel for members of the LFS and at least dryer than the granite cliffs of this already cursed island.



Early  
Christian  
graves in the  
cemetery  
(looking  
South-East).  
Keith Gardner

The hostel's beds were full but arrangements were made for me to stretch my length on the first landing in the lighthouse tower, draughty, ghostly, but infinitely preferable to the shelter of the cemetery wall.

Inhospitable though its welcome had been however, the sunny days that followed were a great enlightenment; the Marisco tavern, not governed by petty rules from the adjacent mainland added greatly to the exuberance and sense of freedom felt on most islands, and there were of course ancient remains everywhere. Most obvious at the North End was the relict farm – field walls and hut sites, so reminiscent of the Bronze Age settlements on Dartmoor. Walking in one of the few plough fields scraps of flint were soon in evidence comparable with those from the Mesolithic mainland, 'Celtic' field boundaries were everywhere, burial mounds, standing stone alignments, a medieval long-house in its enclosure, again resembling that on Dartmoor's Hound Tor. The fields surrounding the village were filled with fascinating mounds and ditches – to even begin to record the visible features would take years.

On my return I immediately contacted Charles Philips, Archaeology Officer of the Ordnance Survey, for whom I already acted as Correspondent for North Somerset, and requisitioned a set of 6" and 25" maps of the island. CWP was never one to waste money and I soon received copies of the ancient 1903 editions marked in latitude and longitude, bearing the official stamp of the now long defunct Archaeology Division, long since absorbed into English Heritage. Little had changed on Lundy however when compared to the 50 year old map. We were in business.

One of the charmingly gentle aspects of those early days on Lundy was the benevolent attitude of the owner Albion Pennington Harman, who succeeded his father in 1954. I soon received the personal invitation to come and work on his island as did anyone then who showed a serious interest in any of its field study subjects.

The formation of such a body as the Lundy Field Society had been discussed as early as December 1945, but it was not fully established until 1947 in an arrangement between the then owner, Martin Coles Harman and Leslie Harvey, Professor of Zoology at the then University College of the South West at Exeter. Harvey's own interests lay in littoral flora and fauna, but the island's value as an ornithological station had been

recognised, it being on a main British bird migration route, and there was to be a resident Bird-Warden.

The island's History was the interest of a Reigate dental surgeon, Tony Langham and his wife Myrtle. Tony went on to become the society's energetic secretary, and subsequently a vice president, writing many papers and several books on the island's varied facets. He viewed my appearance on the scene benevolently and a short paper on the Bronze Age settlement at the North End presented at the society's AGM in 1956, was the first of many to be presented with subsequent publication in the Annual report. In general however the publication was not well known among archaeologists, being restricted to LFS members and a wider field of natural historians. It was some years before the popular "Field Guide to the Archaeology of Lundy" saw the light of day and drew attention to the archaeological microcosm that Lundy obviously is.

The latter half of the 1950s was spent with small teams of 2 or 3, in field surveying, photography and when the opportunity presented itself, field-walking. In the summer of 1956 the Brick Field was under plough and a party from Devonport High School provided the leg power to recover several hundred flakes of flint, again confirming a Mesolithic presence on the island. This was duly reported in LFS vol 11 for 1957. Two other archaeological papers appeared in the joint report for 1959 and 1960, a review of 'Dark Age' remains and a note on some imported 5th/6th century pottery.

Although the possibility of conducting excavations on the island had been raised from time to time, it was not until January 1961 that formal permission was requested to work in the area west of the shippens, previously explored in the 1920s and 1930s by Bristowe & Lynex and Lethbridge & Dollar. The enigmatic 'Giant's Graves' had been discovered when these shippens were being extended, in 1856, and the earlier explorers had found a series of apparently 15th century human burials nearby, in a field which was full of surface indications of buildings and ditches. Due to the farming habit of putting the bull to the cow in this ground it was known as "Bull's Paradise". Thus it was, that the summer of 1961 saw the beginning of a long series of 'sampling' exercises, testing the sites already noted for date and context, exploring the possibility of pollen analysis from buried soil horizons, and trying to add a little detail to the gaunt outline that we had recorded, for this island seemed to have it all - from Mesolithic to Industrial.

We even, Tony Langham and I, discovered a further Early Christian engraved tombstone in the last 1/2 hr of the last day while waiting for the boat to blow its mournful warning that it was time to leave for another winter! Eventually though, through the mid-60s we were to place 20 people there for a month at a time, we even organised Field Society Training Courses via Bristol University, but our work culminated in 1969 in the highly important excavations in the Early Christian Cemetery directed by Charles Thomas.

This had been prompted by the death in June 1968 of Albion Harman, whose surviving family, on the one hand wishing to retain the quiet and peaceful way of life there, on the other did not have the funds to maintain the increasing demands which the island had made on their coffers. There seemed no option but to put the island up for sale. Immediately there was great concern over the future of the island, its way of life, and its field studies. Rumours were rife - it was to be a high security prison, a German Casino consortium was interested, the Scientists were bidding for it.

Finally through the generosity of Jack Hayward, it was purchased for £150,000 and given to the National Trust who then came to an arrangement with the Landmark Trust who were to administer it.

During all this uncertainty we were faced with the question where, if this was to be our last season under the patronage of a benevolent family, was the most important site to research? The answer had to be the Early Christian Cemetery on Beacon Hill.

With 4 inscribed memorial stones, still within an original enclosure, and with a focal grave of its founder apparent, this was a site of national importance. The family agreed, the Church agreed, and the LFS agreed; but this complex was of too great a significance to be tampered with by a group with such limited resources. Charles Thomas, as that time Lecturer at Leicester University, and a Cornishman to boot, was already the national expert on Early Christian Britain in general and the West in particular. He was invited to direct the work, whilst KSG aided now by Peter Fowler continued apace to complete the outline survey and sampling of the relict landscape of some 2000 years ago.

As it happened, the National Trust came into possession of the island before the excavations took place, but the arrangements were too far in hand. The professional excavation marked the end of an era on Lundy and from then on for the next 20 years a detailed landscape history survey was conducted by the Archaeology Division of the National Trust using techniques which we could never dream of let alone afford. During the 1980s some geophysical surveying and other statistical studies were carried out by Chris Webster and John Schofield, both professional archaeologists, and subsequently Secretary and Editor respectively for the LFS. The archaeological work on the island was, as has already been implied, of a nature which is highly unlikely to ever occur again. An unqualified amateur organising and directing research! Whatever next?

Fortuitously I was at least trained in the gentle art of organisation, for, working in industry, I had been in at the beginning of the new discipline known as Work Study, specialising personally in Organisation and Method (O&M) which sought to apply basic logic to complex problems.

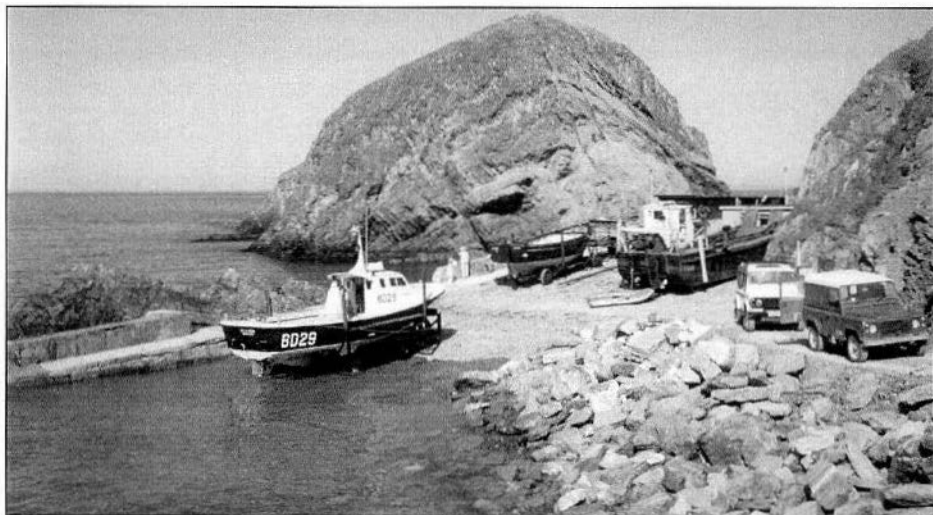
Archaeologically I had started work at the age of 17 as an assistant on a roman Villa excavation in Somerset. I had been taught the rudiments of land surveying at school and had swotted-up on the new techniques in archaeological photography. Rather than be captivated at the discovery of a 2000 year old coin, my interests lay in what is today called Landscape Archaeology, and I was soon engaged as one of the local part time 'correspondents' for the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division.

For the period I was at least an experienced field worker, and with amateur workers (and even the odd professional) prepared to actually pay for the privilege of joining a dig we had some very productive sessions on Lundy. It was a relief in a way to be able to hand over the responsibility for this extremely valuable archaeological microcosm to David and Caroline Thackray, the National Trust's archaeologists who carried on a most detailed survey. Even so, following the 1969 work no further activities were reported in the LFS Proceedings, for what retrospectively seems a staggering 20 years!

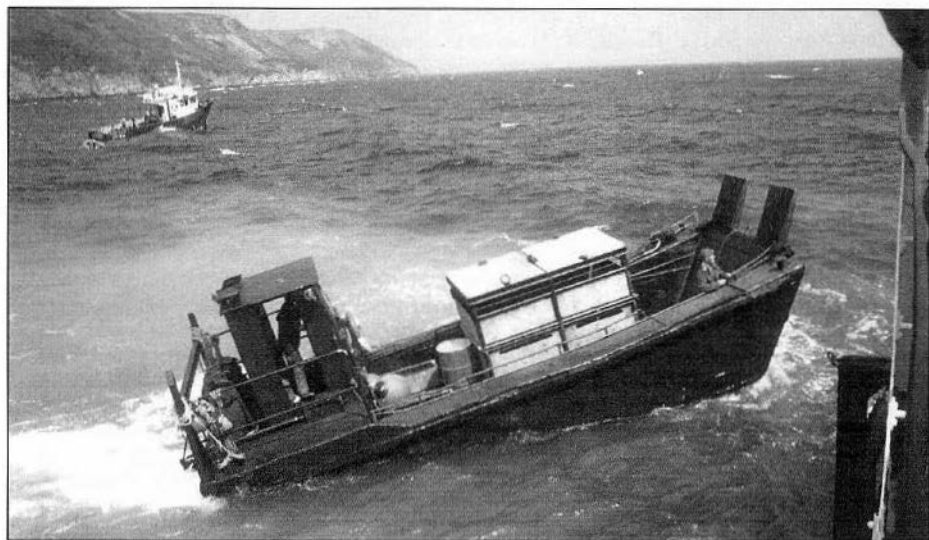
## JOHN SHEARN

It is with great regret that Roger Chapple reports the death of John Shearn, who is assured a place in Lundy history with his engineering skills, association with the Polar Bear, together with his design and manufacture of the Shearn and other engineering wizardry.

The Shearn still exists, a testament to his design and thoroughness of construction.

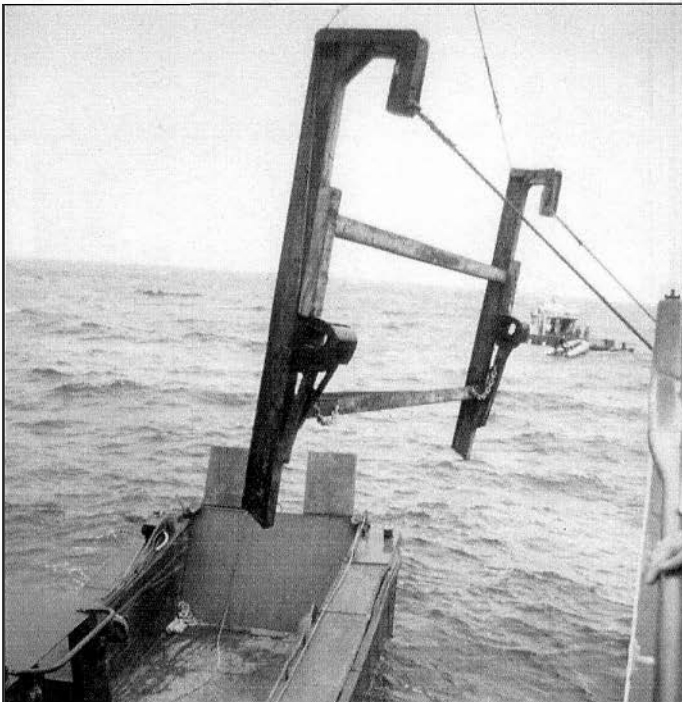
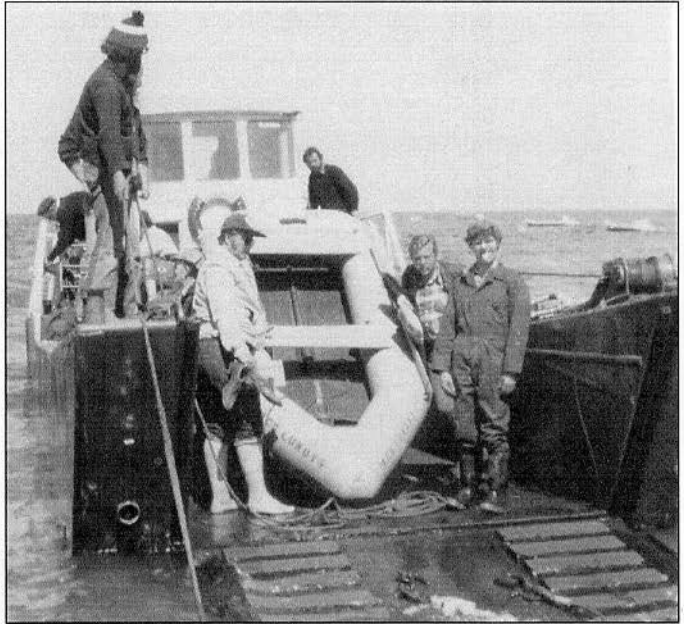


Right to Left: The Shearn, the Wendy and the Islander on the Cove beach



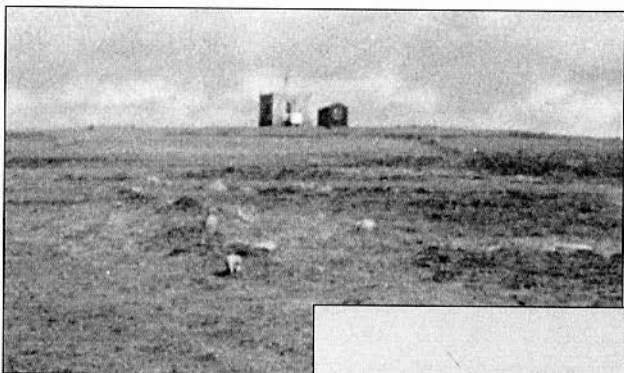
The Shearn in action

Far left Mickey  
Martin,  
far right Norman  
from the Polar Bear



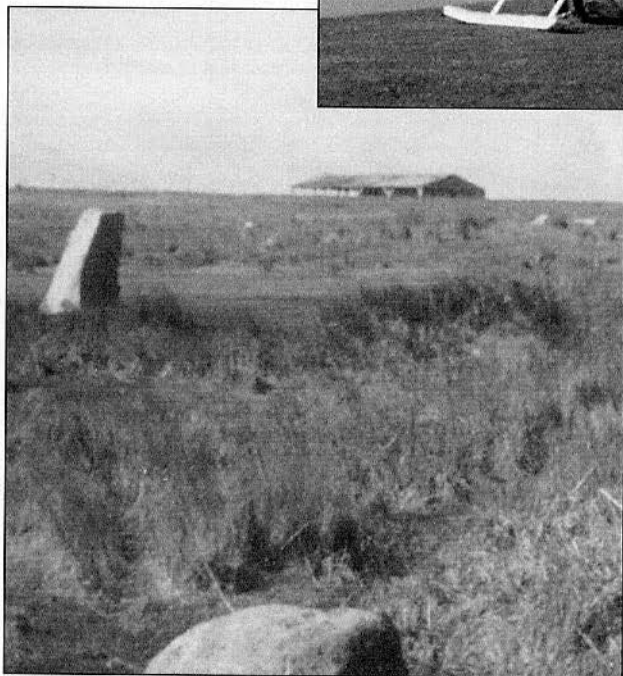
The ingenious  
"buffers" for  
protecting  
each vessel when  
loading/unloading

## PICTURES FROM THE PAST



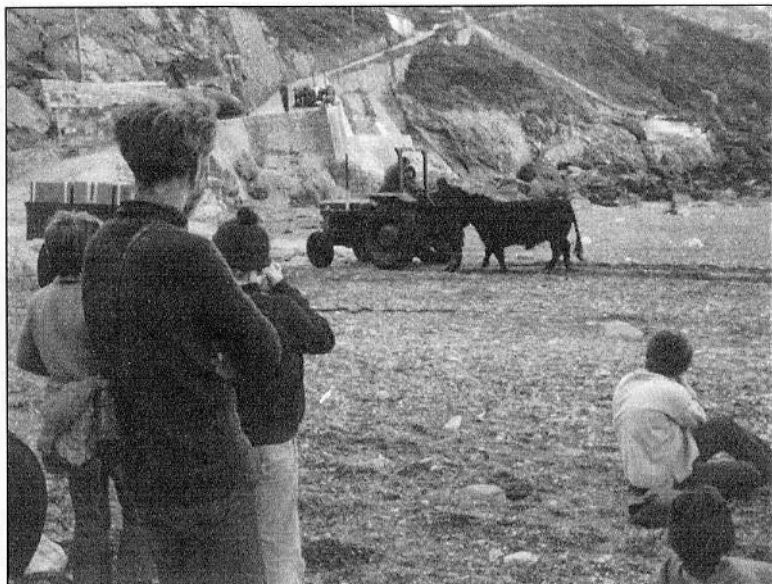
Tibbetts without the wall  
and with the outdoor Elsan

Early helicopter service on  
the West side

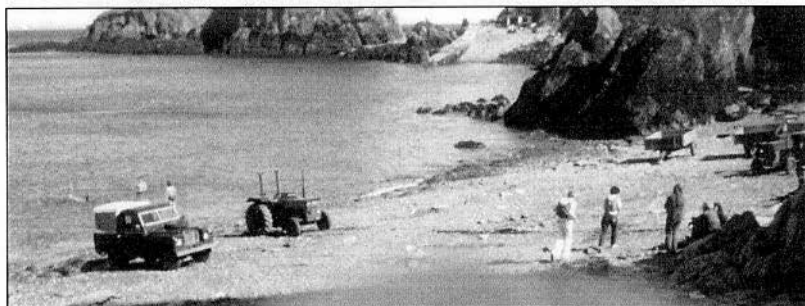


The cow shed by  
Quarter Wall

All pics middle  
70s to early 80s



The arrival of Fortcsue the bull (see ML●L p409)

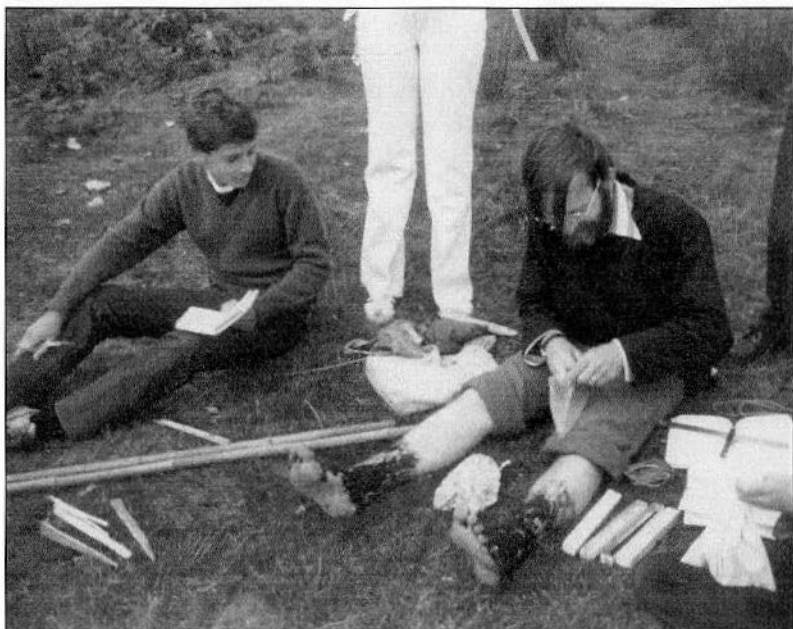


Typical Landing Beach (middle 70s?)



The wreck of the Karzburg (early 80s?)





Tony Taylor with members of one of the many Brynaston School parties he brought over 'birding' (80s)



Ernest Ireland's team at work (70s) on Square Cottage, Old House South and Old House North

These pics (pp 38, 39, 40) are from ASW's album and have archival value only.



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