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Lundy Field Society Newsletter



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Contributions in the form of news items, short articles, illustrations and photos reflecting the aims and activities of the Lundy Field Society are welcome and may be sent, preferably by email, to the editor at tim.davis@birdsoflundy.org.uk. Telephone enquiries to 01271 882965.

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View from the top...

It is with much regret that I have to inform members that Ann Westcott, who edited the Newsletter for some 30 years, passed away on 28 September. Earlier this year Ann had handed over editorship of the Newsletter to Tim Davis, but with the firm resolve of continuing to contribute ideas and her experience. We are all immensely grateful to Ann for all of her work for the Society – something that we marked at the last AGM with the presentation (pictured below) by Diana Keast (left) of a framed picture (a superb image taken by Stuart Leavy) of Tibbetts, that isolated lookout that was Ann’s favoured abode on Lundy. Ann’s obituary will appear in the 2010 LFS Annual Report.

As well as having a new editor – welcome, Tim – you will notice that the Newsletter has been redesigned to complement our flagship publications, the Journal and the Annual Report.

Thank you for continuing to support the Lundy Field Society through your membership and through any relevant activities that you undertake on the island. Our contributions to knowledge about and conservation of the island and its waters have expanded greatly in recent years and will do so further as we develop availability of publications and other material via the Society’s website (www.lundy.org.uk).

Your Committee (who work hard without any expenses for their time and travel) are kept very busy and I am grateful to all of them. We are finding ourselves having to be very careful with the Society’s money, although finances are currently robust in part because of generous donations for publications: such donations to support the work of the LFS are very welcome.

Keith Hiscock
Chairman



A word from the editor

Taking over the reins from a much-respected longstanding predecessor can be very daunting, so I must begin my tenure as editor of the LFS Newsletter by paying tribute to Ann Westcott for her dedication to the role over 30 years. Ann first went to Lundy in 1958. An afternoon spent with her in her Appledore home stuffing the Newsletter into envelopes produced many an anecdote from half a century of visits to the island. I greatly enjoyed her sharp wit, sometimes acerbic, sometimes ironic but overlying an inner warmth and a kind heart. Her immense contribution to the LFS, not to mention community life in Appledore, will be greatly missed.

My first visit to Lundy came in August 1973 when Tony Vickery took a small party from Barnstaple Tennis Club across on the *Balmoral*. Like so many before me and since, the island captivated me and, with Tony as guide and mentor, annual staying visits followed year on year, along with a fast-developing passion for birdwatching. Tony's patience in those early days when the most often repeated sound in his ear was an enquiring "What's that?" was a fine example of fortitude. Tony's knees, like the rest of him now 17 years short of a century, no longer allow him to travel across to the island, but his enthusiasm for the place never dims. His sharp wit, like Ann's, is much missed, especially during a week in Old House South.

So, with repeated thanks to the above-mentioned Lundy stalwarts, I must turn my attention to this, my first LFS Newsletter. There are 13 contributors this time and between them, Andrew Cleave, Trevor Dobie, Victoria Eveleigh, Andrea Foster, Keith Hiscock, Paul James, Tim Jones, Colin McShane, Alan Rowland, Edmund Stanbrook, Myrtle Ternstrom, Michael Williams and Ann Westcott (in her last contribution) provide a variety of news, stories and articles that I hope will both entertain and inform. Andrea's article reproduces the obituary for Ann Westcott published in the *North Devon Journal*.

My aim will be to publish the Newsletter in November each year, following on from the mid-year publication of the Annual Report. As well as reports on activities since the previous edition, the Newsletter carries short articles on all facets of Lundy, especially those that reflect the aims and activities of the Lundy Field Society. There will also be the chance to look ahead to events and happenings planned for the year ahead. **All this can only be achieved, of course, with your input – so please put pen to paper, preferably electronically, and send me your contributions, however small.** I can't promise to use them all, but I will do my best.

I look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, read on – and may your next stay on Lundy be even more enjoyable than any you've had previously. ☐

Tim Davis

Lords of Lundy

To clarify the order form for Myrtle Ternstrom's forthcoming book, *Lords of Lundy*, Myrtle confirms that the price to LFS members is £11.00, plus £2.75 p&p, with cheques payable to 'M. Ternstrom'. Any member having sent £12.50 (i.e. not having deducted the member's discount of £1.50) will receive a refund with the book. Apologies for any confusion from Myrtle, who says she is suffering from too much age! At the time of writing (mid-October) the book is at the printers, so delivery is still a little way off.



Image from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Windmills_D1-4_\(Thornton_Bank\).jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Windmills_D1-4_(Thornton_Bank).jpg)

Blowing in the wind – near Lundy

KEITH HISCOCK considers the proposed Atlantic Array and gives the LFS's opinion on what should be included in the environmental assessment.

If the proposal to develop an array of wind turbines to the north and north-east of Lundy goes ahead, the view will inevitably change. The towers and blades could be as much as 100 metres high and, in clearish weather, will be easily visible from the island. At night, the aircraft warning lights are likely to be points of red on the night sky. As well as claiming to be able to see 14 lighthouses from Lundy, you may soon claim to see... well, you do the counting if they happen. The visual impact will be obvious, but the effects on wildlife and historical features need a bit more thought. So, here are my 'pros and cons':

Pros

- Generates 'clean' electricity from a renewable resource (wind);
- Provides local employment – short-term and long-term;
- Offers opportunities for protecting seabed habitats and biodiversity around the structures;
- Increases habitat diversity in the area (introducing hard substratum to otherwise sedimentary habitats);
- Offers opportunities to develop shellfisheries if anti-scour measures are designed appropriately.

Cons

- Construction and possibly operation creates noise and vibration that may disturb wildlife;
- Blades and towers may be a hazard to flying birds, as well as rafting/feeding seabirds;
- Seabed characteristics will be changed for marine wildlife;
- Historical seabed features may be disturbed;
- Construction rigs may transport attached non-native species to the Lundy area;
- Structures may provide 'stepping-stones' for spread of non-native marine species;
- Visually intrusive on an otherwise clear skyline;
- Hazard to navigation.

The LFS was asked in late April to comment on what should be in the environmental assessment by the developers, RWE npower renewables. An abridged text of the letter that we sent on 29 May 2010 is given below.

Atlantic Array scoping opinion

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals for the Atlantic Array offshore wind energy generation project. Our understanding is that the proposed array will extend to the north and north-east of Lundy on a predominantly west/east axis with what would appear to be a closest proximity to the island of about 13 km.

We are concerned about the potential impacts of the proposed development on wildlife and historic features. We feel that the following are essential considerations (which add to those addressed in the EIA Scoping Study) in relation to nature conservation and historic features and working to minimise adverse effects of any eventual development on wildlife:

1. Consider impacts on wildlife of the survey and construction phases, especially of noise disturbance including seismic survey and pile driving. Consider if there should be any 'closed season' that may relate to times when birds are feeding to rear young. (We are aware that cetaceans may be disturbed by noise and in extreme cases possibly suffer damage as a result of sonar. We are aware that sandeels in particular are sensitive to noise and may leave the protection of sediments.) Design appropriate monitoring with surveys before, during and after development.
2. Provide the latest research findings on the effects of electromagnetic radiation on marine life, especially elasmobranch fish. Indicate whether and what effects might occur and how any adverse effects will be addressed. (The EIA is very vague on this issue.)
3. We observe that the EIA has identified sample points for marine biology in the area of the proposed development and those surveys identify the biotopes present. We draw attention to an unpublished draft report of sediments around Lundy prepared for Natural England and authored by Nunny and Smith. However, the knowledge of seabed habitats in the area is very poor and we therefore support the intention to undertake a "detailed benthic characterisation survey" to better identify the features represented which should include whether any are of marine natural heritage importance (for instance, BAP habitats, OSPAR habitats, Nationally Important Marine Features including species and habitats). The EIA mentions Annex 1 habitats listed in the Habitats Directive but those habitats are very broad and, because of that broad categorisation, examples are not necessarily of importance for marine biodiversity conservation. The company should look to the Nationally Important Marine Features lists for species and habitats of marine natural heritage importance (see www.marlin.ac.uk/nimf).
4. Seal populations have been considered in the EIA but it scarcely refers to the significant breeding population of Atlantic grey seals at Lundy for which foraging territory may include the proposed development area.
5. We note that the Scoping Report makes reference to Lundy's breeding population of Manx Shearwaters, but states that the population is small (and by implication insignificant). However, following considerable investment of conservation resources, particularly to eradicate rats from Lundy, the Manx Shearwater population is now growing rapidly and has the potential to become internationally important in the foreseeable future. It is essential that the full EIA for the Atlantic Array takes into account the latest information available from satellite tracking of nesting shearwaters on foraging trips from the island (this work is being undertaken by the Edward Grey Institute, University of Oxford).
6. Lundy also supports regionally important breeding populations of Guillemots, Razorbills and Kittiwakes. It will be important to ensure that the potential impacts of construction and operation of the Atlantic Array on the foraging areas of these species are properly investigated.

7. We have concerns that periodic observations conducted from boats (as proposed in the Scoping Report) will be insufficient to identify important foraging areas for seabirds, as these are likely to shift according to season and prevailing weather conditions. Surface surveying, as a technique, is also notoriously weather-dependent. Surface survey data should therefore be combined with information from aerial surveys and satellite tracking. Additional research should be commissioned where existing data are insufficient for making informed conclusions.
8. The area might have been dry land at some stage in prehistory (though not necessarily part of greater Lundy). We were therefore pleased to see that there will be an appropriate evaluation of any marine archaeological resource but would also like to see a statement of intent to mitigate any diminution of significant features within proposals.

We look forward to a statement on ‘wildlife gains’ from a wind energy park especially with regard to closure to mobile fishing gear but also the possibility of fisheries enhancement through design of anti-scour measures that may be attractive to shellfish.

We observe, as you doubtless realise, that reference to the Marine Nature Reserve and its statutory basis needs to be updated to refer to the now ‘Marine Conservation Zone’.

We would have expected a section on ‘Landscape and seascape’ to address the potential visual impact of the array on existing views and any impairment of those views. The views from and towards Lundy should be an important part of any assessment of impact on landscape.

We are bemused by the statement about Lundy “4.226 Historically inhabited by hermits/monks, the island was chosen for its isolation and lack of links to the mainland”. Lundy is a dramatic and much-loved part of the scenic appeal of the view from the north Cornwall and North Devon coast especially. The island is much-visited by members of the public who go there for its remoteness, tranquility and spectacular scenery. The report mentions Ilfracombe but not Woolacombe, from where Lundy is a conspicuous seascape feature. The views from south Wales, whilst distant and tantalizing, cannot be described as “theoretical”. Are “visual receptors” eyes? All-in-all, Sections 4.217 to 4.233 are poorly drafted and without knowledge of the area and Lundy in particular.

My comments are made on behalf of and with the advice of the Committee of the Lundy Field Society. However, I mention here that I have had some personal involvement in considering colonisation of offshore structures by marine life and possible wildlife ‘enhancement’ effects of offshore wind energy developments and I declare that I am currently a member of the government’s Marine Protected Areas Science Advisory Panel.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Keith Hiscock
Chairman, Lundy Field Society

Much more information about the proposal is accessible through www.rwe.com, and more about offshore wind farms can be found at <http://www.offshorewindfarms.co.uk>.

A day of celebratory events

ALAN ROWLAND reports on a special day on Lundy when he represented the LFS at three events that all took place on 15 May 2010.

It was an early start from Bideford that took me and some 200 other passengers on a smooth but uneventful voyage of only an hour and 45 minutes. On arrival we were met on the jetty by the voices of the Shanty Singers, and, once disembarked, were also entertained by the Tarka Morris Men. Lyndsey Green was persuaded to be the focus of one Morris dance, only to be taken surprised by the climax when all six men raised her above their heads.



The Tarka Morris Men with Lyndsey Green.

Beach Building

The newly refurbished beach building was the culmination of a four-year project led by Sophie Wheatley and was opened by Chris Davis of Natural England. Derek Green explained that this marked the culmination of Phase 1 of the Development Project and would be followed by further work on the Church, the Rocket Shed and mainland areas. £38,000 had been raised in support of the project, of which £8,000 came from Natural England, the remainder provided by public donation. He thanked Sophie and Nicola Saunders for all their hard work and acknowledged collaborators Bettina Newman and Mike Langman for the board designs, Nick Loates for the large marine mural and Chris Harland of Greenspace for the wooden reliefs.

Chris Davis, Senior Specialist with Natural England, recalled his long association with Lundy, from his first visit aged 18 when researching the diet of the Lundy rats. He noted that Lundy is the first Marine Conservation Zone and remains at the forefront of marine nature conservation. Guests and visitors were then able to admire posters featuring designs to encourage them to map, explore, discover, observe, conserve and protect Lundy. A huge marine mural painted by Nick Loates covers the whole of the south end wall, while the centre and sides of the building feature marine motifs drawn by Mike Langman and sand-blasted into relief by Chris Harland. A large moving compass reveals themed pictures and text, and a blackboard informs visitors of the latest wildlife sightings. The new and expanding range of Lundy leaflets, as well as the LFS membership leaflet, complete the new facility.

Derek Green reiterated some of the background to the Conservation Infrastructure and Interpretation Appeal that was launched at the 40th Anniversary of National Trust ownership of Lundy in October 2009. The project was first conceived four years ago, with Nicola and Sophie writing the conservation plan as a project to provide interpretation. Phase 1 is now complete and includes the development of the Lundy style which is to be seen in the leaflets and on the building displays which features the logos of the nine partner organisations. Phase two is for the future, but will involve the Helipad at Hartland Lighthouse.



L-R: Sophie Wheatley, Derek Green, Nicola Saunders, Jim Tomson (SW Colour Labs), Mike Loates, Chris Harland and Chris Davis at the opening of the new Beach Building.

New Lundy stamp launch

Lars Liwendahl, the Lundy Stamp Advisor, gave a potted history of the Lundy Postal Service which is the oldest private postal service in the world, inaugurated by Martin Coles Harman in 1929. Initially the Puffin stamps covered only the carriage between Lundy and the mainland and required both UK and Lundy stamps on mail. Now, with the advent of franking machines, the ‘puffinage’ includes both UK and Lundy carriage.

Lars explained that there are 40,000 items of mail sent from Lundy annually and that over 350 different stamps have been issued by the Lundy postmaster. Current policy dictates that to preserve the integrity of Lundy stamps, issues are limited to every two years. The new issue depicts Lundy wildlife and comprises the five values listed overleaf. Lars revealed that Photoshop had been used to finalise the composition of the images; for example, the six original Sika deer of the 100 puffin issue were reduced to the present three, and the Atlantic grey seals on the 35 puffin issue is a mirror



Lars Liwendahl, Acting Postmaster.



Lundy wildlife stamp issue, 2010

Value	Image	Photographer	No. printed
35 puffin	Seals	Derek Green	25,200
46 puffin	Feral Goats	Stuart Levy	25,200
69 puffin	Soay Sheep	Nicola Saunders	10,500
75 puffin	Rabbit	Elena Faramus	10,500
100 puffin	Sika Deer	Vikki Nuttall	10,500

image of the original photograph. All were printed by Cartor Security Printing of Paris. Lars then announced a special opening of the Lundy Post Office for two hours in the Marisco Tavern, where covers and stamps could be purchased.

Raising the Lundy Flag

Before leaving the Marisco, Derek Green gave us some insight into the flags of Lundy. He pointed out that many flags, including those of Trinity House and the South Light, were to be seen in the bar area of the Tavern. When Martin Coles Harman bought Lundy, he envisaged it becoming an independent island, which was reinforced by the stamp issue but somewhat diminished by his unsuccessful attempts with the Lundy coinage. Derek showed us some illustrations of earlier Lundy flags featuring a capital 'L', a Puffin and elements of other countries' flags.

At precisely 2pm on Hangman's Hill (perhaps better known as The Ugly), Diana Keast repeated the ceremony performed when the National Trust took over the island 40 years previously, by raising a Union flag above the new Lundy flag, the latter comprising a white 'L' on a blue background, based on the design used in 1969. This rounded off the 40th anniversary marking the handover of Lundy from the Harman family to the National Trust. As in the original ceremony, Felix Gade's favourite song, The Hartland Song, was sung as the twin flags billowed in the mellow breeze. The new flag is expected to be flown on 'high days and holidays'. □

*Right: Diana Keast and Derek Green hoist the Union and Lundy flags.
Photos by Alan Rowland and Keith Hiscock*



LFS Conservation Breaks 2010

Both of this year's LFS Conservation Breaks were well attended and very productive, as TREVOR DOBIE reports.

In March, an unprecedented helicopter delay of two foggy days did not discourage a full party. Many tasks were completed, including refurbishment of the LFS heligoland trap, weeding the tree nurseries below Government House, installing stone steps near the Casbah and clearing

the landing beach of two-and-a-half trailer loads of driftwood. A sizeable area of Millcombe Gardens was tilled in preparation for planting, helped by good weather and hard-working volunteers.

In September, two late withdrawals made for less queuing for the Barn shower for the twelve members who enjoyed a mild and mainly sunny week. Good inroads were made into the remaining stand of rhododendron, and other areas of Millcombe Gardens were prepared for future planned



LFS member Fred Staff alongside the new steps near the Casbah.

research. On the Thursday of our week, a detachment of members was sent to Quarter Wall Copse to prepare a planting areas for new trees, using the stacked rhododendron logs and branches from previous cuttings – a good use of existing materials. Some of the stacked alleyways previously created will be fenced in at their ends to make other deer- and goat-proof tree nursery areas. □

Photos by Louise Cookson



The September 2010 LFS Volunteers.

Lundy becomes Britain's first Marine Conservation Zone

KEITH HISCOCK outlines the designation in January of this year of Lundy as the UK's first Marine Conservation Zone.

Lundy was the first area to be consulted on as a candidate voluntary marine nature reserve in 1971, the first statutory Marine Nature Reserve (established under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981) in 1986, the first No-Take Zone marine protected area in 2003, and now, since 12 January 2010, the first Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), established under provisions in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The change from MNR to MCZ is, at this stage, a 'house-keeping' matter – MCZs replace MNRs. But as part of the process of identifying MCZs throughout English waters, consideration will be given to the Lundy boundaries and whether they might be expanded to incorporate other habitats within the conservation objectives for the MCZ. Central to that process is the Finding Sanctuary project based near Exeter and any proposal must be made through them. I have an overview of the sites being proposed as MCZs and their conservation objectives as a member of the government's Marine Protected Areas Science Advisory Panel. □



Left: Presenter Frank Pope and LFS Chairman Keith Hiscock during filming in the Lundy MCZ on 27 May for a new BBC television series.



Right: LFS Chairman Keith Hiscock (nearest camera, showing his 'best side') with presenter Frank Pope and Diving Supervisor Richard Bull getting ready to film in the Lundy MCZ.

Recalling Tony Walker

In her last contribution to the LFS Newsletter, ANN WESTCOTT offers a collection of treasured memories of Tony Walker, who died in February this year.

I have been asked to write something of the man whose friendship I, along with many others, came to cherish. I first met Tony in the late 1950s; the visits to the island of the Coles, Langhams and Westcotts coincided that summer with that of Tony Walker, and thereafter coincidence was arranged and this happy association prevailed for many years. We were known – affectionately, one hopes – as the ‘Lundy Bs’ (‘B’ being short for a derogatory term that rhymes with sugar).

Tony was suited to Lundy and Lundy to him. He liked all the things that children (not to mention their parents) visiting the island have always liked: the space, the freedom to dress for the island rather than for dressing’s sake, the sense that it is your very own island – a real and very particular sense of belonging.

Whenever any of us met Tony on the mainland, it was as if we were all in our private Lundy. He was clever but never showed off or at least no more than the rest of us did. He enjoyed Lundy and being with us as much as we enjoyed being with him – a real sense of ‘family’. One of the most notable ‘family’ expeditions that we made up and down the island was when we had a swimming party off

the Pyramid, when the wind had been easterly for ages and it was flat calm. The only people who actually had cossies were Jim Cole and Sue Mills, so the rest of us bathed courtesy of M&S and returned to the village in wet underwear, propriety demanding that an outer layer be donned as we neared civilization. Tony took the pics – I wonder where they are now...

He always had his camera with him and his collection of Lundy photographs – possibly one of the most comprehensive of that period – will constitute an invaluable archive.

Tony was not only an extremely intelligent man, possessed of a perceptive sardonic wit, he was also generous of spirit and instinctively and selflessly brave – a quality which he demonstrated on Lundy on one notable occasion when he undertook a very difficult and dangerous climb down to Jonathan Sparrow, the LFS Warden who sadly died in a cliff fall in June 1965. Tony was subsequently awarded the Queen’s Gallantry Medal.

Anyone who knew Tony will remember him with affection and I for one shall miss him very much. I am fortunate in having so many happy memories of him on his beloved island. □

An obituary will appear in the 2010 LFS Annual Report.



*Tony Walker, photographed in the Tavern
by Jennifer Ellis in 2007.*

A fascinating find

The late Tony Walker's family have generously donated his Lundy collection to the LFS. It includes many books, stamps and ephemera, some of which will be used to fill gaps in the Society's library. Looking through the collection, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, the LFS Librarian, made a fascinating find.

I was very excited to find seven copies of Felix Gade's autobiography, *My Life on Lundy*, including copy number three of the first edition dedicated to Tony (who co-edited the book with Myrtle Ternstrom) and copy 31 which was signed by all the islanders (below left) at the time of publication. He added a sheet of paper (below right) describing who everyone was and their role on the island, which I have transcribed below. It provides a fascinating snapshot of the island in 1978.



Signatures in the left-hand column are all islanders and their relations:

Penny Ogilvie	Wife of John Ogilvie, née Ruddock.
Kate (Ogilvie)	Eldest daughter of John and Penny, aged about 10.
Liz (Ogilvie)	Youngest daughter, aged about 7.
Paul Kendall	Grandson of Chrys and Dave Davey, aged about 15.
R. P. Davey	(Bob) or Dave. Engineer/Mechanic.
Tony Taylor	Assistant Barman, Chief (Grade A) Birdwatcher.
Chrys Davey	Chrystine, wife of Dave.
Neal Hammond	Worker, ex North End Lightkeeper.
Mike Haycraft	Mason, rebuilding Marisco Castle.
Bill Holman	Mason, rebuilding Old Lighthouse.
John W. Hinshelwood	Worker, son of John and Ina.
Carolyn (Kendall)	Granddaughter of Chrys and Dave Davey, aged 16.
Anne-Marie (Squire)	Daughter of Mary Gade, aged 13 (youngest).
Carol Baillie	Wife of Chris Baillie, shop/tea-garden assistant.
Stirling Melhuish	Beach-master, i/c Campbell launches, etc.

Dave Britton	Worker, Tractor driver; (son of Bob Britton).
Chris Baillie	Gardener, temporary (also holidaymaker).
J (?) Hinshelwood	Assistant Agent/Deputy Administrator.
Mary Gade	(married name Squire) Daughter of the Author.
Ros Gilliat	Wife of Agent/Administrator.
Bob Gilliat	Agent/Administrator.

Signatures in the right-hand column:

D Hyam	Dennis. Carpenter.
Paula Winnington	Cook at Millcombe House, wife of Geoffrey.
Geoffrey Winnington	Manager at Millcombe House (also waiter!).
Nigel Thomas	Marine Warden.
Bronwyn Geddes	Chambermaid etc. at Millcombe House.
Louise Melhuish	Wife of Stirling; shop worker.
Bob Bendall	Gardener, tree planter, etc. Farm Bailiff about 1950.
Irene Hyam	Staff Cook, wife of Dennis.
Martha Campey	In charge of shop; wife of Richard.
Gwenda (-with love)	Nurse, wife of Nick Morrow.
Richard Campey	Barman, Naturalist-in-training.
Nick Morrow	Accountant.
John O. (Ogilvie)	Farmer, Shepherd.
Angela Bendall	Office Secretary/Manager, wife of Bob, i/c Ponies.
Ina Hinshelwood	Millcombe House Assistant, wife of John (senior).
Donald P. J. (Peyton Jones)	Priest of Appledore and Lundy.

I collected all these autographs between August 12th and 26th 1978 when on holiday on Lundy (staying in Millcombe House). Bob Gilliat was in the process of taking over as the new agent, and Donald PJ was on his last visit before his "retirement" to Plymouth – to take over the "Mission to Seamen". Richard and Martha Campey had also only just arrived. Liz Ogilvie was still permanently resident – Kate goes to boarding school in Bideford during term-time.

A discussion as to the best way of maximising benefit to the Society from Tony Walker's book collection took place at the September meeting of the LFS Committee. A number of rare items were retained to bolster the LFS Library. A small number of historic items were deemed worthy of deposit at the North Devon Record Office, to increase their locally available collection of Lundy items. These included the copy of *My Life on Lundy* containing the signatures described above by Michael, a 1977 Landmark Handbook signed by all those on Lundy during the Royal visit of that year, and a set of Lundy stamp catalogues. Numerous LFS Annual Reports and Newsletters were placed into sales stock and those members who have a 'wants' list with the sales officer will be advised of any new items. The bulk of the items will be sold via a book stall at the 2011 Annual General Meeting in Exeter, with some items going into the Auction. Any remaining stock will be offered for sale at the Lundy Collectors Club meeting in Ilfracombe in June 2011, and if necessary also at the 2011 Appledore Book Festival.

Alan Rowland

Saving Lundy's native bluebells



Native bluebells in Millcombe, May 2010. Photo by Keith Hiscock

The bluebells on Lundy were looking spectacular at the end of May this year – the more so because Chris Flower, the Lundy Ranger, and his volunteers have been busy removing non-native Spanish bluebells, which are wishy-washy blues to pinks. The following is a quote from Germaine Greer writing in the *Daily Telegraph* in 2001: “The Spanish bluebell is the worst enemy of the native bluebell because it will hybridise with it; when it does, because its genes are dominant, the traits of the British bluebell disappear within a very few generations. A stand of Spanish bluebells left to seed in a British bluebell wood will, in a few seasons, overwhelm and replace the choice native plant.” The presence of Spanish bluebells is something that I, probably amongst others, noticed a couple of years ago in Millcombe and mentioned to the Warden, Nicola Saunders. Thank you for taking such speedy action.

Keith Hiscock

What am I bid? – the 2010 AGM Auction

Thanks to the generosity of LFS members, the last Auction, held at the AGM last March, raised a total of £260 for Society funds. From time to time I receive items from members for auction, for the benefit of the Society. In particular, Myrtle Ternstrom and Diana Keast continually delight us with their regular donations. Others who have recently contributed are Trevor Dobie, the Tims Davis and Jones, and the late Tony Walker. After the last auction, Doug Kestell very kindly donated a large amount of books, booklets and pictures which will feature in future auctions. My apologies if I have omitted anyone – do please let me know. Look out for more interesting items in next year's auction.

Alan Rowland

A day to remember

VICTORIA EVELEIGH reflects on a day of memories on Lundy in May 2009.

St Helen's Church on a perfect spring morning is a far cry from the horrors of the Second World War, but for a brief moment the small congregation gathered there on Sunday 10 May 2009 imagined another place and time: the Indian-Burmese border in 1944, with John Harman (son of the former owner of Lundy, Martin Coles Harman) and the brave young men who fought for our freedom under appalling conditions during the Siege of Kohima.

A church service had been arranged at short notice because Chris Baillie, a minister in the United Reformed Church, had arrived on the *Oldenburg* the day before and was staying on Lundy with his family for a week. On the same boat trip, and also staying for a week, were Colonel Donald Easten, MC and his daughter, Susan Ogilvy. They had been invited to stay by Diana Keast, with whom they are close friends. Colonel Easten commanded D Company of the 4th Royal West Kents during the Siege of Kohima, and it was he who recommended that Lance Corporal John Pennington Harman, Diana Keast's brother, should be posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

Before the service started, Chris Baillie asked Colonel Easten whether he would mind saying a few words about John Harman. With no time to prepare, Colonel Easten stood and, with immense clarity and warmth, gave an account of John Harman and his exceptional bravery during the Siege of Kohima. It was so powerful that everyone felt moved to tears.



Diana Keast and Donald Easten by the memorial stone to John Harman in VC Quarry.

Photo by Victoria Eveleigh

During the siege, about 500 men stopped the advance of 15,000 Japanese into India for 16 days until the British 2nd Division could fight their way through. John Harman was a brave and able soldier who repeatedly refused promotion because he did not want to be placed above his men. He was the person everyone wanted to take with them when they were going on a dangerous mission, and he was always willing to go. On 8 April 1944, finding his section held down by a Japanese machine-gun crew, he took the initiative and went forward by himself in broad daylight. After holding a live four-second grenade for two seconds, he threw it into the bunker. The crew were killed, and he captured the machine-gun. The following morning he single-handedly charged another position held by the Japanese, killing five enemy soldiers. He was shot from behind as he returned to his friends, and died soon afterwards.

That afternoon, after the church service, Diana Keast took Colonel Easten and Susan to VC Quarry, where they paid their respects to John Harman at his memorial stone. Colonel Easten emphasised the fact that the Victoria Cross is the highest military decoration awarded for valour in the face of the enemy. It is an exceedingly rare honour, with fewer than 1,400 recipients since its inception in 1856. John Harman has a very special place in history; an extraordinary man associated with a remarkable island. □

'Road of Bones: The Siege of Kohima 1944 – The Epic Story of the Last Great Battle of Empire', by Fergal Keane, was published by HarperPress earlier this year (ISBN: 0-00-713240-9).

John Harman's birthplace commemorated

LFS Life Member EDMUND STANBROOK, writing to Myrtle Ternstrom in May this year, noted how items about Lundy pop up at odd times, in this instance relating to John Pennington Harman.

On a visit to Maidstone during 2008, Edmund went into the museum there and noticed a room devoted to the Royal West Kent Regiment, adjacent to which was a framed picture of John Harman with his Victoria Cross. Nearby was a set of books about the history of the VC. Edmund noted the titles of the books and borrowed copies from his local library. He discovered that John was the only holder of the VC from the regiment's part in the battle of Kohima.



In April this year, he bought a book entitled *London Plaques* and noted that John Harman's name was included in it and that he was born at 9 Shrewsbury Road, Elmers End, Kent. The following month he travelled there and found the house with the plaque (pictured above). He learned from a neighbour that the houses had been built in 1912 and, as John was born in 1914, guessed that John's parents, Martin Coles Harman and his wife Amy, were the first owners of the property.

St Helen's Church – update

ANDREW CLEAVE gives an update on discussions over the future of the Church.

I represented the LFS at a meeting on the future of the Church in Bideford on 1 September, attended by a high-powered team from the Diocese of Exeter. Ownership of the Church had been identified as resting with the Church Commissioners. Some repairs have been carried out to the roof to make the building secure, and moss and grass have been removed from the damp course. The desire is for the Chancel area to remain as a church, with new seating, but for the rest of the building to be developed as 'flexible space', for example to house displays. Possibilities for an appeal for funds are now being considered, but the legal position as to who receives the money from an appeal needs to be established first. Once an architect's survey has been carried out, the likely cost of repairs will be assessed. A further meeting will take place in November. □

Photo by Tim Jones



LFS Annual Report matters

Our plans to deliver the 2009 LFS Annual Report to members during August were torpedoed owing to delays during printing. My apologies for this, but I hope you like the finished product now that it is out.

As you will know from past Annual Reports, the island's bird life features very strongly, both in terms of words and photographs. I would like to challenge members to provide suitable images of other subjects, wildlife or otherwise, for inclusion in the 2010 report. Ideally, each photograph should come with the following details: species (where relevant), location on the island, date photo taken, photographer, and if possible a few descriptive words. I'll do my best to include any or all material received, though please note that editorial decisions will be final.

Please send your contributions to me at jandcinbreewood@btinternet.com.

Colin McShane

Lord William Cecil, the absent-minded Bishop of Exeter, once sent a telegram to his wife: "Am in Ilfracombe. Why?" LFS members, of course, would know exactly why they were in Ilfracombe... wouldn't they?

Woody goes on holiday – to Lundy



Photographing seals under water (as I do at Lundy), I noticed that this one had an orange tag on its left rear flipper. The Lundy warden, Nicola Saunders, circulated the image and it was recognised by Sue Sayer of the Cornwall Seal Group. ‘Woody’ – as he is known – was a three-year-old male that had been seen regularly near St Ives, on 5 June 2009 near Newquay and, in this photograph, off Lundy on 20 June 2009. By late August and through to the end of October 2009 at least, he was back near St Ives.

Keith Hiscock

Lundy extracts

Taken from *A History of Ornithology* by Peter Bircham, Collins New Naturalist series, 2008.

Page 13: “In 1274, Jurors sent to assess the island of Lundy for the Crown (the owner of the island) sent a report that included: ‘The role of Gannets is worth 5s, there are other birds but they are sold. There is also one eyrie of Lanner Falcons [Peregrines?] which have sometimes three young ones, sometimes four, sometimes more, and sometimes less. The eyrie the jury knew not how to estimate and they build their nestes in a place in which they cannot be taken.’

The bird now known as the lanner falcon (*Falco biarmicus*) had not been recorded in the wild in Britain, the bird in question was almost certainly the peregrine falcon.”

Page 78: “From Carew’s Survey of Cornwall ‘Lanner’ was used for birds in Lundy and might possibly have been a West Country colloquial name ... in a book on falconry Simon Latham (1618) states that lanners lived in England ... it seems highly unlikely that the birds named here are what we now call lanner falcons.”

Alan Rowland

Night-time excitement along the Beach Road...

Listening to the calls of a small seabird somewhere up a cliff face above the Landing Bay at dead of night isn't everybody's cup of tea, but it certainly excited the lucky birdwatchers who heard it, as TIM JONES explains.

June 2010 brought what is quite possibly the most extraordinary ornithological record for Lundy since the lonely vigil of an Ancient Murrelet (a small Pacific auk that found itself on the wrong side of the world) at Jenny's Cove in the 1990s.

While undertaking a night-time survey searching for possible breeding Storm Petrels, Chris Townend and Helen Booker found a male Barolo's Shearwater (*Puffinus baroli*) which they identified from its distinctive call as it sat on the sidelands somewhere above the Landing Bay on the night of 4/5 June.

Two nights later, Tim Davis and I (fortuitously on the island at the time) had the privilege of sitting on the Beach Road listening to the bird in the company of Tavern chef Carl Pimlott, who used Grant Sherman's superduper (but also super heavy) sound recording equipment to capture the distinctive call for posterity. The shearwater called regularly for the next couple of weeks – but was never seen – and was last heard (according to entries in the LFS logbook) on the night of 23/24 June. It had presumably abandoned trying to attract a mate by then, given that the nearest female was most likely on Madeira or the Canaries, where the species nests. This individual had clearly missed the right island by some considerable distance!

“But Barolo's Shearwater isn't even mentioned in my bird book!” I hear you cry. True enough. It was only recently ‘split’ from Little Shearwater (which you will find in the better European field guides, such as the *Collins Bird Guide*) and taxonomists are still arguing over exactly what to call it. North Atlantic Little Shearwater? Barolo or Barolo's Shearwater? Macaronesian Shearwater anyone? Whatever the niceties of expert arguments, it will be fascinating to see if ‘our’ Lundy bird returns in 2011, particularly as Carl heard the same call in 2009 while night-fishing from the jetty. He didn't realise its significance at the time – this is only the second record for Britain of a calling (i.e. territory-holding) Barolo's/Little Shearwater, following one on Skomer in 1981 and 1982 – but happily he kept a faint, but perfectly identifiable recording on his mobile phone.

The bird's presence quickly escaped onto the information highways, attracting a good many birdwatchers during its stay, including a group of six very keen twitchers who braved an evening crossing from Clovelly on the *Jessica Hettie* in fairly choppy seas.

The Ancient Murrelet came to Lundy in three successive years. Whether the Barolo's Shearwater will do the same remains to be seen. In the meantime you can listen to Carl's evocative recording from this year online at www.lundybirds.co.uk/sightings.php. Scroll down to ‘June’ and click on ‘Sound file’ about halfway through the list of bird sightings for that month. The Barolo's Shearwater is the high-pitched piping call among the more familiar cackling of Manx Shearwaters. □

... and a week of bats, moths and plants

ANDREW CLEAVE recounts a variety of activities during a week on Lundy in early July.

It was another very enjoyable and very busy week on Lundy, with good weather for most of the time. I took two copies of a fold-out Field Studies Council 'Guide to Bats' which I marked 'LFS Library' and deposited in the locked section of the library, along with a Shire book about British bats and a copy of the proceedings of a Seabird Group Conference which contains interesting papers about rats and seabirds – as well as Little Shearwater.

My colleague, Lee Morgan, carried out some preliminary work on the bats, inspecting the Church, including the tower, but not the vestry. There was some evidence of use of the tower, with a few droppings present in the bell chamber, but not much else. There was some bat activity detected during our night-time moth-trapping sessions, but no sign of the mass emergence from Old House South which some observers have noted.

Whilst doing the dusk bat surveys we were delighted to hear a Quail calling from the Tent Field for several nights in succession – a good record for Lundy. Several of the staff living in the Quarters had also heard this but were not aware of what it was. On the morning of Saturday 3 July, the Quail could be heard calling for most of the morning, even from outside the shop.

I managed to find one of my 'lost' plants: Chaffweed (*Anagallis minima*) still survives near Quarter Wall Pond but, being Britain's smallest flowering plant, rarely more than 1cm tall, is quite a challenge to locate! I was also very pleased to find a new colony of one of Lundy's rarest ferns, Rustyback (*Ceterach officinarum*), growing near the Blue Bung. The original small colony in the old Stonecroft garden has now almost succumbed to the invading nettles and brambles.

Our moth trapping evening went very well, and Derek Green and Nicola Saunders offered every assistance in setting it up. We ran two traps near the Casbah above Millcombe and many visitors and staff turned up during the evening to see what was happening. We caught some 35 different species, some of which were large and colourful moths like Garden and Cream-spot Tiger Moths, so everyone enjoyed the evening. The event was publicised by a large poster in the Marisco advertising it as a Lundy Field Society initiative. During the course of the week, further moth trapping pushed the list of species recorded to over 50 – some of these have been recorded in the log and a full list is being prepared. □

FOLLOWING on from Andrew's 'moth night', in October a group of bird ringers (all LFS members of course!) held a bird-ringing display attended by more than 30 visitors of all ages. The two-hour event allowed us to show migrant and resident birds 'up close and personal', which for many visitors was a new experience. Sophie Wheatley made up some posters to advertise the event, during which we took the opportunity to discuss the work of the Lundy Field Society and hand out membership leaflets – so I hope we have planted some seeds as well as 'upping' the profile of the LFS.

Paul James

Footnotes on the Saunt history

MYRTLE TERNSTROM provides a footnote to Peter Saunt's 'Lundy a hundred years ago', published in the 2009 LFS Newsletter (No. 39). The text is based on an interview, on 3 March 1985, by Tony Langham with Joanna Bryant (née Saunt), who spent some of her childhood years on Lundy.

Mr Saunt had a sub-lease from the previous lessee, Mr G. Taylor in 1908. The Heaven family in the Villa was then reduced to the Reverend Hudson Heaven, who is referred to in warm terms, and his redoubtable Cousin Annie, helped by a niece, Helen ('Nellie') Heaven.

Saunt was required to relinquish his lease when the Reverend Heaven retired to the mainland in 1911 due to his ill health, accompanied by the two ladies. The heir, his nephew Walter Heaven, was to return from Australia to take over. This was a serious misjudgement as the lease provided the only income.

Saunt did retain the lease of Brambles, which the family used for their summer holidays.

Walter Heaven had a history of failures and was not a competent manager; even the stock was sold off. The farm was very severely run down and the financial situation deteriorated to the point of no return. In view of that, it is remarkable that Saunt advanced him a loan of £900 against a mortgage in 1912.



Willfred F. Saunt, lessee of Lundy, 1908–1915

In 1915, Walter terminated Saunt's lease of Brambles, as the sale of the island was inevitable, although in fact the lease would not have impeded a sale, and again the lease income was lost. The island had been up for sale since 1906, but had not found a buyer because Hudson Heaven would not accept a bid below the amount he needed to pay off the mortgages and debts, and the island was run-down. He wanted £25,000, but the eventual sale in 1917 was for £15,000. Walter's creditors had been able to force a sale, and Walter was bankrupt. Over some years he had mortgaged all his inheritance and was left with nothing at all.

In 1909, during Saunt's occupation of the island, four coastguards and their families were appointed to Lundy, who took over watch and signalling duties from Lloyds. They occupied two new cottages, and the two signal cottages, so that the Post Office was moved from Signal Cottage¹ to the Cable Hut – now converted and extended as Castle Cottage. One of the Coastguards, H.W. Jukes, wrote an account of the Island in 1920, which he illustrated with his own interesting photographs. This was presented to the Lundy Field Society in 1971 and has been deposited on loan at the West Country Studies Library in Exeter.

Lloyd's man, Allday, who was also postmaster, moved from the Signal Cottages to the southern cottage at Belle View (the present Quarter Wall Cottages) and then to the present Hammers. At this time Tibbetts was built as a War Signal Station and was connected to the island telephone, but it was not then fitted out for habitation. A second Admiralty lookout was built at the north end just beyond the lighthouse.

Meanwhile the last of the salvage operations were carried out on the *Montagu*.

In 1910, Mr St Claire² was summoned to appear at Barnstaple court. His real name was Arthur Stocks, and it appeared he had fled to Lundy to escape his gambling debts. He had gone to the island two years previously in little but the clothes he stood up in. He had his board, helped Saunt in general work, and the arrangement was that he would work up the hotel and receive 50% of the profits, while his sister worked in the dairy. Unfortunately hotel profits were there none, and the court declared him bankrupt. During his time on Lundy he produced a guide book and a series of picture postcards – both collectors' items today.

There is a very lively account in the *Devon Weekly Gazette* of 15 June 1909 of the difficulties experienced in landing cattle from Lundy for sale on the mainland, when "every place was crowded with sight-seers" to watch what were called the "amusing incidents" in landing the bulls.

George Thomas, who had been a general factotum for the Heaven family for many years, left Lundy in 1911, but he continued to lease the fishing rights for £10 per annum. Another change was that in 1912 the contract for the mails was changed from Captain Dark³ and his [*Lundy*] *Gannet* to the *Devonia* belonging to the Bristol Steamship Co. of Bideford, which collected the mails from the island on Thursdays and brought the incoming post on Saturdays. During the war (1914–18) the island was served by an Admiralty trawler, the *Robert Davidson*.

The Reverend William Swatridge was appointed curate in 1913 and occupied the cottage that is now Hammers, but unfortunately he was an alcoholic, reputed to have chased his wife with a carving knife, and after complaints he was relieved of his post in 1916. Allday was a Lay Reader who conducted services in the absence of clergy, but he was not popular and attendance was very sparse. It is also recorded that the eight church bells were rung by levers that Allday had installed in the porch. □

¹ Details of the Signal Cottages, Coastguard Cottages, the Signal Hut and the Cable Hut are given in *The Castle on the Island of Lundy* by Myrtle Ternstrom, 1994.

² Peter Christie contributed a piece about St Claire to the *North Devon Journal Herald* of 3 December 1998.

³ There is an interview with Captain Dark in *Lloyd's Weekly News* of 11 November 1911.

Silent Bells of the Kingdom of Heaven

Many thanks to Diana Keast for sending in this gem of an article published in *The Times* of 26 August 1963. The by-line is given as 'From a Correspondent' so there is no way of knowing who the author was – but he would certainly have been pleased to know that the bells of St Helen's Church ring out today whenever parties of campanologists visit Lundy.

Many years ago I was in the fo'c'sle of a small coaster, listening to three old men talking together of how it felt to make a landfall after a long voyage under sail. For one, it was the scent of new-mown hay coming off the land with the evening breeze in June that he remembered; to another it was the smell of a pickle factory by a busy river. The third man, a silent, hawk-faced old seaman with a white moustache and clear blue eyes, pulled his pipe out of his mouth.

“The prettiest landfall I ever made was in a barque bound from Callao (he called it Callee-o) to Newport. We picked up a Bristol Channel pilot to the westward of Lundy. All one afternoon we beat up over the ebb tide between Hartland and the island, and all that time we could hear church bells ringing out from Squire Heaven's new church. Then we picked up the flood tide and went away up channel with the church bells astern. We heard in Newport that it was the first time they were ever rung. 'Twas a pretty sound to come home to.”

I was the boy in that ship, and I said nothing. Somehow the story of the Lundy bells has always stuck in my mind. Lately, I went to Lundy and walked up the steep track from the landing beach to Squire Heaven's church, now nearly 70 years old, for it was completed in 1897.

Noble building

It is a noble building, visible from far away at sea. The *Bristol Channel Pilot* after describing other outstanding landmarks—the Old Lighthouse, the farmhouse and the keep of Marisco Castle—remarks: “But by far the most conspicuous building on this part of the island, when approaching from the southward or eastward, is a church with a tower, situated just above the proprietor's house.” Heaven's church is a monument of Victorian Gothic. It has a lofty tower, 65ft. high, a high-roofed nave and chancel, and it forms a splendid memorial to the pious ambition of the Rev. Hudson Grosett Heaven.

It replaced what Bishop Bickersteth of Exeter once described as a “corrugated irony”. With its stained glass, its redbrick interior patterned in blue and cream bricks, its rose window, stone pulpit, encaustic tiles, and its lovely marble reredos carved in high relief by Harry Hems of Exeter, it would not be out of place in a London suburb. Here on turf close-cropped by the island sheep, high on its granite mass on the edge of the western ocean, Heaven's church is still a notable witness to its builder's faith.

I was saddened to find that the peal of eight bells is no longer rung. Indeed during the past 10 years westerly gales have caused serious damage to the whole structure of the building. Its exposed position, with magnificent views towards the north Devon and Cornish coasts, but utterly unprotected, has been its undoing. The high-pitched roof with Gloucestershire stone tiles has suffered severely.

Windows damaged

There has been damage to windows and gables. But the most serious damage was done in the October gales last year when the upper part of the east wall collapsed, bringing with it the arch

and stone tracery of the east window. This damage has been made good, but the arch has had to be replaced by a concrete lintel, so that the window is now rectangular in shape. There is evidence that the mortar of the whole structure is deteriorating and that expensive renovations may become necessary. Faced with this outlay, the church, which is under the care of the Vicar of Appledore, will probably have to sell its bells, which have not rung out for many years.

I had walked up the path to Lundy church on a sentimental journey in memory of my old shipmate who had heard the Lundy bells on that summer day when the century was young. I was delighted to find in the church porch evidence of that very peal. The population of the island has never been large enough to support a regular band of ringers, but the bells were rung from time to time by visiting bands from the mainland.

Painted tablet

By the door to the belfry is a painted tablet inscribed: "1905. Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Change Ringers. On Wednesday August 23 Eight Members of the above Association at the kind invitation of the Rev. H. G. Heaven rang a true and complete Peal of Stedman Triples, 5040 Changes, Tenor 15 Cwt; a Variation of Thurston's Four-Part. This is the first peal rung upon the Bells." There follow the names of the eight ringers.

That must have been the peal which my old shipmate heard across the waters of the tide-race. The faded plaque in the porch evokes pictures of an earnest Edwardian band of change-ringers, the names of two clergy are among the eight, intent upon their mystery in the belfry; and of hard-bitten sailormen on board a great sailing ship listening and wondering after their long passage around the Horn.

A witness before the Royal Commission on Harbours of Refuge in 1859 stated: "I was brought up as long as I can recollect at sea. I was bred in a fishing boat out of Clovelly and have followed the sea ever since. ... For 15 years Lundy has been my home. ... My father rents the property but ... it belongs to Mr. Heaven; the name is spelled in the same way as the place to which we all wish to go."

That would have been W. G. Heaven, who bought the island in 1834. His son, the Rev. H. G. Heaven, who built the church, died in 1916. During their proprietorships Lundy was familiarly known as "the Kingdom of Heaven". Again, it was Bishop Bickersteth who, in his dedication sermon of 1897, remarked, after a particularly rough crossing from the mainland, that he was converted to a belief in purgatory after enduring what had to be suffered to reach "the Kingdom of Heaven".

Dream accomplished

Some visitors profess to see in Heaven's lofty church a faded and pretentious relic of Victorian grandeur. I see it as a witness to the faith of its builder. A memorial tablet in the porch acknowledges this faith. "In loving memory of Hudson Grosett Heaven, Priest, Lord of the Manor of Lundy, who died in 1916, having accomplished the dream of his life by erecting this Church to the Glory of God."

High in a wall of the tower is a statue of St. Helena, a replica of one at St. Alban's Abbey. The dedication of a church in the island to St. Helena is of ancient attribution, going back at least to Camden. But modern hagiography identifies this dedication with a far more fascinating name than even the Empress Helena—with St. Endelient, one of the 24 children of the Celtic missionary St. Brychan, and sister of St. Nectan whose church at Hartland faces Lundy, 14 miles away across the tide-race.

If this is so, the granite mass of Lundy, rising 300ft. above sea-level, is linked with the early days of missionary Christianity in Britain, with the heroic Celtic saints of the dark ages. □

Theatre aficionado with a passion for Lundy

The following article by ANDREA FOSTER reporting the death of Ann Westcott – pictured right in typical pose – appeared in the *North Devon Journal* on 14 October 2010.

Former *Journal* arts correspondent Ann Westcott who did much to promote drama and the arts in North Devon, has died. She passed away at home in Appledore at the age of 87.

Ann was born in Ilfracombe in 1923, the eldest of three daughters. Most of her childhood was spent in Scotland, but she travelled the world extensively with her parents as her father was a chemical engineer for Shell.

She graduated from St Andrews University in Scotland with a first class honours degree in English literature. She met her husband-to-be “Jack” Westcott and they were married in Exeter in 1948. They moved to Barnstaple shortly afterwards, and enjoyed 41 years together. Ann qualified as a teacher and her first teaching post was at the Marist Convent in Newport, Barnstaple. From there she moved to North Devon College — now Petroc — from which she retired in the 1980s. Jack was also a teacher, gaining a masters degree in history. He taught for many years at Barnstaple Boys’ Grammar School and latterly at North Devon College.

Ann had a strong passion for the theatre and together with Jack they helped found the Friends Amateur Dramatic Society. They entertained theatregoers for 20 years, producing dozens of plays, with which they toured all over North Devon.

Ann’s other passion was Lundy, which she was associated with for more than 50 years. Her fields of interest were the history and archaeology of the island. She will be remembered for her archaeological tours. She was a loyal and faithful member of the Lundy Field Society, always willing to share her knowledge and experience with whoever was interested. She also edited the Lundy Newsletter, which gave a more informal view of the island. There was always something in them that people had not previously known, no matter how knowledgeable they thought they were about Lundy.

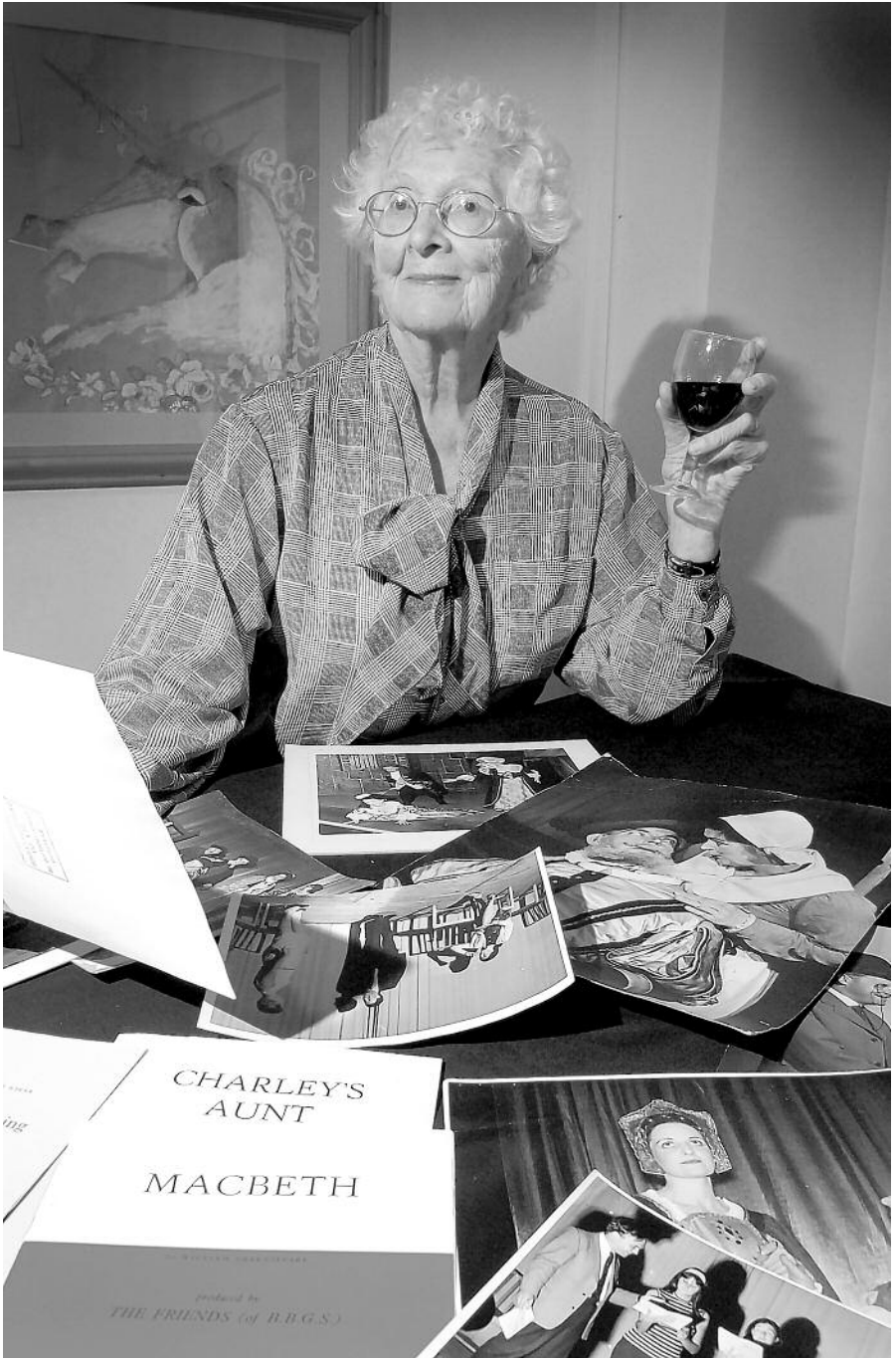
She and members of her family both spent countless happy holidays on the island – the Lundy ‘Bs’ parties are legendary. Ann led a full and busy and sometimes chaotic life, but throughout it all she was loyal and loving to her family, friends and all the things she believed in with a passion.

She wrote art reviews for the *Journal* and was a regular columnist in other publications. When she retired she set up the Quay Gallery and Craft Shop in Appledore which she ran for many years until moving to Bude Street, and running a small art gallery from there.

Ann leaves behind two children, Peter and Susan, and three grandchildren, Rebecca, Nicholas and Alice. Grandson David predeceased her.

There will be a celebration of Ann’s life at some point next summer on Lundy. □

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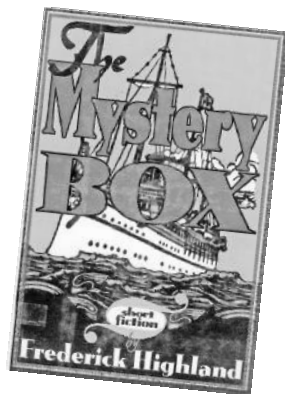


Book reviews

The Mystery Box

by Frederick Highland, Published 1998 by Ana-Libra Press Washington. ISBN 0-9659409-5-0.

This book is subtitled as 'Intrigues and Enigmas' and comprises 26 separate short stories tied together by one enfolding mystery: the legend of the *Keris* which sank in 1850 in the China seas with a fabulous but mysterious cargo. The box was supposedly recovered by the writer and contained many postage stamps. The stories are based on those stamps.



The story of interest to lovers of Lundy is 'Intrigue Number 12 – The Fallen Vicar' set on Lundy. Quite how the 1954 stamp issue found its way into a box that went down with a ship in the 1850s is not explained.

The story tries to tie all the features on this issue of stamps into a mystery story. It is the investigation into the murder of Vicar Longmire by one 'Constable Rock' amongst the '602 souls' who live on the island. Constable Rock travels the roads of the island in his Hillman patrol car, while others use their bicycles as 'there aren't many autos'. The three lighthouses are accurately named, but I do have problems with the 'town of Marisco'.

The story, while not all that entertaining and set on a completely imaginary Lundy, is illustrated with each of the 1954 Postal Jubilee issue. The tale is an attempt to ensure that each feature of each stamp is used and does contain an explanation of the Lundy 'Cinderella stamps'. If you have to have everything that relates to Lundy, you may wish to acquire a copy.

Alan Rowland

* * *

A spirited read

A friend has passed to me an addition to the list of works of fiction written around Lundy.

The Awful Secret is strongly and imaginatively written, describing medieval life in Devon. It includes an episode c.1190 in which the King's coroner for Devon, accompanied by some Templars (interested in getting possession of their island) and Richard de Grenville, went to Lundy to accuse William de Marisco of an act of piracy that had resulted in several deaths. Against a hostile reception (delivered by a mangonel placed on the cliffs above the landing place) they landed on the island and went to Marisco Castle (built in 1244, but never mind), but were defeated by Marisco's men, and had to withdraw to their boats in very bad weather.

The book's author is Bernard Knight, and it was published in 2000 by Pocket Books – a spirited read. The secret concerns the Templars and the Holy Grail.

Myrtle Ternstrom

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE THROUGH THE LFS

Journal of the Lundy Field Society, Vol 1, Jenny George (ed.), 2008, 192pp

£10 plus £1.50 p&p (cheques to 'LFS')

The first Journal of the Lundy Field Society, first published in 2008 and illustrated in full colour. Published biennially. Members receive copies but others may order back numbers.

Journal of the Lundy Field Society, Vol 2, Jenny George (ed.), 2010, 120pp

£10 plus £1.50 p&p (cheques to 'LFS')

The second Journal of the Lundy Field Society, published in 2010. Contains peer-reviewed scientific papers on: Climate change and slope stability of the access road, Lundy; Lundy fungi 2004-8; Lundy Cabbage Seed dispersal, seed banks and seed germination after Rhododendron clearance; Some account of George Steinman Steinman; The status of the sunset cup coral; Cliff-nesting seabird productivity on Lundy 2008; A study of the factors influencing breeding site selection and attendance of Atlantic puffins on Lundy; Manx shearwaters on Lundy; Vegetation condition and impact of grazing on Lundy 2005-8; Note on major faulting on Lundy and potential for seismicity.

Lundy Lichens by Ann Allen, 2007, 48pp

£9.99 plus £1.20 p&p (cheques to 'LFS')

Specially produced as an introduction to the fascinating study of the over 350 species of lichens on Lundy. Over 50 colour photographs accompany descriptions of selected lichens grouped into community habitats. Map of locations, an illustrated glossary and other background information.

Lundy Studies, Jenny George (ed.), 2007, 192pp

£5 plus £2.50 p&p (cheques to 'LFS')

The proceedings of the 60th anniversary conference of the Lundy Field Society. Lavishly illustrated with many coloured photographs. Contains abstracts from posters displayed at the event, and with papers on:

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