FIELD SOCIETY LUNDY SOCIETY LUNDY LUNDY

The Bulletin of the Lundy Field Society

No. 43, December 2013



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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. Telephone enquiries to 07795 303933.

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Cover photo by Keith Hiscock

Below the waterline...



One of my favorite photographic 'angles' is halfin and half-out of the water. You don't have to be a diver but you do need a waterproof camera! In the right conditions, the image is of both marine life and of the island. Perhaps, that is how I see Lundy – half of my interest in seashore and underwater natural history and half of my interest on the island and its unique history, ecology and atmosphere.

LFS members have their various and wideranging 'passions' within the history, natural history and archaeology of the island. We share our knowledge through the publications that the LFS produces and by recording our observations in the logbooks on the island. But this *Bulletin* gives members the opportunity to share their less academic knowledge about the island and write more

informally about their experiences or about snippets of information that they have come across. Do contribute!

Thanks to all the contributors, to the editor Belinda Cox and to Tim Davis for the layout.

As for me, I am still trying to take decent quality split views of the island and its surrounding waters, so watch out for me in a rockpool or floating about in the Landing Bay – and do say hello.

Keith Hiscock

Chairman

Dismay and elation

Just as the *Bulletin* was going to press, we received two pieces of news: one that causes dismay to me and one that will cause elation to myself and most of our membership.

The dismay is that the Marine Conservation Zone Designation Order has only one listed interest feature – the spiny lobster or crawfish. However, the provisions and byelaws established for the Marine Nature Reserve were transferred to the MCZ in 2010 and so they remain. The Special Area of Conservation designation is under different legislation and is unaffected. The LFS made a detailed response to the MCZ consultation and it is disappointing to see none of the suggestions taken up.

The elation is over the abandonment of plans for a giant windfarm to the northeast of Lundy. Whilst the reasons for shelving the project were technical and financial, we hope that the concerns expressed by ourselves, the Landmark Trust and the National Trust, in particular about the visual impact as well as some possible wildlife impacts, had some influence.

A word from the editor



I was delighted to be asked to edit the *Bulletin* again this year. Kevin, my co-editor from 2012, has other commitments at the moment so this is my first solo attempt. My sincere thanks to all who have contributed, as well as to Woolacombe Bay Hotel and the St Austell Brewery for supporting this issue via their respective advertisements. I really hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed editing it.

There was no 'Discover Lundy' trip this year, which took up a significant portion of last year's Bulletin. I'm sure that you'll be delighted to know that the committee is planning to provide another Discover Lundy opportunity in 2016, so keep your eyes open for the date – I'm sure that after the success of the trip last year, places will be snapped up very quickly.

It wasn't until I started attending LFS committee meetings that I realised quite how much goes on 'behind the scenes' and how much time and hard work the committee members dedicate to the Society. In case you don't know who they all are, there are 'pen pictures' on pages 21–26 for you to peruse.

At the time of writing, I've managed to get to Lundy on four occasions in 2013, and have my first stay in the Blue Bung arranged for my birthday at the beginning of December. I can't wait!

The first visit was early in the year when I stayed in Castle Cottage for a few days. This was my first opportunity to take full advantage of the amazing view from 'that' window. Sitting with a book and a cup of tea on the window seat was such a relaxing experience, and one that I definitely plan to repeat at a later date.

Although I'm not a 'birder' I joined the Devon Birds day visit in May. The weather didn't allow many birds to be spotted but it was nevertheless a very enjoyable trip. There's a writeup by Alan Rowland on page 8.

The first time I set foot on Lundy was several years ago when I joined the Lundy Hash House Harriers on their annual trip. I was back again with them this year in August when we had several hours to explore the island as well as the beer. If you haven't heard about Hash House Harriers, I suggest taking advantage of an internet search engine!

My sister had her first visit in September, when we had a long weekend together in Little St John's. The *Oldenburg* was blown out so we had a helicopter adventure to begin with. We were fortunate with the weather and managed to visit most of the island over the three days, as well as meeting lovely people and spending some quality time in the Tavern.

I had a solo stay in the Blue Bung in December and I'm sure you can guess where I enjoyed some birthday celebrations!

Belinda Cox

Gift Aid – how to help the Society for FREE

Members who have signed up to the Gift Aid Scheme allow the Society to reclaim tax already paid on their subscription or donation – in effect the Inland Revenue will add 25p to every £1 you pay to the Society. Therefore a member of the Society paying the 'ordinary' subscription rate of £15 would in effect be increasing the Society's income by an extra £3.75 every year – at no extra cost.

If you are a tax payer, but have not yet joined the scheme, then please consider completing a gift aid form. Two-thirds of the members of the Lundy Field Society have already signed up to the scheme and they need do nothing more – the form only needs to be completed once and enables the Society to claim gift aid every year.

The Society is aware that not all members are taxpayers, or perhaps do not feel comfortable signing up to the scheme, but if you would like to join this scheme forms are available to download on the Society's website www.lundy.org.uk or are available from the Membership Secretary at **sanr@btinternet.com** or by post from Mole Cottage, Chapel Close, Woodford, Morwenstow, Cornwall EX23 9JR. Please note that completed forms should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the address above who will process the form and then forward it to the Treasurer who deals with the gift aid claim each year. Thank you for your help.

Sandra Rowland, Hon. Membership Secretary & Michael Fry, Hon. Treasurer

The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-1969

This is an utterly enthralling book that no member of the Lundy Field Society will wish to be without. Part island history, part insightful social commentary, and presented in the engaging format of a family scrapbook, this is an eclectic anthology of 55 richly illustrated short essays. For any present-day Lundy regular who, like me, did not know the island during the 44 years of the Harman family's ownership, this book brings to life that



remarkable period through its carefully interwoven words and images. From anecdotes of carefree frivolity, through the immense responsibilities and challenges of owning Lundy, to moments of great tragedy, never was the phrase "all human life is here" more apt.

I can only describe the experience of delving into *The Harman Family's Lundy* as being like seeing properly for the first time something that I had only caught a glimpse of previously. People and events, whether partly familiar or entirely new, leap from the pages and I suspect that each reader will be touched in a different way according to his or her own experience of the island and its changing cast of characters. Among the images that particularly moved me is one of pioneering ornithologist Richard Perry and his wife pictured outside Stoneycroft in the summer of 1939.

Countless people, scattered across the globe, love Lundy and each of us has cause to be grateful to the Harmans. In sharing so generously both her personal recollections and archive of photographs and other memorabilia, Diana Keast has bestowed another very special gift from her family.

Tim Jones

Lundy Warden BECCY MACDONALD describes an exciting first ten months on Lundy.

Since beginning my adventure on Lundy back in February, I have heard many words used to describe the island, including unique, tranquil and, my favourite, tempestuous! However, there is one word which I feel is now more appropriate for me and that is 'home' (and one with the largest and most spectacular back garden anyone could ask for!). When I arrived on this wonderful and mischievous island, she showed me every weather condition you can think of and within a month I had been blown over by easterlies, stalked by ponies in the mist and was in awe of the tropical clear waters basking in glorious sunshine.

Reflecting back over the past nine months, it has been a remarkable season for me and for Lundy. The spring migration brought with it a Hoopoe, Golden Oriole and Long-tailed Skua along with Basking Sharks which enjoyed the plankton soup which surrounded the island. As spring developed, the island became awash with purples, pinks and yellows as the flowers of Lundy Cabbage, Thrift and Sheep's Bit Scabious exploded across the east and south coasts. It was a record year for the Lundy Cabbage with over 12,000 plants in bloom, counted by the appropriately dressed team in jumpers declaring: "Yes, I am Counting Cabbages..." It was also a record year for our seabirds and, after the four-yearly count, came the Manx Shearwater survey group (never did I think sticking your hand down a burrow and playing a tape would be so exciting!) whose results are to be published in the next LFS Journal, so I won't say anymore. However, due to their findings, BBC *Points West* cameraman Jez Toogood spent a night filming the LFS's Tony Taylor and family ringing Manx Shearwaters. I was able to tag along with them and had a wonderful time spotting them (apologies to the Taylor family as I may have been a little over-excited). Before this year, I had never heard or seen a Manx Shearwater – now I can't wait to see them again next year.

As a marine person, my natural habitat is under water and the waters around Lundy have surpassed my expectations. The jetty is a jewel which many divers and snorkelers miss, however it has to be one of my favourite dives, with lime green and purple jewel anemones, dead men's fingers, nudibranchs (sea slugs), tompot blennies and light bulb seasquirts (pictured) to name but a few. My most memorable experience was a dive where we were joined by a juvenile female Grey Seal. She played with us for some time, riding on our fins and doing



somersaults until suddenly she stopped, waited for our attention, shot up to the surface and back down again and, once we were both watching, began blowing bubbles! Simply amazing.

The support shown to me by LFS members has been invaluable and my thanks go to everyone who has assisted me over the past nine months and to those who have inspired me to delve into new worlds, including those of moths, fungi, and bird ringing to name but a few. Well, that's enough from me for now and I look forward to seeing you all soon at the annual meeting in March. All the very best!

First Lundy Field Society meeting held in Crediton

The following is a report that appeared in the *Crediton Courier*, penned by reporter ALAN QUICK, of the first LFS Annual General Meeting to be held in its new home at the Boniface Centre in Crediton.

The Lundy Field Society held its 67th annual meeting in the Boniface Centre, Crediton, on Saturday, March 9.

The Society was founded more than 60 years ago and previously held meetings in Exeter University, coming to Crediton for the first time this year.

During the meeting, which was attended by more than 80 people, there was the launch of the *Harman Album* [*The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-1969*], a book to commemorate the ownership of Lundy by the Harman family.

Mrs Diana Keast, the last owner of Lundy before it was sold to the National Trust, was presented with the first copy of the book and a bouquet of flowers by Dr Keith Hiscock, chairman, The Lundy Field Society.

Last year Mrs Keast celebrated her 90th birthday with many guests on Lundy.

The Society was founded to further the study and conservation of Lundy's natural history and archaeology.



Dr Keith Hiscock, chairman, the Lundy Field Society, presenting the first copy of the "Harman Album", a book to commemorate the ownership of Lundy by the Harman family, to Mrs Diana Keast, the last owner of the island before it was sold to the National Trust. Photo by Alan Quick

Present members continue to undertake research, including ornithological work, studies of fungi, lichens, Lundy cabbage and freshwater habitats and re-survey intertidal life as well as other work.

Much of Lundy is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and it is home to an unusual range of plants, birds and wildlife and has a rich history.

The meeting in Crediton included reports from the general manager [Derek Green] and warden [Beccy MacDonald, making her LFS AGM debut] of the island and other presentations.

One presentation [by Tim Davis] included stunning photographs by former Kyrtonian, Alan Richardson, who was a pioneer photographer of birds on Lundy.

He was born in Park Street, Crediton, the son of world-famous violin maker, Arthur Richardson of Crediton.

His pictures were used in Richard Perry's book on Lundy.

Alan Richardson was tragically killed in action in the [Second] World War. Following his death, his family gave money to sponsor young people to enjoy trips to Lundy in his memory.

To order copies of the Harman Album, please visit the website: www.lundy.org.uk.



Clockwise from above: Diana Keast signs copies of 'The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-1969' for Mary Gade; Tim Jones presents on bird migration movements from Lundy; members take their seats for the meeting; Derek Green, Tracey Crump and Beccy MacDonald at the Lundy stand. It was quite a day! Photos by Andrew Cleave and Alan Rowland



Binoculars in hand, ALAN ROWLAND joined the annual day-trip to Lundy by members of Devon Birds. As Alan reports, the May weather was none too kind.

The annual Devon Birds *Oldenburg* charter to Lundy was chosen as an opportunity to lead LFS members on a guided walk on the southern part of the island. The weather was inauspicious – sea state forecast at 4–5, rough with threatening rain. During the voyage, some seabirds were spotted (by those who managed to keep their bacon sandwiches down) – auks, Manx Shearwaters, Gannets and a single unidentified-to-species skua in the distance.

As we approached the lee of the island, mist was blanketing the plateau. The *Oldenburg* attempted the planned round-the-island trip, but it was curtailed at the North-East Point due to heavy seas. Nevertheless, between 20 and 30 people took note of the assembly point in the diving shed for the walk. Although there were around a dozen LFS members on board, only three or four joined the walk, with the rest being Devon Birds members. We were welcomed by a Peregrine perched on a crag below the Castle and a birder heading for the beach who called out that there were Dotterel in the fields past the village.

Lundy Cabbage was in bloom and Balm-leaved Figwort too, but Wood Vetch on the slipway had not yet begun flowering. Many small birds were seen through Millcombe, but after reaching the Castle, we were in the mist which thickened and became wetter as we headed, blindly, towards the Old Light.

An impromptu indoor picnic in the Old Light allowed us to warm up and dry off a little. It was certainly not what we had planned!

Heading towards Quarter Wall, we could barely make out the Highland steers in the Tillage Field, let alone spot any Dotterel.

The return was via the Quarries and Lower East Side Path, which was in the clear and much drier as we had a little sun. We added goats, deer and more terrestrial birds and seabirds to our tick list before heading to the Marisco for a welcome pint.

Anyone for a return trip next year?



Escaping the weather with an impromptu picnic in the Old Light. Photo by Alan Rowland

LFS gets hands-on with visitors and education

Simon Dell reviews a busy year of activities promoting both Lundy and the LFS.

Since the beginning of the year I have been very busy. I have taken on the mainland educational role previously performed by the island wardens, visiting schools and colleges throughout North Devon as well as giving bespoke talks to various community groups who contact the shore offices requesting presentations. This slots in well with my special constabulary duties in North Devon when I step ashore at Ilfracombe or Bideford and change into my uniform! *[I hope there are phone boxes available to help with modesty! Ed.]*

Following an educational talk, I accompany the school to the island to work closely with Warden Beccy and her assistant Aislinn to provide rock-pooling opportunities as well as other educational activities (pictured below) linked to the curriculum. I also find time for guided walks, ghost stories and drawing. This provision has been part financed through HLS funding obtained for schools and community groups.

Issie, busy with her sparrow researches, has also been actively involved with the school groups, giving some excellent and well-received practical hands-on experience for the young students. The LFS work and ethos has been well-advertised within this educational setting and budding members of the future encouraged about looking after the special environments on the island.

For the fourth year running this year also saw a group of eleven staying in the Barn with me: young people from challenging backgrounds excluded from mainstream education who found great inspiration for building self-esteem, self-respect and identifying ways to break circles of anti-social behaviour and offending. They cleared Quarry Beach of detritus for Ranger Steve, including lorry wheels, bean bags and vast quantities of plastic debris. Steve and his quadbike trailer groaned under the load! Again the LFS



brand has been active in this important intervention to support young people from often forgotten or ignored backgrounds, to get back on track using Lundy as a springboard to a different life. Farmer Kevin played a star role with some of the young people who might have been a little intimidating to the more faint-hearted – but not Kevin!

The Royal Cornwall Show in June provided a great opportunity for the LFS to be seen to be working hand-in-hand with the Lundy Company, with me providing support for Lindsey and Tracey on the Lundy stand for the whole event. The important message of conservation, study and management of the island were frequently on the agenda for visitors to the stand over the three days of glorious sunshine.

Round-the-island trips on the *Oldenburg* have now become a frequent opportunity for me. I am often over twice a week providing the wildlife and historical commentary for the warden and crew. Tavern talks have also been on my agenda, giving the island staff a break from routine. My guidebooks continue to sell like hot cakes and plans for 2014 are already pencilled in my diary for visits, educational trips and mainland talks in support of Lundy and the LFS. Quietly in the background someone somewhere is receiving the LFS message!

Lance-Corporal J P Harman VC of Lundy...

During the television broadcast of the Armistice Day service in Whitehall on 12 November 1995 the cameras switched to the Kohima War Cemetery in India and showed in closeup the graves of two of the soldiers buried there, one of whom is Lance-Corporal J P Harman VC. EDMUND STANBROOK decided to learn more about him and the following two articles are the results of his research.

John Pennington Harman was born on 20 July 1914 in Beckenham. When he reached manhood he was six foot tall, very strong, intelligent and of an affable disposition. In peace-time he lived an entirely open-air life, wearing hardly anything but boots and shorts as the weather permitted. According to the *News of the World* of June 1944, "when a plane crashed in fog on the cliffs of Lundy early in the war, he climbed down a sheer drop which had been believed to be non-climbable, which he accomplished without ropes or assistance, and recovering all the discs of the crew and their papers, buried their bodies himself before climbing up again".

From the *Daily Mail* of June 1944, we learn that "he was a globe-trotter who returned home in 1940 and farmed on Lundy for a year before he felt the need to join up and was almost immediately sent to India and thence to Burma". John Harman was attached to 'D' Company, 4th Battalion, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and an account of the ferocity of the battle that raged has been has been described in a book called *The Siege, The Story From Kohima* by Major Arthur Campbell MC, and chapters 2 and 9 are devoted to John Harman and his heroism.

The following citation appeared in The London Gazette of 22 June 1944:

"The King has been graciously pleased to approve the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to No 295822 Lance-Corporal John Pennington Harman, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (London, EC2).

In Burma at Kohima on 8th April 1944, Lance-Corporal Harman was commanding a section of a forward platoon. Under cover of darkness the enemy established a machine-gun post within 50 yards of his position which became a serious menace to the remainder of his company. Owing to the nature of the ground Lance-Corporal Harman was unable to bring the fire of his section on to the enemy machine-gun post. Without hesitation he went forward by himself and using a four second grenade which he held on to for at least two seconds after releasing the lever in order to get immediate effect, threw it into the post and followed up immediately. He annihilated the post and returned to his section with the machine-gun.

Early the following morning he recovered a position on a forward slope 150 yards from the enemy in order to strengthen a platoon which had been heavily attacked during the night. On occupying his position he discovered a party of enemy digging in under cover of machine-gun fire and snipers. Ordering his Bren gun to give him covering fire he fixed his bayonet and alone charged the post shooting four and bayonetting one thereby wiping out the post.

When walking back Lance-Corporal Harman received a burst of machine-gun fire in his side and died shortly after reaching our lines.'

He was actually shot by a Japanese sniper hiding in a tree.

His father, Martin Coles Harman, and sister Ruth received the VC from HM King George VI at Buckingham Palace on 26 March 1945, and on 13 August 1952 his father presented it to the care of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment at a parade held at the Regimental Museum, Maidstone, Kent.

The ground level headstone of John Harman's grave in Kohima Cemetery is a bluecoloured slab containing, in coloured gold, replicas of the regimental badge and Victoria Cross, and the following wording:

295822 L CPL J P HARMAN VC THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT 9TH APRIL 1944 AGE 29 OF LUNDY "THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S"

In 1949 Martin Coles Harman erected a memorial slab in one of the quarry cuttings (now known as VC Quarry) where John played as a boy. The opening words on it are taken from the Gospel of John 15:13: "Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends", and closes with Lawrence Binyon's lines, "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them". Replicas of his medals are in the Marisco Tavern.

Let us now move to "the adjacent isle" as Martin Coles Harman describes the mainland, and to the village of Chalden in Surrey, well known to the Harman family, and into its tiny church where the Book of Remembrance was opened at the page of John Pennington Harman

VC. The wording was accurate but half the length of the official citation. It was placed in front of a stained-glass window at the base of which is a memorial to the men who were killed in WW2 and 'John Harman VC' is among them. To the right of the window is a small memorial slab to the men who died in WW1, and his father's brother William is among them.

The next journey is to the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick Garrison in Yorkshire where there are nine lecture halls all named after VCs, one of them being 'The Harman Theatre'. It was opened on 7 July 1995 and John's two sisters attended the ceremony. A plaque and picture hang on the corridor wall; both include the citation and

Statuette of John Pennington Harman VC cast from the regimental silver when the Royal West Kents were disbanded in 1961 (taken from 'The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-1969' – see pages 4 and 36).



the giving of the VC to the Regiment. In addition the plaque states, "This plaque was erected to commemorate the official opening of the Harman VC Theatre by Lieutenant General Sir Anton Denison-Smith KBE, Colonel of the PWRR on 7 July 1995". The picture, from top to bottom, contains a replica of the VC, then a portrait of John Harman, then the citation etc. and concludes, "Lance-Corporal Harman VC, Defence of Kohima, 8 April 1944, presented by the PWRR Regiment".

I would like to quote the opening paragraph from an article in the *Daily Mail* of January 1956 headed: Kohima Remember That Name, by Frank Owen.

"High upon a hill at Kohima, a 5000 foot mountain town on the Burma–India frontier, there stands a rough, massive stone pillar as a monument to the soldiers of the Fourteenth Army who fell there in a 50 day and night battle, holding and smashing the mightiest Japanese drive to invade India in March 1944."

Says the inscription on the stone:

When you go home, tell them of us, and say For their tomorrow we gave our today

The Maidstone Museum in the High Street has a room devoted to the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and in a glass case is a portrait of John Harman and his medals, and in front of the case are annual newsletters about the Regiment. I noted the ISBN numbers of those covering the Kohima period, and when I arrived home I borrowed them from my local library. Perusing them I concluded that at that time John Harman was the first soldier of that Regiment to receive the Victoria Cross.

In conclusion I would like to refer back to the first paragraph of my article about John's birth. He was born at 9 Shrewsbury Road, Elmers End, Beckenham, Kent in 1914. It is an end of terrace house with a garage, and a wall plaque has been fixed to its front elevation. It is a blue roundel with white lettering issued by The London Borough of Bromley, and reads:



[Edmund's photograph of this roundel appeared in LFS Newsletter No. 40 (2010). Ed.]

In April 1996, EDMUND STANBROOK journeyed to Chaldon, in Surrey, to visit the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul's and Six Brother's Field, both inextricably linked to the Harman family of Lundy.

The tiny church of St Peter & St Paul's, which blends well with the surrounding North Downs countryside, is over 900 years old and its door is always open. On its south wall is a glass window with pictures of St Michael and St George and at their feet is a panel which reads: "*In precious memory of those men from this parish who gave their lives in the war of 1939-1945.*" Included in those names is John Harman VC.

Beneath this window in a locked glass-topped box is the Book of Remembrance, of which, according to the church guide, "the pages ... are regularly turned revealing the names of local men who died in two world wars in order to preserve the things that Chaldon stands for". You will appreciate my delight when I saw that it was opened at the page of John Harman.

The entry beneath the regimental badge reads:

John Pennington Harman VC. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment

At Kohima – Burma on April 7th 1944 he advanced alone and threw a four second grenade and destroyed a Japanese post which threatened his platoon. On April 8th 1944 he advanced alone and destroyed another post with rifle fire and bayonet, on his way back to his platoon he was wounded and died. For his courage and devotion to duty he was awarded the VC posthumously. Residence Deans Place, Chaldon from 1919 to 1924

To the left of the window is a white wall tablet with black lettering which reads: "In memory of those from this parish who made the supreme sacrifice for us in the Great War 1914-1918" and the fifth name down is W Harman, elder brother of Martin Coles Harman.

About half-a-mile from the church in Hilltop Lane is Six Brother's Field, a seven-acre field bought by Martin Coles Harman and given by him to the National Trust. It is open to all and contains a cricket pavilion and a perimeter building. Close to the bottom of the right-hand fence are six granite stones from Lundy, placed in a circle in memory of Martin Coles Harman and his five brothers. On a metal tablet fixed to a wooden post adjacent to these stones are these words:

NATIONAL TRUST SIX BROTHERS FIELD MARTIN COLES HARMAN 1885–1954

"One time resident in Chaldon and self-styled King of Lundy had these stones brought from his island home and placed on this spot as a remembrance of himself and his five brothers. The field was given by him to the National Trust May 1927."

[A note from Edmund with his article commented that when he asked Diana Keast why her father only acknowledged his brothers in connection with Six Brothers Field, she replied that in those days women were of a submissive nature unless they had the temperament of a suffragette. How times change! Ed.]



An unusual find

Walking along the western dammed edge of Pondsbury in March, I caught sight of this silver mass. At first I could not work out what it was. First thoughts were a dropped squid, but as I got closer I could see that it was a mass of about a dozen sand eels.

I would suggest that this is the regurgitated contents of a Herring Gull or more likely a Great Black-backed Gull judging by the size of the mass. It does not appear to have been digested, although the fuzziness of the fish suggests that stomach acid had begun its attack.

A few minutes later and no doubt this prize feed would have been gobbled up by another scavenger.

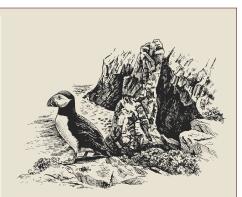
The question is, what could have persuaded the gull to give up such a large tasty meal?

Alan Rowland

North Devon/Lundy Island

Imagine being able to make regular day trips to Lundy, 12 miles off the coast of north Devon. This shimmering jewel in the Bristol Channel, accessible by boat from Bideford and Ilfracombe, has become a place of pilgrimage for wildlife enthusiasts. It is probably best know for its puffins, but also plays host to grey seal, sika deer, razorbills, guillemots, black-legged kittiwakes and oystercatchers.

On the market: A contemporary penthouse apartment in Bideford with views over the River Torridge: £600.000 with Fine & Country (01237 472344; fineandcountry.co.uk).



An advert in the property pages of the 'Daily Telegraph', spotted by Andrew Cleave Puffin by Mike Langman from 'The Birds of Lundy'

'Cold' would be included in any description of the Conservation Break held in March 2013, as TREVOR DOBIE reports.

We travelled to Lundy by helicopter on a day when parts of northern England had experienced several inches of snow. Fortunately, south-western parts of the UK were treated only to periods of heavy sleet.

The wonderfully varied group comprised seasoned 'Breakers' Trevor Dobie, Louise Cookson, Dave Preece, Megan Debenham, Rob Preece, Kelly Butler, Kevin Williams, Ray Bilton, Keith Dobie and Tony Larose, with the welcome addition of new LFS members Mike Jones, Janie Cook, Dave Stone and Paul Gregory. The warmth of The Barn, our home for the week, was more than welcoming, as was the traditional first night meal of sausage and mash. Replete, the evening was spent around a blazing open fire.

A Ropeworks team had been busy clearing the cliffs of rhododendron adjacent to Quarry Beach, so our main task for the first working day was burning the freshly cut branches. The job of feeding the fire gave some welcome relief from the stinging easterly wind.

Burning of previously cut brash was enjoyed by most of the team on Sunday, clearing an area around the burning platform below Bellevue Cottages. The rest of the group were entertained clearing the campsite for the Easter weekend intake of campers. A couple of ponies and some sheep had had the run of the camping field for several weeks so many barrow loads of 'enrichment' were removed! The afternoon was filled with bramble clearing above Millcombe.

Monday dawned with a bitterly cold easterly wind carrying flakes of snow. The dip in the tennis court in front of Old House was repaired, more brambles were cut near Millcombe, beer garden benches were cleaned and treated, wood for kindling was chopped and the High Street near Barton Cottages had pot holes filled.

Tuesday was our day off. Some of the team joined Beccy for a warden's walk followed by visits to several parts of the island. A Tavern meal was enjoyed, with the fireplace proving a popular spot to relax with an evening drink.

Wednesday was definitely a burning day. The whole party pulled, tugged, dragged and threw tons of the rhodi brash which is stacked in lines along

> Trevor Dobie cuts the last rhodi. Photo by Nigel Dalby



parts of the East Side. Not easy with coats and hats pulled tight to keep out the freezing blast. A cheese and potato hotpot cooked by Dave Preece and Mike provided the evening meal.

Thursday followed a similar pattern, with the fire roaring with rhodi brash. Huge amounts were cleared and Steve's burning platform proved to be great success, keeping the flames well contained. The evening was enhanced by the arrival of guests Beccy and her partner Jonny, Steve, Nigel and Lucy from the staff who supplied a popular banoffee pie. The meal of lasagne followed by Christmas pudding went down wonderfully and cooks Janie and Dave Stone were thanked by all.

The temperature didn't improve on our last working day. However, the party managed to erect a fence adjacent to the stone wall running south from the cemetery to the stone crusher to keep sheep from climbing over. The stone crusher site was used to burn the brambles that had been cut on previous days.

A casserole produced by Keith and Kevin rounded off a productive week for the LFS working party that will probably be remembered for the ice on the puddles on the main track that was present throughout our stay, the lack of any warmth whatsoever in the lower bedroom of The Barn, and the Chough that was seen around the village all week.

Many thanks to all concerned.

The Pink Gunge

On the 25 August 1977, my brother-in-law Petty Officer Phillip Abbotts was aboard a Sea King helicopter en route from shore leave at Plymouth to *HMS Hermes* anchored in the Bristol Channel just south of Lundy. Phillip recalls seeing the mainland disappear and then, looking up towards the rotor blades, seeing a 'pink gunge' running down the prop shaft. "Prepare to ditch" came the order and a controlled landing onto water was achieved.

Phillip kicked out a window panel, breaking his ankle in the process, and swam towards the jettisoned lifeboat. He climbed in to be told impolitely that the lifeboat was only for mail and private documents and that he would have to get out.

A search and rescue helicopter from RAF Chivenor was soon overhead, the downdraft causing problems, making the lifeboat drift all over the place. Eventually the crew and passengers were rescued by a helicopter from *HMS Hermes* and the stricken copter was winched aboard. The fault turned out to be mechanical failure resulting from the loss of the gearbox oil.

Tragically, at just 57 years of age, Phillip had a massive heart attack on the 29 April 2013 and was admitted to hospital where he received the Last Rites. He has surprisingly clung to life since then, although he will always require 24-hour care.

I am indebted to Roger Chapple for his help and enthusiasm in compiling this article, and I have every hope that Phillip will have the opportunity to read it.

David Preece (aka Brummie Dave)

[Editor's note: Sadly, Phillip died on 27 October. Rest in peace.]

Lundyitis

PAUL DOUBLER reflects on that popular infection that affects many who visit Lundy.

I first discovered and fell in love with 'our' island on a Sunday day-trip from Porthcawl on the *MV Balmoral* in 1977. The return trip that day so long ago was probably the roughest and most uncomfortable I have 'enjoyed' in the 50+ returns on a variety of craft in the 36 years since. But within weeks I had returned for my first ever solo holiday, staying at the then Millcombe Hotel.

They say there is "nothing as constant as change" and this is of course true, except on Lundy thanks to so many like-minded people who over such a long period have been able to keep this magical place virtually as it has always been – a haven of peace, beauty and tranquillity. I find that as I get older I resent change more. I was passionately against the jetty; I thought that it would be the end of Lundy as I knew it. Fortunately I was wrong, and now after a rough crossing I appreciate just stepping from the *Oldenburg* onto the jetty rather than having to do the 'decant' into the madly bobbing landing launch!

On average I have come twice a year. Firstly alone, then with my girlfriend who became my wife, and then with our daughter from the ages of 7 to 17. I have stayed in probably 18 out of the 23 properties. Staying on a B&B basis in Millcombe completely alone on a particularly wild night is a very vivid memory. I really felt that the children had left the painting to play again on their landing! But it is Big St John's that is our 'spiritual home' as it holds so many great family memories. Over the years on those occasional wet and windy days that Lundy throws at us, and on evenings late at night until the electricity pinged off, I read and enjoyed the annual LFS field reports. I'm always impressed by the diversity of study and research that so many folk put into our three-and-a-half by half-mile plot. The in-depth nature and complexity of many of the projects have always been fascinating, but here I have to admit that my own subject of expertise has always been rest, relaxation and mental recovery. Living a fast, busy life in sales and marketing, the fact that Lundy was on my planner for x number of weeks hence, either as the family holiday or as a solo 'me time' break, has always been my constant beacon of salvation. It keeps spirits high and sanity intact.

I won't go into the many delights the island holds for me, as all reading this are kindred spirits anyway, but the fact that telephone signals are patchy and the Marisco has a ban on all things electrical are but two of many! How can a week go by so quickly with nothing to do? How can one enjoy Lundy siesta's and then sleep so well at night? How can the fresh air taste so sweet? How bright and vast is the galaxy? Even bad weather days can be so enjoyable. Reading, doing a jigsaw puzzle – talking? These are things I have spent some 36 years studying on Lundy to such an extent that I modestly regard myself as quite an expert!

Two years ago, I thought it about time that I joined the LFS. Not so much as to contribute any scientific paper or research, but to support an organisation whose members love this remarkable place as I do. I joined the 2012 Discover Lundy expedition and with some trepidation met for the first time the 'learned and scientific folk' who make up the Society. To my surprise so many were just like me. Yes, they each had their own areas of special interests, but all love Lundy as I do for its remoteness, peace and tranquillity. Meeting Diana Keast and Myrtle Ternstrom was a special thrill. A few years ago at Wolverhampton Wanderers FC I met Sir Jack Hayward, another thrill. How I would have loved to have met and talked to Felix Gade, but sadly it wasn't to be. Attending the last AGM I again enjoyed the presentations and company of so many fellow lovers of Lundy. I now feel like an official member! While I will never write a paper on lichen on Threequarter Wall, myriapods or the effects of global warming on the island's ponds, I am concerned about what happened to the small carp ('sucky fish' as we called them) that have vanished from Rocket Pole Pond. The simple fun and pleasure that we had as a family dropping bread into the water and watching the fish devour it 'piranha-like' was one of our many special memories. Another was being at the North Light many years ago, all alone on a pretty nasty day, low fog, not much visibility, when suddenly the mist cleared to briefly reveal the Royal Yacht *Britannia* sailing regally past!

I feel that I am specialist in the study of Lundyitus, knowing the causes, effects and reactions Lundy has on the human body – mine at least. Not to mention the mental recharge gained after spending time on God's wonderful island. It can be difficult now to get a last-minute booking, but BSJ is booked for the first week in May 2014, and while we should never wish our lives away, winter is always made shorter by looking forward to our next Lundy visit. My wife and I hope that in years to come our daughter may hopefully have children of her own. Then she can bring them to Lundy, take them up to The Barn and hand-feed the new born lambs as she loved to do, and which was a family highlight for many years.

I am so grateful to the many that have saved, looked after and loved our island. Island staff have always been special people. They are our 'live-on' custodians who care and do so much. They may change, but all seem to have that certain required quality.

To conclude, our greatest challenge now is the Atlantic Array [thankfully now shelved. Ed.]; I feel sure that we have the people to fight the island's case and ensure that the magical place so many people love passionately continues to give so much pleasure and is not spoilt for future generations. Yes, there is nothing as constant as change but I pray that Lundy doesn't.

LFS AGM Auction 2013

I should like to extend grateful thanks to those who bid so generously at the annual auction in Crediton. The lots brought in a total of £398 to supplement the Society's income and we successfully recycled some interesting memorabilia to our members.



Thanks are also due to those kind donors who gave such interesting and much sought after items. If I miss anyone out, I apologise in advance, but this year the donors included the late Tony Walker, Reg Lo-vel, Diana Keast and Pat Rodley.

We repeated the successful book stall which this year brought in a further £270. This year's innovation was to staff a stall selling 'Lundiana' and this brought in another £173.79. Thanks must be expressed to Robert Irving and Marie Jo Coutanche who staffed these stalls and without whom we would not have been able to raise a staggering £841.79.

Alan Rowland (the glamorous assistant)

KEITH HISCOCK looks back at how our Victorian predecessors went about exploring Lundy's rocky shores and considers what they found.

Many of you will have enjoyed the rockpool rambles run by the Lundy wardens. There is a terrific amount to see without causing harm but, if you had visited Lundy in 1851 with the Reverend George Tugwell, the following advice is what you would have heeded.

"We can do nothing without our man and the crowbar; his office is to turn over all those large weed-covered angular rocks which lie at the verge of the ebb-tide – those stones which are never moved even by the roughest weather, and under whose sure protection lie all the rarest and most delicate anemones, besides all manner of other wonders which have not a place in our present records. To show you how great a difference so small a matter as a bar of iron may make, I will tell you the experience of two parties of naturalists who left Ilfracombe for Lundy in the summer of 1851. They went down in the same steamer, and searched the same rocks (Lamitor and Rat Island) at the same time. The first division despised crowbars, and thought their eyes were more to be trusted, but unfortunately, though they could probably see through a brick wall as well as their friends, they could not see through a sea-weed covered rock, and if they could have done so they could not get at what lay beneath; so their experience was, that they returned almost empty-handed, and preferred the Ilfracombe tunnels to the Lundy crags.

Well, the second party were wiser, as it proved, and consequently exported a man and a crowbar, and by dint of diligent stone-turning for the space of two hours, they were able to return laden with all imaginable and unimaginable spoils. For instance, they procured numberless varieties of the "thick-skinned" anemone [now *Urticina felina*, dahlia anemone] him of the opal spots and the myriad-coloured arms; two varieties of "the gem;" [now *Aulactinia verrucosa*, gem anemone] two of "the daisy;" [now *Cereus pedunculatus*, daisy anemone] two of the beautiful "snowy anemone;" one of "the orange-disked," and two of "the orange-tentacled," anemone [varieties

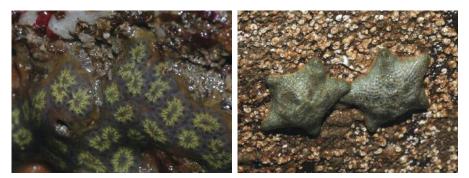


(Left) common brittlestar 'Ophiothrix fragilis' and (right) gem anemone 'Aulactinia verrucosa'. Photos by Keith Hiscock

of now Sagartia elegans, elegant anemones], neither of which varieties had been previously discovered on this coast; one of "troglodytes," [now Sagartia troglodytes] of which more here-after; and then there were divers animals of higher organization, which I will only name in the hope that some other naturalist will be tempted to explore the same prolific hunting-ground. Here they are, and I must premise that the creatures are far more beautiful than their names: Doris Johnstoni [now Jorunna tomentosa, a sea slug], Chiton marginatus [now Lepidochitona cinerea, a chiton], Pleurobranchus plumula [now Berthella plumula, a sea slug], Botryllus violaceus [now Botryllus schlosseri, star sea squirt], Ophiocoma rosula [now Ophiothrix fragilis, common brittlestar], Asterina gibbosa [cushion star], Echinus sphaeria [now Echinus esculentus, a sea urchin], Pentactes pentacta [believed to refer to Aslia *lefevrei*, a sea cucumber], *Terebella conchilega* [now *Lanice conchilega*, sand mason worm], and many more. Now, almost the whole of these treasures were lying snugly concealed under big stones, which nothing but a bar of iron could have moved. So after this I hope you will not despise my man and his crowbar, although he is sitting at the edge of the Point, dangling his legs over the cliff, and smoking a very short and very black clay pipe."

Tugwell does not mention the strawberry anemones in his celebration of "my man and his crowbar" but it often occurs on the edges of under-boulder habitats today. Also, a few Devonshire cup corals, *Caryophyllia smithii*, may have been expected. We did not find *Sagartia elegans* in our rocky shore survey in 2008 but L.A. Harvey recorded it in the late 1940s as "not uncommon on overhanging ledges". The species is much less abundant than it once was on shores throughout south-west England. The dahlia anemone *Urticina felina* also appears less common than it was in Tugwell's day and in the late 1940s when L.A. Harvey described it as "not uncommon from 1/2 tide to LWM, dense colonies in gullies of slate between Landing Beach & Rat Island". The dahlia anemone is a northern (cold water) species and may be in decline in the south-west. The other species that Tugwell mentions can be found today under boulders, and many others besides.

The text is from 'A manual of the sea-anemones commonly found on the English coast' by the Rev. George Tugwell of Oriel College, Oxford and published in 1856. You can view the book on http://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/8282786.



(Left) star sea squirt 'Botryllus schlosseri' and (right) cushion star 'Asterina gibbosa'. Photos by Keith Hiscock

Who's who on the LFS Committee

Not so much a *Who's Who*, more a rogues' gallery, but here's (probably) all you will ever want to know about the current LFS Committee members, the roles they play in the Society, and what brought them to Lundy in the first place.

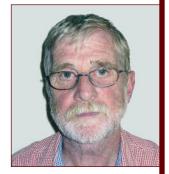
Keith Hiscock (Chair)

I joined the LFS in 1969 and immediately started to contribute field observations to Society publications on marine life, especially from underwater reefs around the island, one of the study sites for my PhD. I was instrumental in seeing Lundy established as the first voluntary marine nature reserve in Britain, with the help of the LFS, in 1972. During the 1970s and early 1980s, I organised expeditions of specialist biologists to study aspects of Lundy's marine life. After serving on the LFS Committee for several years, I was elected as Chairman in 1985, but that honour was short-lived when in 1987 my new employers, the Nature Conservancy Council, thought there may be a clash of interests. Elevated to the status of a Vice-President in 1997. I continued to serve the Society in various ways but especially to carry on with my research into the seabed marine life around Lundy. In 2007 I was again elected to Chair the Society. That was also the year that I 'retired' from work in the nature conservation agencies and, latterly, the Marine Biological Association (MBA). I am now an elected Associate Fellow at the MBA in Plymouth where I continue research in marine conservation science.

Alan Rowland (Vice Chair)

I joined the LFS as a family member in 1995 and shortly afterwards a vacancy arose on the committee. At the AGM, I self-nominated and was accepted. Since then I have served as a committee member with the remit of Sales and Archives, and in 2012 I was elected as Vice-Chairman. I always like to be very highly involved in what I am doing and a love of Lundy has developed from just being there, through collecting anything to do with the island and, more recently, developing my passion for natural history. I have led walks and pond-dipping expeditions, given talks, and begun systematically surveying some of Lundy's ponds. I have contributed to the Society's Annual Reports and Newsletters and have two papers awaiting publication in the Journal.





Michael Williams (Hon. Secretary)

I first discovered the existence of Lundy in a geography lesson at school. I remember going to the school library and looking it up in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in the days before we had the Internet. As a church bellringer I also discovered that the church had a set of eight bells that were on the floor of the porch so my interest increased! It wasn't until I started my 'A' Levels in 1994 that I visited the island when I was invited to join the working party that was getting the church ready for the rededication of the bells that October. I stayed for two nights and was addicted.

Several subsequent visits followed with bellringing groups and my friends from school. I later came and worked on the island as a general assistant in the Tavern after I had finished university in the summer of 2000 and returning for the autumn of 2001. It was during 2001 that I wrote *The Lundy Companion* which was published whilst I was working there.

Many regular visits followed, introducing many friends to the island, including for my 30th birthday when I took over all the island's properties in a wet and windy December weekend!

I joined the LFS committee as a co-opted member in 2006 to look after the members' library and became the Honorary Secretary at the end of 2011. I'm no specialist or expert in any of our fields, being generally interested in all aspects of the island, although its history is something that appeals to me more.

Michael Fry (Hon. Treasurer)

I first visited Lundy in 1985 – a day trip on the *Waverley* with my family – to view seabirds. When I retired I visited again, as a conservation volunteer. I met 14 LFS volunteers and became part of their working team. I was welcomed and enjoyed the conservation work and also liked helping with the catering arrangements. The whole experience persuaded me to join the LFS and I have made many friends since. At an AGM, Tony Cutler said a treasurer was needed, he realised my financial background would help and I volunteered. I have been Treasurer for the last five years.





Sandra Rowland (Membership Secretary)

I began visiting Lundy over twenty years ago on a daytrip to the island in 1991. My visits have become increasingly more frequent and I now spend several weeks a year on the island. I joined the LFS in 1995 and became Membership Secretary in 2007. I volunteered to take on the post as I felt it was something useful that I could do for the Society. I enjoy every aspect of Lundy, with a particular interest in botany and birds, and enjoy learning something new every time I visit the island. Many of you will know that I live in Cornwall with my husband, Alan, dog Maisie and chickens Baby and Buffy, where we are frequently visited by our four children and their families.

Andrew Cleave MBE

I first visited Lundy in the 1960s whilst at school in Crediton. Frequent visits followed, and when teaching in Hampshire, I regularly brought school parties to stay on the island for week-long field-studies trips. The school groups contributed to the records of the LFS with seabird counts and studies of the island's flora and insect life. I have continued to make regular trips, and have made a particular study of the island's flora, producing a 'Checklist of the Flora of Lundy' and an article on Lundy's ferns for the LFS Journal. I have served on the LFS committee since 2008 and am on the steering group for the restoration of St Helen's Church. I often find myself giving lectures on Lundy's wildlife to clubs and societies.

André Coutanche

As a Guernseyman, I am addicted to islands, especially ones with a granite landscape on the edge of the Atlantic. I am, in a non-expert way, interested in archaeology and history, birdwatching, wildlife in general, landscape and townscape – and therefore walking, though not for its own sake. Marie Jo and I first visited Lundy in 1987, staying in Millcombe when it was a hotel and being looked after by Mary Gade. The next visit was the following year, then quite a gap – other islands elsewhere in Europe called – until the light dawned and we joined the LFS and started visiting Lundy every year. Then twice a year, then...

I have been on the LFS committee since 2005 and have helped with various publications, with the symposium to mark the 60th anniversary of the LFS, developing the current logo, revising the LFS constitution – and I act as techy nerd at AGMs!



Tim Davis

I first visited Lundy in August 1973 as part of a Barnstaple Tennis Club day-trip led by Tony Vickery* and have stayed on the island in all but every year since. In 1993 my partner Tim Jones and I became life members of the Society, and in 2008 we took over from Tony Taylor as Lundy bird recorders, having published our book The Birds of Lundy the previous year. I joined the LFS committee in 2010 when I succeeded Ann Westcott as editor of the LFS Newsletter, producing two issues before becoming editor of the Society's Annual Report in 2011. Putting together those two annual publications is very much a labour of love, as was producing Keith Hiscock and Robert Irving's book Protecting Lundy's marine life: 40 years of science and conservation in 2012. Spring and autumn visits to watch migrating birds, as well as the island's breeding birds, are yearly pilgrimages. Lundy has been in my blood for so long, I simply do not know what I would do without it.

*Sadly, Tony passed away on 17 December, aged 87. He was our longest standing member, having joined the Society in 1952. He had been in a nursing home in Ilfracombe for the past few months and died peacefully in the North Devon Hospital.



Trevor Dobie

I have been visiting Lundy for fifteen years or so and I have organised the LFS Conservation Breaks since 2008. I live in Marlborough with my wife, Karen. We have two grown-up daughters, Lydia and Grace. Lundy was a childhood memory from a family holiday in Ilfracombe when we were thwarted by the weather. When our daughters were old enough not to need us at holiday time we rediscovered Lundy whilst looking for a place to visit for a getaway stay.

Professor Jennifer George

I am a Vice-President of the Lundy Field Society and was Chairman from 1988 to 2002. I currently edit the Lundy Field Society Journal. I have carried out research on the island's freshwater ecosystems since the late 1970s, and have published my results in the LFS Annual Reports. With over 30 peer-reviewed research papers and joint authorship (with David George) of an encyclopaedia of marine invertebrates, I gained my Professoriate from the University of Westminster in 1990, and am now involved with research, consultancy and committee work.



John Hedger

I was introduced to Lundy in 2003 by David and Jenny George, who suggested the fungi on Lundy needed study, and I have has been engaged in this rewarding pursuit ever since. Currently a book, Lundy Fungi, is being written by me and David George, and this will be published shortly by the LFS. I live in Western Scotland but come south in the autumn to stay on Lundy with fellow LFS members to survey the fungi. I also comment on aspects of Lundy management, especially grazing regimes and fungal and plant diversity, and the planting of trees and shrubs.

Diana Keast (née Harman)

I am the youngest child of Martin Coles Harman and the last living joint owner of Lundy. I first knew of Lundy when I listened to a "6pm national news" to hear that my father had just purchased the island. That was in 1925 and I was three years old. Apart from spending one year on Lundy between schools in 1932–1933, my visits to Lundy have been regular and routine as schoolgirl, college student and housewife.

Lundy was our home from mother's death in 1931 until we variously had our own. Millcombe continued to be our shared home on Lundy. After a two-year spell at The Leicester College of Arts and Crafts, I married at 19 and was able to continue my visits to Lundy throughout the year as my husband was a teacher at boarding school with ideal holidays.

My interests in Lundy have always been very wide and general, inspired by some new happening there and by the expertise of others.

When responsibility for maintaining the island came with my father's death in 1954, we joint owners, Albion, Ruth and I faced an immediate need to improve Lundy's economy but with very sparse resources. My main contribution to that was domestic and practical.

Lundy produces such a vast canvas of possibilities at all times but progress was going to be very slow. However we had a very exciting and creative few years before the sale of Lundy in 1969.

I value my closeness to the affairs of the island as much as ever and greatly appreciate being a Vice President of the LFS, whose success is such a tribute to all members, past and present.



Myrtle Ternstrom BEM

I first went to Lundy in 1952 with my husband, Tony Langham. I fell in love with the island, as he had done, and we joined the LFS. Staying on the island then was very different from now. It was the Harman island, with Mr Gade in charge. The Harman family, visitors, and seamen all mixed. The pub was very convivial. One highlight visit was made when the hotel was closed, and we messed with everyone sat at the long kitchen table: Gi at the head and then everyone down to we lesser mortals at the bottom end.

We had many very good holidays over the years, especially with a group of friends – we all came at the same times. After Tony and I parted we both carried on contributing to the Lundy bookshelves. When I returned from several years abroad I fulfilled an ambition to study for a higher degree. What better research subject than Lundy history? I completed my PhD and went on to publish a few books on various aspects of the island.

The island itself and the people I met there have been a large part of my life and I was honoured to be appointed a Vice President of the LFS. Sadly I don't think I will get to Lundy again. Diana puts me to shame, but I am not now robust enough to cope. I have loved the island, and both Tony and I felt that we had enjoyed it in the best years.

Chris Webster

My first visit to Lundy was on the ill-fated Waverley trip in 1988 but a night in the tavern, then on the beach, then waiting for first light before we sailed and finally getting back to my tent at 6am sold the island to me. I was working at Southampton University at the time and one of the PhD students, John Schofield, and I decided to carry out fieldwork on Lundy, which we did between 1988 and 1992 looking for flintwork and other evidence of past activity in the area south of Quarter Wall.

I was persuaded to be Honorary Secretary of the LFS in 1993 and remained for ten years. While doing that I set up the LFS website in 1998 and have been working on it ever since. I live in Taunton and have been excavating Taunton Castle, and now writing up, for the last ten years. Earlier this year I was honoured to be elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and hopefully, when the castle book is complete next year, I will be able to return my attention to Lundy.



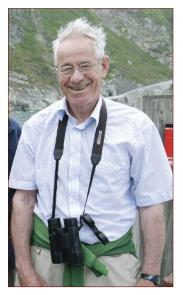


TONY JOHN casts back to some memorable moments during his first stay on Lundy in September 1976.

I first visited Lundy in September 1976 for a week's stay on the island. We crossed on the *MV Polar Bear* which sailed from Ilfracombe, and which was replaced by the *MS Oldenburg* in 1986. When we arrived at Lundy we were transferred from the ship to the Shearn for the short but exciting trip to the landing beach. This was a year of very high summer temperatures and a long severe drought. There was almost no water on the island and I had been informed by the island before setting off that I had to bring ALL my own water! I therefore had to carry over to Lundy all the water I was going to use for the whole week in a ten-gallon container. Needless to say, during that week I did not do much washing! I stayed at the Old Light when it was still 'hostel-type' accommodation (and before it was converted to 'posh' accommodation), with one Steve Tanner.

I am a bird ringer, so while on the island I put up mist-nets in various places around Millcombe and decided that my ringing base would be in the Casbah. It wasn't until the end of the week that I discovered some people staying on the island, and who did not understand the purpose of mist-nets, had been taking birds out of the nets and releasing them! At that time there were two Helgoland traps – one on the Terrace and one at Quarter Wall, the latter having been dismantled quite recently.

One day I caught and ringed an Ortolan Bunting in Millcombe – only the fourth one to be ringed on Lundy. Mick Rogers, the barman in the Marisco, also a ringer, and the LFS Representative on the Island, was somewhat jealous. Ortolan Buntings were much commoner in the 1970s – in 1976 there were records on five days in September and three days in October. There has been a major decline in the breeding population of Ortolans in Europe between 1970



and 1990 (Davis & Jones, *The Birds of Lundy*, 2007) and they are no longer annual on Lundy.

At that time, the old iron church, built in 1885, stood close to where Government House is now.

One evening there was a party in the old Tavern (modernised in 1982/83) and that particular evening the heavens opened and it bucketed down with rain, just at the time when Steve and I were setting out to walk from the Old Light to the Tavern!

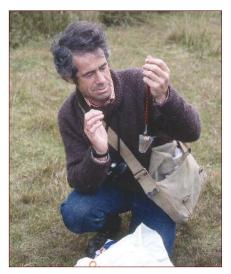
I remember briefly meeting Felix Gade, who still lived on Lundy at that time. He was reminiscing about his long and memorable life on Lundy for a book; this was later published in 1978 as *My Life on Lundy*, a wonderful story of island life. The Agent on the island from 1970–1977 was Ian Grainger, who lived in Brambles.

Tony John on Lundy in June 2012. Photo by Tim Davis

Government House, at the head of Millcombe, was originally built in the early 1980s for the next island Agent to live in, but for some reason he never lived there.

One vivid memory is of going out at night to listen to Manx Shearwaters on the West Side cliffs, north of the Old Light, with Bob Britton, then the Lundy Field Society Treasurer. The LFS subscription in 1976 was £2!

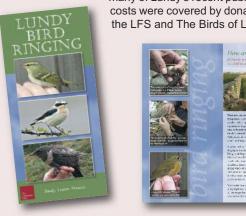
In 1976, Lundy North and South lighthouses were both manned and the Trinity House lighthouse keepers were part of the island community. There was a line of telegraph poles running to the North End of the island connecting the two lighthouses; the electricity line was buried in the late 1970s and the poles were removed. The lighthouses were automated in the 1990s, Lundy North in 1991 and Lundy South in 1994.



Tony John weighing a Firecrest caught in the Quarter Wall Heligoland Trap in September 1986. Photo by Tim Davis

All about bird ringing on Lundy – a new Landmark Trust leaflet

The latest in the series of Landmark Trust information leaflets available to visitors to Lundy is LUNDY BIRD RINGING. Written by Tony Taylor, with input from Tim Davis and Tim Jones, and richly illustrated with photographs contributed by Tom Bedford, Richard Campey, Roy Churchill, Robin Freeman, Paul James, Richard Taylor and Isabel Winney, the leaflet is now available free from Reception, the Lundy Shop, onboard *Oldenburg* and also from the Bideford and Ilfracombe Shore Offices. The leaflet was expertly designed by Bettina Newman, who has produced



many of Lundy's recent publications. Design and printing costs were covered by donations from The Lundy Fund, the LFS and The Birds of Lundy Fund.

The reflections of a Heaven descendant

In four years' time, it will be 100 years since the Heaven ownership of Lundy came to an end. But despite the passage of time – and the toll the island's ownership took on the family's finances – Lundy continues its powerful hold on the imaginations of the Heaven descendants, as RICHARD BERKLEY-MATTHEWS describes.

William Hudson Heaven, who bought Lundy in 1836, was the younger brother of my greatgreat-great-great-grandfather, Cam Gyde Heaven. Eileen Heaven, WHH's great-granddaughter, was my great-grandfather's first cousin through her father, John Cookesley Heaven, and his third cousin through her mother, Marion Cecilia Harley née Heaven ('Aunt Winnie'). Eileen, who I knew when I was a child, was the last member of the Heaven family to have known the island during the Heaven era and, although she had a niece, she regarded my grandfather, Richard Heaven (her first cousin once removed), as her Heaven heir. So from an early age I remember talk of Lundy, and knew it from the many pictures in what has become known as the 'Heaven archive', much of which was in my grandfather's ownership.

I have often wondered why Lundy proved so irresistible to William Hudson Heaven – and believe the answer to lie at least in part in the unusual nature of land ownership when it takes the form of an island. 1,100 acres would have been a not-so-very-large estate in the 1830s. But Lundy had so much more to offer – its extraordinarily diverse flora and fauna of course; equally, its remoteness, rugged beauty and unusual legal status. But more than that, it offers the owner a status which is quite out of proportion to its acreage.

However, it is easy to become sentimental or nostalgic – after all, buying Lundy 'as a summer retreat and for the shooting' must have had a lovely ring to a Regency gentleman, and particularly one who had just received a windfall. (We mustn't be squeamish about this either



William Hudson Heaven was bequeathed sugar estates in Jamaica by his Godfather, William Hudson, and these estates were worked by slaves. When slavery was abolished in the British Empire in 1833, the government paid compensation to slave owners, and it was this compensation money which financed the purchase of Lundy and the building of the Villa, as Millcombe House was then called). It had never been William's intention to make Lundy his family's principal residence - but the cost of building the road up from the beach (to which Trinity House declined to contribute), and the Villa, together with other running costs, combined with the collapse of the sugar market, forced him

Richard Berkley-Matthews at the bottom of Montagu Steps. Photo by Anthony Delarue to offer the island for sale first in the early 1840s, and at intervals thereafter. It was his failure to find a buyer which led him to move the family there permanently, thus becoming the island's first owner to make it a family home.

From then on, many members of the family lived on Lundy for varying periods, and many others became regular visitors. William and Cam were clearly fond of their respective nieces and nephews, and the many cousins knew each other well. Life may have been hard on the island, fraught with increasing financial constraints and, particularly during prolonged spells of inclement weather, somewhat monotonous. In addition the lack of 'society' for the younger women must be the explanation for the large number of maiden aunts. However, for all this, it is clear from the surviving letters and diaries that the family adored Lundy and the life there. Walter Charles Hudson Heaven (Eileen's uncle), who sold the island, endured the shame of bankruptcy and went to live in self-imposed exile in Australia, wrote to his sister (Eileen's mother) on 14th June 1921, "I live much in the past ... not a single night passes that I do not return to Lundy in my dreams". When Lundy recedes into the haze on the homeward journey, I always try to imagine how crushed poor Walter must have been by the feelings of ignominy, failure and ruin when he sailed away for the last time.

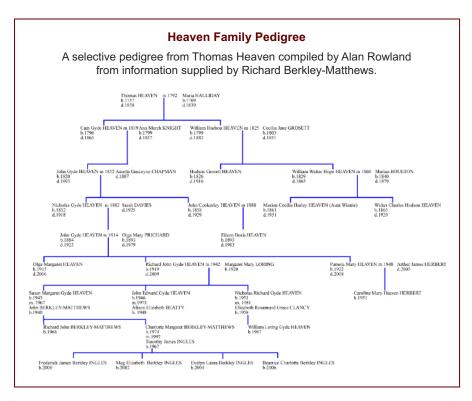


Eileen Heaven on Lundy in 1965, from 'The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-1969'

In my own lifetime, Eileen's enduring devotion to Lundy was palpable – and even in old age she never left the island without swimming, whatever the time of year. Subsequent generations have also retained a strong interest in the island's fortunes. My grandfather (born in 1919) visited many times and, in honour of the last member of the family to have known Lundy Heavens intimately, the flag over St Helen's Church was lowered to half-mast on the day of his funeral in 2009. Of his five children, all have been to Lundy, and of his eighteen grandchildren, ten have visited. Two or three of us take a particularly keen ongoing interest. One, William Heaven, a journalist with the *Daily Telegraph*, has written about the island, most recently about the Atlantic Array proposal.

In 2013 I organised what was probably the largest family excursion to Lundy since before the Great War. We were fourteen between Millcombe and Bramble Villas West, including my uncle John Heaven (who lives in British Columbia, and whose

collection of Lundy papers is probably the most important in the family), my mother Susan (née Heaven), their first cousin Dr Caroline Herbert (whose mother Pamela née Heaven was my grandfather's younger sister), and my sister Charlotte Ingles and her four children. For John, this was a joyful return after an absence of 21 years, while for some of us fortunate to live a little nearer than Canada, it was the latest of regular, in some cases annual, visits. The week was a tremendous success, enormously enjoyed by all – and this in large part is due to the wonderful way in which the island is run today. The House is well equipped, extremely comfortable, and prepared to a very high standard. The shop provides everything that can reasonably be needed for a week's stay. And the island itself is so very well run and maintained by the friendly and dedicated team headed by Derek Green. Above all, it maintains an atmosphere of simplicity and freedom, away from today's obsessions with 'Danger' signs and caveats of the sort which begin 'at your own risk'. Visitors' working parties are a regular



feature, and we offered to do some much needed tidying up in the cemetery – while our efforts were only moderately successful, ranger Steve Pratt was kind enough to go in after us and finish the job.

One area of particular concern to members of the family is the deteriorating condition of St Helen's church. As one of the most prominent buildings on the island, its relative dilapidation stands in marked contrast to everything else. For the family, the decision of Hudson Grosett Heaven to spend his £5,000 legacy from Sarah Langworthy (née Heaven) on building the church rather than putting the family's finances on a sounder footing will prove even more disastrous if the church is allowed to decay after barely 120 years. A glance through the archives shows this problem to be an old one. As long ago as 1938 'Aunt Winnie' (Marion Cecilia Harley Heaven) wrote in characteristically firm tones to the church's trustees, "The state of this building is deplorable, and unless the repairs to the roof are finished before the Winter gales set in, the whole edifice will be ruined ... ". I have for some time been in correspondence with The Rev'd Shirley Henderson (Priest in Charge) and it was a particular pleasure finally to meet her on Lundy during our stay. She joined us for lunch in Millcombe, and we then joined her in the church for a brief service before she returned to the mainland. Funding for essential repairs is being actively sought, and I hope it may be possible to establish a 'Friends' of Lundy Church' to help raise a small annual income to finance ongoing repairs once serious restoration has been carried out. It is my particular hope that the restoration of the East Window might form part of the renovation plans – its partial blocking up greatly compromises the appearance of the east end from the outside, and inside leaves the chancel very short of natural light (see below). The original stained glass is in boxes in the Vestry, so a giant jigsaw puzzle awaits an enthusiast.

Lundy exerts a powerful hold on those who fall in love with it – and each one of us has our own reason. Much of its built environment dates from the Heaven period, and so much has been written about that period that reminders of it are constant for those who are interested – even if it was comparatively short (just 82 years). But we do well to remember that the island is probably as much loved, and certainly better and more effectively run, now than at any time in its history, making it a most attractive destination for visitors with many varied interests.

The joys of LFS conservation working parties

Avid LFS Conservation Break participant DAVE PREECE (aka Brummie Dave or TLT) picks his highlights from 21 years of island activity.

In September 1993 I booked into a B&B and, with my daughter Dawn, went to check at the information centre about sailing to Lundy. The message was 'Not Sailing – Easterlies' which was a bit of a puzzle for a land-locked Brummie. As instructed, we returned on the morrow and enjoyed a calm and sunny sailing.

We met the warden and were asked to move 300 tree stakes from Belle View Cottages to Quarter Wall Copse. And we did – javelin style! What we weren't told was that the bracken is like razors and has fleas. I was cut to shreds and itched like hell. That was my first week's work on the island.

I was privileged to be at the VC Quarry service for John Pennington Harman in 1994, and met so many new friends, including the very gracious Diana. All other friends and colleagues will be nameless – see if you can work them out.

The 1995 Soay round-up rodeo was chaotic, with Rambo from Ashted in the thick of it. The LFS's 50th anniversary in 1996 was great.

Thanks to the Watchet Workaholic on his trusty steed, I had a memorable St George's day in 2004 charging around on the Terrace. Four days later on 27 April, my 60th birthday, I abseiled and climbed half of the Devil's Slide with help from my son Robert. Awesome!

The creaky iron wind generator has gone, and so have the rats and the deluxe caravans. Many Agents, Wardens, Rangers and other staff have come and gone.

I've seen LBJs and BBJs, the best being a magnificent Red Kite. I've partaken of parties, sing-songs, skittles, quizzes, sponsored haircuts and shaves, have broken my wrist, avoided 'foreign muck', and marvelled at the stars on a clear night – sun and moon risings and settings are spectacular from the Old Light. I've watched 'statelites' and 'play stations' (sic) and worked in all types of





Brummie Dave in rhodi-bashing mode (left) and at ease on the Terrace (above). Photos by Trevor Dobie

weather. I've learnt lots of conservation skills, including drystone walling, fencing, tree planting and maintenance. I've repaired and rehung gates and posts, mended stiles, and rewired the Heligoland trap.

I've been shown round South Light when it was manned, climbed the church and Rat Island, descended into Lametry Bay, met a variety of characters, and watched the walking stick production line.

Even now, firsts are still occurring, including rum on porridge for breakfast and an LFS gathering at The Ugly on a beautiful moonlit evening for a port and stilton soirée.

Unfortunately some very good friends have passed away, including two members of staff; both wonderful ladies taken in their prime.

Thanks to everyone who has made my time on Lundy so memorable, including those from the Shore Office, MS Oldenburg and Hartland Heliport.

Just a few to see if you can work out: Penarth Letter Writer, Cheltenham Flyer, BEM, Puffin Legs, Marlborough Mafia, Singing Angel from Starcross and her lovely mother, the Vintners from Godalming, Midas from Bishops Lydeard, The Cole Clan, the Formula 1 Mobility Scooter Driver, a Fan of Lewis Carroll, Appledore Tea Dolly, Lundy Mechanic, The Philatelist, and of course the Grumpy Shop Keeper. Who could forget the Basking Shark Raconteur?

Lundy, we love you.

Oh yes, I've done a bit of rhodi bashing as well!

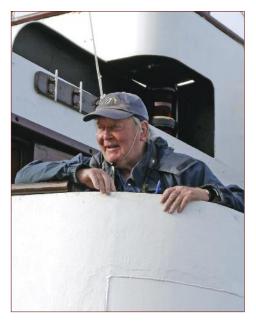
(In case you don't know, BJs relate to brown jobs (birds), little or big. I had to ask! Ed.)

Remembering James Leonard

After joining the LFS in April 1997, James Leonard quickly became a familiar figure on Lundy, staying for a week or more in his 'island home', the Radio Room, in every month in (very probably) every year. Following his death at the age of 72 on 28 April this year, TIM JONES and TIM DAVIS wrote this tribute at the request of James's sister Susanna Westmeath. It was reproduced in the service sheet for James's funeral.

James seemed to be part of Lundy's fixtures and fittings, though in fact he was a relative newcomer to the island, having started what was later to become a virtually unbroken run of monthly visits in the early 'noughties'. He boarded *MS Oldenburg* to leave Lundy for the last time on 18 April 2013.

JWL was an indefatigable contributor to the Lundy Field Society logbook, his characteristic and often close-to-undecipherable handwriting (always in smudgy pencil, NEVER pen) usually adorning the week within which the 14th of the month fell. Such was his zeal that it was rare to find, on opening the logbook of an evening, that James had not got there first, requiring much laborious rubbing out to incorporate other visitors' observations in the daily bird counts. While James was certainly keen that others should contribute to the log, he frequently misjudged the line between positive encouragement and something more akin to bullying, and his proprietorial approach unfortunately had the effect of putting off some would-be contributors. That said, there were long periods where there would have been no entries at all if it had not been for James and he provided details of many interesting observations over the years, particularly of the island's Peregrines and of passing dolphins, porpoises and occasional whales, which he used to watch out for from his perch on The Ugly or even from inside the Tavern!



James clearly loved Lundy and appeared to have found something in the island and its small, slowly changing community that perhaps eluded him on the mainland. He undoubtedly also enjoyed the attention that came his way as an instantly recognisable 'island character' and played up to that image shamelessly. He could be breathtakingly rude, which unfortunately will be the abiding memory that some people have of him. However, he was also generous and entertaining; never slow to put his hand in his pocket to buy a pint of Old Light for a fellow birdwatcher (with the characteristic enquiry, "Strangle another one?!") and with an astounding fund of outrageous stories from his colourful

JWL on the bridge of the 'Oldenburg'. Photo by Tim Davis

younger days. James continued to feature in numerous tales of notoriety from the Lundy chapter of his life; from frequently setting off the fire alarm in the Radio Room when cremating yet another fry-up, to having to be rescued from underneath his mobility scooter when he turned it over in a Jeremy Clarkson-esque sort of way.

James was a complex and surprising character and there was always much more to him than met the eye. He was a highly talented embroiderer and upholsterer as we experienced at first hand when invited to his Velator home [in Braunton] for dinner one evening (on the menu: cremated sausages!). During his Eton and university days, he was a champion at the arcane sport of rackets – four-times National Amateur Singles Champion in 1961, 1962, 1965 & 1967, and twice runner-up in the World Championships, in 1963 & 1967, while many LFS members and other Lundyites will have been unaware that James was a highly regarded compiler of crosswords for *The Listener* (under the pseudonym of 'Mr Lemon') as well as for the *Daily Telegraph* and other papers and magazines, going by the names of 'Citrus' and 'Rustic'. A number of his grids and clues were ornithologically inspired, neatly linking two central strands of his life.

They definitely broke the mould when they made James Leonard; "we shall not look upon his like again."

Editor's note: Susanna very kindly nominated the LFS as the charity to which donations at the funeral were made in James's memory.



A familiar sight on Lundy in recent years: James Leonard on his mobility scooter, pictured here at North End. Photo by Alan Rowland

PUBLICATIONS for sale through the Lundy Field Society

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.

Vol 1, Jenny George (ed.), 2008, 192pp - £5 plus £2.20 p&p

Vol 2, Jenny George (ed.), 2010, 120pp – £7.50 plus £2.20 p&p

Vol 3, Jenny George (ed.), 2012, 128pp – £10 plus £2.20 p&p

Contains peer-reviewed scientific papers on: Lundy Ferns, Threats to Lundy Cabbage, Plant diversity, Effect of drought on Quarterwall pond, Goat behaviour, Bird fieldwork, Puffin population, Ecclesiastical history, Book review *The Lords of Lundy*.

Full contents are viewable at www.lundy.org.uk/publications/volume.php?vol=1001

The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-1969 by Members of the Lundy Field Society, 2013,

Softback in full colour, £12 .99 plus £2.50 p&p

Covering the period from the 1920s to the late 1960s, the book includes stories which have never been told before and others which are well known but told here with new illustrations. The period photographs are from the collections of Diana Keast and other Lundy Field Society members, and many of them are published here for the first time. Memories and anecdotes from Diana Keast are the icing on the cake of a unique insight into a crucial period of Lundy's history.

The Birds of Lundy by Tim Davis & Tim Jones, 2007, 319pp, Softback, £6.95 plus £3.00 p&p A joint publication with Devon Birds. Background chapters on the island and four suggested bird walks of varying length. Covers all 317 species recorded on Lundy up to 2007, with notes on another 32 species that have been reported from the island and surrounding waters. Each entry includes the species' status, pattern of occurrence, historical records and unique anecdotal insights, plus an analysis of ringing movements.

Protecting Lundy's Marine Life: 40 Years of Science and Conservation, 2012, 102pp Members Hardback £15, Softback £11.50 / Non-members £16 and £12.50 plus £2.50 p&p After 40 years of marine conservation at Lundy, a record has been produced summarising how and when the major marine conservation landmarks occurred, describing some of the marine life highlights of the island and celebrating the success of all of those who have been involved over the years. This book also provides the opportunity to document some of the early studies of marine life that used scuba diving and the methods that had to be developed to sample and monitor that life. In the book, the two people who have most consistently contributed to the development of marine conservation at Lundy, Keith Hiscock and Robert Irving, explain briefly (and illustrate profusely) what happened when and how, but also identify how much more there is still to find out about the marine wildlife of a fascinating island.

Please send orders (with cheques payable to 'Lundy Field Society') to: LFS Sales c/o Alan Rowland Mole Cottage, Chapel Close, Woodford, Morwenstow, Cornwall EX23 9JR



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Published in 2013, softback in full colour, £12.99 + £2.50 p&p To purchase, visit www.lundy.org.uk/publications or send a cheque payable to 'Lundy Field Society' to LFS Sales, Mole Cottage, Chapel Close, Woodford, Morwenstow, Cornwall EX23 9JR

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