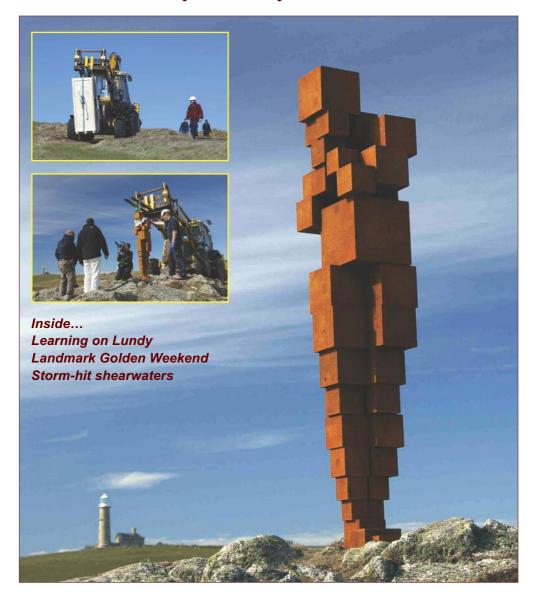


# DISCOVERING

The Bulletin of the Lundy Field Society

No. 45, December 2015



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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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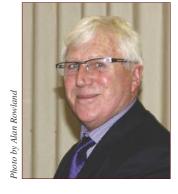
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Cover photos of Antony Gormley's DAZE IV installation by Nigel Dalby

# 'Reaching out'



This *Bulletin* provides the opportunity to reach out to members in an informal and, hopefully, interesting way. So, as a frequent user of Facebook, I thought that I would look at the 'Lundy Island' and 'Lundy Field Society' pages to see what it was about the island that seemed to most interest contributors to those groups. The entries by Lundy enthusiasts and newcomers on 'Lundy Island' seem to especially reflect on their curiosity about the island, their memories (often nostalgic), the photographic opportunities that the island offers, island life/personalities, island events, and wildlife spectacles. The 'Lundy Field Society' pages were populated by wildlife sightings and LFS events with a smattering of history and archaeology. I concluded that our *Bulletin* offers 'something for everyone' and I hope will

be of interest to non-members as well as members.

Some of the special events on and off the island are described in this *Bulletin*. Highlights for me in 2015 were being on the island for the Landmark Trust 'Golden Weekend' (including viewing the Antony Gormley sculpture), taking the opportunity to be amazed by just how many Puffins there are now, meeting the friends and family of Sir Jack Hayward who came to the island for a short ceremony following his death in January, and doing a bit more diving around the island to be reminded of the richness of the marine wildlife.

I hope that you enjoy this issue of *Discovering Lundy*. My thanks, as always, to contributors, to our editor Belinda Cox and to Tim Davis for the layout.

### **Keith Hiscock**

Chairman

### **Plucking Puffins – unthinkable today!**

This black & white image was found by Keith Hiscock in his father's collection of photographs. It's thought to show the plucking of a Guillemot and a Puffin, and have been taken in the 1920s, possibly in Quarry Cottages.

If anyone has any knowledge of the photograph, please let Keith (keith.hiscock@lineone.net) or Belinda (belinda.cox@btinternet.com) know.





# **Editor's chatterings**

I have thoroughly enjoyed editing the *Bulletin* again, and would like to give sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed; I consider this publication to be by the membership, for the membership.

I was at a friend's birthday celebration earlier this year, and while chatting to another guest I discovered that she was Felix Gade's niece – such a small world! She has shared some of her memories with us.

I have visited Lundy on six occasions this year, and on one of them I was privileged to be part of the LFS team assisting at the Landmark Golden Weekend celebrations

in May. Great fun was had by all, and we were very excited to be wearing 'Lundy Blues' while we were working. My most recent visit was at the beginning of December with two friends to celebrate my birthday. Another fantastic weekend, despite very strong winds from storm Desmond battering the island; thank goodness for the shelter of the Tavern.

2016 sees the 70th anniversary of the LFS, and another 'Discover Lundy' trip, this time in in September. Your committee are organising a week of celebration, education and networking, so the next edition of *Discovering Lundy* will be full of stories and information from this exciting event.

Please keep the stories and articles coming for inclusion in future publications. You don't need to be an author or an accomplished writer – I'm very happy to help you get something on paper if required.

Thanks once again to all who have spent time and effort in providing something for our *Bulletin*, and thank you to Tim Davis for making it look so pretty!

#### Belinda Cox



Lundy in human form - see 'Much ado about a lot' on page 12. Photo by Alan Rowland

# An update from the Lundy Warden

Life on Lundy is starting to move into a slower pace now that the summer season has passed. It's been a very interesting couple of years since my last update for you so I'll try and capture the highlights (apologies in advance if I forget anyone or anything!).

Lundy's dark skies have long been considered to be one of the best in the UK and to recognise this we have been working hard to collect data on the quality of the night sky since 2013. In 2014 we received recognition through the Dark Sky Discovery initiative by becoming a Dark Sky Discovery (Milky Way class) Site. Work continues on our application to become an International Dark Sky Reserve.

On the wild side of Lundy, our seabirds are continuing to recover well and in 2015 I spotted around 300 Puffins at Jenny's cove (on land and sea). Monitoring of these charismatic seabirds received extra funding this year from Banrock Station through the National Trust's 'Vote for Nature' campaign. This funding allowed us to support a small group of volunteers – known as 'Team Puffin' – who were able to monitor the main colony at Jenny's Cove and discern 195 burrows across the slope, along with time-lapse equipment focusing on a small sub-plot of the main slope; an area that was considered to have a handful of burrows, yet already we have identified the presence of over 30. To see the videos, and take part in our citizen science project, please see our Lundy Conservation Team Facebook page (visible to non-members) and our Lundy Warden channel on www.youtube.com. My interest in Manx Shearwaters has continued and now, thanks to Tony Taylor and the support of many others, I am able to ring these majestic birds and help with the research into their life histories.

Other research has been on the increase since 2013, with renewed interest from individuals, colleges and universities. This has been accompanied by an increase in talks on projects and areas of interest, most particularly by LFS members, and all have engaged large numbers of visitors to the island. We welcome any talks by visiting LFS members – to organise yours please contact me in advance of your arrival.

Increased awareness of Lundy as a nature reserve for both marine and terrestrial species has led to an increased demand from general visitors and schools for engagement with the Conservation Team. During 2015, 480 schoolchildren visited us and over 1,000 visitors participated in walks, talks, Snorkel Safaris and Rockpool Rambles during the summer period. Sometimes meeting demand has been difficult and we thank all those LFS members – in particular Simon Dell, Frances Stuart, Alan Rowland and Andrew Cleave – who have supported us with these and other events. We must also thank all those intrepid volunteers who have joined Ranger Steve to undertake a range of tasks including rhody burning, seedling searches, fencing and drystone walling to name but a few. Steve and I are both very grateful for the hard work and enthusiasm shown by all.

We hope to see you on Lundy soon and if you are looking for something to amuse yourself, or any small family members, on the journey across please take a look at our new 'Lundy Adventure Journal' featuring Percy the Pirate Puffin.

All the very best!

### **Beccy MacDonald**



(Above) Lundy's dark sky from the Timekeeper's Hut. Photo by Joshua Day.
(Below) Puffins are up in number in Jenny's Cove with some 300 being recorded on land and on sea during the 2015 breeding season. Photo by Shelly Southon



# Sir Jack Hayward

**S**ir Jack Hayward, LFS President from 1986 to 2015, was remembered in the 2014 *Annual Report*. He died early in January 2015 and, on 25 July, he came back to the island with family and friends to find a permanent resting place overlooking the Landing Bay.

I was pleased to be able to represent the LFS during that visit and, during a brief ceremony at Hangman's Hill, to express our gratitude for both the generosity of Sir Jack in safeguarding the future of Lundy in 1969 and for his support for and interest in the Society while he was Vice-President and President. LFS Members Jane Ellis and Simon Dell were also present.

Friends and family (pictured left to right) were: Pattie Bloom (Sir Jack's partner), John and Christine Hinchliffe (friends from Bermuda times) and Jonathan and Fiona Hayward (son and daughter-in-law).

Thanks to the crew of the *Oldenburg* and the islanders for making the visit a pleasant and memorable day.

### **Keith Hiscock**



o by Keith Hiscock

# An appealing service

# PAUL DOUBLER reports on the MV *Balmoral-*St Helen's church service held on Sunday 16 August 2015

For something like 30 years Terry Sylvester, a prime figure with the Waverley organisation, has arranged a special church service on Lundy, drawing thousands of folk to Lundy, either on the *Balmoral* or more usually the paddle-steamer *Waverley*. Sadly he wasn't able to arrange it this year, so I was very pleased to take it on. For the charity which now owns *Balmoral*, and to mark her return to sailing after several years laid up, it was very special for us that she was able to be involved again this year. With the recent launch of the church 'Restoration Appeal', I thought why not combine the two, hold the service but do it in aid of the church appeal.

We were very honoured to have the Rev. Shirley Henderson, Vicar of Lundy, conducting the service, assisted by Nigel Price. Shirley is now more or less retired but explained how the Bishop has asked her to keep one very special parish carefully under her wing – that being of course Lundy. Shirley gave praise to *Balmoral*, pointing out that while she and the ship were of the same '1949 vintage', *Balmoral*, since her restoration, appeared to be wearing a lot better! (This was met with a resounding 'No!' from amongest the congregation.) She made several kind remarks about the people behind the ship's preservation and just how special the ship was to her, having travelled on *Balmoral* many times to the Isle of Wight from her native Southampton.

The service was a delight and Shirley captured the moment, the occasion, the spirit of Lundy and the reason for the appeal wonderfully well. The hymns were sung with gusto by the large congregation, while the two lessons were read by LFS members Andrew Cleave and yours truly. The collection box on the way out seemed to be doing good business, which together with the £318 raised on the way over to Lundy by way of a church raffle really added to the appeal's coffers.

I have sat in St Helen's church many times over the years completely alone wrapped up in my own thoughts, usually with the wind as my only company. I am sure many reading this will agree the spirituality is something very special. However, it was equally wonderful to have shared that special experience with so many who had come together just for that brief hour in that wonderful place.



MV 'Balmoral' alongside the jetty. Photo by Paul Doubler

### **Learning on Lundy**

This has been a busy year for SIMON DELL who has 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.

My work on Lundy during 2015 has slotted in well with my special constabulary duties in the North Devon area, when I step ashore and change into my uniform. With other wildlife crime officers, I am actively assisting Beccy MacDonald and her team in educating boat users from Ilfracombe about responsible engagement with wildlife, especially the seals around Lundy. Frances Stuart from the LFS is also assisting in the provision of presentations to primary school pupils throughout the North Devon area.

Following an educational talk, I accompany the pupils to the island and work closely with Warden Beccy and her assistant Chloe to provide rockpooling as well as other educational activities linked to the curriculum, but also finding time for a guided walk, ghost stories and drawing. This provision has been part-financed through HLS funding obtained for schools and community groups. Alfredo, busy with his sparrow research, has also been actively involved with the school groups, giving some excellent practical hands-on experience for the young students, which has been well-received. The LFS work and ethos has been well advertised within this educational setting, and budding members of the future are encouraged to care for the special environments on the island.



Simon in action above Jenny's Cove. Photo by Joan Lock

This year (the fifth year running) also saw me facilitating a group of 12 staying in the Barn. Young people from challenging backgrounds excluded from mainstream education found great inspiration for building self-esteem, self-respect and identifying ways to break cycles of antisocial behaviour and offending. They also cleared quarry beach of detritus for Ranger Steve. Again the LFS message has been active in this important intervention to help young people from often forgotten or ignored backgrounds get back on track again, using Lundy as a spring-board to the possibility of a different life. Farmer Kevin played a star role with some of the young people who might have been a little intimidating to the fainter hearted – but not to Kevin!

One regrettable highlight from this year's journey with the group was one adult helper losing part of a finger in a door on board the Oldenburg during the rough crossing, necessitating an airlift by a Sea King helicopter from RAF Chivenor.

The Royal Cornwall Show in June provided a great opportunity for me to showcase how I work hand-in-hand with the Lundy Company, supporting Lyndsey and Tracey on the Lundy stand for the whole event. The important LFS message of conservation, study and management of the island were frequently on the agenda for visitors to the stand over the three days of windy sunshine.

I frequently have the opportunity to provide the wildlife and historical commentary for the warden and crew on the *Oldenburg* round-the-island trips, sometimes as often as twice a week over the summer months. I also provide the commentary talks on the relocation cruises between Bideford and Ilfracombe when the *Oldenburg* changes port of departure. Tavern talks have also been on my agenda, giving the island staff a break from routine. My guide books continue to sell like hot-cakes and plans for 2016 are already in hand 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!

# **Dragonflies on Lundy**

Although formal wildlife recording on Lundy began in 1947, following the founding a year earlier of the Lundy Field Society, it was not until publication of the LFS Annual Report for 1963-64 that the first record of a species of odonata – a Four-spotted chaser Libellula quadrimaculata – appeared in print.

It took a widespread invasion of Four-spotted chasers in the spring of 1964 for this to happen – and what an amazing spectacle it must have been, with dragonflies seen in large numbers across much of the island.

Since that time a further nine species of dragonfly have been recorded on the island, with the possibility of a tenth if a record of a single Vagrant emperor in 2015 is accepted by the Devon dragonfly recorder. A complete record of Lundy's dragonflies will be published in the 2015 *Annual Report*.

#### **Tim Davis**

### **Lundy in verse**

Long-standing LFS member ROGER ALLEN has compiled an anthology of over 70 poems of Lundy – gathered from all times and all sources – and has put them together in a single 86-page publication.

Every poem is either entirely about the island or makes a significant reference to it. The earliest dates from 1591 by Edmund Spencer, and they continue up through time into the Victorian period and throughout the 20th Century. Not all the poems are literary masterpieces but they all say something about Lundy and some are historically important and informative.

A well as the poems themselves, each one is preceded by paragraphs of information about the poets and their reference to the island. Where necessary, difficult words or expressions have notes of explanation.

This new work has been two to three years in the making and Roger hopes that members of both the LFS and the Lundy Collectors Club will be interested in adding the anthology to their Lundy collections. Almost every poem is illustrated with John Dyke sketches, water-colours, photographs or, in a few cases, appropriate postcards. The A4 format book will sell for £10.00 plus £3.50 p&p within the UK.

Copies may be requested from Roger Allen, 29 Soloman Drive, Bideford EX39 5XY. Tel. 01237 420432. E-mail lundycabbage@aol.com.



# The Clayton sampler

### Michael Williams describes an interesting find.

I constantly scour the Internet for books about Lundy that I don't have in my collection and earlier this year a second-hand book dealer listed: "An early and original manuscript survey of Lundy, describing its geography, climate, population, horses and cattle, occupations, cultivation, also the natural history (puffins and many other named species), the fortifications, inventory of armaments."

This immediately caught my eye and after communicating with the dealer I ascertained that it was a manuscript formerly in the Clayton collection although I did not know what this meant. It was estimated to date from about 1600.

The price was way out of my range but the dealer was willing to negotiate and interested to sell it to a person or persons who had connections with Lundy, so a consortium of four LFS committee members was formed and the item secured. On its arrival there was much excitement and it was closely scrutinised by members of the consortium and attempts made to transcribe the handwriting!

Excitement built as we honed our palaeographic skills and managed to read the spidery 17th century handwriting. The manuscript appears to contain a contemporary description of the island, its buildings, armaments and fortifications, as well as an account of its flora and fauna. I was able to arrange for it to be properly conserved through my colleagues at the Bodleian Library in Oxford and research is starting into the content of the paper and its provenance. We hope to publish a detailed account in a future journal.



### Much ado about a lot

### ROGER CHAPPLE reflects on the Landmark Trust Golden Weekend on Lundy.

Landmark entrusted Millcombe House to the hands of the Lundy Field Society for their Golden Weekend in May. Dutifully rigged in our 'Lundy Blues' (who said a medium would fit?), we amateurs prepared for all eventualities under modestly threatening skies.

Being heartened by the appreciative comments of the real Lundy Blues of our endeavours to present the house in fine light by formally laying the dining table and suitably positioning a large floral display, we welcomed a steady stream of visitors taking the advantage of *Oldenberg* sailings on both Saturday and Sunday.

We were able to show guests around the house, replying to all the usual, and some most odd, questions, while a constant supply of tea, coffee and cakes was supplied from the kitchen. Outside, ably protected by a hastily provided gazebo, souvenirs and Lundy memorabilia were much sought after and a regular meandering of enthusiastic modern day sculpture aficionados were directed to view Anthony Gormley's creation overlooking Shutter Point.

At precisely 1400 hours the Golden Moment was celebrated on Millcombe lawn by Derek Green, ably supported by a rendition of the specially composed anthem by Shake-a-Leg who continued to provide music during the afternoon, alternating between Millcombe and the Tavern. Groups dispersed to view the island, enjoy the bell-ringing from St Helen's Church and visit the Tavern where a special Post Office had been organised to similarly celebrate the occasion. Even Bill Birdus managed an appearance to enhance the proceedings.





Roger Chapple and friend survey the Lundy waters and (right) Lundy's postbox joins in the 50th anniversary celebration. Photos by Belinda Cox



Shake-a-Leg with matching tableware. Photo by Alan Rowland

A bonus was provided by a raffle for a helicopter weekend for two in support of the Church Appeal which was well supported. All returned to sail away having been given a rather special insight to Lundy and the Landmark Trust's stewardship of the island.

Visitor numbers totalled 334 and while bottom of the Golden Weekend league table compared with Landmark properties on the mainland, which were accessible to areas of relatively high population, those visitors elsewhere did not enjoy life on the ocean waves nor did they did not have the opportunity to meet LFS members (and join – as a few did!). The proceeds for the Church Appeal were most welcome however.

Thanks to Alan Rowland and Belinda Cox, photographs were taken, from which a suitably restrained number have been selected! Guess who had to endure the medium Lundy Blue!

A celebratory rhyme of the Landmark Trust Golden Weekend from the logbook in Big St John's.

Bridget, Marion and Tortie their friend Came to Lundy for Landmark's weekend With a shrew in the bin And far too much Gin It was sad that it all had to end!

Victoria ('Tortie') Eveleigh

Artwork by Alan Rowland 'hic'



### **Autumn Conservation Breaks**

### TREVOR DOBIE recounts the activities of the September working party...

After several late withdrawals due to illness, house moves and unforeseen diversions, 13 volunteers were present on the quay at Bideford – almost a full party thanks to a good pool of available last-minute substitutes.

Led by Christina ('Gabi') Humphries, this was a very successful trip which managed to complete several tasks and have fun in the process. On our first evening after supper, most of the group paid a night visit to Antony Gormley's DAZE IV, which happily coincided with a wonderfully clear sky, a crescent moon making a fantastic backdrop to the installation.

We set off for Widow's Tenement on our first working day, Sunday. Our quest was to find rogue rhododendron seedlings hiding away in the long grass and vegetation west of the main track towards the West Side cliffs. After several 50-metre-wide sweeps of the area, a single seedling was found and dealt with by Steve Pratt, the Ranger. In the afternoon we relocated to the East Side slopes beneath Belle Vue Cottages, preparing the area for work over the following days.

Monday dawned overcast and damp so we were sent to Millcombe gardens with several jobs to complete. The meadow area just below Millcombe House was completely cleared of bramble and bracken, the fence near the pond was repaired and another huge *Phormium* plant in the gardens was cut down, giving access to the decaying slate wall hiding behind it.

After the felling of the huge rhododendron stands on the East Side of Lundy, many areas are still littered with left-over piles of logs and brash, along with stumps which are showing signs of regrowth. In order to access this area, much work is needed to clear brambles and wood stacks as well as very sharp stumps which can be a nuisance to Steve when he treats any emerging rhododendron seedlings. So, Tuesday was a slashing, dragging and burning day with some spectacular fires eradicating most of the remaining debris.

Wednesday was a welcome day off during which small groups 'did their own thing' and, with Lundy bathed in bright sunshine, many areas of the island were explored. A meal in the Tavern proved a welcome and enjoyable end to a lovely day.

The weather was very kind on Thursday and more East Side clearing was undertaken, this time slightly further south, with more fires causing the arriving *Oldenburg* captain to question over the radio whether Lundy was on fire, as many spot fires were blazing and smoking, but all totally under control.

One of our team, Ben Parker, had to leave us on Thursday to start a new college course and we were pleased to find that on departure, the *Oldenburg* came up the East Side to allow us all to wave goodbye to Ben and all other passengers after a gloriously sunny day.

That evening we welcomed some guests to supper in The Barn: Rob Waterfield, the Assistant Manager, and his wife Sue, who will be taking over the shop, Steve Pratt, Lottie, the housekeeping supervisor, and Nigel Dalby who had recently announced that he was retiring and was to leave Lundy in the autumn. After a wonderful meal we presented Nigel with a small memento and sang him a song to the tune of *Hey Jude*, but with the words 'Hey Nige, don't be afraid, you have aisles full of little children' etc, which seemed to go down well!



Eleven members of September's Conservation Break gather on the steps of The Barn.

Our last working day also proved to be gloriously sunny and more East Side clearing was undertaken, followed by a swim off the jetty for the more intrepid members of our crew. All in all, another wonderful working party, well led by Gabi, and everyone a credit to the LFS.

Other volunteers were Andy Bell, Louise Cookson, Megan Debenham, Mandy Dee, Trevor Dobie, Rob Durrant, Ian Lewis, Ben Parker, James Staff, Fred Staff, Paul Warner and Kevin Williams.

### ...and JANE ELLIOTT reports on happenings in October.

It was my first working Conservation Break so it was with some trepidation that I arrived in the early light at Bideford Quay. Spending six nights in shared accommodation with strangers was a daunting prospect, but the opportunity to spend a week on Lundy outweighed all my concerns.

A calm voyage was a chance to meet some of the group – from a range of backgrounds and from all areas of the country – and to share our reasons for joining the working party.

We arrived to warm weather and met up at The Barn, quickly organising our sleeping accommodation and unpacking. The afternoon was free time so some of the group enjoyed an adventurous trip to the top of the church tower whilst others relaxed in the Tavern.

Our leader, Belinda Cox, was the one person I had met previously, at the LFS annual meeting in Crediton. Her task was to liaise with Steve the Ranger to allocate our daily work. She also organised the superb after-dinner entertainment each night featuring Bugs Bunny, Alan, Wilson and Pike; pure comedy gold.

Each day two or three of us were responsible for shopping, housework and preparing the evening meal. The meals were outstanding and we ate extremely well, while the financial contribution for food during the week amounted to less than £30.

Our working days started at 7.30am with breakfast and making up packed lunches. The main tasks took place on the East Side, clearing stacks of seasoned rhododendron into huge bonfires [Not as huge as last year! Ed.]. The difficulty was that the dry summer had turned the island into a potential peat fire so we used a heavy fire hose to damp down the bracken. Other work included marking seedlings, building fences and painting the helicopter 'H' landing area.

The tasks were physically demanding but very much fun in the company of the group, among which individual ages ranged from 18 to 71. In such a diverse group we soon made good friends. It was easy to find common ground through our shared love of Lundy. During work periods we played 'I Spy', with Peregrines occasionally swooping overhead, and at break times the banter and singing kept everyone amused.

I had stayed on Lundy many times before but the LFS Conservation Break provides an opportunity to engage with what goes into keeping Lundy special. The island staff made us really welcome and valued the work we did. The week went way too quickly and I would not hesitate to go again and to recommend the LFS working week to others.



Hard but rewarding work on the East Side slopes. Photo by Kelly Butler

# Lundy en français: 'Un Royaume pour un Puffin'

# ANDRÉ COUTANCHE has been probing the internet – en français.

There's a surprising amount of written material about Lundy in French. Perhaps the most surprising is 'Un Royaume pour un Puffin', which was a comic strip adventure originally published in 1963 in 'Spirou' magazine.



This isn't the first time 'Un Royaume pour un Puffin' has been mentioned in the *LFS Newsletter/Bulletin*. In *Newsletter* no. 25, in 1995, Roger Allen reported that he had a copy of what would now be called this 'graphic novel', and he was asking if anyone had any information about it. Twenty years later, I can respond to his request!

'Spirou' is a weekly comic for children published in Belgium and written in French. The first edition was on 21 April 1938 and it is still being published. On 19 September 1963, in edition no. 1327, they started a serialised story called 'Un Royaume pour un Puffin'. The story ran over 22 editions, two pages at a time, finishing on 13 February 1964. The first part was printed in colour, with subsequent episodes in greyscale with a red tint.

You might have worked out that 'Un Royaume pour un Puffin' means 'A Kingdom for a Puffin' – but it's not quite as simple as that. As any Francophone ornithologist (probably called Tim) will tell you, the French for our favourite Lundy icon is 'macareux moine', not 'puffin'. The 'moine', meaning monk, reminds us of the scientific Latin name – *Fratercula arctica* – 'little brother of the arctic'. The French do use the name 'puffin', but for what they call the 'Puffin des anglais' – our Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*). But the two species aren't closely related, and it seems likely that 'puffin', in our sense, has been picked up in a vernacular way in French, perhaps via Quebec.

As you can see from the cover of the edition of the magazine (above) when the story started, the puffin in question is definitely the one with the rainbow beak. It's a tale of derring-do, and the two protagonists, Michel and Thierry, were regulars in 'Spirou'. The story is centred around Lundy, and the writer, Charles Jadoul, and the artist, Arthur Piroton, visited the island, where Piroton made detailed and accurate drawings of Lundy against which the story unfolded. Piroton was a keen aeromodeller, and radio-controlled model planes are a frequent part of the Michel and Thierry stories, including this one. There's also a didactic touch to the stories, in aviation matters and other topics. 'Un Royaume pour un Puffin', for example, starts at the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland, which has its geological origin explained and illustrated.

True collectors of all things Lundy will need to track down the 22 editions of 'Spirou' with the story. If you just want to read the adventure, it's a bit easier. Another Belgian company, Bédéscope, republished 'Un Royaume pour un Puffin' in one volume in 1979. Here's another linguistic diversion ...

The French for 'a comic strip' is 'une bande dessinée' – literally 'a drawn strip'. 'Bandes dessinées' are a very important tradition in Francophone countries, and not just for children. Grown-up stories (sometimes 'adult' stories!) are also published in this format. It's so common a term that it is usually abbreviated to 'B.D.' – pronounced in French as 'bay-day'. So the publishers Bédéscope are effectively calling themselves 'Comic-scope'.

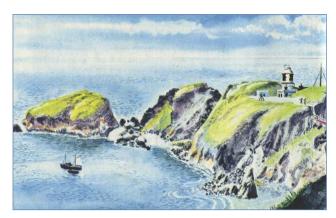
# THANK YOU! THANK YOU VERY MUCH! (1) AND THREE! OK. (1) O.K., TOM, TU PEUX Y ALLER! WE ARE IN ENGLAND, NOT. NOT EXACTLY... BUT PON'T TRY TO GUE 86 ... YOU WOULDN'T FIND! (1) (1) MON NOM EST KERMANAGH, JE SUIS LEROI DE CETTE ÎLE QU'ON APPELLE LUNDY... (2) MAIS... VOTPE...MAJESTE...

Our heroes, Michel and Thierry, arrive at Lundy the hard way, having ditched in the sea after a balloon flight went wrong and been rescued, along with the balloon pilot, by the 'King' of Lundy. Having the characters speak to the 'King' in English when they first meet, with French 'subtitles', is a nice authentic touch, slightly let down by the French-influenced English of the 'King'. In the subsequent frames, everyone speaks French!

The Bédéscope edition had its own eye-catching cover but was otherwise the story as it appeared in 1963/64, though the drawings are purely line art with no grey scale or red tint. It was a limited print run (1,500), and has become collectable (typically  $\leq$  20–30). It was this edition which Roger had acquired in 1995 (and which I also bought earlier this year from a French seller on an internet auction site). The story has an acknowledgement: 'We particularly thank Mr Albion P. Harman, owner of the island of Lundy (Bristol Channel), and the islanders, without whose hospitality this story could not have been produced' [my translation from the French]. Other Michel and Thierry adventures from 'Spirou' were also republished by Bédéscope.

During the run of the serial, two editions of 'Spirou' (nos. 1336 and 1337, in November 1963) had articles called 'Au Royaume du Puffin' – 'In the Kingdom of the Puffin' – describing the authors' visit to Lundy (these features aren't in the Bédéscope edition). Charles Jadoul wrote these pieces and he was obviously hugely taken with Lundy and very sympathetic to its 'independent' status. He recounts how he and Piroton flew to London, took the train to Bideford and arrived too late for the sailing of the *Lundy Gannet*. So they travelled the next day on the *Bristol Queen* from Ilfracombe. In his two articles, he covers the 'standard' history of Lundy, describes life on the island, and ends rhetorically, 'Isn't it reassuring that there still exist in our world oases like this?' [my translation].

'Un Royaume pour un Puffin' starts, as already mentioned, in Northern Ireland, where Pamela Kermanagh, the daughter of the 'King' of Lundy, is visiting the Giant's Causeway. She is kidnapped by two men, who turn out to be the villainous O'Mulloy and his henchman. O'Mulloy has been trying to buy Lundy from 'King' Kermanagh to turn it into a mini-Las Vegas, with casinos and flashy tourist attractions. Meanwhile, after being blown off course on a balloon flight, Michel and Thierry, and the balloon pilot, make a forced landing in the sea near Rat Island where they're saved by Mr Kermanagh. What follows is an action-packed romp, with plucky young Thierry rightly suspecting that O'Mulloy – who has flown to Lundy to blackmail Kermanagh – is up to no good. After some further flying, this time in a light aircraft, Michel and Thierry save the day, help to rescue Miss Kermanagh and prevent Lundy being sold into mass tourism and covered with casinos. 'King' Kermanagh makes them honorary citizens of Lundy, and they settle down in the Marisco Tavern to drink good Devon cider.



Part of Piroton's drawing of the Landing Bay and the 'Lundy Gannet' from 'Au Royaume du Puffin'.

The 'Lundy Gannet' also features in the adventure.

# "We're only here for the rocks"

### A reflection on a visit by JOAN RENDELL.

(With apologies to the many friendly and competent climbers we have met over the years for this outsider's insight into the stresses endured by two devotees.)

Never before had we shared a table with rock climbers until one August long ago when the normally calm atmosphere of the Millcombe Hotel dining room vibrated with tension. As we settled in on arrival those who had not already met on the ship were busy making introductions and discussing favourite places for old and new comers to explore. One young couple responded with "We're only here for the rocks!"

Breakfast time was plunged into anxiety and questions about what the weather was going to do. Would it stay dry? Would the wind change, or strengthen? Of the many climbs available now it was out of nesting season, which would be challenging – even hazardous? We always adapted to the weather as it dictated and knew nothing of climbing techniques, so could offer little advice.

Ten of the guests cheerfully collected together the usual assortment of cameras and binoculars for the day's varied activities, with flasks and lunchboxes prepared by staff, then picked their way over two people busily occupying the hall for lengthy safety checks of equipment. Later, as we hiked around the West Side, two disgruntled people clanged towards us. "Hello!" we called "Changed your minds?" "Forgotten a safety rope!" snapped one. Over the evening meal everyone was swapping stories of where they had been from one end of the island to the other and everywhere in between. Two contributed, "Wasted most of the day!" "How?" "We reached the climbing place, then realised we'd left a safety rope behind. By the time we came back and found it still in the hall (pause in explanation while blaming each other for not picking it up) we couldn't get back to the climb we'd planned. We had to re-plan for another – not where we wanted."

Blissfully relaxed over coffee in the lounge after a luxurious dinner, the rest of us chatted about island experiences, places discovered, wildlife seen – or hoped for next day – while two people, heads together, thumbed through *Lundy Rock Climbs*. Were those graded 'E's' really 'moderate' or even bordering on 'hard'? Which would be best for tomorrow, weighing up all the possible conditions? A fellow guest, politely expressing interest – with none of their enthusiasm for rocks – was immediately pressured to "have a go" with them. He hastily retreated! We asked whether they would like to come along to the weekly slide show. "No, we won't bother. Oh! Perhaps we will. We might get some ideas for sites!" They impatiently sat through the 'What to Do and See' routine, but no climbs were identified...

"It's Devil's Slide today" was one announcement at breakfast. Because of the strong westerly, two of us opted for a sheltered walk through the Quarries and a scramble down to Quarry Beach, only to find the climbing couple gloomily eyeing the rocks in VC Quarry. "Too windy for you on Devil's Slide?" we sympathised, to be rewarded by dark frowns. At the Tavern they were bitterly disappointed to see the cancellation notice of a 'round the island' trip on *Islander* due to stormy seas. "But, wouldn't you rather climb anyway?" "No! There goes our chance to spy out some routes from the sea!"

The days were punctuated by nervous anticipation of a new climb at breakfast; sometimes

leading to exhilarated re-living of a successful conquest dominating the dinner table conversation. Another step had been taken up the slippery ladder of 'easy, moderate, or hard'!

At the end of the week, we were planning when to meet on Lundy again. What about our climber friends? "We don't know whether it's worth coming next year. Not sure that there are enough climbs left to occupy the time. We'll think about it..."

Did they ever return? Did they graduate to 'hard', or even 'severe'? They certainly brought a new dimension to Millcombe Days!

### LFS AGM auction 2015...

Once again thanks to those who donated, participated and bought the lots in our annual auction. This is extra money for the Society which will be put to good use. This year we raised £293 pounds from the 16 lots of offer.



Our thanks in particular to those who donated items to the auction: The Tony Walker bequest, Bob Gardner, Diana Keast and Shelley Southon. Without such donations, we would not have an auction to round off our annual meeting.

Alan Rowland (the glamorous assistant)

### ...and a note from our Treasurer...

During the past year our Society has been fortunate to receive 'matched funding' from a member, basically the money raised by the individual on behalf of the Lundy Field Society was doubled by their employer.

Normally provided by larger companies and organisations, it may be as well for individual members to enquire if they, and obviously the LFS, could benefit under any current matched funding system.

I also again make a plea for any members who pay income or capital gains tax and who have yet to consider completing a Gift Aid declaration to do so. Put simply, the Gift Aid scheme allows the Lundy Field Society to reclaim the tax you have already paid on any subscription or donation made – this means HM Revenue and Customs will add 25p for every £1 of subscriptions or donations you make, at no extra cost to yourselves – and allow the Society to claim all the 25p additions.

Should you wish further information, please contact the Membership Secretary, Sandra Rowland (membership@lundy.org.uk) or Treasurer, Roger Chapple (chapplerj@btinternet.com)

Roger Chapple (the gavel-wielding auctioneer)

# Stormy times for Manx Shearwaters off Brazil

### TONY TAYLOR reports the unfortunate demise of three young Lundy shearwaters.

More than 3,500 shearwaters have been ringed on Lundy, but until autumn 2015 none had been found outside Europe. Thus it was exciting to receive a report of one in southern Brazil in October, though also sad because it had washed up dead on a beach after a spell of severe storms. Then, in the tradition of the proverbial three buses, that report was closely followed by two more. Apparently they were among hundreds of shearwaters found on the tideline in that general area.

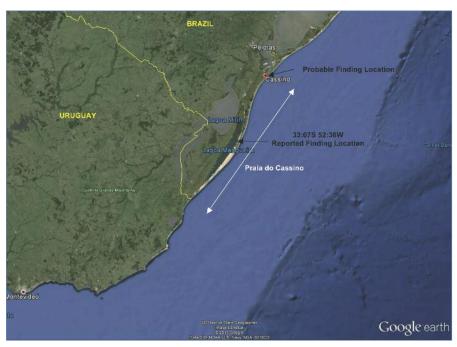
All three birds were ringed as chicks in early September 2015 and had travelled about 10,000 kilometres in less than two months. Assuming they fledged immediately after being ringed, and travelled nonstop till the day they were found, they had made their journeys at a rate of 180 kilometres a day. Those assumptions are unlikely, so in practice they will have flown considerably faster. They had the misfortune to reach their wintering area when the strong El Niño event of 2015 was generating extreme weather conditions there. On top of their recent marathon flight and their lack of experience, this would have been the last straw.

Manx Shearwaters are normally very long-lived: about 90% of the adults breeding in a given year survive to the following season. The oldest ringed Manx Shearwater – a breeding bird on Bardsey, off North Wales – kept returning for an astonishing 50 years. But the three recent Lundy recoveries emphasise that they face enormous challenges in their first autumn. After being abandoned in their burrow by their parents, they have to make their first flight alone and teach themselves to fish. Yet they set off immediately for the east coast of South America, guided by their instinctive use of the sun and stars. On average 25–30% of fledglings are thought to survive long enough to start breeding at about five or six years old, but for the 2015 cohort of chicks the figure may turn out to be much lower.

Among the hundreds of Lundy-ringed shearwaters that would have been in the south-west Atlantic this autumn, the recently fledged birds would have been greatly outnumbered by more experienced ones. Hence the absence of older birds among the known casualties is cause for optimism, because in long-lived species the survival of breeding adults is the key to overcoming a setback like this year's. With luck, their greater experience will have helped them ride out the storms and we will be able to enjoy seeing – or at least hearing – them again next summer.



Manx Shearwaters off Lundy. Photo by Dave Scott



Manx Shearwater EZ06320 ringed on Lundy as a nestling on 9 September 2015 was found at Praia do Cassino, Brazil (pictured below) on 6 November 2015. Photo by David Price



### A small world!

While at a friend's birthday party earlier this year, Belinda Cox met and chatted to a woman named Pam Beable (née Mitchell), who turned out to be Felix Gades' niece. Here Pam relates some of her memories of Lundy.

My granny, Sarah Mitchell, was a frequent visitor to Lundy as a child and later with her own family. She was the youngest sister of Rene Gade (née Clarke) who was married to Felix Gade, the agent on the island, and she would spend her holidays with them. I knew Felix as Uncle Fee and when we visited the island as children he was a larger than life character.

My granny, known as Sadie to her friends, told me stories of learning to ride horses and swimming on the island. I think she enjoyed the freedom of running wild. When she married she had two boys, Keith (my dad) and Norman. She brought both boys to enjoy the peaceful and beautiful island and they were joined by their cousin Jean (Cherry Crabtree). They stayed in 'The Brambles' which is now used as a holiday let. My dad recalls catching flights from Braunton to the island, with one terrifying flight losing power and gliding to a stop in the sea.

I visited Lundy with my family when granny lived at Bideford in the 1960/70s. We went with Richard Trapnell and his daughter who were close family friends. The journey over the Bristol Channel in a small fishing boat [most likely the 'Lundy Gannet'. Ed.] was always rough and it was a pleasure to arrive, even with the hazardous crossing to the beach by rowing boat!

I last visited the island in 1988 when we stayed in the 'Big House' [Millcombe House] which was then a hotel run by Mary Gade (Uncle Fee's daughter). I remember having a bath in the enormous tub brought over from the mainland specifically for Felix. I couldn't see over the edge and it took hours to get enough water in it to just cover the bottom. There is a photo somewhere of the bath being helicoptered onto the island as it was too big to move any other way.

Meals were taken at the large dining table with a bell to call for service. There was quite an eclectic mix of characters staying, with one eccentric gentleman who was there to fire a rocket from the main island to Rat Island (I cannot now recall whether there was a reason for this).

I am long overdue a return visit to Lundy, which was very special to my granny; she passed away in April 2013, aged 100.



Pam (pictured left in the barn – now the Lambing Shed – which at that time was just north of Quarter Wall) and her family on Lundy in the 1970s.



A small and a moderate size spiny lobster, 'Palinurus elephas', at Needle Rock in July 2012.

Photo: Keith Hiscock

# Decline and recovery of Lundy's spiny lobsters

### KEITH HISCOCK gives an update on the status of Lundy's spiny lobsters.

They were delicious, but overfishing with nets and by diving in the late 1960s and early 1970s at Lundy depleted numbers enormously. The story was the same throughout south-west Britain and this spectacular shellfish became extinct in some locations where it had previously been common.

Now that spiny lobsters are a protected species around the island and as research into their biology gets underway, I thought that a short article on a species that you might hear more about in the future was timely.

Although the lobsters never disappeared completely from Lundy's waters, my interest in them was rekindled when, in 2007, I found a 'baby' – something that even the old-timers cannot remember seeing. Recruitment from the plankton was happening and has continued so that, now, the population seems to be recovering both at Lundy and throughout the South West.

Around the island, spiny lobsters occur on the rocky seabed at depths mostly in excess of about 20 metres and are especially found on the south and west coasts, with a few on the north part of the east coast. When they were abundant, a diver drifting with the current off the south coast might have seen as many as a dozen in one 20-minute dive. They grow to over 50 centimetres in length (excluding the antennae) but the measurement that is used to express growth rate and determine minimum (and perhaps maximum in the future) legal size is the length of the carapace or thorax. We know that the larvae are shed between about March and

Brian Watts with a large male spiny lobster caught off the south coast in the early 1970s. Photo by Chris Mandry

June and spend, it is thought, about 150 days in open water before settling as individuals about 2 centimetres in body length in late summer. Like other crabs and lobsters, they have to shed their hard exoskeleton (shell) to grow. Breeding takes place in late summer, probably after individuals are at least five years old and the carapace about 12 cm long.

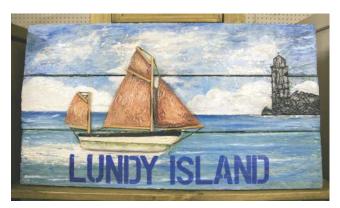
Spiny lobsters are the only 'designated feature' of the Marine Conservation Zone that replaced the Marine Nature



Reserve in November 2013. So, there is a hefty responsibility on the statutory nature conservation agency (Natural England) and the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) to come up with a plan to aid recovery of the species at Lundy. Fortunately, the spiny lobsters seem to be doing the job themselves and now we just need to look after what is there and understand more about their biology, especially the extent to which they are faithful to a site or are migratory. The IFCA has already provided 'crawfish pots' so that the lobsters can be caught, tagged and released. The tagged individuals not only provide information on movement but also growth rates, for as long as the tags are in place.

It is exciting for a diver to see crawfish and it is an important role of the Marine Conservation Zone around Lundy that the island's waters can be used to undertake research on habitats and species that are as close as possible to natural. I for one hope that recovery continues and spiny lobsters are once again a common feature of Lundy's spectacular underwater world.

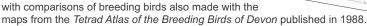
For readers who would like more information, including source references, see: http://www.marlin.ac.uk/speciesfullreview.php?speciesID=4022 http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/188085?category=10006 (page 112)



For sale in a junk shop in Headington, Oxford. Contributed by Tom & Summeara Bedford



The Devon Bird Atlas 2007–2013, to be published on 29 January 2016, is based on more than one million bird sightings contributed by over 1,200 observers between 1 November 2007 and 31 July 2013. The resulting maps show the distribution and abundance of birds in Devon in both the breeding and winter periods,



In his preface to the new Atlas, Humphrey Sitters, the moving force behind the *Tetrad Atlas* and whose birdwatching skills were honed on Lundy in the 1960s, wrote: "The capacity of the ornithological community of Devon to rise to the challenge of producing the results described in this fascinating atlas has to be admired ... This is a huge achievement and something of which Devon's ornithologists can be proud."

The LFS sponsored the Puffin account (pictured) written by long-standing LFS member David Price. For more information about the Atlas, and to obtain a copy, visit www.devonbirds.org.

**Tim Davis** 

### It's all in the hair

# ALAN ROWLAND highlights a prize-winning project which features Lundy's only land mammal.

One of our committee members, Tom Dickins and his colleague Steve Kett host annual field trips to Lundy where their students undertake a wide variety of research projects. You may have read some of the results in our sister publication, the *Lundy Field Society Journal*.

Nathaniel Legall is one of their Middlesex University students who carried out his final year project in June 2014. This was to "validate a non-invasive sampling tool to study the genetics of the pygmy shrew" – essentially, studying the genetic make-up of the Lundy shrews by collecting specimens without trapping them using hair tubes. DNA analysis then compared the results with that of shrews from other, non-Lundy, locations to suggest the origin of the Lundy population. For this piece of pioneering research, Nathaniel was awarded the Middlesex University Linnaean Society Prize for Final Year Projects. This is an extremely difficult prize to win as it is not an annual award, only given when a project is deemed worthy of it.

The award, which was presented at Nathaniel's graduation ceremony, carries with it a recommendation to the prestigious Linnaean Society as an Associate Member.

We congratulate Nathaniel on his award and note that he has continued the fieldwork in 2015 and will, in due course, submit a paper to a future LFS *Journal* where we can read all about this fascinating study.

### Thomas Vernon Wollaston

# ALAN ROWLAND describes the 19th century scientist who included Lundy among his studies.

Thomas Vernon Wollaston was born on 9 March 1822 in Scotter, Lincolnshire. In 1845 he gained a BA from Jesus College Cambridge and was made a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1847.

Wollaston was a prominent English entomologist and malacologist (the study of molluscs), becoming especially known for his studies of Coleoptera inhabiting several North Atlantic archipelagos. He was well placed socially but his religious beliefs effectively prevented him from supporting Darwin's theories after 1859, although Darwin remained a close friend. Wollaston supported the theory that continental lands had once extended outward farther to encompass some of the island groups he studied.

He honed his skills and theories on Lundy, visiting in 1844 and 1845, recording a total of



153 species of beetles. His is one of the earliest visits that make mention of features that we can still recognise today. On his second trip in 1845 he paid tribute to "my friend, Mr. Hudson Heaven (the son of the proprietor of the island), whose valuable assistance during my stay in 1845, and whose after exertions in the cause in which I have taken so much interest, it gives me the greatest pleasure to record". In 1845, Wollaston's 'Note on the Entomology of Lundy Island' was published in *The Zoologist: A popular miscellany of natural history.*\*

Wollaston spent the winter of 1847/48 in Madeira, returning for his Cambridge MA graduation in 1849. In the years to 1855 he made four long trips to Madeira. In that year the British Museum purchased his Madeiran collection of Coleoptera which are now in the Natural History Museum. In 1858 Wollaston returned to the North Atlantic islands, investigating the natural history of the Canary Islands with Richard Thomas Lowe and John Edward Gray in 1858, returning with Lowe alone in 1859. After a long and rather mysterious absence, he returned to the islands in 1866, this time to the Cape Verde islands with Lowe and Gray. His last trip was to St Helena with his wife and Gray.

Thomas Wollaston wrote numerous books related to the "variation of species" and many reports of his visits to the Atlantic Islands. He died aged 56 from tuberculosis at Teignmouth, Devon, on 4 January 1878.

\*Wollaston's 'Note on the Entomology of Lundy Island' (*The Zoologist*, Vol. 3 (1845), pages 897–900) is available as a free download from the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) website (www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/40487#/summary)



# **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 – £5.00 plus £2.20 p&p

**Vol 2, Jenny George (ed.), 2010, 120pp** – £5.00 plus £2.20 p&p

**Vol 3, Jenny George (ed.), 2012, 128pp** – £7.50 plus £2.20 p&p

Vol 4, Jenny George (ed), 2014, 128pp – £10.00 plus £2.50 p&p

Contains peer-reviewed scientific papers on: Pleistocene glaciation, Ackland's and Widow's Tenement Ponds, Passive acoustics, Rhododendron fungi, Lloyds Signal Station, Herring Gull aggression, Manx Shearwater recovery, Bird Pellets, Book reviews on *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life* and *The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-1969*.

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.

### 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:

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