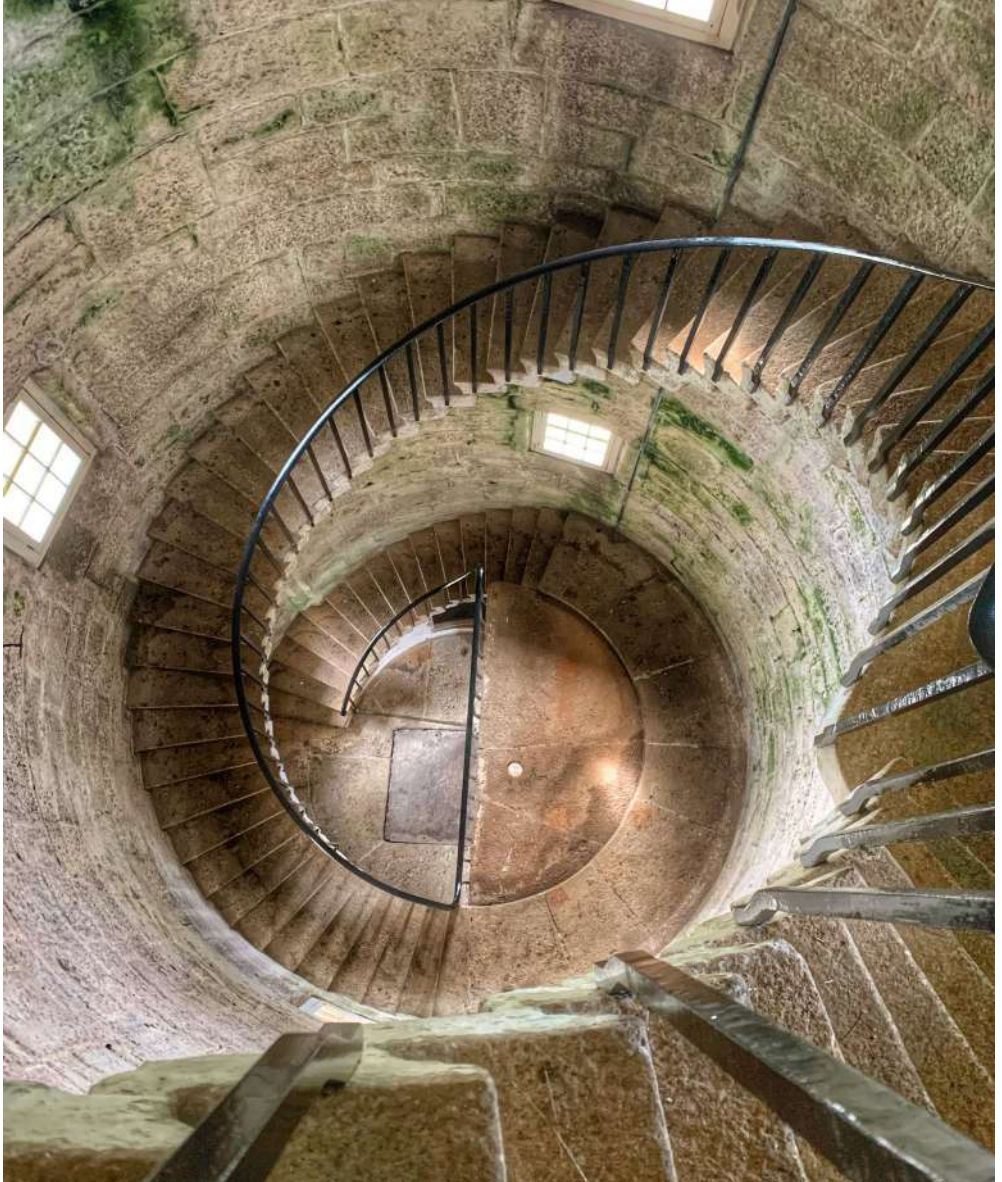




DISCOVERING LUNDY

The Bulletin of the Lundy Field Society

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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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**See opposite for publishing details and copy deadline
for the next issue of Discovering Lundy.**

Cover photo: Looking down the Old Light by Mel Mullins.



A selfie on the church roof after a hard day's graft on the 3rd Conservation Break of 2021.

Editor's Chatterings

Well here we are, another year has passed since the last *Discovering Lundy* dropped through your letter box; I really hope you enjoy this one, I've really enjoyed putting it together. I'm always thrilled to receive articles and photographs from people who love the island as much as I do, and it amazes me to realise how much collective knowledge we have between us!

I was able to visit the island a few times this year, as an ambassador, a volunteer, a diver and simply a paying guest.

The dive trip was over the August bank holiday, my first stay in the Vestry, and weather conditions meant we had to dive on the west side of the island for one of our days. It's very different to the east side, and I really enjoyed finning around the rocks, poking my head into some sea caves and exploring the gullies. The weather settled enough to be able to dive at Brazen Ward on the second day, and the seals came out to investigate us. The difference between the big, lumbering animals out of the water and the sleek, nimble ones in the water is fascinating. I learnt to dive in 2010 after a talk by then warden, Nicola Saunders, just so I could dive around Lundy; of course, it hasn't stopped me diving elsewhere, and in warmer water!

I recently had my first stay in Square Cottage at the beginning of December to celebrate my birthday, and was on the island when Storm Barra came through. It did make walking on top quite challenging, and I actually ended up being blown over into some heather at one point so we spent most of our days exploring the sheltered east side. We managed to keep a fire going all week in the cottage, so it was lovely and cosy when we returned from our walks to put the kettle on or pour a glass of something to relax us.

I was delighted to be able to take part in the inaugural swim of the Lundy Bluetits in October (see page 11), a birthday swim in December, and a swim off the jetty on 01.01.2022. Absolutely wonderful! As I write this I'm packing for my next trip to our island, and will definitely be taking my swimming costume.

I often wonder what it is about Lundy that draws people back again and again. Obviously it's a birder's paradise in the migrating season and a diver's paradise in the summer; it's a beautiful place to walk and lose yourself in the sights and sounds; it's somewhere you can be in solitude or with friends as you choose; there's the history, archaeology, geology, flora, fauna and people to learn about, and there's the question of just why does this lump of granite and slate still survive in the middle of the entrance to the Bristol Channel with the battering it gets from the weather and the Atlantic ocean? Whatever your reason is, if you're happy to share it with other people who love Lundy, please think about sending me an article, poem, letter or email for next year's *Discovering Lundy*.

I must of course thank all those who have contributed to this edition, I love reading the stories, letters and reports you write, and seeing the wonderful photographs you take. If you haven't written anything for publication in a bulletin like ours before, I am very happy to help you develop your ideas into an article. This publication is written by our members, for our members, and it couldn't happen without you.

Belinda Cox



An Alan Rowland selfie
outside Millcombe.

Words from our chair

Lundy is renowned for its wildlife, for featuring in the Shipping Forecast, for its unique stamps and as a bird and marine refuge.

The Lundy Field Society exists to promote, protect and record all aspects of the wealth of wildlife, both above and below the waves as well as the range of existing archaeology. Our Annual Reports contain 75 years of records, many of which are now available to peruse in an online database as well as on our website. We continue to find new species every year.

This year, there has been one of the regular upheavals of staff on Lundy. It always seems that there is a large churn of staff all at the same time. This year we have seen quite a few of the longer term residents move to pastures new; Dean and Zoe have returned to their home in Northern Ireland, Kevin and Julie went back in their original home in South Devon and Rich and Rach are in Barnstaple.

The LFS has always been and remains the memory for Lundy. Although there are long time residents, the collective memory of our members goes back to the 1930s if you consider our late President Diana Keast. Many others have memories back to the 1950s and in fact over the last few years I have congratulated nine of our members on their attaining 50 years as members.

We look forward to our new friends, a revamped Conservation Team comprising: Warden (Rosie Ellis), Matt Stritch, Island Ranger and Stuart Cossey, Assistant Warden and Education Officer. We will have to work with them to keep Lundy as an ideal terrestrial and marine nature reserve. Also new to the island are LFS members Jane and Teresa,

GA and Assistant Chef respectively. A new head chef Louie was with us, albeit briefly. Other new staff are, Matt's partner Jo and two members of Lundy dynasties; Peter Hayes, grandson of LFS secretary Peter Cole, and Alice from the newest Lundy dynasty, daughter of Rob and Sue Waterfield. And, of course, our new Farmer (Tom Carr) who seems able to turn his hand to anything.

The Bulletin has gone from strength to strength. Originally a one-sided sheet of A4 listing events in the year, it has grown from a duplicated 16 page newsletter and is now a full colour magazine with all the news and tidbits of information that continues to surprise and delight us. Thanks Bee. This year sees the return of the LFS working parties to the island and we expect to read entertaining reports of their exploits. We hope many of you have been able to find slots to book stays on the island and look forward to meeting you and reading your stories and discoveries on the island in these pages.

The Society and the Island have come through a very difficult two years but we can now look forward to what might pass for normal in these pandemic times.

As I complete this piece in January, we are informed of a second loss of a well loved member of the Lundy community. After losing our President and life-time member of the LFS, Diana Keast at the age of 99 on 9th November we also remember another member. Kevin Welsh the Lundy farmer for 20 years passed away on the 8th January only weeks into his retirement. I'm sure I speak for everyone to say, they are both greatly missed.

Alan Rowland - LFS Chair

Can money buy you happiness?

Well that's still under discussion, but it can definitely buy you an LFS membership! A note from our membership secretary, SANDRA ROWLAND.

Thank you to all members who have paid their 2022 subscription already, and welcome to all the new members who joined in 2021.

A gentle reminder if you haven't paid your subs yet that subscriptions are due on 2nd January each year, and that the UK subscription rates remain at £25 for individuals and £28 for family membership. If you would like to set up a standing order payment please contact me for details, or you may pay by cheque if you prefer. Please contact me on membership@lundy.org.uk if you have any queries.



The Lundy Marine Festival 2022

ROBERT IRVING updates us on the plans

You'll probably be aware that we were planning to hold a Marine Festival at Lundy during the summer of 2020. The global covid pandemic reared its ugly head around the middle of March that year, just before I was about to launch the Festival's website, having put a lot of the other necessary pieces in place. Still, to embrace the silver lining, I was glad the lockdown happened then than nearer to the actual Festival itself.

So here we are again. The Marine Festival will now take place next summer (fingers crossed!) between Thursday, 14th July and Sunday 11th September 2022. The whole point of the Festival will be to highlight the importance of marine conservation in the UK and to acknowledge the fact that Lundy has been at the forefront of many of the country's marine management initiatives.

We plan to have all of the activities that were being planned for 2020, together with a few additional ones. There'll be projects to participate in (such as a marine bioblitz, shore explores or cetacean watching), even if you're just over on a day trip; and displays, games and talks to enjoy taking place at the St Helen's Centre. We've booked dive boats for those planning to go under water, with many more 'citizen science' projects to undertake there too.

I'm glad to say the Field Society will be at the forefront of these activities, both with financial support and volunteers offering to help out with various tasks. I'll be saying a bit more about the Festival at the Society's AGM in March, if you're able to get along to Crediton.

The Festival's website (www.lundymarinefestival.org.uk) will provide all the latest news and information, including a calendar featuring the dates, times and heights of tides; fixed date activities; guest presentations and booked-in visits of 'expert' groups.



And I almost forgot... 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of Lundy's Marine Protected Area, which started life back in the early 1970s as the island's voluntary marine nature reserve. We'll be making sure we celebrate this milestone by holding some special events and creating a lot of publicity - do please come and join in the fun!

I can be contacted at robert@sea-scope.co.uk



Stuart & Megan - a selfie on Bardsey Island

It's a hello from me!

STUART COSSEY, Lundy's new Assistant Warden introduces himself and his fiancée, Megan

Hello Lundy Field Society members. I am Stuart, the new assistant warden. I arrived on Lundy with Megan, my fiancée at the end of November and we are settling in well. We look forward to meeting some of you as the year progresses.

We spent 2021 working on Bardsey Island off the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales and have enjoyed island life so much that we jumped at the chance to come to Lundy. I was assistant warden of the Bird Observatory there and Megan was a volunteer. Our main roles were monitoring the bird life, particularly the Manx Shearwaters. Bardsey is far more basic than Lundy even though it is just 3km from the mainland; it is only accessible via a small boat and has no showers or flushing toilets.

Megan and I met in Hertfordshire in 2019 where I was working as an ecologist and Megan worked in occupational health. We decided that working on Bardsey would be an excellent way to escape the pandemic and we were right! Before working as an ecologist, I was duty manager of a climbing centre and volunteer at Horsell Common in Surrey, where I grew up. Megan grew up in Belfast and is now in a Northern Irish minority since Dean and Zoe have left.

Birding is my main hobby and am looking forward to spending time ringing and being out during the spring and autumn migrations. I am also a climber and hope to ascend the famous Devil's Slide. Megan took up regular sea swimming on Bardsey and is already a key member of the Lundy Bluetits [*Ed: see page 11*]. She is also very crafty and enjoys painting watercolours and making wool rugs using a peg loom.

A Lundy wedding!

LFS members Terry Streeter and Janet Wilson were married at St Helen's church on Lundy on 4th July 2021.

The couple were married by the Rev Jane Skinner and the event was attended by family and friends. There was a peal rung on the church bells to celebrate the happy couples' wedding. A good time was had by all!



The happy couple, flanked by Andrew & Joanne Wilby, with Michael Williams 'photo bombing' the background. Photo by Michael Wilby.

LFS Conservation Breaks 2021



Team 1 photo supplied by Mel Mullins.

MEGAN DEBENHAM, who led the first of our three conservation breaks in 2021 from the 2nd to the 9th October, tells us how it was.

The primary objective of this working party was to rebuild and restore the Heligoland trap on the quarry terrace. To this end the larger group of volunteers worked on Sunday, Monday and Thursday under the direction of Ranger Matt Stritch, and the observation of Archaeologist Chris Webster. Chris's role was to ensure that the terms of the permit to work on the important historical site were complied with, and that no damage was done. He and his wife, also Chris, worked with the group of volunteers on all tasks throughout the week.

The first day's task was to dig out and remove (carefully and with minimal disturbance to the ground) the remaining posts, and carry the posts together with all the other old timber from the site up to the main track for later collection. New timber for the site was also carried in from the main track. This included several new posts 18 – 23cms in diameter and up to 3.5m in length. Each one was a six person carry, using rope slings around shoulders protected with bubble wrap.

Once on site, the posts were measured and cut to size taking into account the graduation in the height of the trap from the entrance to the box, variations in the terrain, and the depth of the holes into which the posts were to be embedded. The bark was then stripped from them.

On the Monday this work continued, with the last remaining old post removed and the last of the old timber carried away from the site. The last of the new posts were carried down from the main track and prepared for installation. A number of the posts were embedded in the holes, which were carefully back filled with soil and stones to ensure that the posts were perpendicular and secure.

On Thursday the last of the upright posts were installed, and timber cross beams screwed into place to form the frame ready to be covered with fine chicken wire, to be undertaken by the following working parties.

Alongside the work on the Heligoland trap, a smaller group of volunteers undertook a variety of tasks, under the supervision of Assistant Ranger Adam. On Sunday rocks were collected from the granite quarries and transported in wheelbarrows to the main track for collection and to be used to make a new border for the lawn at Millcombe House. Monday morning was spent clearing the gullies in the beach road to ensure good drainage during the winter, and the afternoon was spent starting to dig out the dung heap next



*Hard at work on the Heligoland trap.
Photo by: Hilary Winsor*

LFS Conservation Breaks 2021

to the pigsties.

Tuesday was a day threatening poor weather, with very strong winds and rain, so work was scheduled for the shelter of the Millcombe Valley for all volunteers. In fact, the weather was not so bad, and there was very little rain. It was nevertheless good to be sheltered from the very strong winds. The allotment gardens were weeded and prepared for cultivation, the steps from Millcombe House up to the village were weeded, the cobbles at the back of Millcombe House were weeded, and vegetation cut back and tidied at the edges of paths and steps.

On Wednesday we had a day off in glorious sunshine.

On Thursday a small group spent the morning filling in a couple of large holes in the field beyond the camping field. The holes had been dug during a recent search for a water leak which had been threatening to drain supplies and close the island. The holes were close to the footpath and created a hazard for both visitors and livestock. It was considered important that a layer of sieved earth should be laid over the pipes so that sharp stones should not cause a further breach, so the work was done by hand. After lunch two volunteers went down to the Battery to collect and bring back 25kg bags of lime mortar left over from the renovation work. On the way back up they paused to clear the gullies.



*Searching for those sneaky
rhododendron seedlings!
Photo by Mandy English*

On Friday one group spent the whole day repairing dry stone walls, while the other group conducted a rhododendron seedling search on the plateau to the north of half way wall; 29 seedlings were found and marked for treatment.

Thanks are due to all volunteers who worked very hard throughout the week, and got a lot done.

Week 2, 9th to 16th October, JAN PAUL reports.

This was the second of three consecutive conservation breaks this year. I, along with two of the other volunteers, had the privilege of also being a volunteer on the first week and so, as leader of the second week, I was already on the island when the eight remaining members of the group arrived. Numbers were depleted due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and eleven of us met outside the church on Saturday morning to meet the new ranger, Matt, and to find out what work tasks were planned for us. The rest of the day was then a chance to settle into life in the Barn and to get to know our companions for the week, some of whom were very familiar with the island and others who had never visited before or undertaken any conservation work but all were keen to get out and explore.

The main task of the week was the continuation of the construction of the new Heligoland Trap. The chicken wire used to cover the trap had to be transported from the main track down by Quarry Pond, past the Time-Keepers Hut and down to the site, a heavy-duty task which involved ingenuity and team-working. As in the first week, there was much measuring, sawing and bark-clearing before the final poles were secured into position, creating a strange looking construction, not dissimilar to

LFS Conservation Breaks 2021

something found in a hillbilly village; once the first length of chicken wire covered the structure, all became clear.

Other tasks completed during the week were drystone walling, bramble trimming in the staff gardens and on the path to Brambles, a rhododendron count on the plateau, removal of a hose from the church road down across the fields to Brambles, clearing weeds from around the saplings in the tree nursery, gully clearing, weeding in Castle courtyard, locating the pipes to the cesspit outside Castle cottages and chain-ganging rhododendron wood from the cliff-sides to the Heligoland plateau. Bob, a veteran volunteer, spent a day strimming and was accompanied by Hilary who mowed the lawn, both leaving the village



Working around the church. Photo by Caroline Peers.

looking manicured and spruce. The last day saw the group working together, removing the shingle and soil around the perimeter of the church in preparation for a new lightning conductor. We then finished off our working week back at the Heligoland Trap, and with a final chain-gang of the week to get another stack of rhododendron logs off the slopes. All the tasks were completed with enthusiasm and stamina, under the patient and expert guidance of Matt.

Like most volunteer groups, there was a myriad of skills and hidden talents but with the common denominator being a good sense of humour. This kept the team going when the tasks became repetitive, like filling sacks from the never-ending manure heap, and we could feel ourselves flagging towards the end of the working day. The variety of tasks enabled each team member to find their niche; Helen, Caroline and Frances displayed their dexterity with their fine weaving of wire through the chicken wire to secure it in place on the Heligoland, Kathy and Sue dug deep to locate the sewage pipe and cesspit outside Castle Cottages, Jilly and Nicole keeping the chain-gang going by placing themselves on the more difficult stretches and covering miles in the process and Andrew and others threw themselves into the complexities of drystone walling. And me? Having done this on my very first conservation break in 2004 and every one since, I am never happier than when shifting logs along the cliff-side – the most fantastic worksite with breath-taking views and the wonderful company of like-minded volunteers make it one of the best jobs in the world... for a few days at least anyway!



The chain gang in progress. Photo by Hilary Winsor.

During the course of the week, we were fortunate to meet all of the island wildlife. We quickly realised that the Highland cattle were not going to assist in keeping the

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rhododendron search line straight as they lazed in the sun on the plateau and we had to navigate around them – needless to say we did not ask them to stand so we could check underneath for sneaky seedlings.

Things were slowly getting back to normal on the island but several items were not available in the shop due to petrol shortages and distribution issues; such was life on the mainland at the time. Menus were quickly adapted and we ate the most filling, delicious and varied meals every night in the Barn. On our day off, we enjoyed a meal in the Tavern and appreciated an evening free of washing up. Our thanks go to the shop and tavern staff.

The weather was perfect for the whole week, and the clear nights gave us plenty of opportunity to stroll a few yards from the Barn to star-gaze and watch the many fleeting shooting stars visible at that time. We had an ideal crossing back to the mainland, with the added bonus of half-price hot pastries from the galley – always a naughty treat but seemingly justified after the blood, sweat and tears we had shed during the week. I think we all returned with a sense of achievement for the work we had completed during the week and the appreciation of having spent a wonderful week in a very special location, with many determined to return as soon as possible. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers, some of who had not realized exactly what they had let themselves in for, for your hard-work, enthusiasm and companionship during the week.

MADELEINE GOWERS writes about her first trip to Lundy on the Conservation Break from 16th to 23rd October... A Sheep Walks Into A Bar.



*The week 3 team!
Photo by Matt Stritch.*

If there's one thing that sets Lundy apart from other British holiday destinations, it's the fact that everyone arrives with a purpose. Some come to observe the extraordinary wildlife; others to take advantage of the many outdoor sporting opportunities; others still simply to get away from it all. It's not a place that immediately appeals to everyone – although there is certainly something for everyone there – and so as soon you arrive, you feel that you are among 'your people': those who are not put off by the prospect of thick mud, beastly weather or limited internet access.

It's no surprise, then, that the ten of us who made up the final working party of 2021 had plenty to bond over, despite coming from different walks of life. Among us, we had students and retirees, first-time visitors and Lundy regulars, women and one brave man, united by the desire to get our hands dirty and help in any way we could. We met at Ilfracombe Harbour on Saturday 16th October – some looking rather more bleary-eyed than others – and quickly introduced ourselves before piling onto the MS Oldenburg.

The sunny weather made for smooth sailing conditions and in no time we were climbing onto the Lundy jetty and cooing at the seals who had come to meet the boat. There were a couple of hours to kill before check-in, so some of us joined Bee's

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walking tour while others went up ahead to have a pint and sunbathe in the pub garden. The rest of the day was spent unpacking, enjoying Rosie's talk on Lundy wildlife and eating a hearty dinner in preparation for the week ahead.

And what a week it was! Stormy weather was expected from Tuesday, so we spent the time leading up to then ticking off as many outdoor jobs as we could. On Sunday, we filled a bore hole that had been dug during the summer water shortage, rebuilt a dry-stone wall, sorted through driftwood for the wood store and weeded around tree saplings in Millcombe Valley and along the coastal path. After work, Matt took us up the church tower – a once-in-a-lifetime treat, according to those who had attended numerous working parties! – and we spent a good quarter of an hour taking in the fantastic views over the island and across the sea to the mainland. A few of us then ventured down to the jetty for a quick dip – and quick it had to be, since the seals were clearly not best pleased about having to share their territory...



*Dry stone walling near the Lambing Shed.
Photo by Jane Elliott*



*Rebuilding the bridge next to the Casbah.
Photo by Jane Elliott*

Monday was spent dismantling the bridge next to the Casbah and starting work on its replacement. The weather began to deteriorate just before lunchtime, but after a bite to eat and a quick donning of waterproofs, we got straight back to it: sawing planks, digging foundation trenches and securing the horizontal support beams with sand, rocks and mud until finally, the rain got the better of us.

By Tuesday, a heavy fog had descended on the island. The decision was taken to cancel that afternoon's sailing – unsurprising, given that we could hardly make out the shop from the Barn window – and, as expected, we

spent most of the day indoors. Half of us repaired and sanded a wooden picnic bench, which had been driven into by one of the island staff (naming no names...), while the rest of the group prepared crates of kindling for the shop, transporting firewood for storage and sweeping the Old Light steps. After lunch, there was just enough respite from the weather that we could finish building the bridge before returning indoors for Tim Jones' fantastic talk on Lundy birds.

Wednesday: our day off! Some chose to explore the island, while others took the opportunity to rest their feet. Three of us were lucky enough to bump into Tom the farmer, who very kindly took us to visit Felicity the sow and her latest litter of piglets.

Drain cleaning was the main project for Thursday. A whole morning had to be devoted to a pipe in the village, which had filled up with unrelenting mud and sludge.

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The afternoon was a breeze by comparison, spent digging leaves and stones out of all the gullies from the church to the beach. [*Ed: the rest of the group cleared the drainage ditches next to Quarters - that kept us warm!*]

Then, just like that, it was Friday and we were onto our last tasks of the week: cleaning the pond, edging the Government House lawn and digging a trench around the church for the new lightning conductor. The wind howled all day, but we kept at it, laughing, singing and munching on ginger biscuits as we went.

That evening, as we packed away and ate a celebratory meal with some of the island staff, we reflected on all the things we would remember from the week: Warden Rosie's enthusiasm and wealth of knowledge; Ranger Matt's patience and positivity; Assistant Ranger Adam's vigour and intrepidity; Seasonal Volunteer Eleanor's kindness and composure; the sense of community on the island; the anecdotes we shared; all the times we roared with laughter (thinking particularly of the night when Sue brought out her anti-snoring kit); the evenings spent chatting and reading by the fire; the delicious meals we ate, almost always accompanied by profuse apologies from that evening's chefs who worried that they'd got the portions wrong or were about to inflict food poisoning on the group; the birthdays we celebrated; the trips to the tavern and the time Tom had to chase away some sheep who were trying to follow us in; Bee's brilliant quizzes; the long walks; the inaugural Lundy Bluetits swim; the birds and the horses and the highland cattle... We'll remember it all.

A huge thank you to everyone on the island for making our working party holiday so special, and to Bee for being such a fun, organised and encouraging leader. Hope to see you on Lundy again soon!

The Lundy Bluetits

BEE COX explains...

Cold water, or wild swimming has increased in popularity over the last couple of years and now, thanks to LFS member and Lundy GA Jane Sharkey, is a regular happening on the island!



*Post birthday swim euphoria,
December 2021.
Photo by Bee Cox*

The Bluetits is a social enterprise spanning the world with over 150,000 people partaking of the mental and physical benefits of cold water immersion. The inaugural swim on Lundy was during the third Conservation Break, and several LFS members took part. There have been many swims since, including one on my birthday at the beginning of December, and one on the 1st January 2022 which had more than a dozen swimmers taking part, some from the Landing Beach and others from the Jetty.

For more information see thebluetits.co or search on Facebook - there may well be a group near you.

If you're on the island and fancy a dip keep an eye on the board in the Tavern, or chat to Jane, Rosie or Philippa.

Warden's Report

ROSIE ELLIS recaps another year on the island.

As I sit at home, in quarantine, it gives me a chance (and no choice) to sit back and take stock of the year that has come to pass. Looking back at last year's bulletin I see how much changed for us all on the island in 2021. We have said our fair share of tearful farewells to friends, neighbours and colleagues and hello to many new but now familiar faces.



*Taking a break from sapling planting.
Photo by Rosie Ellis.*

The year started out feeling ominously like 2020 with the usual January Shutdown becoming a lockdown. This time we were joined by teams of contractors to carry out tasks such as pointing walls, fixing gigantic compasses, restoring the rocket shed, and, oh, yet more pointing walls. Charlie and Rachel from Old Light conservation gave a few of the staff a taste of their attention to detail when it came to everything mortar. I have a new appreciation for the effort it takes to dedicate weeks of your life restoring structures with the goal that all your efforts will go unnoticed by all except those with a trained eye. It is my new game to walk around to try and spot repairs they have made on our buildings

(and people ask what we do for fun on Lundy!). With our usual spring work parties cancelled, many thanks go to staff who helped to get saplings in the ground quickly.

With the information on volunteer positions going viral this year we were spoiled for choice with hundreds of candidates from the UK, Germany and Korea. In the end we were joined by Yorkshire and Proud walling extraordinaire Assistant Ranger Adam and the great northern birders Ben and Eleanor for our Assistant Seabird Wardens. In true Lundy style, our spring volunteers stayed on longer than anticipated; Ben eventually leaving us for a paid role on Brownsea Island and Eleanor getting back home in time for Christmas! They were rewarded with some spectacular rarities like the sulphur-bellied warbler in June and this year I got to see a common rosefinch and a wryneck in the hand.

The season was filled with our usual productivity surveys, RSPB seabird counts, Natural England rocky shore surveys, biosecurity for life training and the long awaited return of our snorkel safaris - with some cosy new wetsuits thanks to North Devon Biosphere. All research will be published in due course but suffice to say the data is looking very positive for our seabirds, with the bounce back of the seabird recovery project still being felt.



Conservation Team 2021. L-R Lucy Mortlock, Matt, Stritch, Chloe Woolfenden, Adam Waters, Rosie Ellis, Dean Woodfin-Jones, Eleanor Grover. Photo by Kobe Garfoot.

Finally, schools and universities were able to join us again with 14 groups winning the “no lockdown lottery” and able to get across to Lundy. Thanks to Plastic Free North Devon a lucky few got to snorkel with some help from the conservation team; it’s a tough job but someone’s got to do it! Many thanks to our team of ambassadors for all their help with school groups, walks, and talks. It was so great to finally be allowed to have a get together and a long-awaited group picture.

I am coming to realise there is never a normal year on Lundy. Nonetheless, 2021 was particularly busy with sold-out boats and accommodation, and the conservation team would not be able to engage with the numbers of visitors that we do without the ambassadors’ considerable help. Special thanks to Amanda Head for her faultless work, as ever, co-ordinating the team this year.

In Autumn we were joined by Chloe and Lucy for another record-breaking year for our Atlantic grey seal pupping season. Many thanks to them for their passion and dedication to finding every pup; 62 is the new number to beat!

We had all known it was coming at some point but was still a sad day on the island when Warden Dean and his partner Zoe handed in their notice. Not many people in life get such a lovely boss and I will be forever grateful for the chance to work alongside such a knowledgeable and passionate colleague who has given so much to the island. We look forward to many future visits from them and wish them both all the very best for their new adventure back on the big island of Ireland.

After 20 years of being the mainstays of the island Kev and Joules also returned to the mainland, the end of an era for the island. Our thoughts go to Julie and the rest of the family, having recently heard of Kev’s passing.

Many thanks to Eleanor Grover who stayed on and helped out with surveys and write ups in the interregnum after Dean’s departure and generally going above and beyond. Tom has now taken over the farm after years of being Kev’s right-hand man. As I am sure anyone who knows Tom would expect, he has thrown himself into his new role and the lambing shed is looking spotless.



The Ambassador team. L-R John Tyrer, Charles Booth, Frances Stuart, Lee Langford, Alan Rowland, Mandy Yates, Amanda Head, Richard Ware, Rosie Ellis, Tony Rees (behind), Bee Cox, Derek Green (behind), David Oddy, Simon Dell, John Bright. Photo by Rob Waterfield.

As for the Warden role, I am very humbled to have been successful in applying for the post. It is a little nerve-racking following Dean as Warden, but I am very lucky to be supported by Stuart, a fantastic birder, as the new Assistant Warden and Education Officer, and by Ranger Matt who lots of you hopefully got the chance to meet on our three weeks of back-to-back work parties that finally got to go ahead.

Many thanks to Matt for all his hard work in 2021, there are many essential but never-ending ranger tasks that often go unnoticed. From clearing drains in a downpour to trimming the lower east in a heatwave he is always a pleasure to work with.

Some things on Lundy will never change. Winter topics of conversation evolve mainly around mist and wind and looking forward to the year to come. The 2022 season promises to be a busy one with daily Bird Observatory surveys and of course the long-awaited marine festival. So much to look forward to and I hope to see you all soon!

Lundy Lockdown, year 2

SUE WATERFIELD describes how it was on the island in 2021.

Reading back over last year's report, I realise how much has changed since then. I have written little shop news in this report or in last year's because, despite the shop being in the forefront of my mind, we have had to accept that global events have inevitably affected all our lives here as it has on the mainland.

Our annual shutdown in January led into a third national lockdown and we found ourselves once more cut off from the rest of the country on our island home.

This time we had regular visits from contractors and Trinity House employees who were able to visit us now new Covid tests allowed safer practices by their companies. We were able to house and feed decorators and technicians working on the North Lighthouse as well as our own contractors who were able to carry out important work on our properties and infrastructure.

Charlie & Rachel, our loyal heritage mason team worked hard on projects difficult to carry out with a full island. Our famous post box had its cement render replaced with brick. During a particularly wet spell of weather they were driven indoors, and prompted by memories of hidden history behind the walls of the building, uncovered the beautiful bread oven which lay behind our staff pigeonholes. Photos were sent to Head Office and our excited director, Anna Keay rightly insisted that a feature be made of this discovery.



Charlie Smith contemplating the newly exposed bread oven. Photo by Sue Waterfield.

After some work consolidating and applying a lime shelter coat to the wall, the interior wall was removed. Visitors checking into Reception can now see where the village bread was baked in Lundy's Manor Farm Hotel.

We were also joined at this time by journalist couple Jade & David, who intended to visit and live hermit-like in the Vestry for a few weeks while Jade wrote a book about her experiences in different remote environments. Her project turned into something very different when lockdown was announced and they were prevented from leaving

us. They both became cherished members of the community and we said a sad goodbye to them in July when they returned to their lives on the 'big island'.

When the remarkable news was released that a vaccine was now available to be rolled out across the country, we were thrilled that staff from Wooda surgery in Bideford, would be able to visit us during lockdown and provide us with our first dose on March 3rd. We were able to continue life on Lundy with a little more security which was consolidated on May 19th when Wooda returned to provide us with our 2nd doses.

When we reopened after Easter, there were many restrictions and we had to think hard about how to keep our customers and staff safe from the virus.

Access to the shop was limited to two customers or one household at a time, and we provided a new grocery collection service to help vulnerable customers and to avoid the inevitable queues outside.

With the ship limiting numbers and holidays restricted to one household, some of our larger properties remained empty for much of the time. However, as the vaccine rolled out nationally, we were able to safely host a few larger groups, including Naturetrek and a small wedding in July.



*The errant tepee, prior to the storm.
Photo by Sue Waterfield.*

The Marisco Tavern began after lockdown as a takeaway service and we took delivery of an impressive tepee for the beer garden. The providers of the tent assured us that it was strong enough to withstand our strong winds and unseasonal gales, but Lundy had other ideas and we lost it dramatically on a particularly windy afternoon in May. Thankfully, due to the vigilance of our brilliant team, no one was hurt as the beer garden was cleared of customers and visitors were encouraged to stay out of the village during the storm.

Although the tepee was not utilised particularly well, we were lucky with the weather and free teas and coffees with an urn and fresh water tap in the beer garden for day visitors kept everyone refreshed after arriving on the island.

Soon we were once again providing meals in the Tavern and despite distanced seating, a limited menu and table service, the staff managed really well to feed those who preferred not to self-cater. The atmosphere was lost though, and it didn't feel like the same place. We were relieved later when restrictions were relaxed and the place began to return to the lively and friendly hub of the village we remembered.

At the time of writing, we are still asking our customers to continue to wear face masks in both the Tavern and the shop to protect our community, business and visitors.

We are as always indebted to all our customers as well as our ever-loyal LFS volunteers who returned with a vengeance in a three week marathon working party relay this year!



*One of the many storms on Lundy.
Photo by Elise O'Donnell.*

Lundy's Lifeblood

ROB WATERFIELD updates us on the comings and goings of his team.

As always on Lundy, the islanders are the lifeblood of our community and business. With the support of Lundy's resilient team, Lundy Company has weathered last year's storm. The team continue to support the island with incredible fortitude and good humour.

It feels important currently to write a tribute to them for keeping everything running smoothly throughout the last 18 months of worry over the coronavirus pandemic.

We started this year having lost some key staff members including Rachel Sylvia from the shop and Richard Goodman our maintenance assistant, Emily our Assistant Head Housekeeper and Cargo Coordinator Mike Jones. All four of these staff members I am proud to call friends after spending our island lives alongside them.

Rachel has built on her Lundy time and is now a member of Barnstaple's Fire Service after learning from her experiences as part of our fire team here. Richard now travels the country fitting furniture and Emily, who was one of our most well qualified housekeepers, having a masters degree in forensic archaeology, has also built on her experience leading our Coastguard team and now works at Falmouth Coastguard station. We often hear her voice over the airways during island "shouts".



*More lifeblood of Lundy!
Photo by Ester Spears*

Mike has built on his knowledge of marine engineering and now works in the beautiful small shipyard at Mylor Bridge over the border in Cornwall.

This summer, Fiona Bradley from the Tavern and Head Chef David Bradley have also said goodbye to us, moving up to Yorkshire and our longest serving members of the team Farmer Kevin Welsh and Tavern Manager Julie Welsh have now left us after 19 years of service, taking with them a vast tranche of knowledge about Lundy infrastructure.

Kevin joined us back in 2002 and brought in the familiar highland cows including the famous Boris. As well as his role as Farmer, Kev was Island Foreman, taking care of things when Derek or I were on holiday. *[ED: this piece was written before the news of Kevin's death.]*



Kevin & Julie. Photo by Nigel Dalby.

It felt as if Lundy had experienced a huge sea change when our friends Warden Dean Woodfin Jones and Head Housekeeper Zoe Barton also informed us that they were leaving to new jobs in their homeland of Northern Ireland. This would mean such a

dramatic change that from our staff photo taken in 2018, only 6 out of 28 members of the island staff remain.

Dean, with his knowledge of everything ornithological and infectious enthusiasm is also a good friend who we will miss personally for his gentle sense of fun.

Zoe will be missed as a dear friend and for her brilliant and zany sense of humour, bringing a real bit of Northern Irish craic to Lundy as well as having great organisational skills, leading our team of hardworking housekeepers.

On the upside, we have some superb new blood here now to replace them and on your next visit to the island you will meet our new Assistant Warden/Education Officer Stuart Cossey who starts work at the end of November along with partner Megan Hollywood-Harry. Replacing Dean as new Island Warden is our own fabulous Rosie Ellis, who has been promoted from her previous role of Assistant Warden and Education Officer.

Polly Bissett and Nick Elliot have been here since the summer, working as General Assistant and Carpenter. My daughter Alice is now our Tavern Front of House Manager after joining us originally as a volunteer after a career change forced on her during the pandemic. Also staying on after doing a stint as a volunteer last summer is Pete Hayes, who has history on the island, having been visiting Lundy since childhood. His partner Erin is also working in the Tavern, Louis-Karim Bouzouba is our new Head Chef and we have our loyal Lundyites Jane Sharkey and Teresa Davies working in the Tavern now as GAs.

Since the recent lifting of most Covid restrictions, we have experienced an increase in visitors. We have welcomed new customers as well as old Lundy friends. We are so grateful to our loyal customers who have supported us throughout the pandemic, but also to our stalwart crew of island staff who have had to endure an enormous amount of pressure and worry over the ever-changing circumstances we have seen over the last 18 months.

Love it or hate it, it's now on the island!

RICHARD BREESE updates us on the church WiFi.

When St Helen's church was restored, a major part of the plans was the creation of the St Helen's Centre to provide educational opportunities within the building. The Centre now has regular school visits and other events are held in the church.

At the time of its restoration, an ethernet network was installed throughout the building, but no internet connection was commissioned to complete the system. St Helen's PCC resolved to complete the network provision and provide internet access within the church using 4G and WiFi technology with a view to enhancing the educational provision within the church.

Following research into equipment and service providers, a 4G router and directional MiMo antenna were purchased. After a PCC meeting on Lundy in July 2021 I tested the equipment to assess the viability of the service. I had only about 90 minutes for the testing after the other obligations of the day and results were not outstanding (a speed of c5mbps), but were encouraging enough to make the decision to proceed.

I returned to the island for a holiday in late July and did further testing. Results were still disappointing, even at the top of the tower.

One day by chance, I put the equipment down close to the letterbox in the village while I had a chat. This is a spot where 'line of sight' to the mainland is very limited, so the 4G signal might be expected to be next to non-existent. Before picking it back up (it was being powered by a battery for convenience) I performed yet another speed test and was surprised to see that the speed was in excess of 30Mbps! I recalled reading that 4g coverage is often expectedly good in the least promising places, so I returned to the church and systematically tested at many more locations around the outside of the building. An unpromising spot behind the church adjacent to the air-source heat pump (which was installed as part of the restoration project) had excellent speeds of up to 43Mbps with antenna pointed in the direction of Hartland. I did further testing during the rest of the week in all weathers and results fluctuated between 8-43Mbps, but were typically around 20Mbps.

Plans were made to install the equipment permanently at the start of October, and with the help of island staff and visitors the task was completed successfully. We were able to co-locate the antenna with the heat pump and in the future it will be surrounded by a 'hit and miss' fence.

Since installation, speeds have averaged 20-30Mbps up and down and have improved since the beginning of November with a peak of 49Mbps, seemingly because of infrastructure enhancements on the mainland in the Hartland area. The distance to the mast is c.17 miles.

As I'm sure members are aware, St Helen's church receives a great deal of goodwill and donations in kind from the island, for which it is immensely grateful, but it is not financed by the Lundy Company or the Landmark Trust. It has considerable out-goings in the form of church insurance and a half-share of the island's Education Officer's salary. Unlike most churches, St Helen's has no regular congregation who can contribute, and its only substantial regular income is from the letting of the Vestry.

If you use the internet service, and feel you are able, please make a contribution to the upkeep of the church. A donation of £5 is suggested - an electronic contactless donation is now available.

Details of how to connect to the WiFi internet service are displayed in the church. The public service is intended to allow browsing, messaging etc and has reduced bandwidth per connection to encourage fair use. It may be unavailable at times due to atmospheric conditions and when the island's power is off. It is managed remotely and requires no regular servicing by island staff.

Fear not - there is still no accessible WiFi in the properties or tavern.



WiFi antenna adjacent to the heat pump.
Photo by Richard Breese.

Not Discover Lundy 2021

ALAN ROWLAND reports on what didn't happen, and what did.

DL21 was first proposed at the March 2018 AGM and formally adopted at the May Committee meeting. It was two years in the making and six months in the breaking.

Sandra, Michael and I planned well ahead booking 17 properties to accommodate 59 LFS members for the week of 8th to 15th May 2021. This was selected as being a good spring period with an excellent low tide to enable a wide range of activities.

Then the pandemic hit us. We still thought everything would go ahead; it couldn't last for more than a year. As 2020 turned into 2021, a pandemic roadmap was introduced by the government but we were still optimistic. Then came the bombshell, no social mingling would be allowed before the 17th May, two days after we were due to return from Lundy.

We had no choice but to cancel DL21 and postpone our March AGM. However, in negotiation with Lundy Company, we were able to offer most of the booked properties to single households among our number before we had to relinquish the bookings back into the system.

In the event, we retained 12 properties which were taken up by 24 of our members. All organised events had to be cancelled and the only social events were to be tables of up to six people outside in the Beer Garden.

Our luck was still out though when the Saturday 8th May boat was cancelled. Everyone lost a day but gained a helicopter trip. Your Chair, Secretary and membership Secretary were unaffected by this having arranged to arrive three days earlier to assist with licking and sticking the LFS 75th Anniversary stamps.

Had we been able to continue with DL21 it might have been a washout. We suffered high winds and torrential rain on some days hardly seeing any wildlife at all.

The birders had better luck but the weather was challenging on most days. Amongst other more common species, they managed to record Osprey, Golden Plover, Whimbrel and Golden Oriole.

We did, however, manage one traditional event, the Rusty-back Fern count took place. This exercise was eminently suited to social distancing. Eight volunteers spaced two metres apart counted ferns on their section of the wall behind the Blue Bung, amassing a total of 274 lime-loving plants. This was lower than previous year's counts of 3-400 but does confirm that this rare plant continues to thrive on this 20 metre section of southwest facing wall.

The hanging of a framed picture to commemorate the LFS anniversary also took place. On the 13th May the picture was hung in the Wheelhouse on what has become the LFS wall adjacent to the Tony Walker award and has



The Rusty-back Fern counters, l-r Joanne Wilby, Bee Cox, Sandra Rowland, Michael Williams, Bill Williams, Alan Kellow, Jennie Williams, Andrew Wilby. Photo by Alan Rowland.

since been joined by an LFS plaque.

One final event with LFS members was the hand-bell demonstration in support of Andrew Wilby's webinar on the bells of St Helen's when we demonstrated Plain Hunt.

All in all, it was a welcome opportunity to meet and get to know quite a few members that I had not met previously. LFS members walked, ran and swam and thoroughly enjoyed the break, but it most definitely was not Discover Lundy 2021.



The LFS wall in the Wheelhouse. Photo by Alan Rowland.

Shipping at Lundy Island in the 1881 Census

ROBERT BRADBEER shares his findings.

Some interesting insights into the role of Lundy Island in nineteenth century Bristol Channel shipping can be gleaned from the census returns. Those for the 1881 census have been transcribed by Bob Sanders, Delphine Sawden, and Fiona Mitford and can be accessed on-line.¹ The census was taken on the night of Sunday 3 April and vessels in port were also enumerated, although when they were in their homeports it is probable that most men were recorded in their houses. For Lundy the interesting question is how vessels there were enumerated, given the difficulties of reaching the island. Synoptic weather conditions on census night saw an area of high pressure over northern Scotland, giving a brisk south-easterly air flow.² These weather conditions and the fact that the census was taken on a Sunday, meant that quite a number of vessels were hove to or sheltering off Lundy.

The census records 14 vessels³ at Lundy, with 135 people on board. One vessel had the master's wife on board and another had the wife and baby son of the First Engineer on board. Two vessels were French, as all their crews were French born, but no other details can be traced, although the size of their crews, 8 and 5, suggest that they were small or medium sized schooners of perhaps 150-250 tons. Another vessel, probably a smack, the *Jane*, had a single man, described as an able-bodied seaman aboard, but no other crew, but for her too it has not been possible to trace further details. Particulars for the other eleven vessels have been found.⁴

The largest vessel at Lundy was the 1,190 ton screw steamer the *Ardanbhan*, with a crew of 18 and the First Engineer's wife and baby son. She was also the second

most modern vessel at Lundy, having been built by Henry Murray and Company at Port Glasgow in 1878. She was owned by McLaren, Crum and Company at Glasgow and presumably was on passage to or from South Wales. She was to last until 1900 when she was wrecked on the Co Durham coast. The *Mallsgate* was a 1,073 ton barque, with a crew of 24 and had been built in 1877 by Richard Williamson at Harrington, near Workington and was owned by Fisher, Sprott and Company of Workington. Like the *Ardanbhan*, she was probably bound for South Wales to load coal. In 1889 she was wrecked near Newcastle, New South Wales, on passage to San Francisco with coal. Something further of the cosmopolitan character of Bristol Channel shipping can be seen with the *G F Muntz*, a 925 ton barque, built at Bremerhaven in 1875 and owned in Bremen. She had a crew of 17, all Germans except for a single Dutchman. The *Melbrek*, was a 870 ton ship, built in 1863 by J Fell and Company of Workington and owned by the Shaw Bushby Company of London. Her master was Hugh Lightbody, born in Belfast but her mate, John Townsend was from Appledore, as were three of her AB seamen. She had four apprentices, ranging in age from 16 to 19 and a Swede, a Dane and a German among other members of the crew of 19. The *Hawkeye*, a barque of 505 tons had been built in Bideford by Cox and Son in 1864 and was owned by the Swansea Merchant Shipping Company and engaged in carrying copper ore from Chile and Peru to be smelted in Swansea. Her master and mate were Welshmen, as were her two apprentices, but the only other Briton in her crew was Daniel Graham from Stornoway and the other nine members included two Danes, two Americans, and a single man from each of Canada, France, Italy, Norway and Sweden. The final larger vessels was the *Golden Sunset*, a 542 ton barque built in 1876 by John Blumer and Company at Sunderland and owned in Newport by H Beynon and Company. Her master was the Devonian William Shillabeer, at 52 the oldest man enumerated, and Henry Shillabeer, probably his son, was among the seamen and the crew were drawn from Scotland, Cornwall, Portsmouth and four from the Fylde in Lancashire.

There were four smaller sailing vessels at Lundy. *England's Rose*, a 164 ton schooner built at Topsham in 1869 was the largest and had the largest crew, 6 all of whom came from Dover or nearby, which was where the vessel was owned. Also with a crew of 6 was the *Ocean Pet*, a schooner of 83 tons built in Jersey in 1876 and owned by W Pickford of Newport, although all but one of her crew were Jerseymen.



The *Ardanbhan* by Frederick Tudgay.

The oldest vessel at Lundy was the 62 ton schooner, *Maid Meirion*, built at Aberystwyth in 1859 and still owned there by a Miss G Lewis and all her crew of three were from Aberystwyth. The smallest sailing vessel at Lundy was the 58 ton ketch *Industry*, built at Bideford by H M Restarick in 1879 and also with a crew of three.

Lundy was a favourite

haunt for the steam tugs looking for commissions to bring sailing vessels up channel to Swansea, Cardiff, Newport and Bristol, but the 1881 census only recorded one, the *Hartland*, although there were a further seven recorded for Ilfracombe. By the 1880s most steamers were screw driven, but the paddle steamer was still popular for tug boats, as it gave them a greater degree of manoeuvrability. The *Hartland*, a 96 ton paddle tug had been built at Low Walker on Tyneside by Hepple and Company in 1870 and in 1881 owned at Cardiff by C W Christie. Her master was given as Andrew Hume, a native of North Shields but the rest of her crew were from Bristol, Gloucester and Cardiff.

The vessels at Lundy in 1881 show the diversity of traffic passing the island, in terms of the types of ships, their crews and their origins. There were only two steamers, one of which was a Cardiff paddle tug, and barques of 500 to 1,000 tons were the most numerous sailing vessels. Crews came from across Europe and also included a few men from the United States and Canada. It was, however, a young man's activity and just three of the men at Lundy were over 50.

Notes:

1. 1881 census returns for shipping in ports: www.angelfire.com/de/BobSanders/81Intro.html
2. Synoptic chart for 3 April from www.metcheck.com
3. The term vessels is used throughout as the generic term as ship specifically refers to a three-masted, square-rigged sailing vessel, and there was one true ship at Lundy in 1881.
4. Sources used to identify vessels: Lloyd's Register of Shipping 1881 (from <https://hec.lrfoundation.org.uk/archive-library/lloyds-register-of-ships-online>); and the following shipbuilding databases: www.shippingandshipbuilding.uk; www.tynebuiltships.co.uk;

2021 The Lundy Field Society 75th Anniversary Issue

An offering from ALAN ROWLAND...

You will all recall the excellent and unique set of stamps produced to celebrate the LFS' 75th Anniversary.

There are still stocks of some items which I am keen that you have first chance to buy. Once these have gone, their value will rise and become difficult to collect. So, don't delay, order yours today.

Contact Tiina at lundypostalservice@lundyisland.co.uk by email, or by post at

Lundy Postal Service, Lundy, Bristol Channel, EX39 2LY

Mint set of 3 pairs of landscape stamps	£6.50
Set cancelled to order	£6.60
First day cover	£7.50
Presentation Pack	£7.50



Beating lockdown with Puffin Post

JOHN HEDGER explains how his fungi research has continued, even when he can't get to the island.

The plans by Mandy Dee and myself to carry out our usual annual survey of fungi, and the usual Fungus Foray for the visitors were sunk by the Covid lockdown in November 2020. Mandy did make it onto the island for a few days as the island was shutting down, so we were able to stream a successful 'virtual foray' Webinar which some LFS members will have seen and enjoyed (hopefully!). After that any idea of field work on Lundy fungi had to be abandoned.

How to beat the travel ban? With the help of Assistant Warden Rosie Ellis and Puffin Post! Rosie kindly agreed to collect samples of dung in December 2020 and March 2021 and send them to me at home in Scotland. Here they were looked after in petri dishes and soon produced crops of minute dung-inhabiting fungi. The picture shows Rosie with her 'poo post' at the Tavern postbox. The samples sent by Rosie have yielded many new records of species of coprophilous fungi. No postmen suffered - the samples were well sealed and in any case were dry with a pleasant hay-like smell, though Rosie may have disagreed when collecting. More details for those interested can be found in an interim account I wrote for the LFS website (<http://www.lundy.org.uk/dung-fungi-on-lundy-during-lockdown>).



Rosie posting poo.
Photo by XXX

Three examples of the minute fungi that grew are shown - a surface view of the glistening (3mm diameter) white cap of a dung Inkcap (*Coprinopsis stercorea*) growing on Sheep Dung; a minute 'fungus gun' of *Pilobolus* ready to discharge its black spore packet; the very strange black slug-like fruit body (sclerotium) of *Podosordaria tulasnei* (about 1 cm long) growing out of a Rabbit pellet collected by Rosie in the Earthquake. The latter is a new record for Lundy, so well-done Rosie.

Rosie posting poo.
Photo by Alice Waterfield.



A sporangium of the Hat Thrower,
Pilobolus (x100 magnification).
Photo by John Hedger.

More recently Alan and Sandra Rowland were able to visit Lundy in May 2021 and very kindly sent more samples of dung and also of wood and plant material by post. All have proved a treasure trove of new fungi for Lundy so thanks to them too.

Mandy and I plan to be back on Lundy in November to resume our 'normal' surveying of the Lundy Fungi. If it goes wrong and we do get another lockdown then its over to Rosie and Puffin Post!



*Left: Cap surface of
Coprinopsis stercorea
(x25 magnification).
Photo by John Hedger.*

*Right: **Podosordaria tulasnei**
growing from a Rabbit Pellet
(x 20 magnification).
Photo by John Hedger.*



Archaeological Monitoring on Lundy.

AMANDA YATES tells us about her new Lundy interest.

Lundy is a very important and interesting place for Archaeological remains. There is evidence that Lundy has been inhabited since the Stone Age as worked flints from this period have been found, some of which are on display in the Rocket Shed museum together with other historical items that have been found on Lundy. There are numerous remains of buildings and burial sites on Lundy that can be dated back to the Bronze Age and also monuments from Medieval times such as the De Marisco's stronghold (in Bulls Paradise) and more recent structures built in the 1860s such as the Battery, built by Trinity House as a fog signalling station, and features constructed by the Lundy Granite Company. Natural England have identified and listed over 40 scheduled monuments, so far, on Lundy. That is quite a lot for such a small island!

Back in June 2021, our Secretary Michael Williams sent an email asking if any members of the LFS were interested in performing Archaeological Monitoring of the ancient monuments on Lundy. Although I have no experience in archaeology or any of the field sciences, having come from a biological sciences background, I was interested. I answered the call and together with other



The Battery. Photo by Amanda Yates.

members of the LFS, who had also expressed an interest, attended a Zoom webinar which was organised by our Chair Alan Rowland, given by Charlotte Russel from Historic England, and hosted by our Vice Chair Bee Cox.

We were given background information to the monitoring project, and shown examples of the environmental and physical factors that can pose a risk to the stability of archaeological monuments. We were provided with a list of the scheduled monuments on Lundy and walked through how to fill out the Scheduled Monument Condition Survey Record Sheet. We were told that our mission, should we choose to accept it, was to feed information and photographs back to Historic England. Historic England, who do not have enough staff to physically visit all the monuments in their care, will use the information that we provide to make decisions on how to manage the monuments on Lundy. We were told that there will also be a day of on-site training in Devon and that we could make a start on the Lundy monitoring as soon as we wished to do so. Alan then produced an online spreadsheet and a book that was placed in the Tavern for us to record which monuments we had monitored, so that as a group we could keep track of what we were all doing.

I planned to start my monitoring during a Lundy camping holiday in August, so armed with the Lundy Site monitoring list, the Historic England List Entry Description for my chosen monument and a Scheduled Monument Condition Survey Record Sheet, I headed eagerly to Lundy. As it was my first attempt at monitoring I chose a small monument and I was absolutely sure that I knew where it was because it was the Cist near the Rocket Pole that Simon Dell had shown me during one of his guided walks. This Cist, a stone lined chambered tomb, is a mass burial chamber thought to have been constructed and used by Bronze Age Farmers. It is the only Cist on Lundy and is one of about 300 such chambered tombs that have been recorded in England, all of which are considered by Natural England to be nationally important. Natural England considers the structure itself and the soil around it to contain evidence that will provide information regarding the date and the purpose of the monument and also the environmental conditions of the time that this Cist was constructed. The Lundy Cist was excavated during the 19th century. The archeologists reported that there was a block of granite about 0.47m thick acting as a lid to an underground granite lined chamber that was 1.8m wide and 1.8m deep. A fragment of pottery, which has now sadly become lost, was the only evidence that was found that could be used to determine the date of the Cist.

I leapt into the bracken and found the Cist easily. I had visited it several times since Simon had first taken me to see it; as a newly fledged Lundy Ambassador I have been



*The Lundy Cist near the Rocket Pole.
Photo by Amanda Yates.*

including it on my guided walks. I took photographs of the Cist and the surrounding area from all angles and close up photographs of areas which I felt to be possible sites of soil erosion.

I made a note of the vegetation that I could see surrounding or inside the monument. Bracken is of particular concern on Lundy as it has a very vigorous root system that forms a dense mat that can destroy organic remains. The interior of the Lundy Cist is open. On other camping trips to Lundy I have visited other monuments in order to monitor them, and these included the Cemetery by Old light, The Quarry with its associated workings and the Quarry Infirmary and Surgery.



*Cottage foundations near Quarter Wall. Photo by Amanda Yates.
Insert—view on Google Earth.*

With my newly found interest in archaeological remains I have started to look more closely at the ground when I am walking around Lundy. On a camping trip in August I was walking between Quarter Wall Pond and the Infirmary when I came across some interesting features in the ground. They consisted of low-level walls making a series of squares that contained ridges and furrows which can be clearly seen using Google Earth.

While in the Tavern, perusing the books, I happened to see a reproduction of a map of the Lundy Granite Company Works from 1886 in the front of Myrtle Langham's book "A Lundy Album". From this map it would appear that the structure was the foundations of cottages, from the ridges and furrows I think that they may have later been used as a walled garden. Looking more closely at the 1886 map I can see that there was also a Smithy, and I am looking forward to finding it on my subsequent trips to Lundy.

Marine aliens: Lundy's non-native species

KEITH HISCOCK describes the alien marine species present at Lundy and asks for your help in better understanding where they occur and how abundant they are from year-to-year.

The history of non-native marine species at Lundy is a tantalizing one especially with regard to how they arrived at the island and where they now occur. The six described here are easily identified and so you can help to keep track of them – but do not try any extreme access to the shore, all occur in the Landing Bay and in the Devil's Kitchen area. That location is a clue – most non-native marine species are found for the first time in harbours and sheltered bays where boats visit and most come initially from similar habitats in distant seas.

Algae



The *Asparagopsis* stage (left) and the *Falkenbergia* stage (right) in the Landing Bay on 5th July 2012. Image width c. 22 cm.
Photo by Keith Hiscock.

Harpoon weed (*Asparagopsis armata*): a first for Lundy! Well, that is if you want credit for an unwelcome invader. The species, as its *Falkenbergia* tetrasporic (fluffy) stage, was first recorded from Lundy (and Britain) in 1949 by Clare Harvey. 'Harpoon weed' – the sexual (gametophyte) stage - has modified fronds that look just like harpoons and attach to other algae (there is no holdfast). No harpoon weed stage examples were recorded in the very detailed studies done during 1969 to 1971 by David Irvine and colleagues but, in 1973, Sue (now) Scott recorded some from the Landing Bay while snorkelling. In some recent years, it has been extremely abundant under the Jetty and frequent in pools at Devil's Kitchen. Do record abundance of the harpoon weed stage in the logbook as it varies.

Wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*) was a 'headline' invasive species when first recorded in Britain in the early 1970s. It might have arrived as 'packing' for imported seafood and been thrown out into the sea. Detached plants float (they have air bladders) and carry on reproducing so spread was inevitable. The first recorded occurrence at Lundy was in 1999, the same year that the jetty was being constructed with the aid of a jack-up rig, and some suspicion lies there. The weed has been abundant near to the jetty and in pools at Devil's Kitchen and has been removed from the Devil's Kitchen pools. In recent years, it seems to have become less abundant. Record abundance in the logbook as it varies.



A large plant in a Devil's Kitchen rockpool on 30th June 2018. Image width c. 40 cm.
Photo by Keith Hiscock.



A plant in Devil's Kitchen on 27th May 2021. Image width c. 12 cm. Photo by Keith Hiscock.

Okamura's pom-pom weed (*Caulacanthus okamurae*) has been present in Britain since about 2004 but was not recorded at Lundy during detailed surveys in 2008. It is found especially in Devil's Kitchen but probably at other locations. In May 2021, there were widely separated patches in Devil's Kitchen but it has, on mainland shores, become very abundant in some years. Record location and abundance in the logbook—knowledge of where it occurs on Lundy and year-to-year abundance is sparse.

Crustaceans

The Australasian barnacle *Austrominius* (= *Elminius*) *modestus*, was first recorded in Britain in 1945 and was reported during rocky shore zonation studies at Lundy by Hiscock & Hiscock (1980). It was found but in very small numbers in the 2008 survey. It is distinctive in that it has only four wall plates. Careful searches to understand if it is still present and its abundance would be worthwhile.



Australasian Barnacle. There are no images from Lundy and so this image is from Appledore. Image width c. 15 mm.

Photo by Keith Hiscock.

Molluscs

The Pacific oyster *Magallana* (= *Crassostrea*) *gigas* has been widely imported into Britain for mariculture and oyster farms have been the most significant source of spread of the mollusc. How Pacific oysters managed to reach Lundy is puzzling as larvae typically spend only two to three weeks developing in the water column before settling and so recruitment from the mainland (the nearest known population is at Westward Ho!) seemed unlikely.



A Pacific oyster at Hell's Gates. Image width c. 18cm. Photo by Dean Woodfin-Jones.

The species is only known to occur on the shore or very shallow subtidal in British waters so a 'stepping stones' theory for dispersal would be non-viable. However, Coon *et al.* (1990) showed that larvae can delay metamorphosis for at least a month and so it now seems likely that larvae did indeed reach Lundy in 2020 from the mainland. Four individuals have been found in the region of the jetty and have been destroyed.



Seamats (bryozoans)

The red ripple bryozoan *Watersipora subatra* was first recorded from Britain in 2008 at Plymouth and is now known from several locations along the south coast of England and in west Wales and Orkney. It possibly originated from the Gulf of Mexico and was first recorded on Lundy on 27th May 2021 in a cave on the north side of Rat Island and had almost certainly arrived on the hull of a visiting or passing vessel or on drift material such as plastics.

Part of the Rat Island colony. Image width c. 5 cm. Photo by Keith Hiscock.

There are other non-native species you are unlikely to encounter and are difficult to identify. A delicate and membranous reddish-brown alga, *Pyropia leucosticta*, which has been in the British flora for over 100 years, had been recorded by Clare Harvey but has only

recently been confirmed as non-native. Tregelles, in his 1937 paper, especially noted the presence of *Antithamnionella ternifolia* (as *A. sarniensis*), which originates from the southern hemisphere. It was recorded by Clare Harvey but neither by David Irvine *et al.* in their 1972 paper nor in the 2008 survey of rocky shores by Hiscock & Brodie (2016).

Look-out for

Wakame (*Undaria pinnatifida*) – yes, it's what you wrap your sushi in and make Miso soup with. So, a prime species to import for mariculture which is just what the French did. The alga readily attaches to ships hulls and so marinas become a hotspot for it. That written, algal spores are usually very short lived and a vessel would need to be anchored/moored off Lundy for several weeks at least for plants to mature – and there are no records (yet) for North Devon. The plant can become visually dominant on harbour walls and jetty piles. The alga has a distinctive mid-rib and 'furbellows' stipe. It can be confused with dabberlocks *Alaria esculenta* which occurs widely on Lundy.



A mature Wakame plant in a marina at Plymouth. Image width c. 80 cm. Photo by Keith Hiscock.

And, finally

There is controversy about whether non-native species are welcome or not – your garden is full of them. Lundy is/has been full of them starting with rabbits through sika deer to rhododendrons etc. Many 'fit-in' without displacing native species and increase biodiversity. Some, perhaps such as harpoon weed, become sufficiently abundant to potentially edge-out native species. Do report locations and abundances of known or suspected non-native marine species around Lundy and, very importantly, take photographs.

Find out more about non-native species in Britain on <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home>.

Thanks to Dr John Bishop (Marine Biological Association) for reviewing the text.

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Glimpsing an Island

JOAN RENDELL reflects on her first trip to Lundy.

Our first encounter with Lundy was 1955-56 when we were on our usual annual holiday at Ilfracombe. Having lived in Bristol for some time we were accustomed to sailing on Cambells Paddle Steamers as often as we could – up, down and across Channel to ports and resorts – never suspecting that the vessels were doomed to be scrapped within a few years.

Strolling along to Ilfracombe's harbour with its moored wooden sailing ships, we saw an advertisement for a day trip to that far-off lump dominating the skyline on fine days. We couldn't resist turning up and were welcomed aboard either *Bristol Queen* or *Cardiff Queen*, I cannot be sure after all this time - although the trip was one never to be forgotten. It was a sunny, breezy day in June, clear blue skies and a sea to match that responded to the thump of the paddles with enthusiasm, so that we made what a friendly crew member told us was faster than usual time.

As we closed in, amazed at the great cliffs ablaze with brilliant pink blossom, topped by a stumpy lighthouse and a more surprising vision of what looked like the sharp

lines of a large church, we could pick out a group waiting with duck boards on the grey beach. This was exciting! On our sea travels we were used to piers and harbour walls with slipways or steps; but here all we could see were waves surging on the shingle. We had noticed that as the ship eased speed she was rocking more than usual, but though this was because we were near the cliffs. It sometimes happened when we approached harbours that diverted sea movements at certain stages of the tide.

Then the tannoy boomed with an announcement; "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your Captain. The easterly wind is strengthening so we cannot attempt a landing today and will return to Ilfracombe. If you need to move around please hold on to something and the crew are ready to assist if needed." Really? After such a pleasant voyage out? Grumpy groans and mutterings from disappointed explorers soon changed in tone as the ship swung round to plough and plunge through mounting seas, with one paddle wildly thrashing the air as the other dug deep in the water. We clung to wooden slats of the seat and to each other until we reached Ilfracombe drenched with spray after a very slow battle with an angry sea. It had indeed been a day trip – but not a foot on land in all those hours!

Due to having to move around the country and family commitments it was to be another 20 years before we at last stepped onto the shingle of this very special island, destined to become our Mecca.

Ashore at last...

Since settling at Weston-super-Mare we had become involved with small boats and the Holms islands 70 miles up-channel from Lundy. Campbells beautiful paddlers were a memory, but *MV Balmoral* was still sailing; Tony Langham, with shared interests in all the islands told us that she was leaving Ilfracombe for a special day on Lundy on 3rd June. We had to make that trip! After a 5am start and difficult journey along the hilly coast road we boarded at 9am, helpfully being issued with a guide / map of the island.

The voyage started with a close view of Hartland Point (little did we realise how familiar that headland would become in the future) before striking out over a calm sea. Tony had asked us to introduce ourselves as we had for a long time

corresponded and talked over the 'phone, but had never met. He and Myrtle told us a great deal about Lundy's history on the voyage, and were to become loyal friends.



Leaving *MV Balmoral* crammed into the *Shearn*.
Photo from Joan Rendell's collection.

Balmoral circumnavigated the cliffs, with intriguing views explained by Tony and Myrtle, before anchoring off the beach as the island's motor launch and *Shearn* – the 'home built' Lundy landing craft – expertly drew alongside. By then, with our Steep Holm and Flat Holm gangplank and rock clambering landing and departures, we were more accustomed than

many of the passengers to the athletics of jumping down into to the *Shearn*, to be packed together like cattle. We paused to watch the antics of less agile passengers as they were coaxed from the motor launch along swaying planks to (almost) dry land before bracing ourselves for an exhausting trek – Lundy being virtually twice the height of Steep Holm. To our surprise the gradient was easier and we soon reached that somewhat neglected church, where 6 bells sat forlornly in the porch awaiting funds to repair and rehang them. Would our donation pay for a new rope, we wondered?

The Tavern was so packed it was ‘out of bounds’ so we battled our way to the Post Office counter, to dutifully buy stamps and post our cards before buying gifts and seeing a book, *Lundy*, by A. and M. Langham. They had modestly not mentioned that they had written the book – but when back on the ship and questioning how we had spent the hours ashore, they happily signed it for us.

With so many passengers having to be painstakingly re-boarded, time ashore was precious. Lapwings and skylarks were rising from nests as we hiked to Quarter Wall. We were puzzled to find bogs high on the moors with rivulets running to the cliffs, even on such a hot day. On Steep Holm and Flat Holm we were familiar with Victorian 7-ton muzzle loading cannon. At the foot of a steep zigzag path and past ruined cottages where granite sparkled in the sun we found two, much smaller, rusty Georgian cannon beside a small building – but had to wait until later to discover why they were there. Surely that is the mystical attraction of Lundy – no intrusive signs to explain. If you are interested, find out by asking or reading!

From the west cliffs and massed pink of thrift, to exploring the rhododendron tunnels on the east sidelands, we had to reluctantly turn back to the Old Light in scaffolding and the partly rebuilt Castle with its nearby cottages looking a sorry sight. Landmark Trust had taken over the island only a short time before, and renovation of ramshackle buildings into acceptable accommodation was a battle far from won.

Being familiar with the lofty and gracious Flat Holm lighthouse, we longed to climb the steps from the path to the beach and cross the ariel walkway (still there then) to the stumpy one perched high above the beach. But that had to ait for another visit when we saw the lengthy queue already formed to re-board the *Balmoral*. We were again



herded on *Shearn*, clambered aboard, and stood at the rails, not wanting to leave and marvelling at all we had seen. We bumped against Ilfracombe Pier at 8:45pm to find our car and face the 4-hour plus drive home. All the way the topic was how soon we could set out for our next Lundy adventure, and there were to be many, many more, with deeper involvement over the next 40+ years!

*MV Balmoral waiting in the Landing Bay.
Photo from Joan Rendell's collection.*

A child's summer on Lundy

A poem by **BRONWEN EVANS**.

There is a lighthouse on an island,
touching the sky we used to run around it
scared of heights
but far more fearful of not opening that iron door,
gently stepping out into the roar of wind.
I'd walk around the edge, a friend in-front and two behind
being careful not to lean too hard
on the metal bars, the saviour between us
and the distant floor. I'd sit down carefully, legs
over the edge of the ledge which circled round, two bars,
one knee height, one at my ribs. Just a few kids who trusted each other
not to hurt another and I
was always wary, moving sensibly
with words in my head about how children could end up dead,
and the others felt this too. No one tried to startle,
no pretend push or boo! when another came into sight
around from the other side of the circle. Though the friends I made
wouldn't have been that way. I knew
and they knew too, that cliffs and heights and tides
must be respected, expected.

I used to think about the fall,
if you could somehow slide down a lighthouse
or if the grass made a soft floor.
Now there's a chain across that door
and bannisters on the winding stairs where none had been before.
If you were tall that gale force would blow you over,
of that I'm sure. Now I just enjoy the view from inside the lantern room
and watch the ships,
glad the door is firmly closed, deafened inside by beating winds,
hiding from the memories of outside within.
I imagine my father down below
where he used to watch us, as if
his silent presence could catch a falling child, too scared his shout
would startle me, up where he'd told me not to go.
His ashes are buried in the graveyard right below,
and in May once again, I will travel to say hello.

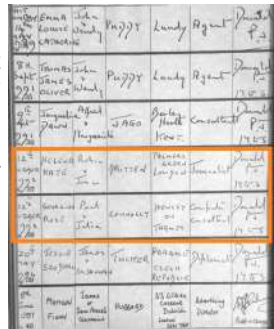
Lundy & Me

From Family Holidays to Spiritual Home & Writing Retreat; PAUL CONNOLLY contemplates.

2023 will mark the 30th anniversary of my first visit to Lundy, and since that first trip in 1993, I have stayed on the island around 60 times. Lundy made an immediate and long-lasting impression on me, like it does for so many people, and the sense of magic the place holds for me has never dimmed. However, in thinking back over the years, I was struck by the changing nature of my relationship with the island. For three decades it has been a constant in my life, but it has meant different things to me as the years have gone by. I thought it would be interesting to expand on this a little and to share with my fellow Lundy lovers.

It all started with a family holiday with my then wife, two-year old daughter, sister, brother-in-law, and six-month old niece. Coming ashore on the little craft that tended the Oldenburg before the jetty was built felt like a scene from the D-Day landings, and immediately I set foot on the beach, something intangible clicked inside me and I knew I was in a very special place.

Undoubtedly the most memorable event of that first visit was being persuaded by the island chaplain, Rev. Donald Peyton-Jones, to have the two girls christened in St. Helena's (as it was known then), something that was furthest from our minds. Over a glass of something strong, he cajoled us into agreeing to the service which, apart from the aforementioned cast of characters, was attended by just one other person – an islander who played the accordion to accompany the hymns. It made for a surreal first visit, but somehow foreshadowed the important role the island would play in my future. My niece and daughter, numbers 37 and 38 in the register of island christenings, were also destined to return to the island many times in the years to come.



The entries in the register of island christenings. From Paul Connolly's collection.

Island visits over the following decade or so continued to be extended family affairs, and Lundy became not just a regular holiday destination but a place of endless fascination; and, for me, a source of comfort as I struggled to come to terms with the end of my marriage. It's no exaggeration to say that I came to see the island as a friend, the place where I could be most at peace and really put things into perspective.



Paul in a reflective mood on Lundy.

Photo by Zalie Fellows.

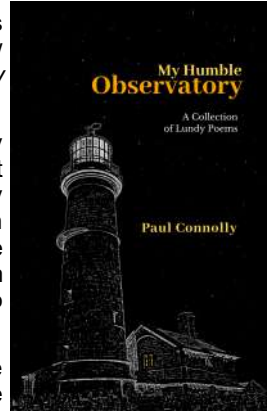
In the next phase of my relationship with Lundy, family holidays became fewer, and I started visiting solo much more often. By this time, I had started to cultivate two passions that had lain dormant for too long: singing and writing. Becoming a bass singer in a successful a cappella group not only gave me a new lease of life, it also gave me the idea for my first novel, *The Fifth Voice* (published 2014), which was written over several years during my stays on the island, and which features Lundy (albeit unnamed) prominently in the sub-plot of one of the main characters. This was followed by a sequel, *The Enduring Influence of Ken Potts* (2019), which again

features the island. And then I dusted off a bunch of poems I'd written about the island down the years, wrote a few more, and published the collection *My Humble Observatory* (2020).

So, over the years, Lundy has gone from family holiday destination to spiritual home and then writing retreat. And, at the time of writing this, it feels like another phase of my relationship with Lundy is beginning, having just visited with my new partner and introduced her to the wonders of the island. I'm still making solo trips to continue writing (I'm currently working on a third novel) but it's also lovely to share my passion for this very special place.

Meanwhile, my daughter has gone from number 38 in the register of island christenings to become a dancer with the Norwegian National Ballet in Oslo. But every time she takes to the stage, she carries with her a small reminder of the place she also loves dearly: the Lundy map coordinates are etched in tiny script on her upper back! Now there's devotion.

As I always say when I write an entry in one of the Lundy property log books... May the magic continue!



Montagu in LAMP

Our very own ROGER CHAPPLE discussing Montagu Steps in Lamp.

LAMP is the journal of the Association of Lighthouse Keepers, published quarterly.

Right: Roger's letter published in LAMP 124 (Summer 2020)

Overleaf: A reply from Christopher Nicholson in LAMP 125 (Autumn 2020) which includes a photograph by Richard Breese.

Re HMS Montagu aerial ropeway (Lamp 123, page 6)

Referring to Christopher Nicholson's letter in your previous issue I can confirm the metal iron supports driven into the rock which originally supported and held the exposed walkway to *HMS Montague* are still in existence, or were certainly there in the week commencing 16 March, my last visit to the island, as were traces of the cable.

The 'Montague Steps' near the site of the stranding of the ship were built by the then owner of the island, Augustus Langham Christie, and supplemented by a ladder to sea level. This provided a West Side landing place after a landslip in 1920 rendered Pilots' Quay unusable.

I can recommend *The Lundy Companion* by Michael Williams – a comprehensive gazetteer of the island, from which the above Montague Steps information is confirmed. Michael is also the Honorary Treasurer of the Lundy Field Society, an organisation with which I have been associated for many years. The book can be ordered by emailing the publishers, The Old Light Press: press@oldlight.co.uk

Letters to the editors

From Christopher Nicholson

Letters, Lamp 123

How fascinating to find that Roger Chapple can confirm that the iron stanchions used for anchoring the aerial ropeway between Lundy Island and the stranded HMS 'Montagu' still exist, following my sighting of them in 1970 (Letters, Lamp 123). Also, his explanation about the purpose of the 'Montagu Steps' (which I had only seen on an OS map) prompted me to do a little more research.

I found this image showing the rusting aerial ropeway stanchions:



Ropeway stanchions are still in place. Photo by Richard Breese

A description of the Montagu Steps aerial walkway was published in the South Wales Daily Post in August 1907:

'Very interesting is the bridge which the wreckers have built from the Montagu to the cliffs. It is designed by Mr James Chenhalls, the head of the wreckers, and is a piece of work of which any man might justly be proud. It is 200 yards long, and consists of four stout cables, attached at one end to big steel piles driven into the solid granite of the cliffs, and at the other end to the stout mast of the Montagu, and it is capable of bearing a strain of 150 tons. Two of these cables support the platform on which you walk, and the other two, while serving as handrails are also attached by iron stanchions to the lower ones, and thus bear their share of the weight of the bridge. The sides are enclosed by strong wire netting. Over ten tons of material was used, and the whole work done in 32 hours. This renders the passage to the Montagu possible in any weather and at any state of the tide.'

The Montagu Steps are found north of these stanchions and are a series of hand-cut steps into the granite of Lundy Island. The steps are orientated north-south and continue down the steep slope of the cliff towards the sea. They were first surveyed in 1989 as part of the National Trust Archaeological Survey of Lundy, and again by Historic England in October 2018, although they couldn't be fully surveyed on this last occasion owing to the unsafe nature of the cliffs. This image gives an idea as to how unsafe an ascent or descent of the Steps might be. In windy weather strong nerves and a head for heights would be required, I imagine, particularly as the iron handrail that once existed alongside has long since disappeared!

Lamp 125



Montagu Steps minus their railings. Photo by A. Evans

From Lorna Niven

Re: North Carr lightship

I read with interest and not without some amazement, the article in Lamp 124, about the North Carr Lightship. Just a few days before, coincidentally, I had been given five journals dating from 1928 to 1964 detailing daily life on board that very lightship. A friend of mine had come across them in a house clearance and knowing my interest passed them to me.

They give a fascinating insight into the duties of the keepers. The weather data is recorded, the times when the supply ships arrive, the commodities they bring, the relief keepers arriving and the times of lighting and extinguishing the light. A few domestic comments are also mentioned. One chap's mother was ill and he was taken ashore by boat to be with her. Another entry is of an accident to a keeper who was shipped to the nearby town of Crail to see the doctor. Unfortunately, there is no ending to these entries so I don't know the outcome!

Once I have finished reading them, the journals will be passed to the Trust concerned with its upkeep.



North Carr lightship in Anstruther Harbour - 1993.
Photo by Colin Park (Creative Commons Licence)



Some more photos from the 2021 Conservation Breaks. Photos by (L-R, T-B) Hilary Winsor, Mandy English, Jane Elliott, Mandy English, Martin Biggin, Mandy English, Kathy Weston.



PUBLICATIONS for sale through the Lundy Field Society

Lundy Fungi: A photographic guide by John Hedger & David George, 2018, 200pp.

Softback £12.50 plus £2.75 p&p / Hardback £15.00 plus £3.50 p&p.

The authors have produced a sumptuous photographic guide to over 250 species of fungi they have found and recorded on Lundy. The records and photographs are by themselves and many other people who have helped record over 600 species found on Lundy during 70 years of the Lundy Field Society, and particularly since their project began in 2003.

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 7 Jenny George (ed), 2020, 184pp.

Contents: LFS Archaeological Work 1960s; A Survey of Dung Beetles; Artificial Light and Moth Diversity; The Importance of two of Lundy's Temporary Ponds; A Comparison of Fruitbody and e-DNA Survey Approaches for Assessing Distribution Mycelia of Macrofungi in Grassland and Heathland of Lundy; Ecology of Common Guillemots on Lundy; Goldcrests on Lundy; Migration Strategy in the Chaffinch; Avian Communities on Lundy; A Particular of Lundy Island; The Clayton Manuscript; Book reviews: Lundy Fungi and An Intellectual Adventurer in Archaeology; Reflections on the Work of Charles Thomas. All six Volumes are available at £5.00 per copy plus £2.50 p&p. Visit www.lundy.org.uk/index.php/publications/journal

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. (only a few copies left before this goes out of print)

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 of a unique insight into a crucial period of Lundy's history.

Please send orders (with cheques payable to 'Lundy Field Society') to:

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