

ELIZABETH MARY HUBBARD

1922 - 2008

Elizabeth was an active member of the Lundy Field Society; joining the Committee in 1970 and then becoming its Membership Secretary in 1972, a post she held until 1994. Many of the Committee meetings were held at the Hubbard's house in Taunton. None of the then Committee will forget the wonderful teas with their fantastic cakes, which, in the summer, were consumed beside the huge Monkey Puzzle tree growing in their large garden.

On leaving school in 1941, Elizabeth spent three and a half years working in the laboratory of the Chemical Inspection Department outstation of the Royal Ordnance Factory at Bridgewater where she met her future husband, Mark Hubbard. After the war, she became a Froebel trained teacher and taught first in Reading and then Glastonbury after her marriage and until her daughter was born in 1954.

The Hubbards first visited Lundy in 1953 (on the old PS 'Brittania') and went there frequently thereafter, taking family holidays on the island. Elizabeth had a lifelong interest in wild flowers and regularly compiled a floral list with each visit. She realised that Lundy, being a circumscribed area with yet a variety of habitats was an ideal place for minor amateur botanical research. Her studies on Lundy from 1960 to 1971 led to the publication of a comprehensive list of the Lundy flora in the 22nd 1971 LFS Annual Report. The list of some 413 species that was compiled, involved a synoptic comparison with four other sources of the Lundy flora. At the 1974 AGM, she demonstrated and distinguished the true indigenous floral species from ephemeral introductions, chiefly brought over by island visitors. Together with Mr Warwick Dyer, she also carried out a tree survey on the island and identified every one. The 1970 LFS Annual Report includes a very informative paper on Lundy's trees in early times, together with notes on the 433 trees that she found on the island. In the 1979 Annual Report, the flora list was extended by Elizabeth to include the 1933 - 1935 lists of Dr Elliston Wright (c.f. *Coincya wrightii*, Lundy cabbage).

A comprehensive account of botanical studies on Lundy was given by Elizabeth in the LFS 50th Anniversary volume, *Island Studies*, in 1997.

The Lundy Field Society will forever be in Elizabeth's debt for her extensive work on the Lundy flora for over 40 years. All those who knew her will remember her for her unflinching cheerfulness and friendliness, and beneath a modest and unassuming manner, a deep knowledge of wild flowers. Elizabeth is survived by her husband, Mark, and their two children, who shared her interest in Lundy and its flora. Elizabeth Mary Hubbard (nee Parkinson) died unexpectedly from a heart attack on 8 December 2008, aged 86.

JENNIFER GEORGE
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