

A.J.B. ('TONY') WALKER, 1937–2010

It is sad to record the death in February of our long-term and active member, Tony Walker. Tony first came to Lundy in the late 1950s and from then on he was a happy addict who visited the island at least once a year, and frequently more often. He soon commanded a wide knowledge of Lundy that was not obtrusive, and which he was happy to share with interested newcomers. Lundy offered abundant subjects for his hobby of (expert) photography, and he enjoyed communal outings and activities with the group of us who holidayed together every year. He had a formidable intelligence, but it was not flaunted: he was happy in Tavern sessions with a very wide variety of islanders and visitors. Sometimes he had an almost Pied Piper-like following of the young, who liked his company, appreciated that he knew a lot about a lot of things, that he led the way everywhere, and that he was patient and never talked down to them.

He was a member of the Field Society throughout, serving on the committee in 1977-78 and contributing to LFS Reports and Newsletters on subjects ranging from fungi and recommended walks, to trouble-free recipes for island fare. He was present at all the AGMs during his membership until in the last year of his life he was prevented by his poor health. His attendances are remembered for his good-humoured and perceptive questions about points that mattered.

It was not widely known that Tony was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal in 1965. The LFS warden, Jonathan Sparrow, was seen to have fallen from the cliffs in an area of very dangerous climbing near the Battery. Tony climbed down the hazardous rocks alone to give what assistance he could, but unfortunately he found that Jonathan was dead. A mounted display to record Tony's award has been prepared and will hang in the tavern.

Tony was a computer programmer and a meticulous systems analyst. Another aspect of both his goodwill and expertise was shown in his sharing with me the task of editing and publishing Felix Gade's *My Life on Lundy*. This book would not have been completed as it was without his participation, which even made the work enjoyable.

We are deeply grateful to Tony and his family, who have given us the whole of his extensive collection of Lundy books and photographs. We are also delighted to have received a substantial donation, that will be used to publish an account of the Lundy fungi, in which he was particularly interested, and which recent work by Professor Hedger has shown to be extensive. We look forward to this publication's being a worthy memorial to Tony, and one that he would have really appreciated.

MYRTLE TERNSTROM
March 2011

See also frontispiece