

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Seventy years of the Lundy Field Society! We hope that our founders, Martin Coles Harman and Leslie Harvey, would have been proud of what we have achieved and what we do. I am! But all that we do depends on the support of members and the support of the island. My thanks as always to the LFS Committee whose skills, knowledge, enthusiasm and hard work make the Society what it is today. We could not do what we do without feeling welcome and useful on the island, so our thanks to Derek Green and all of the islanders for that welcome.

We continue to greatly enjoy the hospitality of André and Marie-Jo Coutanche for our committee meetings in Bristol. In 2016 we held one meeting in, appropriately, Government House on Lundy and, at the end of September, in the fascinating Bodleian Library book store in Swindon.

In November, we said goodbye to Lundy Warden, Beccy MacDonald, a great supporter of the LFS and with whom we worked closely throughout her tenure. Conor Wilmott, Assistant Warden over the past two years, is also thanked for his good work on the island. Our decision to provide some financial support to the island to enable continued work by the wardens was done after withdrawal of support by Natural England as a part of wider cutbacks. Steve Pratt, another islander who was greatly important to the LFS, announced his departure late in 2016. As Ranger, Steve determined the tasks to be done by our Conservation Break working parties.

The Annual Report, the Journal (Volume 5 was published in 2016) and the Bulletin (*Discovering Lundy*) are all high-quality publications which serve to inform members of aspects of history and nature on and around the island, as well as the business of the LFS. Our thanks to all who contribute but especially to editors and compilers: Tim Davis, Jenny George and Belinda Cox.

I was pleased to be able to make my small contribution to 'Discover Lundy' in September. The week was so full of events that I had no time to regret that cancellation of the *Oldenburg* sailing (and transfer to the helicopter) had meant that my diving gear didn't make it to the island. My personal highlight of the week was making the excursion to the West Side to watch the shearwater ringing activities around the nesting boxes that the LFS had helped to construct.

A significant part of my time during the year was spent reviewing drafts of a new marine management plan (the last one was dated 2001) that will give goals, objectives and targets within an attractively presented and readable document. By the end of the year, work was ongoing towards making the plan a model that other marine protected areas might follow.

The LFS is represented on the committee that is bidding for funds from the Heritage Lottery to secure the future of the Church. Our particular interest is in the potential for the 'St Helen's Centre' to be a base for learning and research about the island. (The news in early 2017 that a significant grant had been awarded to the project came as a great fillip to all involved.)

There seems never-ending scope for new research on Lundy, as well as ongoing work and for new ways of disseminating the information gained. If you have an 'ology', do consider applying for a grant from the LFS to help you undertake your research.

It was in 1966 that I first camped on and explored Lundy with two friends. Fifty years later there remains much for me to discover and enjoy about the island.

KEITH HISCOCK
April 2017