

LUNDY GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

2017 was a successful year for Lundy with *Oldenburg* completing 96 of her 100 scheduled sailings, 11 of which were full to capacity. She carried some 16,870 passengers over the year, an increase of 8.7% on 2016. The ship also completed three river cruises, two Lundy charters and five relocation cruises from Bideford to Ilfracombe. The winter helicopter service had a steady season with 36 scheduled flying days of which three were cancelled due to fog. The helicopter carried 1283 passengers, a slight decrease on 2016. The total attendance for both ship and helicopter was 18,153, an overall increase on 2016 of 6.4%.

As well as *Oldenburg's* regular sailings to Lundy, we enjoyed visits from the cruise ships *Ocean Nova*, *Hebridean Sky* and tall ship, *Pelican of London*. MV *Balmoral* paid us a visit at the beginning of the season but unfortunately suffered mechanical problems which cut her season short. Sadly we have learned that she requires considerable investment to bring her back into service and it's unlikely that she will visit Lundy again. PS *Waverley* was due to visit in September, however bad weather forced the cancellation of the trip.

At the end of the season *Oldenburg* sailed up the Bristol Channel to Sharpness for her annual dry docking and spent four weeks undergoing repairs and maintenance. In total we invested £139k to the ship this year to keep her in service.

At Hartland heliport the long serving fuel tank was replaced by a larger 10,000 litre stainless steel tank which will serve the heliport well for many years to come. To protect the new tank from the elements a purpose built shed was constructed on the bund.

The island's maintenance programme continued and following the success of the fog battery consolidation in 2016, we were fortunate to receive funding from Historic England to carry out works to the undermined and eroded historic defence at Brazen Ward. Materials had to be bought in by sea due to the remote and difficult to access location and a site was established with scaffold access in order to carry out vital repairs.

Island properties enjoyed a good year with occupancy of our letting properties at a healthy 86.5%. Further improvements were carried out to many properties including a new roof and skylight to Castle Cottage and several properties had new kitchens and bathrooms fitted.

Sadly we said goodbye to our resident decorator Keith Ward after some 18 years of service to the island. We wish Keith a long and happy retirement back in Ilfracombe.

The island farm had a good year with the long and anticipated arrival of two new foals, North Star and Helena.

2017 saw the issue of one of the best sets of Lundy stamps in recent years with the production of Lundy Birds by local wildlife artist Sharon Read. The set quickly proved popular with sales hitting all time high.

The island hosted a number of events over the year including a visit by the Lundy Collectors Club, our annual 'lympics, two weddings, a climbing festival, our annual fly in and two all island birthday celebrations including LFS Secretary Michael Williams in December.

Back on the mainland, the marketing team visited all of the notable events with our exhibition trailer across the summer, flying the flag for Lundy.

St Helen's Church was fortunate to finally receive funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund following a prolonged campaign which culminated on 15th March with the awarding of just under one million pounds. Work began almost immediately with Splitlath building conservation Ltd having been awarded the main contract. Over the summer the roof and rainwater goods were replaced, the cavity walls emptied, the iconic east window reinstated and the tower refurbished. Internally the vestry has been transformed to small, but comfortable accommodation for two and there are plans to utilise the nave for a new interpretation exhibition. As part of the project the 'St Helens Centre' will also deliver a range of activities to involve a broader section of the community and Siân Scott, our seasonal warden from 2017, has been employed to deliver the activity plan. It is anticipated that the activity plan will be fully in place by the end of the 2018 summer season.

During the course of 2017, talks continued with the National Trust on the future of Lundy and the renewal of the islands lease. It's recognised that the island will require significant capital investment to its infrastructure in the coming years and so, to help inform a future strategy for Lundy, consultants were engaged to assess and recommend solutions for the islands power, water and transport. At the time of writing discussions continue and it is anticipated that agreement will be reached during the course of this coming year.

I would like to thank the Field Society for their continued support and advice and look forward to working in close partnership during the course of 2018.

DEREK GREEN
April 2018



The church encased in scaffolding during the repairs and refurbishment that were undertaken in 2017. Image: Keith Hiscock.