

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

It may seem strange that I am writing both the editorial for this Annual Report and the Chairman's Foreword. At the AGM in 2017, I informed the Committee that I would stand down as Chairman at the 2018 AGM. Ten years as Chairman would be quite enough for me (and for you). Time for some new blood. Also in 2017, Tim Davis indicated that he wished to hand-on editorship of the Annual Report and, without other volunteers, I put my hand up.

Early in 2018, we welcomed Dean Jones and Siân Scott as Warden and Assistant Warden. Both have been extremely active in helping visitors enjoy Lundy and find out about its history and natural history. Their support for the LFS is greatly welcomed. LFS members who have specialist interests on Lundy have also been more active in guiding visitors and giving talks when they are on the island and that is also very welcome.

The past ten years has been an exciting one for the Society and for me. I started my chairmanship badly by announcing that I couldn't chair the 2008 AGM as I would be diving in Antarctica – thank you to a slightly bemused Jenny George for taking on the role that year. I have relied almost entirely on the excellent work of the Committee to ensure that the LFS thrived. The LFS also benefits greatly from the collaboration that we have with the island management and thanks to the whole Lundy team for their support.

Over the past ten years, members will have noticed an evolution in several aspects of the LFS which I hope you find favour with. We have become much more 'electronic'. We have developed the website into a very significant source of information about the Society, its activities and its publications, we use e-mail frequently to communicate with the membership, we have a Facebook page. We find ourselves in a good position financially and are pleased to now contribute to the cost of the conservation team on the island. We contribute to the work of the Lundy Management Forum. We have 'Discover Lundy' weeks for members. We give grants for research and to help with capital expenditure on equipment. I do not do all those things but your Committee do.

It's not all fun. Sometimes a Chairman has to move quickly to bring a decision together. That happened over a period of about 36 hours in February when our declared support for the development of a St Helen's Centre had to be solidified into a pledge (in principle) to subscribe a large sum (£10,000) to the fund and so that Heritage Lottery money would be released. Our (your) money was to develop educational and research facilities. Whilst such urgencies seem the norm when dealing with the Heritage Lottery advisors, there were legitimate questions from Committee members about the process and a bit of a rough ride for the Chairman!

Good luck to the new Chairman and to everyone who enjoys and contributes to our knowledge of Lundy.

KEITH HISCOCK
May 2018