

OBITUARY

ROGER EDWIN ALLEN 1937–2018



I first met Roger through the Lundy Collectors Club about 15 years ago. He became a great friend. He was mischievous, a great raconteur and loved Lundy and all its collectables dearly. The only thing we disagreed about was the two pictures above his desk; one of the Queen and the other of Margaret Thatcher both of whom he revered.

Roger was the middle of three sons and graduated from Leeds University. He began work with Barclays Bank and later became an inspector for Lloyds Bank. As a consequence, he travelled widely; Peru in 1971, British Honduras in 1978, Nicaragua 1978-1981 (where he witnessed the Sandanista revolution), Taiwan in 1984 and Singapore in 1986. Most of these overseas visits can be traced by the plentiful mail that he sent to record postal history.

He was not only a philatelist, but a member of the Cinderella Stamp Society – dedicated to non-postal stamps i.e. those not issued by any state postal service. This is where his affection for and devotion to Lundy started. His first visit to the island was in 1971 and his membership of the Lundy Field Society dates from the end of that year. He continued to visit annually until he could no longer travel after 2012 when his final visit was to the Discover Lundy 2012 event.

On his retirement, he moved to Bideford and as a retired banking employee was soon recruited as treasurer to St Mary's Church Appledore, the Maritime Museum as well as those many societies of which he was a member such as Rupert the Bear and the Lewis Carroll Society.

He was an inveterate collector of books, postcards, ephemera and particularly Lundyana. His home housed his extensive collections about which he wrote prodigiously.

He married his devoted wife Eva, who brought two sons to the marriage, in 1988 and spent their honeymoon in Blue Bung, his watercolour record of which hangs on the wall nearby as I write this.

During his last few years, he was vigorously trying to complete publication of his works. His watercolours and Lundy postcard catalogue date from this period. He has contributed articles for our publications and acted as Honorary Examiner of the LFS annual accounts. I (and Michael Williams and André Coutanche) collaborated with him to publish his penultimate booklet *Lundy Guidebooks* which I was fortunate enough to hand to him in person at the Lundy Collectors Club meeting in Bideford the day before he passed away on 2 July.

We will remember him by the large amount of published articles and books. He leaves a great legacy.

ALAN ROWLAND

Photograph of Roger by Alan Rowland

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A REFLECTION ON THE LIFE OF MARY SQUIRE (né GADE) 1933–2019

We are indeed fortunate that much has been written of Mary's early life on Lundy, particularly by way of 'My Life of Lundy' by Felix, her father, which charts her life.

I first met Mary on the day of her father's funeral when she received great support from those in North Devon with whom her father had been associated and worked with in the latter days of his island life. At that time, the island, although under Landmark lease, still retained the feel and characteristics associated with Harman days. It was a privilege to visit their island, in their homes and to be treated as a friend.

Mary, I am sure, was the 'go to person' for the regularly changing agent and staff – she being once described, somewhat light heartedly, as Lundy's Anastasia. She had an amazing memory and could recall with humour, concern or pathos particular events in detail.



Mary was a strong personality who never lost her father's principle of the island's independence while the gradual increase of legislation resulting in ever reduced freedom was not easily accepted.