

OBITUARY

CHARLES ELLIS 1936–2020



Charles Robert Ellis was born on 6th July 1936 in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, to be joined by a younger sister. He attended a preparatory school, Hampton House, following at Bradfields.

He worked his passage to Canada and was employed as a lumberjack amongst other adventure-some occupations – Charles always gave great store to his Canadian experiences!

His father, Basil, took him to Lundy in 1951, when Charles joined the Lundy Field Society and first stayed at the Manor Hotel. Charles and his father appear in the original hotel register, which Derek Green currently holds in his island office, where their names regularly appear, with others, almost as a 'Who's Who' of the Harman family's Lundy.

He was commissioned into the Sherwood Foresters during his National Service.

He started a company of stockholders, Ellis Steel, and acted as a representative, regularly touring the

South West, and was well remembered in the West Country. He continued his Lundy connections by supplying steelwork for the island's large workshops.

Charles was married to Jennifer, whose photographic work is regularly featured in the Lundy calendar. Their son, Robert, continues to run the company, who with three daughters gave Charles and Jennifer eight grandchildren

He was a Committee member of the Society from 2003 to 2006, and pursued his Lundy interests which varied from the weather records and archaeological matters (especially the work of Charles Thomas) to Lundy shipping, also reprinting at his own expense the pamphlet *The Early Christian Memorials*.

In his retirement, Charles continued to play golf, enjoyed comparing his garden with others and visited the island, continuing to keep everyone on their toes by writing numerous letters to his 'Lundy Family'.

He died, suddenly, on 22nd August 2020 aged 84. A Service of Celebration of his life was held at St Peter's Church, Newton, Swansea, followed by interment at Oystermouth Cemetery, Swansea on 9th September. The thirty mourners permitted under Covid restrictions attended a lunch thereafter, an arrangement of five tables of six – all of a Lundy theme!

Roger Chapple