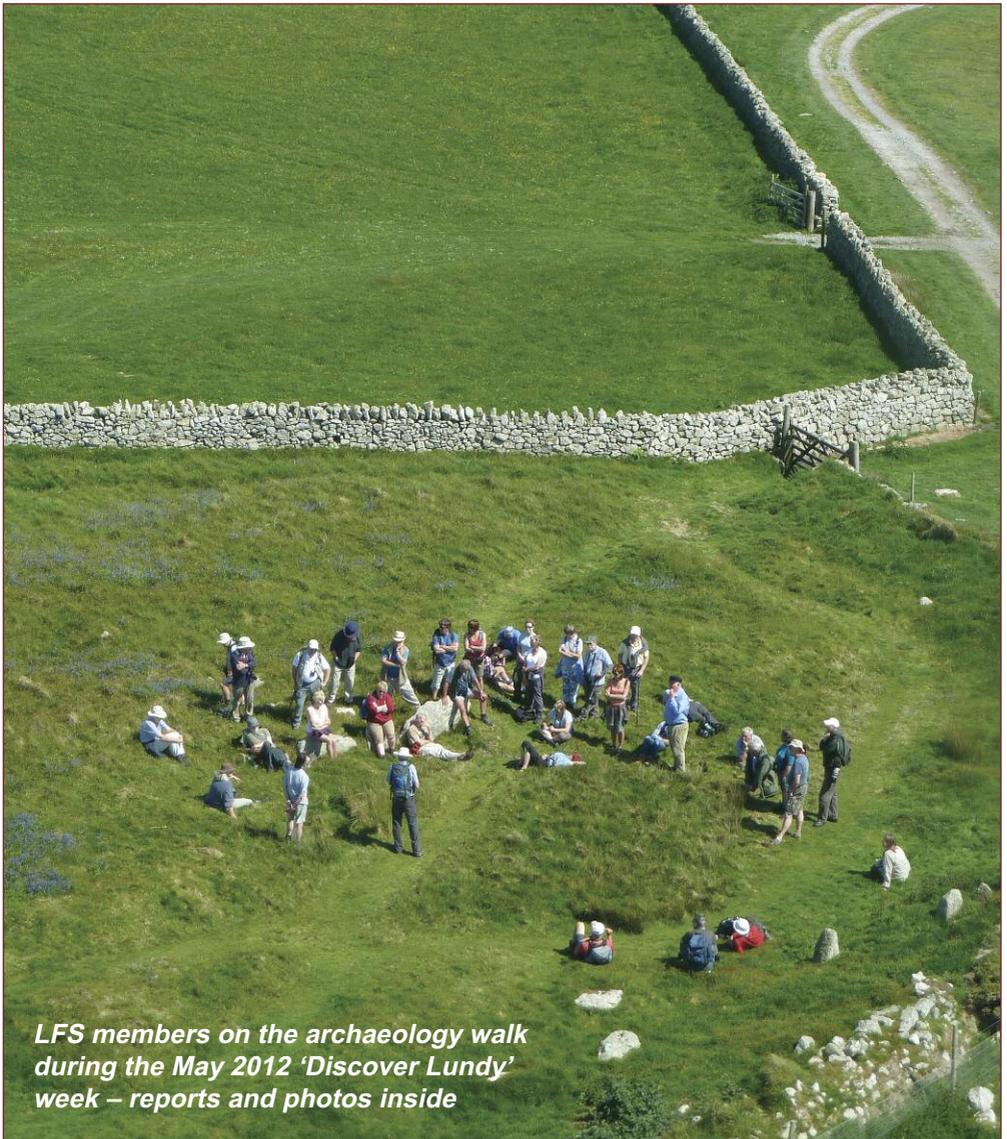




# DISCOVERING LUNDY

The Bulletin of the Lundy Field Society

No. 42, December 2012



*LFS members on the archaeology walk during the May 2012 'Discover Lundy' week – reports and photos inside*

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See inside back cover for publishing details and copy deadline for  
the 2013 issue of *Discovering Lundy*.

## View from the top ...

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In a rockpool at Lundy. Photo by Chris Pirie



‘Discovering Lundy’ is what we all do (in our own ways) and, as the LFS bulletin strays further away from just being ‘news’, ‘Discovering Lundy’ seemed an appropriate title for the miscellany of general interest articles (and news) that we hope members find interesting and that will enrich your enjoyment of the island. So, welcome to the new title.

Weren’t we lucky with the weather during ‘Discover Lundy’ week?! That week was a highlight of the year for the Society and we can share a little of it in this bulletin and much more in a display of images that we will put up at the next AGM. The week brought together members who were able to get to the island and even generated a few new discoveries. Michael Williams organised the week and everything went very smoothly – thank you

Michael. Later in the year, September ‘at last’ saw the publication of Protecting Lundy’s Marine Life: 40 years of science and conservation written by myself and Robert Irving and published by the LFS. That was my ‘Lundy highlight’ of the year but also great relief to see it finished. Thanks to Tim Davis for excellent work on the design and layout and to Short Run Press for making such a good job of the printing.

Much else has been going on in 2012. The AGM was, as ever, enjoyable and it was nice to see so many members at the 2012 venue of the Rougemont Thistle Hotel in Exeter. But, with the AGM costing such a high a proportion of your subscriptions, we looked for a less expensive and perhaps more appropriate venue for 2013. Do come to Crediton on 9 March. There will be more time before the meeting to mingle and to look at displays, items for sale etc., and members of your Committee should not look too frazzled as our morning meeting has been truncated to generate that extra time. Members have gone about their research in a welcome and informative matter during 2012 and the Conservation Breaks work on worthy tasks – keep it up. We welcomed two new wardens to Lundy in 2012: Derren Fox as wildlife warden and Donald Malone as marine warden. Their stay on the island has been all too brief and, at the end of October, we said goodbye to them and wished them good luck in the future.

We all have our different views of Lundy and we discover the island in different ways. The following quotation from John Steinbeck’s foreword to *Between Pacific Tides* encapsulates my marine biologist viewpoint of just one of the reasons that going to Lundy is so enjoyable, but could easily be re-written for any of the other ‘ologies’ that LFS members enjoy:

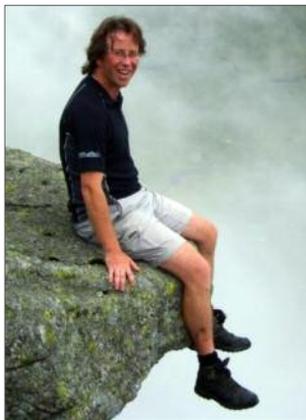
*“There are good things to see in the tidepools and there are exciting and interesting thoughts to be generated from the seeing. Every new eye applied to the peep hole which looks out at the world may fish in some new beauty and some new pattern, and the world of the human mind must be enriched by such fishing.”*

**Keith Hiscock**  
Chairman

## A word from the editors

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We are privileged to have had the opportunity to relieve Tim Davis of one of his annual jobs – the editorial responsibilities for the Society’s – newly branded – newsletter. It took us a little while to get going, but after a few false starts with both of us nipping off to various islands over the last couple of months, including Lundy, we finally managed to get everything to Tim for layout and publication.



**Kevin:** I’ve known of Lundy since seeing Puffin stamps in my mum’s stamp collection back in the 1970s, but didn’t visit until signing up for a working party in 2009; I now seem to have become a regular member of these groups, and am due over again in March. I know I’m preaching to the converted, but to me the island offers many things that are increasingly rare elsewhere and which need to be conserved: unspoilt natural history, dark skies, a tight community spirit and good friends (although, now living in Aberystwyth, I don’t find Lundy quite as isolated as I used to...).



**Belinda:** I was first introduced to Lundy about eight years ago when I joined the annual visit by my local running group. We only spent the day on the island, and I was determined to go back and explore it some more. Latterly I had the chance to join a National Trust working group and undertake some ‘rhodie bashing’ – in fact I spent four or five separate weeks doing this over a couple of years, and loved it! Meantime I joined the LFS but haven’t yet had the opportunity to join any working groups. I was delighted however to be able to participate in the Discover Lundy week in 2012, and loved meeting other LFS members and learning a huge amount about the island and what lives there. I now manage to visit the island a few times each year and, having also learnt to dive, I can now explore the marine life as well as the life land-side. I can’t wait for my next visit!

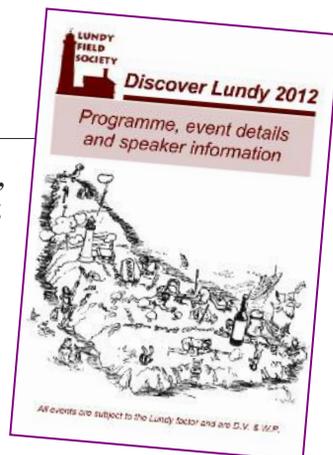
This year’s bulletin contains much to celebrate: from the success of the Discover Lundy week, to the lives of some of those who loved the island, with many stops in between. Our thanks go out to all those who’ve made these valued contributions. We look forward to watching articles and snippets of news rolling in for the next edition...

**Kevin Williams and Belinda Cox**

**Footnote:** A full-colour pdf version of this edition of *Discovering Lundy* is available on the LFS website (<http://www.lundy.org.uk/publications/newsletter.html>).

## Discover Lundy 2012 – an irresistibly good week

**DISCOVER LUNDY**, which ran from 26 May to 2 June, was almost two years in the planning. The idea to bring together Lundy specialists had been floated before but this was the first time the LFS had organised a week of coordinated talks, walks, demonstrations and activities in which participants could completely immerse themselves. And that's exactly what those who took part did, as evidenced by the following contributions and a selection of the many photographs received after the event.



### **A choppy start** by Alan Rowland

Rumours of boat cancellations and replacement helicopters flew around North Devon on the evening of Friday 25 May. All day the wind had been from the east and increasing in strength. The local forecast was 3-4 easterly becoming south-easterly for Saturday. The 8pm voicemail on the shore officer answerphone stated that day trips were cancelled but that stayers were to arrive for 8am when a final decision would be made.

With four boxes of books and two bags of field equipment, I was hoping for a miracle to let the boat sail. In the event, reports from Lundy convinced the Captain of the *Oldenburg* to sail. The crossing was forecast as choppy but manageable.

The day trips were reinstated but only a few hardy souls ventured aboard with us. In the event the crossing was very choppy but not sickeningly so. Most people really enjoyed the voyage with rafts of Manx Shearwaters being seen. The seas and birds were impressive and the *Oldenburg* cut through the waves to arrive in less than two hours.



*A heaving sea didn't augur well for a landing. Photo by Alan Rowland*

Our problems began, however, when we arrived in the supposed ‘lee’ of the island: waves were breaking over the jetty, with lots of swell. The Captain did try to get near to the jetty, but berthing was not attempted. The boat had to turn to starboard and run up the East Side of the island. In the approach to the jetty, Paul Sterry spotted two Black Guillemots – firsts for Lundy – but most of us were too busy holding on to anything solid to attempt lifting our binoculars. With the boat beginning to list as she turned into the heaving sea, the decision was taken to wait out the swell off the West Side; so we turned again and headed for Rat Island and around to Jenny’s Cove.

We sat in Jenny’s for a couple of hours, wiling away the time by eating all the pasties on board, counting Puffins and waving to the people on the cliff-tops who were enjoying our plight. We were keen to try a landing at Pyramid Rock, but the crew and the island staff would have none of it. Roger Allen, who has been visiting Lundy since the 1970s, even managed to see his first live Puffin on Lundy.

Our eventual disembarkation was another experience. The *Oldenburg* was rising and falling quite a distance against the jetty, as well as banging against it. Discretion dictated that only one person at a time should cross the gangway, so there was visible relief when everyone was safely ashore. We would not have worried about a thing though if we’d known that one of the most precious of Lundy’s cargoes was aboard – the manager’s wife Lyndsey and new baby daughter Hannah May – so extra special care was being taken by all.

A most adventurous start to Discover Lundy 2012 which everyone appeared to enjoy.

*I would firstly like to thank you for organising a splendid week – I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it and hope that another week can be arranged in the future. I personally got a much greater insight into the many aspects of Lundy and would like to thank all the leaders who answered my sometimes very ‘ordinary’ questions without me feeling embarrassed for asking! My main interest was the birds but got a lot of good information about the fauna, moths and the marine biology side. I have bought many of the books that were on sale and am avidly reading them to expand my knowledge. Many thanks again for your organisation and also for ‘selecting’ a superb set of leaders and participants.*

**Ian Campbell**

*Thanks again for a brilliant week which we thoroughly enjoyed and learnt a lot about the natural history of Lundy. We really appreciate all the hard work that people put in, both before and during the week to make it such a success. We were disappointed not to be able to participate in the second group photo at the Church, but we wanted to explore the lower path from the Quarry to the Landing Bay, and take up André’s suggestion of a picnic on the slopes by the South Light. If LFS does another week in a few years’ time, maybe they could include a geology walk and talk. Thanks again for a brilliant week – and for managing the weather so well!*

**Anne & Jim Andrews**

*After 21 visits to Lundy from 1981 with my husband, David, this was the first since his death in December 2009. Lundy was beginning to call irresistibly and the superbly organised LFS Week was the ideal opportunity. Some of the highlights: the Chiffchaff caught in the mist-net, seeing the details of his plumage, his slightly anxious beady eye and being allowed to hold and release him – the Service in the Church, the talks and the film shows – seeing the tiny Adder's Tongue fern – the enchanting piglets (Gloucester Old Spot?) – Puffins seen through a telescope – late-night plankton dipping and hopeful listening for shearwaters – Gannet-watching off the east sideland. Memorable meals at the Tavern, etc., etc. Heartfelt thanks to fellow-residents of Old House South for their kindness, and to all who put so much thought and hard work into the planning and carrying out of arrangements.*

**Margaret Pink**

*Of course having so many experts on Lundy at one time provided a great opportunity for learning. I've visited Lundy since the 1960s and still came away having learned something. Equally it was wonderful to share my own enthusiasm for the island with three guided walks taking almost 100 people around the island over the week. One notable achievement was to show Chris Webster, the archaeologist, the unrecorded Millstone Factory on the west side, having located it earlier in the year. Another archaeological find for the records! Paul Sterry's photographic workshop proved that a £60 camera can do (almost!) as well as a £1,000 lens, with a helpful Spectacled Moth taking a star role! A great week of sharing, learning and enjoying!*

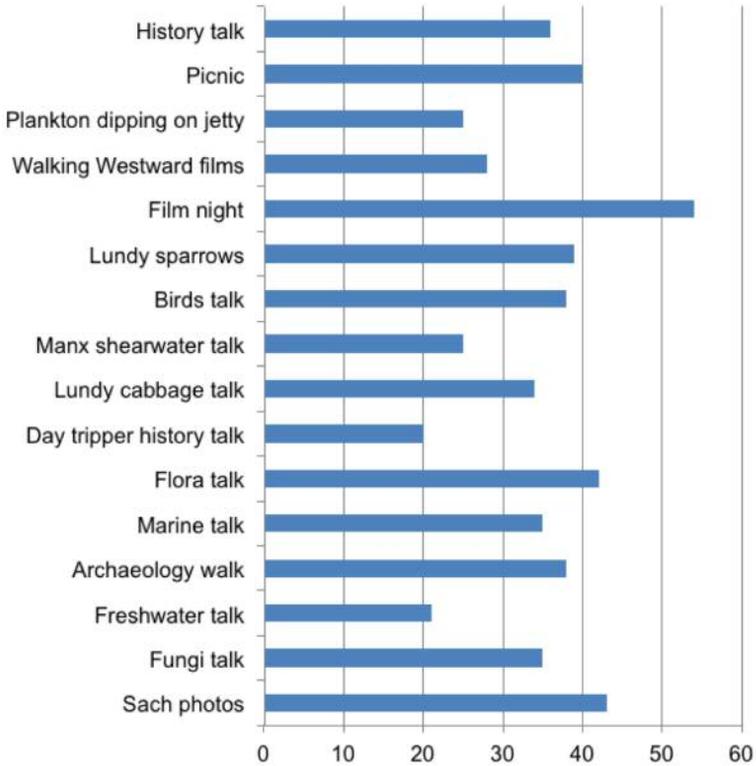
**Simon Dell**

*Our three days were a constant pleasure. We particularly enjoyed getting to know so many Lundy enthusiasts and experts. They in turn introduced us to other residents and visitors, from Asterina phylactica, the (cushion) star of the shoreline, via True Lover's Knots and Dwarf Adder's-tongues, to the crescent of Venus; it was equally enjoyable seeking Thrift Clearwings on sunny banks of their food-plant, despite being unsuccessful. It was a privilege to share nightfall on the western cliffs with a small, intrepid group. After the stars had gradually emerged, the first Manx Shearwaters' wings whispered overhead and their banshee calls started to build up round us. Eventually we could admire these wonderful, mysterious birds in the hand, with an exquisite (and characteristically musky-scented) Storm Petrel as a bonus. Both species gave the Oldenburg a splendid encore when we left, this time joined by dolphin dance-troupes and a Minke Whale. Magic.*

**Tony and Ann Taylor**

### Discover Lundy – talk, walk and activity attendances

The church was the main meeting place for the various talks during the week – these and the outdoor activities were all well attended, as this graphic shows.



### Flora walk fernatics

**On Friday 1 June, during the repeat of Andrew Cleave’s flora walk, ALAN ROWLAND decided to give the participants the opportunity to experience some practical fieldwork.**

Our party had reached the western side of St John’s wall near Government House. Andrew was describing each species of fern which could be found there and its relative abundance. He finished by explaining the importance of the colony of Rusty-back Fern (*Asplenium ceterach*), which thrived on a small section of wall, and that there were only four to six other plants to be found on the entire island, in the garden at Stonecroft.

At this pause in the walk, I asked if everyone would like to help with a count of this particular fern and explained how we should do it. We determined where the first fern could be found and ensured that everyone could identify it, differentiate it from *Polypodium* and

Maidenhair Rue, and what constituted one plant. The first person stood facing the wall with arms outstretched to cover their section of wall. Sixteen people each at arms length from each other covered the whole colony. I then walked behind them and asked each one for the individual count of their section. A total of 336 plants were recorded – a piece of practical fieldwork providing a useful record for this colony of ferns.

**Rusty-back Ferns on Lundy, 2009–2012**

| <b>Location</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2012</b> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Stoneycroft     | 4           | 4           | 4           | 6           |
| St John’s Wall  | -           | 250         | 323         | 336         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>4</b>    | <b>254</b>  | <b>327</b>  | <b>342</b>  |



*Andrew Cleave (above left) describes Rusty-back Fern (above right) to the assembled throng (below), who proceed to count each individual plant in their section of wall. Photos by Tim Davis*



## Identifying freshwater invertebrates

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**ALAN ROWLAND** was back in action on 28 and 31 May when he led two sessions looking at the invertebrates that inhabit one of Lundy's freshwater ponds.

Each session began with a presentation in the church covering Lundy's freshwaters, typical species and an outline of the practical fieldwork. In all, more than 30 people took part, with only one or two dropping out because of the long walk to the pond. Equipped with nets, trays, pots, magnifiers and other equipment, mainly loaned by Andrew Cleave, we trekked to Kevin's Pond in the Brick Field for a captivating practical session.

After demonstrating techniques, Alan divided Monday's participants into two groups, each around a tray. John Hedger and Derren Fox provided additional leadership for one of the groups. There was competition for use of the nets to fill the trays with specimens. Each group used Field Study Council charts to identify species to family. After much discussion and an hour's study, each group managed tentatively to identify 14 different species. A final half-hour in Government House laboratory at the microscope confirmed identification.



*Investigating freshwater invertebrates at 'Kevin's Pond' during the Discover Lundy week. Photo by Louise Cookson*

Thursday's participants were advised that Monday's survey had produced 14 species, so there was fierce competition to at least equal that total. This was achieved but the species were not identical. Nor did they exactly match the preliminary survey I carried out in August 2010. The differences are shown in the table opposite and can be explained by different times of year and the fact that the pond was more established and more species had had the opportunity to populate it.

Using the Biological Monitoring Working Party method of assessment of water quality based on the macro-invertebrates present, Alan scored those that are part of the monitoring system (see the BMWP column in the table): species most tolerant of pollution (worms and fly larvae) score 1 or 2; those least tolerant (the higher insects) score 7 to 10. The result, or ASPT (Average Score Per Taxon), gives a number between 1 and 10, where 1 is highly polluted and 10 is the clearest water possible. Reality gives a score somewhere in between.

Of the families represented in the pond which count towards BMWP, the total is 62. Dividing this by the number of families present results in 62/14 or an ASPT of 4.4. This score suggests a pond of low amenity experiencing some pollution. However, the presence of less tolerant species (odonata and trichoptera) suggests that it is improving.

The entire exercise proved rewarding for all, evidenced by the enthusiastic feedback, and especially by the fact that those who had taken part were even discussing the cost of buying microscopes!

| Kevin's Pond, Brick Field – list of species identified   |  |                 |                 |                      |           |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Phylum and Name  | Description  | August 2010     | 28 May 2012     | 31 May 2012          | BMWP      |
| <b>Coelenterata: hydras and jellyfish</b><br><i>Chlorohydra viridissima</i> Pallas                   | green hydra  |                 | 1               |                      |           |
| <b>Platyhelminthes: flat worms</b>   |  |                 |                 |                      |           |
| <i>Polycelis nigra</i> Muller  |  | 20              | 20              | 10                   | 5         |
| <b>Annelida: segmented worms and leeches</b>   |  |                 |                 |                      |           |
| <b>Oligochaeta:</b> <i>Lumbriculus variegatus</i> Muller<br><b>Naididae:</b> <i>Naiad</i> sp.        | segmented worms  | 6               | 3               |                      | 1         |
| <b>Hirudinae:</b> <i>Helobdella stagnalis</i> L<br><i>Theromyzon tessulatum</i> OF Muller            | leeches  | 1<br>2          | 1               | 2                    | 3         |
| <b>Crustacea: shelled arthropods</b>   |  |                 |                 |                      |           |
| <b>Mollusca: snails and mussels</b><br><i>Potamopyrgus jenkinsi</i> Smith<br><i>Pisidium</i> sp Malm | Jenkin's spire shell<br>pea mussel                     |                 | 1<br>1          | 2                    | 3<br>3    |
| <b>Cladocera:</b>  | water fleas  | *               | *               | *                    |           |
| <b>Copepoda:</b>   | water fleas  | *               | *               | *                    |           |
| <b>Ostracoda:</b>  | seed shrimps   | *               | *               | *                    |           |
| <b>Isopoda:</b> <i>Asellus meridianus</i> Racovitza  | water slaters<br>hog louse                             | 4               | 10              | 6                    | 3         |
| <b>Insecta:</b>  |  |                 |                 |                      |           |
| <b>Ephemeroptera:</b> <i>Cloeon dipterum</i> L   | mayflies   |                 |                 | 1                    | 4         |
| <b>Odonata:</b> <i>Ischnura elegans</i> Vander Linden  | dragonflies &<br>damselflies:<br>blue-tailed damselfly | 50 <sup>1</sup> | 30 <sup>2</sup> | 10                   | 8         |
| <b>Hemiptera:</b> <i>Notonecta marmorea viridis</i><br>Delcourt                                      | water bugs:<br>backswimmer                             | 9 <sup>3</sup>  | 6               | 6                    | 5         |
| <i>Corixidae</i> sp.   | water boatman  |                 | 2               | 12                   | 5         |
| <b>Coleoptera:</b><br><i>Hygrobia hermanni</i> Latreille Dytiscinae<br><i>Hydroporinae</i> Aube      | beetles  | 1L              | 1L              | 1L<br>5 <sup>4</sup> | 5<br>5    |
| <b>Trichoptera:</b> <i>Sericostoma personatum</i><br>Kirby & Spence                                  | caddis flies   |                 |                 | 1                    | 10        |
| <b>Diptera: two-winged flies:</b>  |  |                 |                 |                      |           |
| Chironomid sp.<br><i>Chaoborus crystallinus</i> De Geer<br><i>Culicidae</i> sp.                      |  | 1L<br>1L        | 10L<br>1L       | 4L<br>1L             | 2         |
| <b>Totals</b>  |  | <b>13</b>       | <b>16</b>       | <b>16</b>            | <b>62</b> |
| <b>Running total</b>   |  | <b>22</b>       |                 |                      |           |

L = Larva; A = Adult; \* = present (but not counted)

<sup>1</sup> Nymphs of various sized and one flying adult; <sup>2</sup> Nymphs of various sized and one flying adult;

<sup>3</sup> Adults and nymphs; <sup>4</sup> Adults and larvae

## Fungus forays

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**JOHN HEDGER kicked off a busy morning's activities on 27 May with an illustrated lecture on 'Discovering Lundy Fungi'. This was followed by a survey of Anther Smut fungus on the flowers of Red Campion in Millcombe and St John's Valley, and an examination of the spores of the smut fungus under a microscope, culminating in a roundup of the data collected and a group discussion.**

### Smut survey

After meeting in front of Government House, an enthusiastic group of 20 LFS members and visitors gathered to survey the occurrence of the Anther Smut fungus (*Microsporidium (Ustilago) violaceum*) on the flowers of Red Campion. The presence of this fungus in the Campion plants can only be detected when they flower: the anthers in the male plants release a purple-black mass of spores rather than pollen, and the female plants are also 'converted' to form smutty anthers in the centre, rather than styles. Infected plants are easily spotted by the dark centres to the flowers compared to the white or cream-centred normal flowers. Apart from that, the plants grow and flower normally; the fungus remains inside the plant and does not kill it. Fortunately the Discover Lundy week corresponded with an impressive show of thousands of Red Campion flowers in Millcombe and its environs.

### Survey sites

The group were divided into ten 'pairs' to survey different areas for 30 minutes, recording the numbers of 'smutted' versus healthy flowers found. It was decided not to try to count individual plants because of the difficulty of finding the origins of the flower stems in thick vegetation. The areas surveyed were:

- Pair 1: St John's Valley, NW side below Blue Bung and at the side of Brambles; open habitat with grass and bracken.
- Pair 2: Millcombe Valley, S side; steep-sided woodland with pines, Sycamore and Holm Oak, shaded habitat with ground cover of woodland plants.
- Pair 3: The top path running left from the gate into Millcombe along to the Upper East Side Path; tall scrub of Gorse and Blackthorn, with few open areas.
- Pair 4: Around the Kasbah in Millcombe; tall herbs partly under trees of Sycamore and adjacent to the area covered by pair 2.
- Pair 5: The two enclosures with young trees just below Government House, the enclosures were surveyed separately; open sunny habitat with tall grass and herbs.
- Pair 6: Flagstaff Hill path; open habitat with short Gorse and Blackthorn.
- Pair 7: The middle path down the N side of Millcombe; open in places but also shaded by pines and Turkey Oak.
- Pair 8: The bank to the left side of Government House along the top of Millcombe to the main path; open habitat with some Gorse, Blackthorn and Bracken.
- Pair 9: Along the main path running down to the left of Millcombe House; open habitat with some shade from trees.
- Pair 10: Top of Millcombe near Blue Bung; open habitat with grass Bracken and Blackthorn.



*Red Campion flowers infected by Anther Smut (dark centres). Photo by Anne and Jim Andrews*

## Results

The data are given in Table 1 (overleaf). Nearly 12,990 flowers were scored, of which 977 were smutted, giving an average infection of 7.5%. However, the distribution of smutted flowers over the survey area was not even. Clearly pairs 2, 3, & 4, recorded the highest numbers of smutted flowers: all around 30%. The other pairs recorded little or no smutting, in spite of pairs counting as many, or more flowers. Only three infected flowers were found in the two enclosures in Millcombe; this was a credit to the determination of pair 5 to find a smutty flower – they counted a total of 2,703 flowers in these two areas (an infection percentage of just 0.01%). Pair 7, counting the middle path along Millcombe, also only found three smutted flowers out of a total of 1,293 counted.

## Discussion

In a discussion of the results, the group considered the reasons for the abundance of the smutted plants being so different in the survey areas. The following hypotheses were put forward:

**1 Founder effect:** The infections had established in one, or at least a few plants, and then spread locally. Against this it was felt that the fact that bees and other pollinating insects move spores from smutted plants to healthy ones, infecting them, meant that the fungus would spread rapidly over Millcombe and environs once it had arrived.

**2 Environmental effects:** In considering the environments of the study areas, the group decided that they fell into two habitat types: in the first, Campions were growing in open sunny conditions with little or no shade: St John's Valley (1), Flagstaff Hill (6), the enclosures in upper Millcombe (5), the bank next to Government House. All of these areas had few or no infected flowers.

In the second habitat, the Campions were growing under tree or scrub shade: Millcombe south side (2) and the adjacent Kasbah (4) under trees, and the Upper East Side Path near Millcombe (3) under dense tall scrub. These were the areas with many infected flowers. The area of survey near Blue Bung (10) is also partly in the upper part of Millcombe wood and had a 15% infection score, possibly from the shaded plants.

As a working hypothesis, it was decided that these differences might be down to the higher relative humidity and lower exposure to wind in the shaded areas. These conditions might help increase the numbers of successful infections of the flowers by germinating spores brought there by pollinating insects. In contrast, in dry and open conditions, infection success would be much lower as germinating spores would dry up before penetrating the flower tissue. Of interest are the data from Millcombe main path (pair 9) where 2.9% of the flowers were smutty. This is partly shaded and thus possibly intermediate in habitat conditions.

As always with field data, not all the results agree with the hypothesis. The pair surveying the middle path along Millcombe (7) found only three smutted flowers out of 1,293 counted, although the path is well shaded with mature trees. However, the site is south facing and

**Table 1. Results of the 'Discover Lundy' Red Champion Smut Survey, 27 May 2012**

| Survey pairs                                    | Smutted flowers | Healthy flowers | Flowers counted | Smutted (%) |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 St John's Valley                              | 0               | 3050            | 3050            | 0           |
| 2 Millcombe woodland S side                     | 296             | 671             | 967             | 30.6        |
| 3 Upper East Side Path to Millcombe             | 316             | 1013            | 1329            | 31.1        |
| 4 Millcombe, around the Kasbah                  | 288             | 588             | 876             | 32.8        |
| 5 Left side tree enclosure at top of Millcombe  | 0               | 2000            | 2000            | 0           |
| 5 Right side tree enclosure at top of Millcombe | 3               | 700             | 703             | 0.4         |
| 6 Flagstaff Hill                                | 0               | 488             | 488             | 0           |
| 7 Middle path along N side of Millcombe         | 3               | 1290            | 1293            | 0.2         |
| 8 Bank on left side of Government House         | 0               | 560             | 560             | 0           |
| 9 Main path down Millcombe                      | 46              | 1488            | 1534            | 2.9         |
| 10 Top of Millcombe, S side near Blue Bung      | 25              | 165             | 190             | 15.1        |

relatively open, so possibly subject to more drying than the opposite north facing side of the valley, where the high levels of smutting were found.

The only previous data on Smuts on Lundy were from a survey in May 2010 in Millcombe by Sandra and Alan Rowland and John Hedger, who found 55% of the flowers were smutted. They only studied the south side of Millcombe, in an area almost equivalent to sites 2 and 4 in the present survey. No data were gathered for other areas. Clearly the heavily 'smutted' Campion population in this area of Millcombe in 2010 is still there in 2012!

## Conclusions

The group enjoyed carrying out the survey and formulating the interpretative hypotheses. Well done everyone. The data certainly provide a basis for surveys in future Mays /Junes to see if the Campion Smut population in Millcombe changes or remains the same. If LFS members visit Lundy during these months, please look for Campion Smut and do a flower count!

## Footnote: Sea Campion Smut

One objective of the LFS Discover Lundy fungi survey was to also find the Campion Smut in flowers of Sea Campion (*Silene maritima (uniflora)*), which would have been a first record for Lundy. Although plenty of flowering Sea Campions were found on the Discover Lundy wildflower walk with Andrew Cleave, none were smutted. The first record thus remains elusive. Sea Campion on Skomer certainly has populations with smutted flowers, so there is no reason to believe the Lundy Sea Campions are any different.

### Other fungi records found during 'Discover Lundy'

Very few mushrooms and toadstools were seen during the Discover Lundy week, which was not unexpected. There were two exceptions. A very nice example of the Horse Mushroom (*Agaricus arvensis*) was found by Tony Cutler next to the track up to the Castle, very much out of its usual autumn season but in its usual place. In season however were two nice groups of the St George's Mushroom (*Calocybe gambosa*), one found by Andrew Cleave during the Flora Walk on 29 May, growing in grass at the side of the road near Windy Corner, and another nearby during the Flora Walk on 30 May. This medium-sized white mushroom is one of the few true spring fruiting fungi, ostensibly around St George's Day (23 April). It is highly edible. This fungus has been previously recorded from Lundy by the LFS (Montagu in 1972), so this represents the second record.

A number of microfungi parasitic on plants were also recorded. Apart from the Anther Smut on Red Campion, two 'Rusts' were found. On the first Flora Walk by the wall behind Big St John's the bright orange swelling on the stem of a nettle showed the minute spore cups (aecidia) of the Nettle Rust (*Puccinia urticata*). The other Rust was *Puccinia punctiformis*, Thistle Rust, found firstly outside Stoneycroft but later seen on many of the Field Thistles around Millcombe and the farm. This rust makes the affected plants grow taller and the orange spore cups on the underside of the leaves exude a fragrant nectar attractive to insects – an example was passed around during the lecture on Lundy fungi and the unexpected fragrance enjoyed by all. This is a common UK rust but represents the first record for Lundy, emphasising how under-recorded Lundy fungi are!



Clockwise from left: Thistle Rust, Nettle Rust and St George's Mushroom.  
 Photos by John Hedger

**Table 2. Fungi records during 'Discover Lundy', 26 May–2 June 2012**

| Scientific name                 | English name         | Location  | Lundy status | Grid Ref.     | Observer                        | Date   |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Puccinia punctiformis</i>    | Thistle Rust         | on Field Thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> ) Stoneycroft     | 1st record   | SS13281 44280 | Louise Cookson                  | 26 May |
| <i>Puccinia urticata</i>        | Nettle Rust          | on Nettle ( <i>Urtica dioica</i> ) behind Little St John's  | 3rd record   | SS13869 44000 | John Hedger                     | 29 May |
| <i>Microsporidium violaceum</i> | Anther Smut          | on flowers of Red Campion ( <i>Silene rubra</i> ) Millcombe | –            | SS139 440     | John Hedger<br>Smut Study Group | 27 May |
| <i>Calocybe gambosa</i>         | St George's Mushroom | in grass near Windy Corner                                  | 2nd record   | SS14052 44010 | Andrew Cleave                   | 29 May |
| <i>Agaricus arvensis</i>        | Horse Mushroom       | in grass by road to Castle                                  | –            | SS14099 43780 | Tony Cutler                     | 28 May |

## Discover Lundy – the week in pictures



*Clockwise from top left: the archaeology walk; Rob Skeates with a Spotted Flycatcher; Paul James demonstrates bird ringing techniques; seashore safari (Keith Hiscock in waders); Chris Webster atop the Millstone Factory; Simon Dell points the way.*



*Clockwise from top left: Andrew Cleave in the Government House 'laboratory'; Diana Keast, Roger Allen and Myrtle Ternstrom at the Jubilee Picnic; André Coutanche gets in first; the flora walk at Rocket Pole Marsh; Michael Williams stands tall; Cream-spot Tiger Moth; freshwater studies at 'Kevin's Pond'.*



*Clockwise from top left: Ian Campbell, Ian and Angie Lister at the Jubilee Picnic; the Slow-worm uncovered in Millcombe (see next page); studying Lousewort during a flora walk; Margaret Pink, Chris and Carol Baillie and Tony John on the jetty; the end-of-week photo call; Paul Sterry with insect net.*

## Slow-worm – a new species for Lundy

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### ALAN ROWLAND describes the accidental introduction to Lundy of a new species.

Less than two years ago, bags of compost were brought from a garden centre in North Devon to Lundy to assist in the regeneration of Millcombe gardens. The chances of a Slow-worm being present were not remote, but the odds of the bags containing either a pregnant female or an adult male and female were significantly longer.

Not long after the compost was spread in the gardens, reports of a Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) were being made. In November 2010, James Leonard reported Blackbirds attacking one near the gas shed; an extract from the Wardens' files reads: "Two blackbirds seen pecking at something moving on the ground. [James] saw a 6-inch slow worm moving towards the gully running from the gas shed to Millcombe Pond. Disappeared into the gully and under fallen leaves. Greyish on the top, but coppery gold underneath – no distinction between body and head."

Advice was taken from Natural England who, after consulting an expert, recommended laying corrugated iron sheets or roofing felt near where the sightings were made so as to attempt capture of any specimens for return to the mainland. Accordingly, the Warden at the time, Nicola Saunders, placed about a dozen sheets around Millcombe Pond and the road area in 2010/11, but no specimens were recovered and the sheets were eventually taken up.

A second sighting was made by John Barber who saw an adult Slow-worm basking along the path between Millcombe walled gardens and the Ugly on 24 April 2012. He described it as 25–30 cm in length, and submitted a picture showing the mid-section of an adult amongst undergrowth.

On Wednesday 30 May, during the Discover Lundy week, Tim Davis and Tim Jones gave a talk and led a walk on 'Discovering Lundy's Birds'. Due to the poor visibility, the walk was centred on Millcombe Valley. The furthest point of the walk was the settling pond at the head of Smelly Gully where around 30 of us stood observing, by eye and ear, various birds.

I had recently completed a workshop on centipedes, millipedes and woodlice and, being keen to find Lundy specimens, was in the habit of turning over stones whenever the opportunity arose. A small group of stones at the edge of the undergrowth caught my eye. Turning over one stone revealed a brown ants nest where ants were busily moving small and large eggs around. Another stone covered a black ants nest; it was here that I saw a Slow-worm (see photo on page 17). Coiled above the ants it seemed determined to feed on them. As the temperature was cool due to the fog and mist, the Slow-worm was easily caught; it measured around 10 cm in length, with a black ventral surface, black face and creamy gold dorsal surface with a faint central line. I returned it to where I found it, and when I came back some hours later to take a photograph, it, and both sets of ants, had gone.

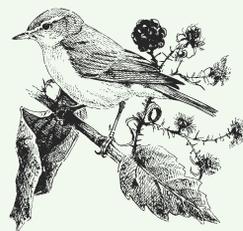
I returned the following day and found it, or another specimen, in the same location; 10–15 cm in length, it appeared longer than the one seen the previous day. Its colouring and size indicated an immature Slow-worm. They are known to breed in August/September when they have on average eight young. They then hibernate from around October to March. It takes up to three years to achieve adult size and colouring. It therefore seems reasonable to assume that this was of one of the previous year's brood which had survived winter hibernation.

Slow-worms feed mainly on slugs and worms, and occasionally ants, and are in turn prey to hedgehogs, frogs, toads, adders, rats and Kestrels. They are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Whether the Slow-worms stay on Lundy or are repatriated as Natural England are recommending, their presence on the island – which would seem to be benign – has established a new class within the fauna of Lundy – Reptilia.

## A July day-trip

I had a pleasant day on Lundy on 23 July, taking advantage the Lundy Collectors Club's long sailing from Ilfracombe – a nice sunny day with good sea conditions. Quite a few familiar faces were seen on the *Oldenburg*, although the island seemed very quiet once we got ashore. One thing of note was the impressive number of Willow Warblers along the East Side from Millcombe almost as far as Gannets' Bay – the numbers had thinned out at that point but there were still birds to be seen flitting through the bracken and feeding amongst rocks. The greatest density was between Millcombe and the Quarries, and while we did not do a count, there always seemed to be 10–15 birds in view as we headed north, so the total must have run into hundreds of birds. There were still plenty of Wheatears around as well, but otherwise it was fairly quiet on the bird front.



Another interesting observation was the behaviour of a Peregrine on the West Side around the Halfway Wall/Pondsbury area. The bird was acting rather like a Hobby – hovering on the updraught from the cliffs and then stooping down to catch something on the top of the bracken. We could not see what it was catching but it appeared to be a large beetle or insect. Each time it caught something it would swoop back up to its hovering height and eat the prey, with bits and pieces falling to the ground each time. We watched this behaviour for about 45 minutes, during which it seemed to catch something on the bracken at every second or third attempt. We had a good look around to try to see what prey would be available, but apart from a few beetles and some burnet moths there was nothing very obvious.

A female Kestrel followed the boat into the Landing Bay and we saw it, or another bird, a couple of times later on the island. There were not many seabirds around but we did see one Puffin on the sea and an adult Guillemot with a fairly large chick.

A few Grayling butterflies were to be seen along the East Side from Millcombe at least as far as Brazen Ward; we counted at least six different individuals on the wing. In the rush to get back to the boat – at the same time continuing to look for some of my 'lost' plants – we did not have time to enter any of this in the LFS Logbook, so I hope these notes are of some use. (*Thanks Andrew, they are! Eds.*)

**Andrew Cleave**

*Illustration: Willow Warbler by Mike Langman*

## Colyear Dawkins – an inspiration to many

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**Twenty years after his death, TRUDY WATT and KEITH KIRBY recall a former LFS Vice President.**

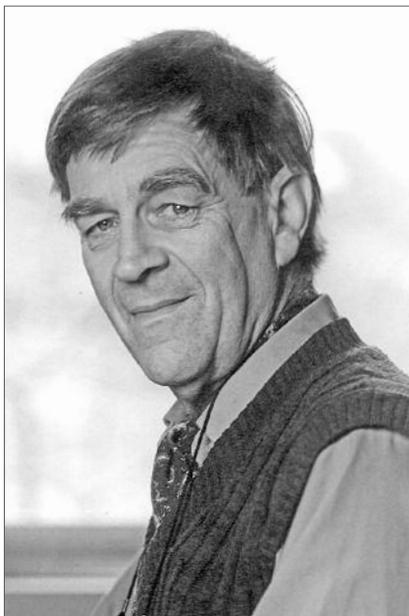
Colyear Dawkins had gained twenty years' experience in tropical forestry before he returned to Oxford where he had been an undergraduate. In 1942 he had been posted to Uganda as a District Forest Officer, becoming Forest Ecologist in 1949 and he was later awarded an MBE for his services there.

We first encountered him as undergraduates on the Oxford University degree course in Agricultural and Forest Science. His teaching was superb. He taught us statistical methods, understanding that many of us had limited mathematical background, and engaging us by demonstrating the utility of the procedures. His nephew, Richard Dawkins, likewise appreciated this gift and dedicated a book to his memory as someone who was “a master of the art of making things clear”. Colyear also advised students and colleagues concerning the design and analysis of experiments and surveys, and, together with his wife Barbara, developed computer programs for use on BBC Microcomputers covering a wide range of statistical analyses based upon his earlier templates called ‘Statforms’.

Colyear encouraged us to visit Lundy and we did so first on the LFS Excursion in June 1978, when we made some observations on grass growth that were consistent with the effects of recent drought and intensive grazing. We returned for a week in September 1981 and recorded the vegetation in 45 plots in a grid across the island, producing species distribution maps and identifying species groups. We camped on this occasion and our return was ‘delayed by storm’ as the helicopter could not land on the scheduled day because of bad weather, which meant also that we took shelter for the night in what appeared to be a former billiard room. About a dozen families of refugee campers were clustered round the edge of the room as there was a hole in the roof!

Keith studied brambles in Wytham Woods near Oxford for his doctorate, supervised by Colyear, before becoming a woodland ecologist with the government conservation service (now called Natural England). This also enabled him to continue the regular monitoring of vegetation on the permanent plots which Colyear had the foresight to establish in Wytham Woods in the early 1970s, taking great care to ensure that they could be readily re-located.

Trudy went on to be a Lecturer in Plant Ecology at Wye College, University of London, teaching students and writing a text book on introductory statistics incorporating many of Colyear's ideas, which has since been revised in collaboration with others and is now in its 3rd edition.



*Dr (Henry) Colyear Dawkins MBE, 1921–1992.*

*Reproduced by permission of the President and Fellows of St John's College, Oxford*

Further details of Colyear's career are to be found in his obituary in the 1992 *LFS Annual Report* and that in *The Commonwealth Forestry Review* (Vol. 71) of the same year. But, for us, this quotation from the recent book on Wytham Woods sums him up perfectly:

*"He was a man of robust integrity with a strong sense of justice and rightness; this, with his complete absence of pretension, meant that he could relate to anyone, especially young children. He could only very rarely be persuaded to render his baboon bark – almost as startling as a first hearing of Barbara addressing him as 'petal', but as unforgettable as the man himself."*

## A Christmas card drawn by John Dyke

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LFS Secretary Michael Williams was contacted by David Tyler in the middle of 2012 with information about a Christmas card from 1944 drawn by John Dyke. The card had been sent to Mr Tyler's mother by his father who was serving with the Allied Forces at the time. Mr Tyler has provided some background to the card, which is reproduced below.

This card was sent by L/Sgt D.G. Tyler (1917–2006) of 243 Battery, 61st Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, to his wife Alice and two-year-old daughter in Essex. Recently, their son David was investigating the John Dyke attribution on the card and made the Lundy connection through illustrations in similar style for some 1950s Lundy postage stamps. *LFS Newsletter* No.20 from 1990 confirmed that John Dyke had been a tactical sketcher working in Europe on operations in the run-up to the German capitulation in 1945.

The official history of the 61st Medium Regiment RA describes the regiment's role as part of the British Liberation Army advancing across from France, through the Low Countries towards Germany. The regiment began moving forward into Belgium on 15 September 1944, seeing action 'from the Escaut Canal [southwest of Brussels] until the capture of Helmond [Netherlands] and the battle for Overloon and Venraij'. By the end of October, Tilburg had been captured. Through November and into December there was further action to ward off a German counter-attack towards Helmond, followed by a quieter period from 8 December onwards – perhaps allowing time for the writing of Christmas cards!



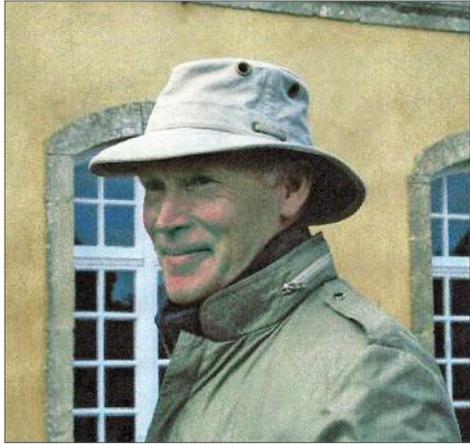
There is no marking on the card (quite nicely printed but understandably on rough, flimsy material) to indicate either the location of the scene or where the card was printed. The preponderance of Belgian flags among those of other Allied countries suggests a location in that country, though it may be nowhere specific – the windmill in the background may represent a touch of artistic licence to confirm a Low Countries setting.

## In memory of Chris Eker

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**ANDRÉ COUTANCHE** recounts a special trip to Lundy in memory of a much-missed friend.

Millcombe wouldn't normally be on our radar – especially in August – but this was a special visit for several reasons. A very dear friend of ours, Chris Eker, died in January 2011 of a brain tumour. He had previously had a cancer which had been dealt with, but when the brain tumour was diagnosed the prognosis was terminal. We had been to Lundy with Chris and Annie a few years ago, and Chris had been a couple of times on his own or with other people. He liked Lundy a lot.



*Chris Eker, 1946–2011.*

After the first bout of cancer was diagnosed, Chris and Annie – who had been together for some time – got married. For Chris it was a first marriage (in his early sixties!) and for Annie it was her second (she has four grown-up children). Chris was a very no-nonsense and clear-thinking chap, and he took things very calmly and positively. He approached Marie Jo and me with a proposition; he had always wanted to take Annie and the 'children' to Lundy, so he would write us a (large) cheque and we would arrange to take them to Lundy after his death and act as their guides. We swallowed hard and agreed.

Since one of Annie's daughters is married with children, we knew we would have to go during school holidays, and with some of the others having partners, we were looking at Millcombe, and maybe an additional property, at the height of the season. In September 2010, Chris and Annie came to lunch with us, and after the meal Chris wrote us a personal cheque for £10,000. He asked only that anything left over should do some good for Lundy.

The summer of 2011 would have been too soon to go to Lundy, both emotionally and practically, so we went last August. In the event, as Annie's married daughter and her husband and children were unable to come, Annie invited some very close friends of the family instead. Everyone enjoyed the Island in their individual ways (and we identified at least three cases of incipient Lundyitis).

It was clear during the week that there would be a significant surplus. Annie and the children had discussed things and wanted a good chunk of it to go to the LFS. I said that it would be very welcome, and suggested that it might be earmarked for the next LFS Journal and that it could then include a dedication to Chris. I proposed that some should also go to the Lundy Fund. After all the expenses had been accounted for, there was a surplus of a little over £4,000. Of this, £1,000 has been donated to the Lundy Fund, with the balance donated to the LFS.

It's a bitter-sweet story, with an ending of which Chris would have approved, and our week was predominantly a happy celebration of his life.

## Paul wins the Peter Brough Award

In a spot of news away from Lundy, Paul James has been given the first award from the Peter Brough Fund of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust (HWT) to support his continuing work on the bird populations of Pamber Forest National Nature Reserve in North Hampshire. Paul's work and insights over many years particularly impressed a panel of experts, his work not only showing which species inhabit the forest, but also how they use neighbouring gardens.

This annual award is given "to acknowledge and encourage the work of amateur naturalists" and, fittingly, Paul's long-running study has been in the beautiful area of North Hampshire where Peter Brough lived and worked. Peter was the local doctor to the community around Tadley and was very active in the HWT, including chairing the Conservation Committee for many years. He was an all-round naturalist and coordinated the publication of the 1986 *Flora of Hampshire*. Congratulations, Paul!



## All at sea

Further to the note by Andrew Cleave in the 2011 LFS Newsletter (page 3), it would seem that island-hopping is becoming very popular.

We arrived at Lundy at around 08:30 on 21 April 2011 to find the *Ocean Nova* of Noble Caledonia lines anchored in Lundy Roads. This is a luxury cruise ship with a very visible viewing deck for passengers above and behind the bridge. A small launch was ferrying people aboard as we disembarked from the *Oldenburg*.

Imagine our surprise when we visited the Shop to be told by Nigel that he had opened early to cater for the passengers. All he sold was a few postcards to those hardy souls who had ventured as far as the village before dashing back to the ship as they had to be at Skomer later in the day!

**Alan Rowland**



## A belated farewell to Nicola Saunders

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Shortly after the 2011 LFS Newsletter went to press last year, the news came through that Nicola Saunders had resigned her position as Lundy Warden to take up a role with the Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. Below is the letter sent by Keith Hiscock on behalf of the LFS thanking Nic for her work for the island.

“Dear Nic,

### Thank you, goodbye and good luck

The Committee of the Lundy Field Society has asked me to write to you to express our thanks for all of your good work on Lundy over the past six or so years. It seems much longer – perhaps a measure of what you have achieved over that time.

Your talks at our Annual General Meeting were particularly welcome and a highlight for Members who came to Exeter each March. They were no small task to put together and were excellent and well-presented.

You have worked to collect a lot of data about birds, weather and marine life especially and, furthermore, published it. Do keep on writing up anything that is ‘yours’ and you feel should be disseminated widely. Of course, a highlight must have been the marine guides launched in July last year, but also your work that has gone into the beach building displays and the lundymcz website.

Members of the Society who have had most contact with you are probably the Conservation Break working parties and we are grateful to you for providing a variety of tasks for them to undertake. Our thanks too for coordinating with the LFS bird recorders with regard to the LFS Logbook, and also for the many entries you made of your own wildlife sightings.

There is doubtless much else we should mention. Most importantly, we do hope that you will keep in touch with the Society and with studies of Lundy.

Good luck in your new job,

Keith Hiscock  
Chairman, Lundy Field Society”

*Nic Saunders photographed at the celebration of 40 years of marine conservation at Lundy held on MS Oldenburg in July 2011.*



Photo by Keith Hiscock

## Join in the 2013 Devon Birds excursion to Lundy

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LFS members are invited to join in the Devon Birdwatching & Preservation Society's annual excursion to Lundy on Sunday 12 May 2013, sailing from Bideford Quay at 7.30 am.

Tickets, costing £28 for adults, £16 for children under 16 years, may be bought by cheque made payable to 'DBWPS' and sent to: **Mark Humfrey, Morada, St John's Lane, Barnstaple EX32 9DD**, or from the DBWPS Shop online at [www.devonbirds.org/shop](http://www.devonbirds.org/shop). The latter method of payment is particularly preferable where LFS members are also members of DBWPS. Please quote 'LFS' when purchasing tickets by adding 'LFS' to your surname in the 'Delivery instructions'.

Should the sailing be cancelled as a result of forecast bad weather, or poor ticket sales, then notice will be given as soon as possible, with a full refund. Tickets are limited and will be issued on a first come, first served basis. For more information please email Mark Humfrey at [mhumfrey@btinternet.com](mailto:mhumfrey@btinternet.com).

Alan Rowland will lead a guided tour of the island for those interested. The walk will start from the jetty, go up to the Castle, around the South End towards Old Light, then along the West Side to Jenny's Cove to see Puffins, returning via Halfway Wall and the Quarries to the Village for suitable refreshment. Email Alan at [morwenstow@btinternet.com](mailto:morwenstow@btinternet.com) to register your interest.

### Farewell to the South Light foghorn

Trinity House issued the following 'Notice to Mariners' on 7 June 2012:

No.31/2012 F9 Lundy South Lighthouse  
NOTICE TO MARINERS No.31/12 F9  
WEST COAST OF ENGLAND / APPROACHES TO THE BRISTOL CHANNEL

-----  
LUNDY SOUTH LIGHTHOUSE (ALL Vol.A.5618)  
Latitude 51° 09'.723N., Longitude 004° 39'.351W  
-----

Date : On or about 3rd July, 2012.

Amendment : Fog signal to be permanently discontinued.

No further notice will be given.

### Raising lots at auction

Members attending the 2012 LFS Annual General Meeting raised an unprecedented £518 for 15 lots at the ever-popular end-of-meeting auction. Every lot went under the hammer wielded with his usual gusto by Roger Chapple. Grateful thanks to all those who donated items to the auction and to everyone who entered into the spirit of the moment and bid so competitively.

Lots more lots stand ready for the 2013 AGM auction, so do bring your purses, wallets and chequebooks and support this extremely useful fundraiser for the Society.

**Alan Rowland**

## Getting to know your *Puffinus puffinus*

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After meeting some of the people attending the Discover Lundy week, MADELEINE REDWAY wrote an article for *The Daily Telegraph* about her experiences on the island – and duly won the paper’s Just Back travel writing competition. Entitled ‘The Marisco Tavern quiz’, Madeleine’s prize-winning article is reproduced here.



Madeline Redway. Photo by Simon Dell

It was a cruel trick to play on a group of people with neither binoculars nor a bird book between them. “What,” asked the quizmaster, presiding over the Marisco Tavern Friday night quiz, “is the common name for *Puffinus puffinus*?” We looked at each other across the table, wondering if we were about to face humiliation at the hands of the nature enthusiasts of the Lundy Field Society. Surely we weren’t the only team that was going to state the obvious and write ‘puffin’ on our answer sheet?

Having spent the afternoon exploring the wildflower covered cliffs of Lundy with the genial members of the society, I was now kicking myself for not asking more questions and absorbing more of their extraordinary knowledge. I had learnt something, however. I’d learnt to recognise the English stonecrop and how to identify a rust-backed fern. I was introduced to the lousewort and learnt that the pink expanse that carpets the island’s clifftops is called thrift.

I’d seen Benjamin’s Chair – the sheltered ledge high on the Lundy cliffs – climbed hundreds of steps to the top of the island’s old lighthouse and been coaxed down the goat track to peer into the abyss that is known as the Devil’s Limekiln.

I’d borrowed binoculars to watch guillemots, counted endless darting wheatears and photographed leaping dolphins and basking seals. I’d even learnt that the pygmy shrew – found in larders all over the island – is Lundy’s only indigenous mammal. But I hadn’t spotted a single puffin, despite hearing that they’d be occupying the island en masse during the breeding season. If I had, I feel sure the conversation would have naturally turned to their Latin name and I wouldn’t now be worrying about becoming the laughing stock of the Marisco Tavern.

We chewed on our pencils with furrowed brows: Ed and Nicky, regular visitors to Lundy but who clearly preferred the EastEnders questions to the flora and fauna ones; the Canadian climber and his mate, who had already caused hilarity by producing a photo of what they thought was a puffin, only for it to be denounced as a razorbill by members of the field society; and me, incapable of identifying a bird or a plant, unless it’s wearing a name badge. We were hopeless.

Below the table, out of sight of the quizmaster, we flicked through our Lonely Planet, hoping in vain that there might be a page dedicated to Latin bird names. But it was no good. We were on our own. Surely *Puffinus puffinus* had to be the puffin? How could it be anything else, here on an island that’s so famous for its puffins that even the early Norse visitors noticed them and used their word for puffins (lundi) to give it its name?

So we wrote ‘puffin’ on our answer sheet, and came fourth from bottom in the Marisco Tavern pub quiz. Members of the Lundy Field Society and Manx shearwaters everywhere have only just stopped laughing.

*(Congratulations, Madeleine, and thanks for allowing us to reproduce your article. Eds.)*

*A raft of Puffinus puffinus.*



Photo by Mark Darlaston

## It's a funny place to meet people, Lundy...

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...you never know who is there, as DAVID CANN discovered.

For my major birthday a few years ago (2008) I went to Lundy with two friends for the day. I have been lucky to visit many times, starting with school trips from Queen Elizabeth's, Cridton. Eddie Baylis, biology teacher and son-in-law of one of my parents' neighbours, ran a week-long trip every year for activities week, the last week of the school year. In the first of my stays we were in the Barn, the last trips in the Quarters. Puffins were always seen at Jenny's Cove, close up but very few and I looked for Lesser Adder's-tongue Fern as soon as I knew where to look. Night-time excursions with torches to watch Manx Shearwaters come in showed me wildlife I would never have known about.

Karen had been before. We camped, in a tent with a broken support rod. The first night the wind blew so much the roof came down to our faces. And up and down all night. We did think about moving out to the tractor shed but weren't sure if we got there we would be any better off, but the wind must have eased or we fell asleep exhausted, as we stayed where we were. Sharon had never been but had lived on Tresco for ten years with husband and children. The day before we had met at Castle Drogo for my birthday.

The trip over on the *Oldenburg* had dolphins guarding us part way and I didn't get seasick, which made a nice change. It would have been a horrible way to begin, had I been sick. On one LFS trip I was at death's door until the moment the *Waverley* anchored. Within minutes I could have had a full fry-up.

It was a beautiful day. We went up to the Castle, into Benson's Cave and around the South End, then along to Devil's Limekiln and up to Jenny's Cove, but no Puffins. So many things that reminded me of past visits, particularly walking round the rim of Devil's Limekiln. I could stay forever. I am not known for being spiritual but I always look in at the cemetery, as I was born in Barnstaple on the day Albion Harman died.

It is always sad to leave, so we ambled back to the *Oldenburg*. It was when we were almost at the Landing Beach, part of that last-to-get-on crowd, that I heard my name called out – surprising, as there was no-one on the boat that I had seen that I knew. There in front me walking up the road was Laurie Springate. We had last seen each other in October 1999, when I left the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh to move back to Devon. He was staying on the island with a whole gang of people.

Lundy, of all the places to meet someone who lives in Edinburgh.

Sadly Laurie died in 2011.

*David Cann is the Plant Heritage National Collection Holder for Ruscus, based in Cridton.  
www.plantheritagedevon.org.uk*



## A new species of sea snail

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Our Chairman, Keith Hiscock, has found (further!) fame after he discovered a new species of sea-snail. This fabulous achievement (to quote the press release) was reported on the website of the Marine Biological Association of the UK and in the *Plymouth Herald*.

*Simnia hiscocki* (pictured) is a smaller cousin of an already known species. It lives exclusively on the pink sea fan *Eunicella verrucosa*, a warm-water gorgonian found on the south-west coasts of the British Isles, including the waters off Lundy. Study of the shell shape and radula (a tongue-like organ) and of DNA of both types of sea snail have shown that *S. hiscocki* is indeed a distinct species.

The sea snail, which is up to 15 mm long, has been known previously on the pink sea fan but was believed to be *Simnia patula*. Keith drew attention to it as having a distinctly different morphology when he was asked to collect *S. patula* and, lo and behold, it turned out to be a new species.

Asked to comment on his namesake, Keith said: "It's a huge honour to have a discovery named after you – and it's very rare these days because there are very few discoveries to make because of all the very good marine surveys we carry out in the UK."



A scientific paper about *Simnia hiscocki*, published in the journal *Molluscan Research*, is available at [www.mapress.com/mr/content/v31/2011/fn3p175.pdf](http://www.mapress.com/mr/content/v31/2011/fn3p175.pdf). Eds.

## A tribute to John Fursdon

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**John Fursdon, who passed away peacefully at the age of 90 in Crediton on 1 October 2011, played an influential role in the establishment of a bird observatory on Lundy, and thereby in the founding of the Lundy Field Society in 1946. TIM DAVIS has compiled the following tribute.**

John Fursdon's activities as a member of the British Trust for Ornithology in the 1930s and 1940s brought him into contact with a distinguished group of environmentalists and ornithologists. Among them were John Buxton, who helped develop his observational skills in a prisoner of war camp in Germany during WWII, and Ronald Lockley, who became a mentor, establishing a local bird protection society in Pembrokeshire in 1938. John quickly became a natural history expert himself, a phenomenal memory aiding his knowledge and understanding of birds.

John first visited Skokholm Bird Observatory in 1938, staying with the Lockley family and returning in each of the following two summers. After the war, in 1946, he was appointed warden of Skokholm by the West Wales Field Society, now the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales. In November of that year he visited Lundy as part of a team looking at the possibility of establishing a bird observatory on the island. It was this visit that led to the formation of the Lundy Field Society.

In 2007, on receiving a copy of *Lundy Studies*, the Proceedings of the 60th anniversary Symposium of the LFS, John wrote to the editor, Jenny George. The following passages are extracts from that letter.



*John Fursdon pictured in his later years at home in his study at Fursdon House at Cadbury, Devon.*

“My first visit to Lundy was when, aged about nine, I was taken there by my father [by] Campbell’s paddle boat from Ilfracombe. It was a wonderful introduction to puffins and other seabirds ca. 1929, but fog on leaving started loud and sudden gunfire, giving me quite a fright!

As an initial supporter in November 1946 I went to Lundy on a week-long survey by the Ilfracombe Field Club, together with Dr [Leslie] Harvey of the University of Exeter, and the supply officer [Pat Higginson] of the Field Centre on Skomer. At that time, 1946, I was Hon. Warden at Skokholm Bird Observatory, having been invited to restart it post-war by R.M. Lockley and John Buxton as I had already visited the island in 1938 and ‘39 (soon after leaving school).

I had a fantastic time on Lundy, staying at the then unrestored hotel, and we never saw the mainland until the end of our exploratory visit. We looked at the Old Light as possible accommodation for researchers and other interested visitors, and selected a suitable site for a Heligoland type bird-ringing trap. Following this initial reconnaissance survey, the whole enterprise continued magnificently, and the Lundy Field Society took off in fine fashion.

A Cambridge student visitor to Skokholm, when I was warden in 1946, ringed a shearwater and by an amazing chance when he went to stay on Lundy, he met the very same shearwater that he’d ringed on Skokholm – this story bearing up the inter-island connection. I doubt if there is a chance of any overflow of surplus Pembrokeshire-breeding Puffins, although there is likely to be a modest re-appearance depending partly on the sand-eel food supply, and how pollution-free the western Atlantic seas are. Certainly Lundy may well be able to realise its Scandinavian name. Isle of Puffins. We all trust this will gradually be achieved.”

In his letter, John also mentions meeting Ken and Diana Keast during one of his film lectures at Frensham Heights School in Farnham, Surrey. This “good fortune” enabled John to maintain contact with Lundy and he often attended LFS AGMs at Diana’s invitation, much enjoying “the updates on Lundy news”, especially the eradication of rats and the opportunities this gave to the re-establishment of Puffins and Manx Shearwaters.



## Skittling the rhododendrons

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LFS volunteers enjoyed some glorious weather and great company during the two Conservation Breaks (a euphemism for ‘working party’) in 2012. With a good mix of regulars and ‘irregulars’, several useful projects were undertaken. **TREVOR DOBIE** and **KEVIN WILLIAMS** report on the spring and autumn activities, respectively.

As normal in March, the helicopter was needed for the outward journey, a first for some. A pleasant surprise came in a fully prepared Barn complete with towels and bedding, a luxury not usually afforded to its occupants. This welcome change in policy will mean that sleeping bags and towels will no longer cramp the 10 kg baggage allowance.

With pleasant weather from the start, many members used the afternoon to ‘do their own thing’ and enjoy the delights of the island.

Our first working day, a Saturday, saw the whole group working just below the site of the former winding gear at the Quarries cutting down some hard-to-reach rhododendrons that were left over from Phase One of the removal project. These were originally left for the Rope Works contractors but intrepid LFS members managed to almost clear the gully and haul the remains up to the higher level ready for burning.

A favourable wind on Sunday allowed brash from previous years to be burnt near Quarter Wall below Bellevue Cottages. A warm day working near a hot fire, dragging tangled branches from entangled stacks, we earned our pint of Old Light that day!



*Burning rhododendron brash along the East Side. Photo by Kevin Williams*

During the Ben Samson (a previous Lundy Warden) era, a number of enclosures were built around Lundy to record the effect of grazing by the different mammal populations. Parts of the enclosures were designed to restrict all grazers while other sections allowed rabbits to graze but not the larger animals. The information collected is a vital element in the planning of stock numbers in order to keep the sward at an optimum height. The LFS working party was asked to assist Derren Fox, then Lundy Warden, to double the size of these enclosures to give a more accurate measure. Half of our group set about this task on two of the enclosures, one on Acland's Moor and the other on the West Side of Middle Park.

The other half of the group chose to help out with drystone wall repairs between the farm buildings and Lighthouse Field, a first for some.

Tuesday was designated as a half day off and the morning was spent crossing the island in a systematic search for rhododendron seedlings just north of Pondsburry. Any specimens found were dealt with and the position marked with a GPS device to allow checks on successful eradication in future years.

Our usual Wednesday day off followed a similar pattern to previous years, except that we attended the 'Walk without a Warden' as Derren and Ranger Steve Pratt were off the island attending a course; Sophie Wheatley, Marine Warden, was also off the island. An Osprey was spotted, as well as a possible Greylag Goose along with many passage migrants during the day. An evening meal in the Tavern was enjoyed by all, with a friendly young French camper providing some acoustic entertainment on the balcony.

The Alexanders near Millcombe Pond and the walled garden were tackled on Thursday, with most of the group slashing and bagging huge amounts of material in an effort to control the spread of this highly invasive plant. A large area of thistles was also cleared from the Church Field, a task which drew a large 'thank you' from farmer Kevin.

The challenge of a skittles match between the LFS and island staff filled the evening when the Black Shed was transformed into a skittle alley for the event. I can report a runaway victory for the LFS team, with some personal best scores from a few players (who had never played before!).

Friday was our last work day and we returned to the East Side slopes to burn more brash as well as the freshly cut stacks from earlier in the week.

This was a very productive Conservation Break with a great bunch of people who all mucked in and got on together splendidly. My thanks go to them all: Ray Bilton, Norma Dobie, Louise Cookson, Keith Dobie, John Goodman, Dave Preece, Kelly Butler, Rob Preece, Yvonne Bailey, Robert Durrant, Kevin Williams, Tony Larose and Megan Debenham.

### **LFS Conservation Break, October 2012**

We arrived on the island Saturday lunchtime to find The Barn immediately available for occupancy. This was a nice surprise, due to it not being in use the previous week. After an expensive, high-calorie trip to see Nigel in the shop, and a welcome briefing from Steve Pratt, we had the rest of the day to acclimatise to island life.

As with most parts of the British Isles over last summer, Lundy didn't escape being soaked. In many ways this was a good thing: the possibility of burning rhodie twigs forming satellite fires around the burn area was hugely reduced (also assisted by a much improved burn platform design by Steve), and the island was no longer suffering a water shortage (so, longer showers

and a less grubby LFS working party were in the offing). However, the footing on the sidelands was much more precarious than on previous trips, and there was a significantly lower kinetic friction coefficient between flip-flop and grass on the path above The Battery.

On Sunday and Monday we started on Steve's preferred task for the week: burning the rhodie stacks above Quarry Beach. Both days brought fine weather, and the new recruits (Andy and Sonya) soon found their rhythm alongside the old lags.

Tuesday's weather was thoroughly horrible. We split into two groups in the morning: one rebuilding a section of drystone wall near the cemetery, and the other taking on tree maintenance work in Millcombe Valley. A variety of other tasks were also accomplished as the day drew on: hydrangea pruning, gully clearing and ragwort clearance by Quarter Wall and in some of the stock fields.



*Searching for rhododendron seedlings north of Ponsbury.  
Photo by Kevin Williams*

Wednesday was our day off, and everyone set off for exploration in the showery conditions. The full working party attended Derren's talk in the Marisco before dinner; we must have scared everyone else away as the only other members of the audience were Mr & Mrs Tony Cutler.

Thursday dawned with even worse working conditions than Tuesday. Undeterred, we spent the morning systematically searching the island near Widow's Tenement, finding a total of 4 (yes, four!) rhododendron seedlings. In the afternoon we moved to the sidelands where we were slightly more successful, pulling approximately 10,000 (yes, ten thousand!) seedlings between us in three hours.

The weather on Friday couldn't have been more different to the previous day, with several members donning shorts for a final day at the burn site. Again we achieved a huge amount, and the weather even lured out Derren and his fellow Warden, Donald, later in the afternoon, despite them having only a few days left on the island to wrap up their work. Later that evening we once again took on the island staff in a test of skittling skills. Tony Larose provided us with ruthless leadership for this event which, combined with a few practice days of throwing lumps of wood around, led to the LFS retaining the trophy by a score of 250 to 213 – a fitting conclusion to the week's work!

## The Purchase of Lundy for the National Trust (1969)

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**MYRTLE TERNSTROM** recalls the uncertainties that faced Lundy before Jack Hayward stepped in to help acquire the island for the National Trust.

This fortunate outcome was not reached before a period of worries, and some amusing diversions had passed. It was inevitable with the strong media interest in Lundy, and especially its particular character and independence, that it would attract individuals and organisations for which these had an appeal. These ranged from whimsy, daydreams of a romantic island life away from it all, the possible legal advantages of being ‘off-shore’, or a hard-headed look at its possible development as a holiday park.

One particularly engaging visitor with a view to buying was a Texan oil millionaire, who was attracted by the idea of having an island of his own. He arrived, with his parents and a brother and sister-in-law, by a helicopter that caused havoc among the lambing ewes nearby its landing place. The family stayed on Lundy for two days and looked all around – except for the brother and his wife, who were on their honeymoon in Room 15, which – to general amusement – they left only for the bathroom and lunch. The islanders were pleased to be treated to trips around the island in the helicopter – then a rare opportunity – but Mr Marsh decided in the end not to buy. This decision was conveyed in a letter from Texas on the largest ever sheet of notepaper, in the largest ever envelope, with the largest typescript imaginable, that Mr Gade subsequently kept among his souvenirs.

Another visitor was suspected of having plans for a gambling establishment, and one of the big banks decided against it for reasons of their own. Another visitor, who stayed for a couple of weeks, was thought to be taken with the notion of setting up an idealistic commune, and the Church of Scientology stated that it was prepared to spend up to £300,000 on buying and improving the island to make a retreat for people suffering from nervous disorders.

It is remarkable that Lundy devotees tend to have possessive feelings about this island, and strong ideas about how it might be run – often to the annoyance (or amusement) of those whose job it actually was to try to make ends meet and to keep it unspoiled. One such group, anxious that Lundy might be lost to them, consulted each other over plans to sell up all they had, buy the island, and keep it as a nature reserve. Sadly they knew enough about the problems to realise that the money to buy the island was but half of the problem, that even more would be needed for the expenses of keeping it, running a boat, and educating six school-less children.

The sad task of selling the beloved island fell to Albion Harman’s wife and two sisters, whose principle was that “whoever takes over Lundy must love it as we do”. They were interviewed on the island by a reporter: “Listen!” said Mrs Keast, and there was nothing to be heard but bird calls and the sounds of the sea. “Where else today could you find such deep peace and tranquillity and remoteness in so small a space? It is what we are determined will be preserved for posterity.” But none of the prospective buyers was able to make an offer that was acceptable to the owners, and it was reluctantly decided that Lundy would have to be put up for auction in July 1969.

In the meantime an appeal had been set up, headed by the MPs Jeremy Thorpe, Peter Mills and David Owen, to raise enough money to buy the island for the National Trust. It now seems incredible that Mr Hayward had to telephone Jeremy Thorpe no less than three times before his offer to fund the purchase for the National Trust was a reality. When this offer had been accepted and was made public, it was also announced that the money that had already been collected for the appeal fund would be used for the work that had to be done on the island.

## The seabird merry-go-round – the photography of Alan Richardson

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**Born on 26 May 1917 and raised in Crediton, Alan Richardson was a school teacher whose love of nature led to a passion for wildlife photography. Over the course of several pre-World War II years, Alan took his camera to Lundy and captured images of what he termed “the seabird merry-go-round” – sights of which present-day Lundy birdwatchers can only dream. Along with some of Alan’s many photographs, TIM DAVIS, with help from Alan’s nephew Adrian Collins, tells his story.**

In September 1937, at the age of 20, Alan Richardson joined the staff of Braunton County Primary School. It wasn’t long before he was taking pupils out from school to explore the North Devon countryside. This led to him putting up a prize – for the best annual nature book by both a girl and a boy – of a trip to Lundy on the air service from Chivenor in the July of both 1938 and 1939.

During his time as a teacher in Braunton, Alan travelled over to Lundy to take photographs, in particular of the island’s bird life. More often than not he would fly with the Chivenor-based Atlantic Airline Service piloted by Captain Bob Boyd – paying a return fare of 17/6d (87½p). Alan used an old plate camera, challenging enough on a flat surface. Climbing up and down cliffs in order to get close-up images of seabirds, especially Kittiwakes at their nests, must have been hair-raising at times. Many of his photos were used to illustrate books and articles on Lundy, and birds in general. It was coincidence that he visited Lundy during the spring and summer of 1939 that Richard Perry spent on the island studying seabirds, chronicled in his subsequent book *Lundy, Isle of Puffins*. Alan’s photographs, many of which adorn the pages of this book, bring Perry’s work to life.



*Alan entering a homemade hide at Saunton, 1937.*

Alan stayed for weeks at a time at the Manor Farm Hotel (at a cost of 3½ guineas – £3.67½ per week) and, as he played both the violin and saxophone, may have taken part in the various entertainments put on by the islanders at that time.

*“Now, as summer approaches, guillemots, razorbills, puffins, kittiwakes, black-backed and herring gulls, cormorants and shags will be vying among each other for nesting sites on the inaccessible cliff ledges or on the gentler thrift-covered upper slopes. It is the steep slope at the north end of the island [Puffin Slope] which is most favoured by the razorbills and puffins. There one has only to sit quietly among the large granite boulders in nesting time to be surrounded by these serious, quaint and trusting creatures.”*

A quote from Alan Richardson’s notebook, c.1938



*Clockwise from top left: Puffins, Guillemot and chick, Kittiwakes and chick, Razorbills (1939).*

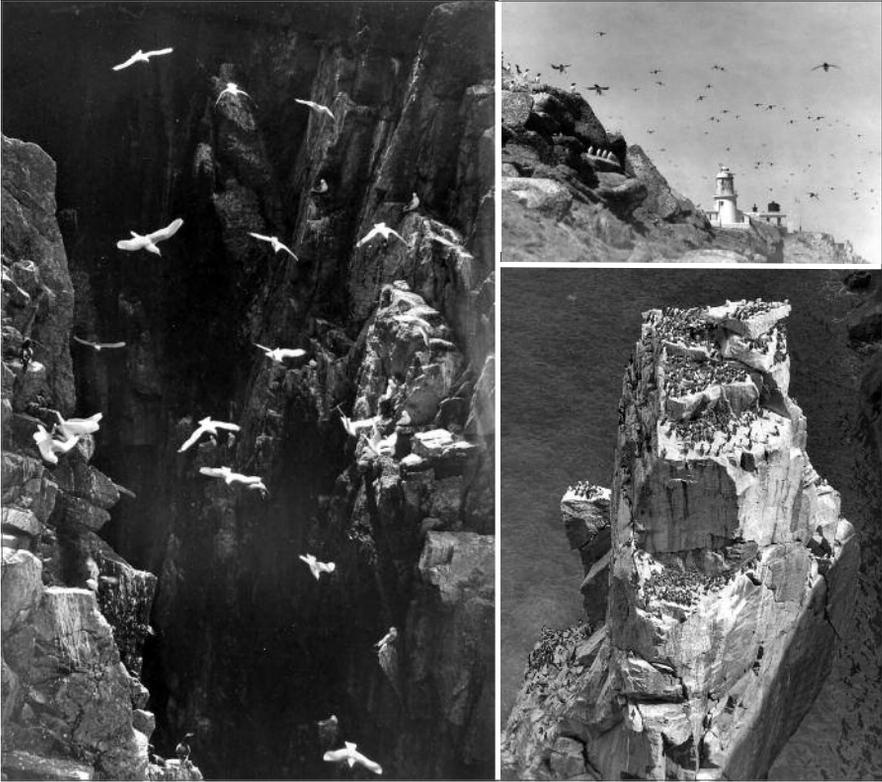
Following his call-up in 1940, Alan trained with the Devonshire Regiment until being posted to Egypt in 1942. Tragically, he was killed in action on the first night of the battle of Mareth in Tunisia on 20/21 March 1943, aged just 25. On hearing of Alan's death, members and friends of Braunton Primary School established the Alan Richardson Memorial Prize (for Nature Studies) Fund. The first prizes were awarded in July 1945, the recipients being Shirley Dennis, Anne Farrar and Margaret Williams.

The fund ran out in 2008, but Alan's nephew, Adrian Collins, together with his brother and two cousins re-established it in 2009 with a donation of £1,000. The family's aim is to provide prizes that Alan would have approved of to encourage children to become more involved with nature. In May 2010, the first of what is now an annual day-trip to Lundy took place when 28 pupils and five teachers from Braunton Caen School crossed to the island on MS *Oldenburg*.

That Alan died within an hour or so of his first experience of combat during World War II was a tragic loss of a promising young life. However, his enthusiasm for nature lives on through the Memorial Fund which bears his name – enabling youngsters to experience nature at first-hand – and through the many superb photographs he took.

Adrian has been researching his uncle's life for a potential book and has made contact with a number of Alan's old pupils from the late 1930s, including with some of the original prize winners (see Peter Moseley's recollections, below). He is keen to talk to anyone who knew or knew of Alan, and can be reached at 6/3 Eglinton Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5DH; email [adrian.maureen@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.maureen@btinternet.com).

*A presentation of Alan Richardson's Lundy photographs will be given by Tim Davis at the LFS AGM in Crediton on Saturday 9 March 2013.*



*Clockwise from above left: Kittiwake Gully, North Light auks, Devil's Chimney (1939).*

The following note was sent to Adrian by one of Alan's pupils, Kathleen Trendall, now over 80 years old, who lives in Australia:

*"I do remember Alan Richardson and think that his nature walks each week were what gave me my lifelong interest in natural history. I have an image in my memory of a youngish, thin man with great enthusiasm. Once a week our class would form a crocodile of two by two and a favourite walk would be out of the front entrance and up to and along the path by the railway line. In those days there was a hedgerow and Mr Richardson would always find something of interest in that hedge to explain and for us to marvel at, including I remember a birds nest which none of us would have ever seen if he had not shown it to us. I can remember him emphasising how wrong it was to collect birds eggs and, as some of the boys made a hobby of this, it caused some talk. I also remember he encouraged us to draw pictures of the the things we had seen on the walk. The other thing I remember is that on hearing of his death as a thirteen year old I was very saddened."*

## A plane trip to Lundy

**The late PETER MOSELEY recalls a day-trip to Lundy, his prize for winning a school competition put up by Alan Richardson for pupils of Braunton Primary School.**

“In the spring of one year [1938], Alan Richardson offered a prize for the best nature notebook in the class and this I won, together with a quiet little girl called Hester Chugg, who came from a farming family up in the hills [above Braunton]. The prize was a flight to a small island, called Lundy, fifteen miles off the North Devon coast. Early one morning the three of us cycled to a small airfield [Chivenor] not far from Braunton. Waiting there was a small, high-winged, twin-engine monoplane called a Short Scion, with seats for perhaps five passengers and mail.

Soon we were flying across familiar landscape, the silvery curve of the river Taw quickly joined by the Torridge to our left; and then the dark mud and dykes of the saltmarshes, followed by the curving, warm patterns of the sand dunes, the long stretch of rapidly breaking lines of surf and on out to sea. From my home I had watched this plane on a similar flight hundreds of times.

We settled back into the sparse, metal-framed chairs with their khaki-coloured canvas seats. After flying over the sea for about half-an-hour, we swooped over low stone walls and landed on a sheep-cropped field on Lundy. When I went there it was privately owned, [with] about twelve farming people living on the island, plus the staff in the small hotel. Nowadays, I am told, it is roughly the same, with the addition of a constant stream of naturalists and tourists in spring and early summer. The airline has ceased to exist and now everyone arrives, as do the supplies needed to keep the island going, by boat from Bideford. My memories of my day there are hazy. I seem to remember that we went to the hotel for coffee. Then we walked to various soaring cliff tops that were more than one hundred metres above the sea. As we approached the edge, thousands of seabirds flew out from the ledges on the cliffs in clouds of whites, blacks and greys – Guillemots, Razorbills and gulls.

Sitting on the cliff’s top, we lunched on sandwiches that we had brought with us, after which we trekked to the far end of the island to see the birds for which the island is most famous – Puffins, thousands of them; little penguin-like birds with hooky, multi-

coloured beaks. Then a visit to the little Post Office to buy some Puffin stamps, printed especially for the island, adding ordinary GPO stamps on a card before posting it and catching the plane home.”



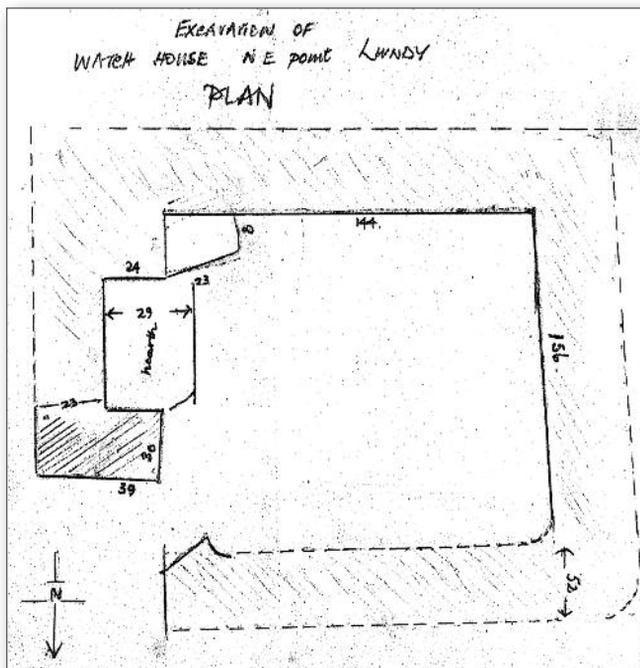
*Left: Captain Bob Boyd’s Short Scion, one of two which regularly flew passengers to Lundy in the 1930s and early 1940s.*

## The Puffin Slope guardhouse

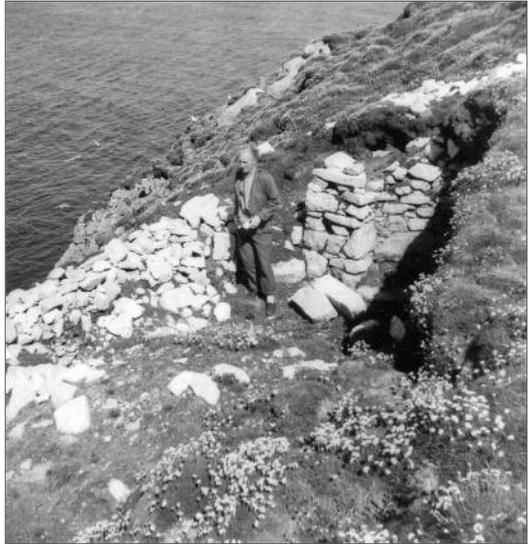
Between 23 August and 20 September 1967, a team of some 15 to 20 people, led by Keith Gardner, undertook a series of archaeological investigations on Lundy. Surveys took place in five areas – South Farm, Middle Park, Acland's Moor, North End and Brazen Ward – with excavations then carried out in several places.

One of the sites at North End for which detailed plans were prepared consisted of what was described as “a possible guardhouse or billet situated at the foot of Puffin Slope”. The ‘Description and Condition’ of the site (Thackray, C. 1989, National Trust Archaeological Survey, p.28) goes on to say that the structure: “... is thought to have probably been connected with the fortification of the island in the sixteenth to seventeenth century. It is a rectangular structure of drystone wall construction, situated at the foot of Puffin Slope, its south wall terraced into the hillslope. The wall remains stood at 1.30m high. The fireplace survives 1.25m high by 0.95m wide by 0.60m deep. Immediately north of the fireplace is the site of a doorway in the north-east corner, approximately 0.70m wide. The north wall survives only as a rough, uncoursed pile of stones, c.60m high on the inside, but c.10m high exterior elevation.”

The ‘Management Recommendations’ for the structure at the time stated: “The general survival of this building is good, and although ruinous, it does appear to be stable. It is accessible to the general public, but is remotely situated and unlikely to be disturbed. It has been surveyed and a plan prepared in 1967.” That plan, titled ‘EXCAVATION OF WATCH HOUSE NE POINT LUNDY’ (reproduced below from a photocopy) was drawn by John Dyke. Archaeologically, the building is considered of regional importance.



Accessible the ruins may be (and are a wonderful spot to sit with a packed lunch and watch seals, seabirds and anything else that passes by) but, situated close to the edge of the cliff at the very foot of Puffin Slope, to the right of Puffin Gully, a reasonable level of fitness is required to get down and, more importantly, back up. If you do attempt it, take your time; the effort will be well worth it.



*The late Peter Cole, former Honorary Secretary of the LFS, standing in the doorway of the 'watch house' at the foot of Puffin Slope in May 1962.  
Photo © Myrtle Ternstrom*

Thanks to Myrtle Ternstrom for providing the background information for this article. For further reading see: ● 'Lundy Archaeological Investigations 1967' by Keith Gardner on p. 41 of *LFS Annual Report* 19 (1968); ● Thackray, C., 1989, National Trust Archaeological Survey; and ● Myrtle Ternstrom's 1999 Gazetteer, a copy of which is kept in the LFS Library in the Marisco Tavern.

### **Tim Davis**



*Both Peter Cole and Keith Gardner feature in this photograph taken at the 1986 LFS AGM, held in the Hatherley Laboratories of Exeter University on 1 March. The full line up from left to right is: the late Peter Cole (then Hon. Sec.), Keith Hiscock (current Chairman), the late Leslie Harvey (Hon. Sec. 1946-59, Chairman 1959-68), Richard Campey (Island Representative 1978-80), the late Keith Gardner (Chairman, Archaeological Sub-Committee 1970-76) and Hugh Boyd (LFS Warden 1948-49).*

*Photo by Jill and Roger Davis.*

## Book reviews

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### ***Lundy Island: pirates, plunder and shipwreck***

by Brian French, Grosvenor House Publishing, 2012, 117 pages, ISBN 978-1-908596-88-8, £13.00 including p&p (LFS members special price)

Brian was a volunteer for the National Coastwatch Institution at Stepper Point near Padstow during which he was inspired to write two books on shipwrecks – one on Padstow wrecks, the other on Trevoose wrecks. Although referred to in the text, full reference to these earlier works is sadly missing.

Observing Lundy from this lookout prompted thoughts of this third book which he continued with even after realising that Lundy is in Devon rather than Cornwall. A couple of visits and lots of research resulted in this compact but comprehensive volume tying the three maritime subjects – pirates, plunder and shipwrecks – together.

Thirteen chapters are complemented with more than 50 illustrations and seven maps. The maps are hand-drawn but, whilst informative, they lack the pinpoint accuracy to locate the wrecks, although precise latitude and longitude are given elsewhere where available.

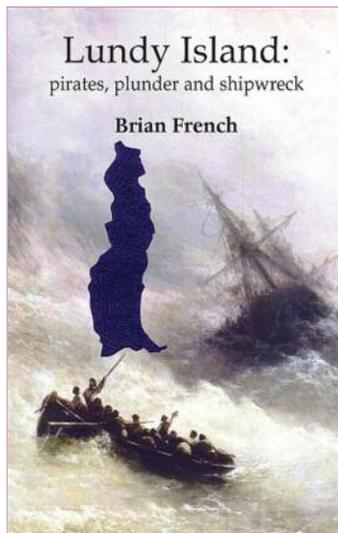
The book opens with a potted history and contemporary description of the island. It is refreshing to have a different view, although it does draw on, and acknowledge, more familiar sources.

The bulk of the book is devoted to descriptions of wrecks, divided into time periods tied to relevant events: Early (i.e. pre-lighthouses); Lighthouse 1820-1862; Gun Battery 1863-1896; Post Modern Lights 1896-1913, WWI, 1920 to present, and of course a section on the wreck of the *Montagu*.

The last half of the book is devoted to a tabular listing of over 220 ships that were wrecked on or near Lundy between 1757 and 1995. Information is provided in eight columns: Name and Voyage; Type; Date (of wreck); Lat./Long.; Where wrecked; Outcome; Saved+lost; Reg-Tons-Cargo-Captn-Misc.

The chatty style presents some of the difficult-to-follow changes of ownership in an easily accessible form. It draws heavily on published literature, including LFS Annual Reports, particularly No 18 (1967) which itself listed 84 wrecks from 1796 to 1948. However, the book brings together all maritime information in one volume and as such, for those with an interest in the seas around Lundy, it could prove a useful addition to the bookshelf, especially at the LFS discounted price.

**Alan Rowland**



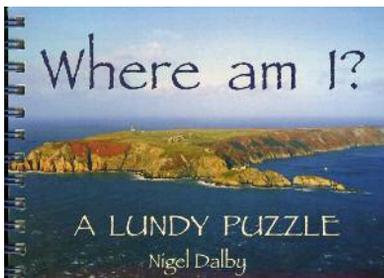
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### ***Where am I! : A Lundy Photographic Puzzle***

by Nigel Dalby, 2012, published by The Brightsea Print Group, Exeter. Available from Lundy Shop price £5.99.

When we first talk to a new acquaintance and the subject of Lundy arises, the first question usually is: “What do you find to do there?” This is usually followed by: “I bet you know every inch of the island.”

This booklet will provide you with the necessary responses. A small (A6) spiral-bound publication that will easily fit in a pocket challenges you to locate 25 photographic images. The pictures are quirky, taken from unusual angles, or are extreme close-ups, cropped to remove clues and not even guaranteed to be the correct way up. They will challenge the identification skills of even the most knowledgeable Lundyphile.



Some of the pictures may be located from memory, but the majority will have to be identified *in situ*.

As Nigel states, there are no prizes, apart from the satisfaction of beating him. However, clues and confirmation of answers are available in person or via an email address noted in the book.

With the promise of an even bigger follow-up edition, you will never be short of answers to those perennial questions about Lundy.

If you have seen all the Lundy mammals and collected your Lundy Letterbox completion certificate, you may well be ready to accept Nigel's challenge and tell him where he was.



*Something small to end on: a Pygmy Shrew photographed by Katie Poole in Millcombe House in August 2012.*

## PUBLICATIONS for sale through the Lundy Field Society

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### **Journal of the Lundy Field Society**

First published in 2008 and illustrated in full colour. Published biennially. Members receive copies but others may order back numbers.

**Vol 1, Jenny George (ed.), 2008, 192pp** – £5 plus £2.20 p&p

**Vol 2, Jenny George (ed.), 2010, 120pp** – £7.50 plus £2.20 p&p

**Vol 3, Jenny George (ed.), 2012, 128pp** – £10 plus £2.20 p&p

Contains peer-reviewed scientific papers on: Lundy Ferns, Threats to Lundy Cabbage, Plant diversity, Effect of drought on Quarterwall pond, Goat behaviour, Bird fieldwork, Puffin population, Ecclesiastical history, Book review *The Lords of Lundy*.

Full contents are viewable at [www.lundy.org.uk/publications/volume.php?volume=1001](http://www.lundy.org.uk/publications/volume.php?volume=1001)

**Lundy Lichens by Ann Allen, 2007, 48pp (last few copies)** – £9.99 plus £1.50 p&p

Specially produced as an introduction to the fascinating study of the over 350 species of lichens on Lundy. Over 50 colour photographs accompany descriptions of selected lichens grouped into community habitats. Map of locations, an illustrated glossary and other background information.

**The Birds of Lundy by Tim Davis & Tim Jones, 2007, 319pp** – Softback £6.95 plus £3.00 p&p

A joint publication with the Devon Birdwatching & Preservation Society. Background chapters on the island and four suggested bird walks of varying length. Covers all 317 species recorded on Lundy up to 2007, with notes on another 32 species that have been reported from the island and surrounding waters. Each entry includes the species' status, pattern of occurrence, historical records and unique anecdotal insights, plus an analysis of ringing movements.

**Protecting Lundy's Marine Life: 40 Years of Science and Conservation, 2012, 102pp**

Members Hardback £15, Softback £11.50 / Non-members £16 and £12.50 plus £2.50 p&p  
After 40 years of marine conservation at Lundy, a record has been produced summarising how and when the major marine conservation landmarks occurred, describing some of the marine life highlights of the island and celebrating the success of all of those who have been involved over the years. This book also provides the opportunity to document some of the early studies of marine life that used scuba diving and the methods that had to be developed to sample and monitor that life. In the book, the two people who have most consistently contributed to the development of marine conservation at Lundy, Keith Hiscock and Robert Irving, explain briefly (and illustrate profusely) what happened when and how, but also identify how much more there is still to find out about the marine wildlife of a fascinating island.

Please send orders (with cheques payable to 'Lundy Field Society') to:

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c/o Alan Rowland

Mole Cottage, Chapel Close, Woodford, Morwenstow, Cornwall EX23 9JR

Edited by: Kevin Williams ([ksw2008@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ksw2008@hotmail.co.uk)) and  
Belinda Cox ([belinda.cox@btinternet.com](mailto:belinda.cox@btinternet.com))

Contact address: 234 Ridgeway Road, Bristol BS16 3LP

Contributions in the form of news items, short articles, illustrations and photos reflecting the aims and activities of the Lundy Field Society are welcome and may be sent, preferably by email, to the editors. Telephone enquiries to 07795 303933.

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# Coming soon to an AGM near you!

## THE HARMAN FAMILY'S LUNDY 1925-1969



Myrtle Ternstrom  
with Diana Keast  
and André Coutanche

To help celebrate a notable birthday for the last member of the Harman family to have been a joint-owner of Lundy, the Lundy Field Society is publishing this privileged view of the island when it was the property, the home and the abiding passion of the Harman family.

Covering the period from the 1920s to the late 1960s, it includes some stories which have never been told before and others which are well known but told here with new illustrations. The period

photographs are from the collections of Diana Keast and Myrtle Ternstrom, and many of them are published here for the first time. Memories and anecdotes from Diana Keast are the icing on the cake of a unique insight into a crucial period of Lundy's history.

**We are pleased and proud to announce that this book will be launched at the AGM on Saturday 9 March 2013. It's 144 pages packed with history, stories and never-before-seen photos and will cost just £12.99.**