



DISCOVERING LUNDY

The Bulletin of the Lundy Field Society

No. 44, December 2014



Inside...

- An underwater dive trail*
- Lundy becomes an Island Parish*
- First ever Storm Petrel chick*



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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 editor. Telephone enquiries to 07795 303933.

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Cover photos by Tim Davis (Millcombe in spring) and Tony Taylor (juvenile Storm Petrel)

An interesting year – as always

Photo by Neil Hope



My enthusiasm for and passion about Lundy is shared by a large number of those who visit the island. The opportunities for study of a unique island seem endless but so also are the novel events that happen each year and that give us something new to enjoy on every return. Those ‘non-study’ events experienced by LFS members are the stuff of this *Bulletin*, together with historical revelations that are dusted off and published to help enliven our knowledge of the island and its surrounding waters.

I discovered this year, for instance, that swimming with seals has become a major reason for divers coming to Lundy – it didn’t used to be. The seals seek out swimmers to provide entertainment for themselves and duly pose for the sorts of photographs that seem to be in almost every issue of the diving magazines. Much as I would like to think that divers come mainly to see colourful wildlife and spectacular underwater scenery, the seals have it! With observations made by the wardens and by visitors, our understanding of the movements of identifiable individuals (such as the one on the facing page that I photographed in 2013) helps the conservation of the Lundy seal population.

The island and its surrounding waters provide frequent material for the media and I was pleased to help out with the underwater part of the ITV *Countrywise* piece on Lundy. Such events are always educational – including, perhaps, the first time a drone has been used to film around the island (and some will say, “I hope the last”).

A very enjoyable part of my visiting Lundy this last summer was the residential Committee meeting held on the island in mid-May during a four-day stay, giving me an opportunity to enjoy the island in the company of fellow LFS enthusiasts. And, this year, my tent survived while I camped on the island for the annual underwater photographic splash-in. The highlight

Editor’s chattering

Photo by Alan Rowland



I’ve managed to get to Lundy on six occasions this year, a couple of day trips along with some staying trips. As always I’ve learnt more about the island and discovered new places; it intrigues me that there’s always somewhere new to visit!

One of my highlights was the LFS Committee meeting in May – you can read Jenny George’s thoughts about it later in this bulletin. I also did a three-day diving trip in September, and have more dive trips booked for next year. I didn’t get to the *Iona II* this year, but I’m hoping to get there in 2015 and use the Dive Trail resource that Keith Hiscock writes about on page 8.



If you heard a ‘swarm of bees’ around the island in early August 2014, it would have been this octocopter being used to film for the ITV series ‘Countrywise’. Photo by Keith Hiscock

More and more is being learned about Lundy seals including through facial patterns and, sometimes, tags. This is ‘Molly’ (aka ‘80028’). Found at Polzeath on 28 November 2010 with wounds to her fore flippers, she was rehabilitated at West Hatch and released at Woolacombe Beach on 13 March 2011.

Photographed by Keith Hiscock on the seabed near the Jetty on 29 June 2013.

then was not the competition (as always, no prizes for my efforts) but the launch of the *Iona II* trail and the chance to dive the protected wreck site – but more of that later.

Thanks to all the contributors, to Belinda Cox for editing this Bulletin and to Tim Davis for the layout.

Keith Hiscock

Chairman

The LFS has ventured into social media this year – take a look at our Facebook page if you haven’t already visited it. Also, keep your eyes open for the new LFS website, which is due to be launched before the next edition of this Bulletin; it’s going to be more visually enticing and easier to navigate than our current one.

Thank you again to all who have sent me Lundy articles, snippets and photographs for this year’s edition of *Discovering Lundy*. I have really enjoyed reading them and I’m sure everyone else will too. I’m very happy to receive anything at any time of the year that you think would be interesting for LFS members to read about – my contact details are on the inside of the front cover. If you’re not sure whether it’s suitable, please send it anyway!

My thanks to Alan and Sandra Rowland and the two Tims for stuffing the Bulletin and the AGM papers into envelopes. In addition, grateful thanks to Derek and the Lundy Company for mailing them via their Shore Office franking machine. It’s very much appreciated.

Belinda Cox

Lundy – an Island Parish

As well as being the Honorary Secretary for the LFS, MICHAEL WILLIAMS is also the Hon. Sec. for the Lundy Island Society of Bellringers. Here he tells us about the Island Parish of Lundy.

Visitors to Lundy in the Bristol Channel will be aware that the church of St Helen is in a poor state. The tower was restored as part of the bell restoration project in 1994 but the remainder of the building has suffered from over 115 years of all the varieties of weather that the Atlantic Ocean can throw at it. A restoration project is planned but has been slow to make progress because the ownership of the church has been in question.

St Helen's was built by the Revd Hudson Heaven in 1897 and was subsequently conveyed to the Church Commissioners. No parish was created and the Revd Heaven was given a courtesy title of vicar. Although the Diocese of Exeter was able to appoint incumbents it held no formal responsibility for the church and the Church Commissioners were not able to fund a restoration project. Despite a keenly interested committee formed by the present Priest-in-Charge, Revd Shirley Henderson, the situation was legally ambiguous and the committee could not formally organise a restoration project.

Over two years of historical investigations and legal discussions led to agreement between the Commissioners and the Diocese that the Exeter diocese should take proper responsibility by establishing the parish of Lundy. This would enable a PCC to be formed which is empowered to organise the church's restoration. Discussions with grant-giving bodies also revealed that a properly recognised body would need to exist in order for grants to be awarded.

After due notice was given (pinned up in the Marisco Tavern) and various ecclesiastical procedures followed, we learned that the parish of Lundy would be created on Sunday 1st December 2013. It just so happened that two groups of ringers, including many members of the Lundy Island Society, would be on the island that weekend and this important historical event could be marked. A peal was quickly organised and thoughts turned to finding a way to get the Priest-in-Charge to the island to hold a service in her new parish church.

A beer-fueled conversation

Unfortunately existing commitments precluded her from visiting for the weekend. Helicopter-flying ringer Stuart Gibson was not available to pluck the vicar from her home parish of Hartland and she was understandably put off the thought of getting in a small boat and making the crossing from Clovelly! Long before the ringers arrived, the plan to hold a service was abandoned until a beer-fuelled conversation with Andrew Wilby in the Tavern a few days beforehand came up with what seemed like a ludicrous idea to ask Chivenor Air Sea Rescue to bring her over. Many island staff are trained Coastguards, including barman Grant Sherman, who was able to contact RAF Chivenor to see if they would be willing to undertake a training exercise on Lundy, picking up Shirley en route. To our surprise and glee they agreed!

The day arrived and a good peal of Grandsire Caters was scored before lunch with the tower's sound control open. At 1.00pm around thirty people made the short walk from the Tavern to the helicopter landing site and in the exceptionally clear weather the big yellow helicopter was spied through binoculars landing at Hartland International Heliport 11 miles



The vicar is welcomed to her new parish – (left to right) Michael Williams, Revd Shirley Henderson, Bob Caton and Andrew Wilby. Photo by Shelley Southon

away. Ten minutes later the helicopter flew along the west coast of the island and disappeared from view for a few minutes while the crew undertook a short training exercise. It reappeared and landed on the helipad to furious waving from the crowd. There was probably cheering too but that was drowned out by the noise! Lundy's new parish priest appeared in a bright pink coat and was welcomed to the island by the ringers.

Following lunch, there was ringing for the four o'clock service and 25 people attended Evensong which included three hymns. Andrew Cleave from the Lundy Field Society was visiting and played the keyboard (the organ being out of action). Sparkling wine followed the service to celebrate the occasion but unfortunately a quarter peal of Stedman Caters was lost. The vicar and organist were then treated to a magnificent Christmas dinner served to 32 people in Millcombe House, expertly prepared by Gareth Tilley and his assistants.

With the parish created, the restoration committee can now move forward with its project. The committee includes two bellringers, Andrew Wilby and Michael Williams, alongside representatives from the Lundy Field Society, the Landmark Trust, the National Trust and the Diocese of Exeter. Restoration work is expected to cost in the region of £1million and will be in two phases: the first to repair the walls and roof, the second to reorganise and repurpose the space at the back of the nave. We hope ringers who have visited Lundy will support the project – further details will follow in the spring.

(This article was originally published in 'Ringing World'. Ed.)

Celebrating the new Parish of Lundy

SHIRLEY HENDERSON shares her thoughts about her newest parish.

“That glorious, overwhelming sense of arriving and connecting with a place is not confined to a physical environment or moment in time. God is right beside you now, reaching out His warm hand and waiting for you to hold it. The supplication of the Saints who lived before surround us with a blanket of prayers that join with ours, because the God who hears them is outside our linear concept of time” Words written on another island, Lindisfarne, by Mary Fleeson of the Lindisfarne Scriptorium – words which I find so fitting when I arrive on Lundy. There is a sense of ‘timelessness’, almost a stepping back in time, and I’m sure that that is part of its appeal to all those regular ‘pilgrims’ and the ‘day trippers’ who venture out on the *Oldenburg* (or the helicopter) on such a regular basis.

Perhaps, without realising it, my childhood upbringing on another island was part of my preparation for the role I found myself taking on in 2009 when, as Rural Dean, Lundy became one of my responsibilities. My predecessor, Revd Andrew Richardson had already begun considerable research into, and had plans drawn up for, the restoration/alteration of St Helen’s Church, Lundy and, whilst on my first ‘official’ trip to conduct Landmark’s 40th anniversary service here on Lundy, I was able to gain some insight into the pros and cons of such proposals. It didn’t take long to realise that the majority of folk were extremely keen to retain the building exactly as it was, at least from the outside, and the formation of a steering group, made up of representatives from interested parties, grew out of these discussions in 2010. Since then we have been looking at all the possibilities, ensuring a total structural review of the building, and drawing up plans to ensure that St Helen’s remains a constant ‘landmark’ on Lundy whilst providing a much needed and valuable resource for all those visiting the island – spiritual, educational, and communal, whilst, first and foremost, retaining the integrity of a place of worship.

Fulfilling the vision

After many months of meetings, plans and procedures, we finally put in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a substantial amount of money to fulfil this vision. Part of that preparation was to establish Lundy as a parish in its own right within the Hartland Coast Mission Community. Unfortunately the first bid was unsuccessful, but the parish became official at the beginning of December 2013 and to mark the occasion a special service was held in the church on Sunday Dec 1st, with thanks to the bell ringers and Grant for organising my arrival by RAF Sea King – now that was an experience!

Since then, our project manager, Rob Harding, has been working really hard with the steering group, to submit another bid to the HLF and the result of this will be known in December this year.

It has to be said that being ‘Vicar’ of an island parish is very special – just the logistics of getting here can be a challenge! Although I did suggest that we should have a parish helicopter, unfortunately the diocese didn’t have the foresight, or the funds to comply! There are of course many other ‘oddities’ in comparison with a regular mainland parish – its boundaries are very clearly defined, its congregation potentially unlimited, and we run on ‘Lundy time’, which suits me very nicely!

This is a place of 'pilgrimage' and like many other islands has its own unique ethos, it has its own 'spirituality' and people come not only for the flora and fauna but for the peace and quietness and the totally unspoilt and protected landscape. In my mind that all sits very comfortably with Christianity and the Christian presence on the island goes back a very long way. Our goal is to maintain that presence, to continue the Reverend Heaven's vision if you like, to enable engagement with our Creator on many different levels, and protect the continuing peace and distinctiveness of this very special island.

"The kingdom of Heaven rejoiceth!"

LFS Hon. Secretary, MICHAEL WILLIAMS celebrated Lundy becoming a Parish by ringing a Peal from St Helen's Parish Church.

The details (below) were originally published in *Ringing World* on 2 December 2013 and can be seen at www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=313272.

Lundy Island Society

Lundy Island, Bristol Channel

S Helen

Sunday 1 December 2013
in 2h55 (13-1-18)

5021 Grandsire Caters

Composed by S A Bond

The Peal Band:

- 1 Hannah L Wilby
- 2 Michael A Williams
- 3 Edward N Hughes-D'Aeth
- 4 Christopher I Griggs
- 5 Alexander J Dicks
- 6 Robert Caton
- 7 Simon A Bond (C)
- 8 Ryan Mills
- 9 Jonathan Cressshall
- 10 Andrew W R Wilby

To mark the day that St Helen's church becomes the parish church of the newly created parish of Lundy within the Diocese of Exeter.



The Peal Band in order from front left (1) to back right (10). Photo by Shelley Southon

An underwater trail guide

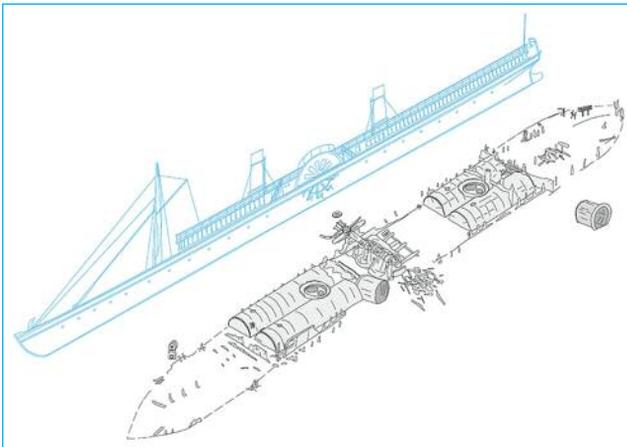
KEITH HISCOCK follows the *Iona II* diver trail.

I 'do' marine biology but still find underwater wrecks and their history fascinating. Lundy has two protected wreck sites: the *Iona II* offshore of Tibbett's Point and the cannon site south of the Knoll Pins. The *Iona II* is the only protected paddle-steamer wreck in British waters. During the summer, she joined only four other protected wreck sites in the UK that have a dive trail.

The trail, developed and produced by Wessex Archaeology for English Heritage by Peta Knott and her colleagues, has four four-page guides: Introductory, Shipbuilding, Monitoring and Marine Life; and four more detailed booklets: Introductory, History and Shipbuilding, Wreck Investigations and Monitoring, and Marine Life.

The guides and booklets were launched during the annual underwater photographic 'Splash-in' competition on Lundy on 14-15 June 2014. The guides are waterproof and can be taken underwater by divers to help them identify the features of the wreck and the marine life that now lives there. My part in the launch was to take the photographic monitoring guide and re-photograph some of the key features.

What I actually achieved was to discover that the guide floated and left my pocket while I was descending to the seabed! But, I still took a lot of pictures and saw for myself what a fascinating and historic wreck the *Iona II* is. The vessel was a River Clyde fast paddle-steamer destined for a second life as a Confederate gun-runner during the American Civil War. Loaded with enough coal to get her across the Atlantic, the vessel had an eventful start to her journey, leading to severe hull leakage and a return from the western approaches to shelter off the east coast of Lundy, where she sank. Now, the boilers, the engine, parts of the funnels and the stern post together with various plates and fittings can be seen on the seabed at about 25 metres depth.



Extract from the 'History and shipbuilding' booklet showing major features of the wreck against an outline of the intact vessel. Major features are the fore and aft boilers, the engines and sections of the funnels.

Divers need to have a licence to dive the wreck or be on a vessel that has licensees on board who can report who has dived the wreck.

The pictures that I took on 15 June give an idea of what this important piece of history now looks like.

*Neil Hope (one of the Splash-in judges) photographing the forward funnel of the wreck.
Photo: Keith Hiscock*



*The aft boiler with fireboxes just showing at the base.
Photo: Keith Hiscock*

*One of Lundy's lobsters sheltering amongst the wreckage.
Photo: Keith Hiscock*



Déjà vu – eighteen years on

In May the LFS Committee met on Lundy for the first time since 1996. JENNIFER GEORGE was present at both meetings, and provides us with a comparison.

The first LFS Committee meeting held on Lundy was on Saturday 15 June 1996 in the Marisco Tavern. It was not until 18 years later that the second such meeting on Lundy took place on Monday 19 May 2014 in Millcombe House.

The 1996 meeting was held during the LFS 50th Anniversary week, which involved fieldwork, guided walks and a fantastic quiz run by Liza Cole, the Lundy Warden at that time. Eight Committee members attended the 1996 meeting, including two of whom are members today (Jenny George chaired the meeting and Chris Webster was Honorary Secretary). Apologies were received from five members, including Keith Hiscock, now LFS Chairman, and Robert Irving, who reported on the Lundy Marine Reserve – now Marine Conservation Zone – and still does. The Lundy Warden, Liza Cole, also attended the meeting.

In 2014, ten members were present at the meeting which was chaired by Keith Hiscock. Also attending as guests of the LFS were Derek Green, Lundy General Manager, Becca MacDonald, Lundy Warden and Chloe Nicholson, Assistant Warden.

The year 1996 was a turbulent one for Lundy as part of the Beach Road was swept away early in the year, and the RAF in three Hercules flew in and dropped ten tons of animal feed around Pondsburry. Not long after this, the tanker *Sea Empress* foundered off the Welsh coast and many oiled sea birds were washed ashore at Lundy.

The format of the two committee meetings was similar, with reports from the Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. In 1996 the Treasurer reported on membership, whereas today the LFS has a hard-working and very able Honorary Membership Secretary.



Members of the LFS Committee hard at work (outside the Tavern!). From left, André Coutanche, Chris Webster, non-committee member Marie Jo Coutanche, Sandra Rowland, Andrew Cleave, Michael Williams, Alan Rowland, Roger Chapple and Keith Hiscock. Photo by Belinda Cox

Both meetings discussed fieldwork and activities – Conservation Breaks (called Working Parties in 1996) invoking considerable discussion in both. The expertise and hard work of the LFS members was commended by the Wardens. In 1996, publications involved the *Annual Report and Newsletter*, but in 2014 there is now also the *LFS Journal* and the bulletin, *Discovering Lundy* (the updated and expanded newsletter). Since the 50th Anniversary volume was published in 1997, the LFS has increased its publication range or contributed to publications – for example *Lundy Studies* (the 60th Anniversary volume in 2007), *Lundy Lichens* (2007), *The Birds of Lundy* (2007), *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life: 40 years of science and conservation* (2012) and *The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-69* (2013).

The LFS website did not exist in 1996 and at the 2014 meeting a subcommittee was set up to review its content and organisation. Membership subscriptions were discussed at both meetings and 'any other business' included logbooks in 1996 and the Landmark Trust's 50th Anniversary plans in 2014. Both meetings benefited from the input of the Lundy Wardens, and in 2014 from the informative comments from the Lundy General Manager.



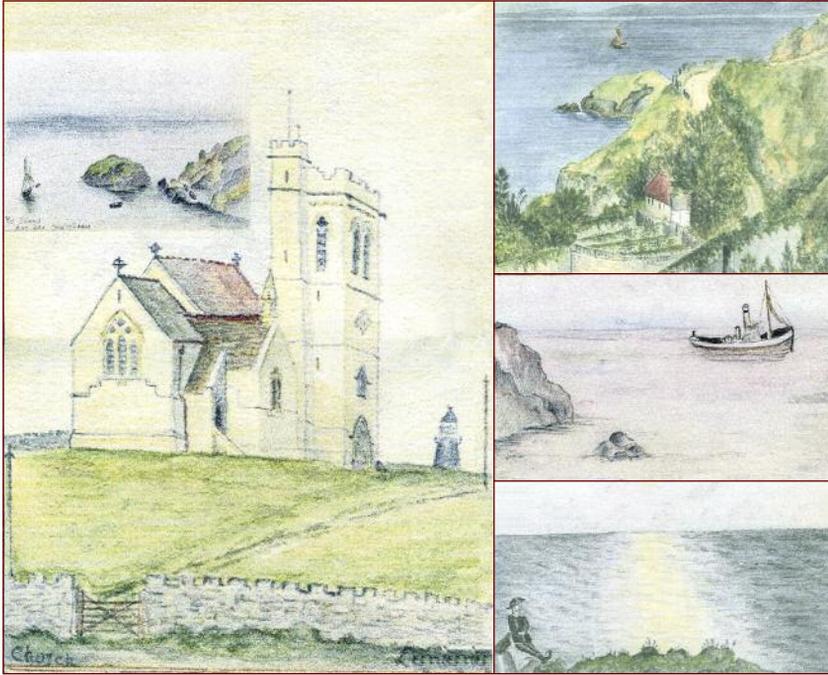
*Michael relaxes into his role
as LFS Honorary Secretary.
Photo by Alan Rowland*

A walk on the wild side

For the Devon Birds annual trip to Lundy on Sunday 18 May 2014, the LFS – in the guise of ALAN ROWLAND – again offered a guided walk for those who did not want to dash off in search of birds.

Unlike 2013, the day was gloriously sunny with hardly a breeze to disturb the waters of the Bristol Channel. However, calm conditions persuaded the charterers to undertake a round-the-island trip before disembarking, causing the walk to be reduced in length so as to leave time for the other activities. For nine of the ten participants this was their first visit to Lundy. Setting off along the Beach Road via Millcombe and Hammers to the castle, we covered much of the island's history and natural history before striking off to the Cist and Rocket Pole. I had promised a return to the Tavern by 1.30pm so with a quick look at the Devil's Limekiln and the *Montagu* wreck site, we did just that, though most preferred to stay at the South West corner for a picnic while the rest returned for food and the archaeological walk.

Although numbers were small, it was still a valuable service for the LFS to offer and as usual was much appreciated by everyone who took part.



An unknown connection

PETER and MAGGIE GAWN have found a montage of Lundy drawings (four of which are reproduced above) entitled 'The Island in 1904' in a sketchbook that belonged to Lily Kathleen Burnett, who was known as 'Lily Kay'. Maggie's grandfather was Lily's brother. Lily was born in Chippenham in the 1870s, lived latterly in Bristol and then in Wookey (near Wells), and died in the 1960s. She was one of four unmarried sisters, with one brother. Peter hasn't been able to discover what her connection with the Heaven family or Lundy was. She is known to have had various jobs as a companion/carer, but it isn't known whether she ever worked for the Heavens. The pictures were in a little sketchbook which has been handed down.

If anyone has any information about Lily Kay and knows why she might have been on Lundy, please pass it to Belinda Cox (details on the inside front cover).

Manx Shearwaters – Scilly vs Lundy

ANDREW CLEAVE spots a grievous error in the Isles of Scilly tourist brochure.

Something I spotted, during a couple of days on the Isles of Scilly, was a claim in their lavish tourist brochure that the Turk's Head pub on St Agnes was the only pub in England where you could hear Manx Shearwaters calling as you walked home. Whoever wrote that has obviously never been to the Marisco Tavern!

The Lundy population of shearwaters now greatly exceeds the population on the Scillonian islands of Annet and (more recently) St Agnes/Gugh, though given the recent removal of rats from St Agnes, the Scilly shearwaters may catch up.

Another claim in the brochure was that Scilly was the only place in England where Storm Petrels nested. True then but no longer, following the finding in October this year of a juvenile Storm Petrel on the West Side! The photo below was taken by Tony Taylor on the night of 5 October 2014, confirming the first ever breeding of the species on Lundy. A full report will appear in the 2014 *LFS Annual Report*.



Photo by Tony Taylor

LFS AGM Auction 2014

The 15 lots at the 2014 AGM auction raised £349 towards Society funds. Our auctioneer was once again Roger Chapple who reminded bidders that no matter which lots they were successful in obtaining, they were donating much-needed income in return. It was good to see the lots going to 11 different bidders, all of whom were fortunate to acquire unique items for their collections.



I do have a small reserve of donated items for future auctions, but if you wish to recycle your treasures please do get in touch. Anything you bring to the AGM will be held for subsequent auctions so that everyone has opportunity to save up and turn up to bid.

Thanks are due to our donors as well as the successful bidders (who are often the same people!). In particular this year we thank Diana Keast, Myrtle Ternstrom, Reg Lo-vel, John Hedger, André Coutanche and the Tony Walker bequest.

Alan Rowland (the glamorous assistant)

Another hugely productive LFS Conservation Break

TREVOR DOBIE tells us about the first LFS working party of 2014, held from 28 March to 5 April.

This conservation break could be summed up with two words: building and burning.

In Millcombe gardens a tumble-down wall damaged by a huge *Phormium* (New Zealand flax or Flax lily) was demolished and completely rebuilt under the guidance of our retired plumber, Dave Stone. When the construction gang cleared up, a slight surprise to some was the discovery of a number of slow-worms amongst the rubble. These were relocated to a safe area and reported to the Ranger and Warden. Meanwhile we used the skills of two retired firefighters, Tony Larose and Andy Bell, to give safety advice and provide hose-reel cover while large stacks of previously cut rhododendron were burned where they stood, greatly speeding up the clearing-up process.

A fruit cage (pictured below) was constructed in Millcombe as well as some small bridges over the water channels to aid wheelbarrow trips and transport of materials. The Alexanders plants near the pond were de-headed for the second year running, hopefully decreasing the risk of seed spread; a reported 387 plants were dealt with.

We welcomed two new volunteers on this trip: Alan Rowland stepped in as a late replacement, and Mark Hersey joined us as a new member, although he had previously volunteered with the National Trust. The rest of the party were Kelly Butler, Louise Cookson, Megan Debenham, Keith Dobie, Trevor Dobie, Michael Fry, Dave Preece, Robert Preece and Kevin Williams.

The normal 'day-off' activities were undertaken on Wednesday, the North End proving popular with a large group of members looking for the copper mine as shown on some Lundy maps. It was spotted, but no one dared to venture all the way down to the entrance!



Photo by Alan Rowland

All in all, another great week on Lundy for an LFS working party. The rebuilt wall looked robust and tidy, the rhododendron brash is well on the way to being completely cleared, the Alexanders in Millcombe had their annual haircut, the new fruit cage is ready and waiting for its soft fruit – and the April fool’s joke with painted duck eggs proved that there’s no fool like an old fool.

Many thanks to all the volunteers for your help and hard work.



Photo by Alan Rowland

The construction gang at the end of their labours, and (below) a slow-worm found amongst the rubble.



Photo by Rob Preece

Diary of a working girl

BELINDA COX reports on her first LFS Conservation Break.

Having previously done a few weeks' rhodi bashing with the National Trust, and now as a member of the LFS Committee, I thought it time to join fellow committee member Trevor Dobie on a volunteer week. Here are some of the adventures from the third LFS working party of 2014, held in October.

Our arrival was delayed by 24 hours – too windy for the *Oldenburg* to sail, but not windy enough in Liskeard to disperse the fog and allow the helicopter to fly. I spent the day with Louise Cookson, Kevin Williams and Trevor in and around Woolacombe and Croyde, walking on Baggy Point and Morte Point. The latter certainly lived up to its name when we discovered a pile of ashes and some flowers on a rock!

The following day we arrived on Lundy by air, and our group of ten settled in to the Barn; Trevor, Kevin, Louise, David Preece, Rob Preece, Kelly Butler, Simon 'Lofty' Lofts, Megan Debenham, Rob Durrant and me.

Trevor organised the cooking rota, clarified a few housekeeping rules, and we were free to spend the afternoon as we wanted to. Of course, a walk to Old Light was in order, so off we went. We almost came a cropper when, walking through a field of rams, a couple of them made a bid to escape into the adjacent field of ewes. I'm sure farmer Kevin would have had something to say about that! However, the escape was successfully thwarted and the Old Light successfully visited. A trip to the Marisco Tavern to refresh ourselves followed, before the delicious sausage and mash dinner prepared by that night's chefs.

The next day was spent burning rhododendron which had previously been cut and stacked. Those who have visited in the last few years will be familiar with the lines of cut branches on the East Sidings. Not anymore! We certainly didn't hang about, and there were soon several huge fires (right) sending smoke and flames many feet into the air. We were working under the supervision of Nick, the volunteer assistant ranger for the season, and this was supposedly 'controlled burning'.

Well it certainly was dramatic burning – quite a sight to see part of Lundy in flames! Towards the end of the day, while we were waiting to make sure it was safe to leave the area, we had a discussion about how many tons of the evil rhodi we had burnt. I'm not sure we ever managed to agree on a figure, but there is no doubt that we all agreed it was lots.

Stinking of smoke and with eyes stinging, we scrambled up the slope and wandered home for a shower before a celebratory pint. The chefs for the night, Kelly and Rob, served us a scrumptious cottage pie for dinner, and while some of the group went back to the Tavern I decided an early night with my book was in order.



Photo by Belinda Cox

Following the exercise of the previous day, my legs were complaining as we walked to the site on day two. Most of us were working on the northern border of the rhodis just above the cliff edge, and we managed to burn all the wood left in this area while successfully avoiding setting the nearby bracken alight, much to Ranger Steve's relief. Brummie Dave managed to get stung by a wasp, but there were no other injuries.

It was a really steep climb back to the Upper East Side Path at the end of the day before heading home past the Timekeeper's Hut, where three of the handsome Highland Cattle were waiting for us. Some friendly debate ensued over whether the correct term was cows, bullocks or cattle.

We visited the Tavern to replace the taste of smoke with our chosen beverage before showering and being served a very healthy dinner of baked potatoes, salad and ham. Kevin showed off his creativity by putting some homemade pickles on the table, which we all agreed were jolly tasty. Sitting in front of the roaring fire after dinner, we decided to play a word game which caused much hilarity. One person chose a subject and then each took it in turns to say one word while attempting to avoid completing a sentence. I suggest that this game should become a tradition on the conservation weeks and should definitely be fuelled with alcohol. As we had the next day off, a few of us visited the pub and made it back to the Barn just after the lights went out.

Despite it being a rest day, several of us decided that as we had arrived a day late we would actually do some work in the morning. As well as more rhodi burning the helicopter landing 'H' was given a fresh coat of paint. There was yummy homemade tomato soup for lunch and then walking and relaxing for the rest of the afternoon. We ate in the Tavern that evening before losing to the Lundy staff at a game of Quoits.

By now you will have got the gist of the week, at the end of which we had burned, climbed, laughed, eaten, drank, chatted, chopped and slept. Over the course of our stay we had also been playing a 'murder' game; I think Kevin won in the end. A couple of us joined an intimate and very moving church service on one of the evenings.

Brummie Dave set the last big stack of chopped rhodi alight (above) on the last working day – quite a milestone! Not surprisingly, we celebrated with a slap-up meal and a relaxing evening. I can thoroughly recommend artichoke soup. The artichokes were donated by Brummie Dave and the recipe was by the very talented and creative chef, Kevin.

Our departure was on the last *Oldenburg* sailing of the year, and seasonal staff Monica, Matt and Chloe were with us as we left.

Did I work hard? You bet! We all did. Did I have fun? Sooooo much fun! Would I go again? I'm already booked on a trip in 2015.

Thank you to Trevor for your organisation and leadership. Thank you to the LFS for funding the trips.



Photo by Belinda Cox

A milestone for the Landmark Trust

In 2015 the Landmark Trust celebrates its 50th anniversary. To mark the occasion the Trust is opening 25 Landmarks for a weekend, including Millcombe House, to give visitors a rare opportunity to see inside some of the Landmark estate. On Lundy a small group of volunteers from the LFS will be on hand to steward Millcombe and lead walks for day-trippers and staying visitors.

The event takes place over the weekend of Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May. There are return sailings from Ilfracombe on both days and tickets can be bought from the Shore Office on 01271 863636.

At 3.00pm on Saturday 16 May, Lundy will participate in a shared 'Golden Moment' with the 24 other Landmarks across the country. Community music groups will simultaneously perform a specially composed 'Fanfare for Landmark', the group 'Shake a Leg' will be performing, and the Lundy bellringers will be ringing a celebratory peal. More details are available on the Landmark Trust website (www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/millcombe-open-day110).

eBay for Charity

Did you know that you can benefit the LFS simply by using eBay? MICHAEL WILLIAMS explains.

If you sell things on eBay you can donate some or all of the sale price to the LFS. eBay for Charity is an easy way for sellers whether they're individuals or businesses, to donate a percentage from any sale to a charity of their choice and add Gift Aid to their donations. It operates through the PayPal Giving Fund for which the LFS is registered.

In addition, all eBay for Charity items will qualify for a fee credit on basic insertion and final value fees equal to the percentage donated.

How it works:

- 1. The item sells. The seller receives payment from the buyer (and a matching % fee credit from eBay).**
- 2. PayPal Giving Fund collects the donation from the seller.**
- 3. If the seller ticked the Gift Aid box, PayPal Giving Fund claims Gift Aid for the charity.**
- 4. After a short period to ensure all has gone through successfully, 100% of the donation and Gift Aid is transferred to the chosen charity.**

Thanks to the generosity of existing supporters the LFS has already benefited to the tune of over £200.

To list items for sale and donate a proportion of the sale price to the Society visit <http://charity.ebay.co.uk> and search for 'Lundy'.



Book review

Anthony Frederick Langham (1928-1995): A Brief Account of his Life and Career

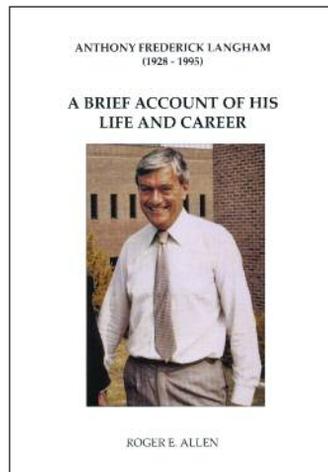
by Roger E. Allen, A5, softback, 28pp. Privately published 2014. Available from the author at 29 Soloman Drive, Bideford EX39 5XY for £5.00 plus £1.00 postage.

All LFS members know the name of Tony Langham as the person who – along with his wife, Myrtle – inherited nineteenth century antiquarian writings about Lundy and left us serious, original historical research for the second half of the twentieth century. Fewer people may know that Tony Langham didn't just research and write Lundy's history, he was part of it, as a leading member of the LFS and as its Hon. Secretary from 1966 to 1981.

Roger Allen chronicles those achievements in this attractively produced booklet and also summarises the key events in Tony Langham's life and his professional career as a dentist, along with his other interests and activities. Roger interweaves anecdotes from his own friendship with Tony Langham which illustrate points and bring the man to life.

That's the first half of the booklet. The second half is a comprehensive bibliography of Tony Langham's writings, from his first article in 1957 – 'Tracing Lundy's Past' in the (now very rare) *Lundy Review* – to his final book, *The Island of Lundy* in 1994. A total of 136 articles, books, letters and obituaries by Langham are listed, with a brief description of their contents – an extraordinary record of activity and unflinching interest in and concern for Lundy. And a pretty extraordinary achievement by Roger in assembling and cataloguing all this material!

This is a fitting tribute to a late member of the Lundy community in a style which Tony Langham himself would have appreciated – well researched, well written and accessible to all.



André Coutanche

Save the date!

Following the success of the 'Discover Lundy' event in 2012 a further trip is being planned for 2016 to celebrate the Society's 70th anniversary.

The week will give you an opportunity to indulge in all things Lundy – its birds, flora, marine biology, freshwater biology, history, archaeology, fungi and astronomy. Coupled with social events, it is sure to be at least as successful as its forerunner.

Over 40 bed spaces have been reserved and further information about booking will be circulated during 2015. In the meantime please mark the date in your diary:
Saturday 24 September to Saturday 1 October 2016.



Slow to move but quick to colonise!

ALAN ROWLAND gives an update on the Lundy slow-worms.

As reported by Trevor Dobie on the pages 14 & 15, one of the projects that the LFS Conservation Working Party undertook in March/April of 2014 was to take down the derelict wall in the highest of the Millcombe gardens and rebuild it. Work commenced on 29 March during which all the existing stones were removed and the *Phormium* cut back to facilitate the rebuilding. During the demolition process Mark Hersey found three slow-worms and Michael Fry a fourth. Three were adults (one pictured above), each 30-45 cm in length, and one a juvenile (see previous page) of around 10-15 cm. The following day, another adult was found in the base of the *Phormium*. All five were removed and safely translocated to a location in North Devon. This does seem to suggest that slow-worms are finding Lundy a suitable habitat for their continued existence, even if Millcombe remains the only confirmed location.

Photo by Alan Rowland

In Memoriam: Kay Harman, of Lundy

In what is the 100th anniversary year of Kay Harman's birth, we reproduce the eulogy from her funeral in 2012, which was also published in *The Times* on 19 April 2014.

Words are always inadequate when we lose a loved one and we can but do our inadequate best to express our loss. How does one say thank you to, and thank you for, so remarkable and wonderful a person as our beloved Kay, or adequately describe the loss that she leaves in our lives?

Greatness is a word much used – and much abused – nowadays; how then should we define true greatness? The truth, of course, is that we can't, but its component qualities are readily identifiable: courage, honesty, trustworthiness, humility, gentleness, a rigid adherence to principle, a capacity to forgive, determination, humour, intelligence, compassion, loyalty, generosity, self-deprecation, decency, hatred of pomposity, self-esteem, self-pity and self-promotion, fearlessly standing ones ground instead of seeking the easy comfort of the herd, and seeing, without surrender, the point of view of others. And so it was with Kay, who taught us all of these things by example, with that gentle shy smile and twinkling eyes which all the beautiful Bloxam sisters possessed; the smile and eyes that are perhaps looking down on us now. Her presence sparkled and sparked delight, warmth and affection in everyone she met, and with the immediate realisation that one was in the presence of someone very rare and very special. Of all the facets of greatness, courage is perhaps the greatest, for without courage, no others can shine. And Kay's unostentatious courage and determination were extraordinary, not just in facing death with unbelievable equanimity and humour, but throughout her life. Just one example of so many: she lived many years on Lundy, that beautiful, majestic island, where in Shakespeare's words "eagles made their roost": after she had slipped over a cliff and suffered horrendous leg injuries, she never complained, and when her surgeon told her quietly that she would never walk without a severe limp, she looked him in the eye and said quietly, I will never walk with a limp. And she never did. Tennyson's last lines of Ulysses apply so well to Kay and her husband Albion, owner of Lundy, as they grew older:

*"Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."*

Tennyson also rightly wrote that the human soul thrives on love, admiration and hope, and Kay's gift was to inspire these in all of us. J B Priestly rightly wrote that sadly nowadays the opposite is too often prevalent – hatred, denigration and despair. Kay taught us the foolishness of this, by the example she gave us.

This is not the time, nor is it the place to say more of her long life and its many, often hilarious, episodes, or of her love of rather doubtful jokes, nor of Albion who died 43 years ago and to whom she remained steadfastly constant: that is for another day, on Lundy, where her ashes will be laid next to his. Albion was a man, like Kay, imbued to an extraordinary



Kay Harman

degree with all the qualities of true greatness, and who, like her, inspired love, trust, respect and admiration in all who knew him; a great man, larger than life, of extraordinary perception, courage, wisdom, principle, kindness, strength, compassion and presence, both physical and intellectual - and like his father, with an overriding love of Lundy and its freedoms. He also possessed a truly dreadful singing voice, which startled the unwary in the Marisco Tavern on Lundy: it was the sort of noise that you might hear if you happened to stray too close to the bull pen. Albion was quite simply a king among men, and Kay was his beloved queen. They, with Albion's sisters, Diana and Ruth, created their own Camelot on Lundy, and shared it with so many who loved them. They created a magical world for others to delight in, under Albion's wise benevolent rule and Kay's sparkling gaiety, where we learned the truth that comes only from living in the face of wild nature, the value of freedom and the foolishness of the habit of the civilised world of taking others at their own - usually self-promoting - self-estimation. All of us who were privileged to know them will carry them in our hearts forever – and none of us will see their like again. Two great hearts have stopped, but the love they kindled in us, and what they taught us by the example of their lives, will always live on, in the hope that in some small way we may pass it on to our own loved ones.

They leave us with love, admiration and gratitude which will continue to uplift all our lives. God bless you beloved Kay and thank you from all of us for what you have been to all of us.

I end as I began – there are no words to describe our debt to you, and to Albion, or how we shall miss you.

In the beautiful words of Ezra Pound – “Your face will forever drift before our eyes, fast blown as does the wind a rose.”

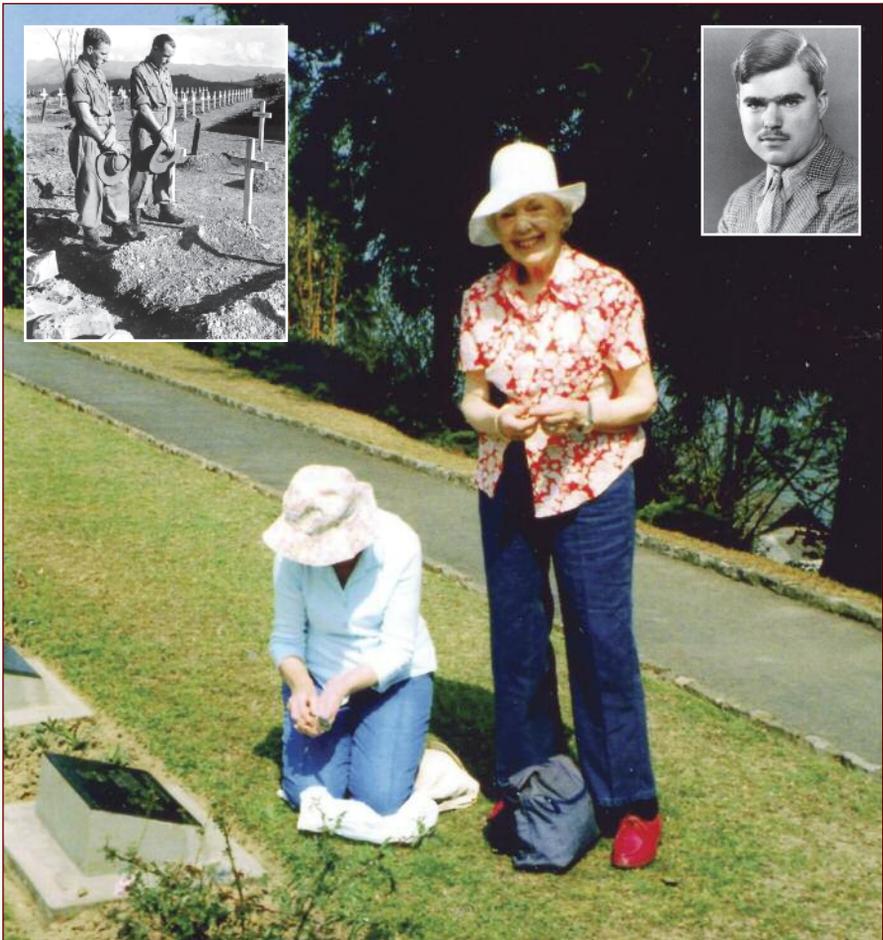
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Photo © Myrtle Ternstrom

A treasured memory

2014 was the 100th anniversary of the birth of John Pennington Harman VC, who is honoured by the memorial in VC Quarry. His sister, Diana Keast, shares something not many people know about his grave in Kohima cemetery, India.

Diana travelled to visit John's grave in April 2005 with the Royal British Legion and veterans of the Burma-Japanese war and the Battle of Kohima. While she was visiting the grave she asked permission to bury some Lundy coins in the soil at the memorial stone, which she and Cherry Richardson, Irene Gade's niece, are pictured doing.



Diana Keast and Cherry Richardson (kneeling) burying Lundy coins at the grave of John Pennington Harman VC (inset right). Two soldiers visit the Military Cemetery at Kohima (inset left) to pay their respects to their former comrade, 1945.

... and finally in this issue of *Discovering Lundy*, two snippets kindly contributed by André Coutanche, one from the *Western Times* of 26 October 1906 (top) and the other from *The Graphic* on 4 January 1896 (below).

Lundy for Inebriates.

At the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society Conference at Cardiff on Monday, it was suggested that Lundy Island should be converted into a labour colony for discharged inebriates.

The Rev. S. Murray, chaplain of Lewes Prison, who made the proposal, expressed the view in a paper he read that if the notorious "drunks and disorderlies," the curse and bane of our streets, could be congregated in such a place, they would cease to be hopeless wasters, and would live ordered and disciplined lives beneath a firm but kindly rule. Ever since a visit he paid to Lundy Island some time ago, that spot had seemed to him uniquely fitted for such a scheme. Splendidly healthy, with special facilities for labour, who could say the beneficial change that might be wrought in the most broken and diseased life by years of detention and graduated toil in such a place and under such conditions? In some such scheme as this lay the key of the problem of the inebriate's future.



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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

Vol 4, Jenny George (ed.), 2014, 128pp – £10.00 plus £2.50 p&p

Contains peer-reviewed scientific papers on: Pleistocene glaciation, Ackland's and Widow's Tenement Ponds, Passive acoustics, Rhododendron fungi, Lloyds Signal Station, Herring Gull aggression, Manx Shearwater recovery, Bird Pellets, Book reviews on *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life* and *The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-1969*.

Full contents are viewable at www.lundy.org.uk/publications/volume.php?vol=1001

The Harman Family's Lundy 1925-1969 by Members of the Lundy Field Society, 2013, Softback in full colour, £12.99 plus £2.50 p&p

Covering the period from the 1920s to the late 1960s, the book includes 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 other Lundy Field Society members, 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.

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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