

POSTER ABSTRACTS

SIXTY YEARS OF THE LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY

by

KATE COLE

The Flat, Woldringfold, Burnt House Lane, Lower Beeding, West Sussex, RH13 6NL
e-mail: kate.cole@btopenworld.com

The Lundy Field Society (LFS) was founded in 1946, following discussions between Leslie Harvey, a lecturer in Zoology at the University College of the South West, and Martin Coles Harman, the owner of the Island and a keen naturalist. The original aim of the Society was to establish Lundy as a bird observatory with proposals for work including the erection of a Heligoland trap, the presence of biologists to operate the trap, ringing of nesting cliff-breeding birds, and periodic publication of progress reports and results. Harman was keen to support the project, as long as Lundy's independence from the mainland was maintained. Harman became the first President of the LFS and offered accommodation in the hotel and subsequently the Old Light which remained the headquarters of the Society until 1968. The Society's first year was spent organising the construction of the trap and maintaining the Old Light, with the first warden being appointed in 1947. Harman suggested a long-term project to repaint Marisco Castle, and this broadening of the LFS's interests is reflected in the first Annual Report which, as well as birds, contained preliminary reports on terrestrial and freshwater habitats and marine ecology. Sixty years on, the LFS still works to further the study of Lundy, and in particular its history, natural history and archaeology, and to conserve its wildlife and antiquities. Thanks in part to the work of the Society, much of the Island is now legally protected and a full-time warden is employed by the Landmark Trust and Natural England. Consequently, the LFS now plays a less direct role in conservation, but continues to supply volunteers to assist the warden in conservation tasks. The LFS also offers grants to encourage scientific research, with the results being published in an Annual Report.