



Seventy-Ninth Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society at The Boniface Centre, CREDITON, EX17 2AH on **Saturday 8th March 2025**. Doors open at 12.00 noon and the meeting starts at 1.00pm. We hope you will be able to join us to renew friendships and meet other members of the Society.

Agenda

Welcome from the Chair

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of last AGM**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Officers' reports**
 - a. Honorary Secretary
 - b. Honorary Treasurer
 - c. Honorary Membership Secretary
- 5. Election of Officers**
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice Chair
 - c. Honorary Secretary
 - d. Honorary Treasurer
 - e. Honorary Membership Secretary
- 6. Election of Executive Committee members**
- 7. Election of Honorary Independent Examiner**
- 8. Governance Review update**
- 9. Date and venue of the next AGM**
- 10. Any other business**

The business meeting will be followed by the Bird Observatory Report, presented by Joe Parker; a talk about Lundy's hidden fungal communities by Ruben Mole; a presentation about the renewable power project by Gary Sharples & Derek Green; the Warden's Report, presented by Joe Parker; and the Lundy General Manager's Report, presented by Derek Green. There will be a tea break during the afternoon.

Minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting held at the Boniface Centre, Crediton on Saturday 9th March 2024 from 1.00pm.

The meeting was attended by 89 members and visitors. It was also streamed over the internet with up to 30 sessions running online. It was chaired by Alan Rowland.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and thanked the committee members for their hard work over the year.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from 80 members.

2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

There were no corrections and members voted to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Belinda Cox updated the meeting on the Field Studies course that would be taking place next month. It will include activities relating to the freshwater ecology, seals, and seabirds. There are also potential opportunities to see bird ringing demonstrations and hear talks from experts on a range of island wildlife. The course is being offered by the Society, with the aim of developing data collection and monitoring skills amongst the membership.

There were no other matters arising.

4. Reports

a. Honorary Secretary

The Honorary Secretary, Michael Williams, gave his report, summarised below.

The year opened with the wonderful news that Dr Keith Hiscock, Vice President and former Chair of the LFS, had been appointed an MBE for services to marine conservation.

Further exciting news came in early February, when the Bird Observatories Council re-admitted Lundy to the network of Bird Observatories in Britain and Ireland after an absence of nearly 50 years. This was the culmination of a process initiated by Dean Jones during his tenure as Lundy Warden and which developed into a collaborative effort involving a variety of individuals and organisations, with the LFS providing a key advisory role and pledging to continue support for bird-ringing and other activities under the aegis of the new Observatory.

The long-term ringing studies of Manx Shearwaters and Wheatears continued. Occupation of the Manx Shearwater nest boxes reached a new high, with a record ten chicks produced in them.

The Wheatear colour-ringing project produced more good news, with estimates of 61 pairs in the study area and 163 pairs for the whole island easily surpassing previous records.

Lundy Cabbage numbers have increased by 77% from 2,792 in 2022 to 4,959. Surveyors are collaborating with Dr Steve Bullock, Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Bristol, to investigate the possibility of using remote drones and AI to identify

and count cabbage in future. A scoping exercise will be undertaken in 2024. This already is in use in agriculture where drones are used to calculate the amount of fertiliser required on crops.

Invertebrates continue to be recorded with all the usual species being most visible: Rose Chafer beetles, Dor beetles, moths and butterflies being seen in good numbers. It was a particularly good year for butterflies with the rarely recorded Clouded Yellow and Speckled Wood featuring in the reports. Emperor Dragonflies have been recorded with increasing frequency over the last few years with a first record of ovipositing at Rocket Pole Pond in 2018. This was repeated in 2021 at Quarter Wall Pond confirming attempted breeding. The exciting sighting this year of a nymph in Pondsbyry by Alan Rowland confirms successful breeding.

Stuart Cossey carried out the Botanical Society of the British Isles New Year Plant Hunt on January 1st and recorded 14 species in flower. This event takes place nationwide with hundreds of observers recording plants in flower, but this is the first time we have had records from Lundy. The results are added to a national database and help to understand how wild and naturalised plants are responding to a changing climate.

Amongst the highlights for marine life are Atlantic Bluefin Tuna being seen off Lundy again, likely not seen for about 40 years. There has been an apparently significant recruitment of the iconic and nationally rare Sunset Cup corals at the Knoll Pins after a decline in numbers since the mid-1980s but, on the downside, the non-native Red Ripple Bryozoan on shaded intertidal surfaces has spread. Always popular with visitors, seals are doing well.

Our keen mycologists, John Hedger and Mandy Dee requested some new identification books for the LFS library. These were used repeatedly over four weeks of recording during the autumn, and many of the 40 or so new records for the year were only identified thanks to the species being covered in these new books. John and Mandy also led two popular Fungi Forays during their visit.

During 2023 the LFS sent four working parties to Lundy. The March trip and the May week both had to miss the joys of the Oldenburg crossing and suffer with the helicopter trip due to the unexpected delay in the return to service of the ship. Both groups had a good mix of experience and new members with plenty of useful tasks completed including drystone walling with expert tuition from Vince Pipe.

Both Autumn parties suffered from withdrawals due mainly to family illness and our long reserve list was extremely useful in recruiting replacements for the 11 places that were cancelled for these two trips. Again, with several new faces, plenty of essential work was completed. The Lundy Conservation Team have expressed their thanks for the Society's significant contribution to conservation work.

We made a grant of £200 for working party equipment during the year. Financial support was also provided to renew the island's weather station. You can now monitor current meteorological observations on Lundy through our website.

Two research grants were awarded during 2023. Yeng Sen received £312 to present her 2022 Lundy Manx Shearwaters research at a conference in Scotland and in the summer of

2023 Tara McEvoy-Wilding received £289 to develop a new method for sampling marine benthic invertebrates, using a number of loofah sponges held in a weighted frame.

The committee has been busy with a range of business. We considered how we might find a future LFS President by drawing up a role description – we are now seeking the right person to fulfil this role. As a charity we have a duty as members, committee members and officers to act in the best interests of the Society so codes of conduct were drawn up, following good practice in the sector.

A planned LFS Day Trip to Lundy in June was unfortunately cancelled due to poor ticket sales but on a positive note, plans are progressing for a Field Studies Course in April to develop the next generation of observers and recorders of Lundy's natural history.

Publications remain a core activity of the Society in delivering its objectives. The eighth volume of the LFS Journal was published during the year with Keith Hiscock editing for the first time. John Hedger edited the 2022 Annual Report and Bee Cox produced the Discovering Lundy bulletin. Chris Webster authored our new history and field guide to Lundy's archaeology, with support from André Coutanche, Alan Rowland and Mandy Yates.

The Society records its tremendous gratitude to Rosie Ellis and Stuart Cossey, Warden and Assistant Warden respectively, who left Lundy during the year. Our relationship with the Lundy Conservation Team grows stronger every year and we wish both Rosie and Stuart all the very best for their futures.

Chris Dee indicated last year that he wished to step down as LFS Treasurer due to his increased involvement in the Lundy Bird Observatory. Chris has been ably managing our finances for four years. Bill Williams has been trying to step back from the role of Independent Examiner for the past couple of years and he has now been able to do so.

In the autumn, Sandra Rowland told us that she wished to stand down as Membership Secretary for personal reasons. Lucy Lo-Vel is taking on the role, reconnecting her family with the Society's administration as her grandfather, John Dyke, was Honorary Secretary between 1959 and 1965. Our Chair, Alan Rowland, is also stepping back from office.

b. Honorary Treasurer including endowment fund update

The Honorary Treasurer, Chris Dee, presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023.

Without increasing subscription rates, membership income has risen by 4.6%. The increase in donations is largely a result of re-aligning our Gift Aid claim with our accounting year, rather than the tax year, so includes all qualifying donations from April 2021 to December 2022. We are pleased to continue to receive a monthly donation from the Jennetts Trust towards our running costs.

The increase in sales income includes receipts for the planned day trip in June. Although MS Oldenburg was back in service for this, insufficient ticket sales forced us to cancel. We incurred a small loss of £91 from online transaction fees, but we are grateful to the Lundy Company fully refunding the booking deposit. Given the sea conditions on the day, there is a high likelihood that the sailing would have been cancelled, or at best would have been a very uncomfortable experience.

The transfer of bird ringing activities to the Lundy Bird Observatory meant that there was no reimbursement of ring costs this year, but correspondingly we did not purchase any bird rings.

The increase in conservation break deposit income reflects the increase to £40, in an attempt to reduce the administrative overhead of handling withdrawals. Forfeited deposits have been treated as donations.

In a year in which we published an issue of The Journal, expenditure on publications was expected to be higher. Research support in 2023 included two grants, additions to the LFS library and start-up funding for the Lundy Bird Observatory. We continue to provide financial support for bird ringing at the Lundy Bird Observatory by LFS members.

Apart from publications, the majority of our expenditure goes towards practical conservation on the island by paying fares and leader expenses for the conservation breaks.

An award was made to help with the publication of a report on the 2022 Marine Festival and awards were also made towards equipment for terrestrial and seabird monitoring and for fitting out the Bird Observatory laboratory.

During the year, in consultation with our investment advisors, we diversified our portfolio whilst continuing to adhere to our ethical aims. The existing fund was augmented by the £35,200 that we had set aside from the Rodley legacy for investment.

Overall, we showed a deficit of £1355 over the year, which in a Journal publication year is not a concern. We continue to be well placed to support research and conservation on Lundy.

There were no questions.

c. Honorary Membership Secretary

The Honorary Membership Secretary, Sandra Rowland, gave her report: at the end of December there were 486 active memberships, equating to 647 members including family members. Our total membership is the highest ever recorded.

The names of members who had died and many new members were announced.

5. Election of Officers

The Chair, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Membership Secretary were all standing down. The Vice Chair and Honorary Secretary were willing to continue as Officers.

Nominations were sought for each of the Officers. The following proposals were made:

Role	Candidate	Proposer
Chair	Belinda Cox	Alan Rowland
Vice Chair		
Honorary Secretary	Michael Williams	Joanne Wilby
Honorary Treasurer	John Shelley	Chris Dee
Honorary Membership Secretary	Lucy Lo-Vel	Sandra Rowland

Each proposal was seconded and there being no other nominations, each was voted on and elected. There were no nominations for the role of Vice Chair so this position will remain vacant for the year ahead.

The outgoing Chair announced that the incoming Chair would take over at the end of the meeting. Belinda Cox thanked the outgoing offers and presentations were made to thank them for their service to the Society to several rounds of applause.

6. Election of Executive Committee

Seven committee members were due to retire this year. All but one was willing to stand again. There are three further vacancies so up to 10 Executive Committee members could be elected at the meeting.

Proposals were sought. Andrew Cleave, André Coutanche, Trevor Dobie, Jenny George, John Hedger, Keith Hiscock, Alan Rowland and Chris Webster were proposed and seconded, and these were put to the vote and elected.

Chris Pawson, who had retired from the committee, was thanked for his work.

The Chair invited anyone interested in joining the committee to get in touch with the incoming Chair or the Honorary Secretary.

7. Election of Honorary Independent Examiner

Bill Williams stepped down during the year as the committee felt that it would ease the transition to the new Treasurer and Independent Examiner if they did not change at the same time.

Robin Hall was proposed and seconded as Honorary Independent Examiner. There being no other nominations he was duly elected.

A presentation was made to Bill to thank him for his service.

8. Election of Vice Presidents

The Honorary Secretary, Michael Williams, informed the meeting that Vice President roles are entirely honorific but are an opportunity for the Society to recognise individuals who have made a significant contribution to the LFS and to the study and conservation of Lundy.

He outlined the significant service that Sandra Rowland had made to the Society in the role of Honorary Membership Secretary over the past 17 years. Alan Rowland had joined the committee 25 years ago and had contributed to the Society's administration, most recently as Chair for the past six years. Alan had also made a significant and sustained contribution to the study of Lundy, especially its history and natural history.

Michael proposed that Sandra and Alan be elected Vice Presidents of the Society. There was unanimous support from the meeting so he declared them elected.

9. Date and venue of next AGM

The Chair informed members that the next meeting will be at the Boniface Centre in Crediton on Saturday 8th March 2025.

10. Any other business

Belinda Cox notified the meeting of the codes of conduct that had been developed during the past year and invited members to review the Members' Code of Conduct on the LFS website.

Furthermore, Belinda informed the meeting that the committee had agreed to undertake a governance review, looking at the size and make-up of the committee. She sought volunteers from outside the committee to get in touch with her to help with this work.

Michael Williams notified the meeting that the family of Felix Gade were preparing to produce a reprint of the 'My Life on Lundy' book later this year. Those interested in obtaining a copy should speak to Annie Alford.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2.01pm and was followed by the Lundy Bird Observatory Report, given by Joe Parker. After the tea break, Charlotte Carty of the Kohima Educational Trust spoke about John Harman VC and the Battle of Kohima as 2024 is the 80th anniversary of John Harman being killed in the battle during the war. Joe Parker, the Lundy Warden, presented the wildlife report and Derek Green, Lundy General Manager, presented the Lundy report.

Michael Williams, Honorary Secretary

Lundy Field Society Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Support for valuable scientific and conservation activities on the island during the year means the society reports a deficit of £6.2k for 2024 but the charity remains financially very secure with large reserves, reliable income and very low running costs.

Significant non-recurring financial outlays during the year included awarding grants totalling £4.1k (2023: £0.6k) to fund research into Kittiwakes, Shearwaters and Fungi on the island as well as £1.2k in funding to provide equipment for the bird observatory.

Other significant costs included continued funding for the society's highly successful Conservation Break programme, and the launching of the first Field Course event in March as well as the costs associated with the production of the bulletin and the annual report.

Regrettably the society also took a £1.9k charge to write off the remaining value of its copies of Lundy Fungi as several years after printing it seems unlikely these will now be sold. This has no cash impact.

Excluding unusual items last year, underlying income in 2024 was broadly similar to the previous year although we are currently reviewing and updating our gift aid records which has led to a delay in submitting gift aid returns which will be caught up in 2025.

Subscriptions remain the key income line providing the bulk of our income (£11.8k, 2023: £11.5k).

The value of our investment fund increased by £2.6k to £87.3k and we also hold £27.8k in cash, most of it in an interest-bearing bank account.

Overall the society remains in a very strong financial position with substantial reserves available to be deployed in future years in support of our charitable aims.

John Shelley, Honorary Treasurer

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2024

Income	Notes	2024	2023
Subscriptions		11,762	11,477
Jennetts Trust donations		2,040	2,040
Other donations		856	2,187
Gift aid	1	-	2,357
Conservation break deposits		2,680	3,000
Day trip ticket sales		-	2,420
Book sales		1,220	2,179
Postage		7	28
Interest		314	136
Total Income		18,879	25,824
Expenditure			
Admin Expenses			
AGM Expenses		853	607
Committee Expenses		155	114
Book / Publicity Printing Costs		283	258
Postage		94	169
Stationery		6	3
Sundries		-	336
Day Trip Ticket Refunds		-	2,511
Stock Value Reduction	2	1,885	2,419
Charitable Expenditure			
Bulletin		1,663	1,157
Annual Report		5,217	5,113
Journal		-	3,979
Website		112	45
Bird Ringing		-	375
Conservation Breaks		6,918	6,534
Field Courses		2,182	106
Charitable Projects		1,620	2,637
LFS Library		-	217
Grants	3	4,096	599
Total Expenditure		25,084	27,179
Deficit for the year		6,205	1,355

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
Current Assets			
Stocks (Books)		295	2,181
2024 field course accommodation booking		-	2,054
2025 field course accommodation booking		712	712
2026 Discover Lundy accommodation booking		7,854	-
Cash at Bank		27,737	36,883
Total Current Assets		36,598	41,830
Less Current Liabilities			
Advance subscriptions		658	625
Advance conservation break deposits		2,680	2,200
Grant Commitments	3	460	-
Total Current Liabilities		3,798	2,825
Net Current Assets		32,800	39,005
Other Assets - 7im Investment Fund	4	79,300	79,300
Total Net Assets		112,100	118,305
Reserves			
Brought Forward		118,305	119,660
Deficit for the year		(6,205)	(1,355)
Closing Reserves	5	112,100	118,305

Notes to the Accounts

- 1) LFS did not submit any gift aid claims in 2024 as we have a project in progress to review and digitise our gift aid records. Catch up claims will be made in 2025 once this work is complete.
- 2) The stock value reduction relates to the write-off of the value of our remaining copies of Lundy Fungi as it seems unlikely that these will sell.
- 3) The society awarded three grants during the year in support of research into Fungi, Kittiwakes and Manx Shearwaters. Of these, one remains committed, but unpaid at the year end.
- 4) The unrealised gain on the value of our investment portfolio is not shown in the accounts. As at 31st December, the market value of the investments was **£87,294** (2023: £84,735).
- 5) The society has changed the presentation of its reserves in 2024 and is no longer showing the value of its investment fund as a separate reserve. Although the trustees have a general intention to hold these funds for the medium or long term, they are not restricted funds and remain available as part of the general reserve.

Lundy Field Society Accounts Examination for 2024

'I have examined the accounts of the Lundy Field Society for the year 1st January to 31st December 2024 as presented to me by the Honorary Treasurer. I have confirmed the accuracy of the accounting statements and that they properly reflect the underlying accounting records. My examination provided me with no evidence that these financial statements do not provide a true and fair view of the Income and Expenditure, and Assets and Liabilities, of the Lundy Field Society for the year ended 31st December 2024.'

Robin O Hall, Honorary Independent Examiner,
9th February 2025