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## Seventy-Seventh Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society at The Boniface Centre, CREDITON, EX17 2AH on **Saturday 11th March 2023**. 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 Chairman

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of last AGM**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Officers' reports**
  - a. Honorary Secretary
  - b. Honorary Treasurer including Endowment Fund report
  - 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. Lundy Bird Observatory**
- 9. Date and venue of future AGMs**

Saturday 9th March 2024 in CREDITON
- 10. Any other business**

The business meeting will be followed by the Bird Report, presented by Tim Jones, a talk about the 2022 Lundy Marine Festival by Robert Irving, the Warden's Report, presented by Rosie Ellis and the Lundy General Manager's Report, presented by Derek Green. There will be a tea break during the afternoon.

**Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting held at the Boniface Centre, Crediton on Saturday 12th March 2022 from 1.00pm.**

The meeting was attended by 68 members and visitors. It was also streamed over the internet with up to 25 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.

The meeting recorded the passing of the Society's President, Diana Keast and the Honorary Secretary, Michael Williams, spoke to her memory. Members stood in silence for a few moments to remember her.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from 56 members. Roger Chapple, one of our Vice Presidents, was unable to attend following a stroke in January and the meeting sent its best wishes for a full recovery.

**2. Minutes of the 2021 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**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Reports**

**a. Honorary Secretary**

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

The Lundy Field Society was 75 years young in 2021 and we commemorated this in several ways. Following the success of previous Discover Lundy activity weeks, another was planned for May however, the coronavirus restrictions in place at the time prevented the week going ahead. This was disappointing given almost two years of planning. Another project which had been in planning for a similar length of time came to a much more successful fruition: a commemorative stamp issue.

Three panoramic illustrations of Lundy, each perforated into a pair of stamps were prepared and launched in May. Our thanks to Lars Liewendahl, Lundy's stamp advisor, Alan Rowland and Derek Green for their work and the artist Sharon Smart for producing such elegant souvenirs of our anniversary.

We were also able to unveil a commemorative picture in the Wheelhouse in the Tavern illustrated with images of Martin Coles Harman and Leslie Harvey, our founders.

At the last AGM in September, the very new news was that Dean Jones, the Lundy Warden, would be leaving Lundy with his fiancée Zoe Barton, Head Housekeeper, to return to Northern Ireland. Dean has made a massive contribution to the conservation of Lundy. I know other speakers will be saying more so I won't steal their thunder but I want to put on the record the Society's tremendous thanks for his work.

Derek invited me to join the recruitment panel for the new Warden in October and I'm pleased to say that we appointed Rosie Ellis, Dean's assistant, as the new Warden.

We were also able to appoint a new Assistant Warden in Stuart Cossey who has come to Lundy from the Bird Observatory on Bardsey Island, off the Llŷn Peninsula in North Wales. Stuart arrived on Lundy in November with his partner Megan.

We very much look forward to continuing to work with Rosie, Stuart, Matt Stritch and the rest of the Conservation Team in the years ahead.

The year concluded with the tremendous sadness of the passing of our President, Diana Keast who we remembered a few moments ago.

There were three working parties in 2021 that avoided lockdown restrictions, all in October and on consecutive weeks. Rebuilding the Heligoland Bird Trap on the Quarry Terrace was a major objective and a large effort was given to it. Chris Webster was on hand to oversee the groundwork for archaeological reasons in the first week. Other tasks taken on included gully clearing, dry stone wall repairs, pond level management, preparatory work for a lightning conductor around the church, bridge replacement near the Casbah, tree management, rhododendron seedling searches and many other jobs, vital to aid the Lundy Conservation Team.

Alan & Sandra Rowland were able to undertake the Lundy Cabbage count, having missed 2020, but photographic monitoring and invertebrate counts were not undertaken. Total numbers increased by 65% from just over 5,000 in 2019 to over 8,200 in 2021. The plants appear to be doing well both in abundance and in extending their habitat and a small landslip adjacent to the Lundyite Dyke on the Beach Road produced more plants. Rhododendron is under control, there is a low number of rabbits and selective culling of feral stock appear to be benefitting the Cabbage.

John Hedger and Mandy Dee led a fungi foray in November and continued their study of Lundy's fungi. New records were made of dung loving fungi and the very rare *Porpoloma pes-caprae* pictured here – a new record for Lundy and the southwest of England.

The £500 grant given to Dr James Waggitt of Bangor University for research in July 2020 on the influence of tidal currents and weather patterns on Cetacean presence in Lundy waters, was deferred until June 2021.

A grant of £500 was awarded to Jamie Dunning for a study of 'The role of social interactions in the life history of the House Sparrow' which took place during 2021. Jamie is the current Lundy Sparrows project research student. We were also able to provide financial support of £500 for field equipment for the visiting school groups to St Helen's Centre.

A sub-committee reviewed and developed proposals for the long-term sustainability of the LFS, focusing on the Society's communications and ways in which the LFS can both better retain its current membership and attract new and younger members. This continued work started in 2020 following the outcomes of the membership survey in 2019. It proposed a series of priorities for the committee to consider. Unfortunately, the committee could not agree on how to take these forward and the work has stopped.

Our new Journal editor, Tom Dickins, explored ways in which software could support the editorial process and how we could present the Journal through an online platform. This would improve discoverability of current Lundy research and raise awareness of the Journal to potential authors as obtaining content is very reliant on a considerable amount of cajoling of authors. A new editorial board was considered. Regrettably, Tom later resigned from the committee and his ideas have not progressed further. Keith Hiscock has picked up the mantle as his successor.

Tim Davis retired as editor of the Annual Report. During Tim's tenure the presentation and quality of the publication has increased immeasurably, and we now have a flagship publication in full colour. We thank Tim for his service and transformation of the report. John Hedger has agreed to take on the editorial for the 2021 report.

We are extremely grateful for a significant legacy received in 2021 from the estate of Pat Rodley who, with her late husband Ken and late sister Pamela Dunthorne, were long standing members. The Society will receive £66,000, of which we had received £52,000 by the end of the year. A significant portion has been invested in our endowment fund.

The receipt of such a generous legacy resulted in a long wish list of ways in which a portion of the income could be used to support our objectives. This was distilled down to a priority list of projects including organising field courses, researching how we might attract younger members, providing relevant equipment for education and conservation, and supporting the Lundy Bird Observatory. These ideas are being developed and it is noteworthy that the Rodley legacy has already been able to support the restoration of the Heligoland Bird Trap.

At the end of our 75th anniversary year, we are in a strong position to build further on our recent growth. Thank you for your support.

**b. Honorary Treasurer including endowment fund update**

The Honorary Treasurer, Chris Dee, presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021. He updated the meeting on the endowment fund.

There were no questions and members voted to adopt the accounts.

**c. Honorary Membership Secretary**

The Honorary Membership Secretary, Sandra Rowland, gave her report: at the end of December there were 463 active memberships, equating to 604 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 Honorary Secretary took chair and thanked Alan Rowland for his continued work as Chair and proposed Alan continue in this role. This was seconded and there being no other nominations he was declared elected. Alan returned to the Chair.

The remaining Officers were willing to be re-elected. It was proposed and seconded that they be re-elected en bloc. There were no other proposals so this was put to the vote and agreed.

**6. Election of Executive Committee**

Tim Jones had completed a three-year term and was willing to stand again. In addition, there were up to two vacancies.

Tim Jones was proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations for the committee, so the proposal was put to the vote, and Tim was declared elected.

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

#### **7. Election of Honorary Independent Examiner**

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

#### **8. Lundy Marine Festival**

Robert Irving updated the meeting on plans for the rescheduled Lundy Marine Festival that will take place between July and September.

#### **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 12th March 2023.

#### **10. Any other business**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2.00pm and was followed by the Bird Report, given by Tim Jones. There was an extended tea break and following that Sue Waterfield spoke about Plastic-free Lundy, Rosie Ellis, the Lundy Warden, presented the wildlife report and Derek Green, Lundy General Manager, presented the Lundy report.

Michael Williams, Honorary Secretary

## Lundy Field Society Treasurers Report and accounts

The accounts presented here show a surplus for the year of £16,790 which includes £13,974, being the final tranche of the generous bequest from the estate of Patricia Rodley. The remaining surplus of £2,816 is largely the result of increased membership and the lack of expenditure on the usually biennial Journal.

As reported last year, 20% of individual legacies or donations exceeding £1,000 is allocated to a 'project fund', and the remainder invested. We now have £35,200 set aside for investment, but with the poor performance of share-based investment funds in the financial crisis, we have been reluctant to add to the existing investment fund. We plan to re-assess this position in 2023. To ensure that the day-to-day operation of the society is covered by subscription income, other donations (excluding the regular Jennetts Trust income) is now also diverted to the 'project fund', which at the end of the year stood at £11,242. Money from this fund has, this year, contributed to the terrace Heligoland trap refurbishment, a replacement weather station for the island, an LCD projector for the tavern wheelhouse and additions to the LFS library.

Without increasing rates, membership income has grown by 5%, but donations have decreased slightly. Included in the donations is a total of £135 from Amazon Smile, which will sadly cease to operate in February 2023. We also continue to benefit from generous monthly donations from the Jennetts Trust, which the donor is happy for us to use to support general running costs, for which we are grateful. The 2020/21 Gift Aid claim is included in these accounts and the 2021/22 claim will be included in the 2023 accounts.

Sales of *The Harman Family's Lundy* and *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life* in 2022 have been included in Sundry sales, along with sales of past Annual Reports and other donated publications and Lundy ephemera. We were also pleased to sell some of the remaining stock of *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life: 40 Years of Science and Conservation* through the Lundy General Stores during the 2022 Marine Festival. We continue to sell *Lundy Fungi* through the website and Lundy General Stores, which is also our primary outlet for Colouring Books. The stock shown as assets includes the value at cost of these two publications at the end of the year.

One research grant was claimed this year with a small amount being carried over for sample analysis in 2023. Also included in the grants figure is £2,500 in support of the Marine Festival and £650 toward the St Helens Centre WiFi equipment. The remainder of the LFS contribution of £1,650 towards the refurbishment of the terrace Heligoland trap, is shown as project expenditure. Funding of Conservation Breaks has returned to more normal levels, with five breaks being run. We continue to see a high number of cancellations, some related to the COVID pandemic, and as a result £240 of lost deposits were treated as donations.

Two new ventures are being funded from the Project Fund; an LFS day trip by MS Oldenburg on 4 June 2023, and a field course in April 2024 to attempt to expand the number of wildlife recorders. The deposit for the day trip and the accommodation booking for the field course are shown as assets.

The Society continues to provide financial support to ornithological research on the island through bird ringing, by fully subsidising the cost of rings for Manx Shearwaters and Storm Petrels. Visiting members who are qualified bird ringers are also subsidised to an individual annual maximum of £25, and re-imbursed the LFS for ring usage above that. The new assistant warden has been able to ring birds independently and the LFS has covered the costs of rings used by him, as we did for the previous warden. No significant ring purchase was made during the year, although an order will need to be placed early in 2023. The net value of our contribution to bird ringing in 2022 was £585.

The 2022 expenditure shown for our regular publications – Bulletin and Annual Report – includes typesetting, printing and distribution costs. We are grateful to the Lundy Company and the Ilfracombe Shore Office staff for handling the franking of the Annual Report, which reduced the distribution costs.

Chris W Dee, Honorary Treasurer

## Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2022

<b>Income</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Subscriptions	10,973	10,423
Donations	1,777	1,923
Jennetts Trust	2,040	2,040
Legacies	13,974	52,000
Gift Aid	1,445	-
Conservation break deposits	820	590
Book sales – <i>Lundy Fungi</i>	403	328
Book sales – <i>Colouring Book</i>	201	54
Sundry sales	1,573	679
Postage	17	17
Bird ringing	311	1,216
Interest	26	3
Stock value increase	-	448
	<b>Total income</b>	<b>69,721</b>
Deduct expenditure	16,770	10,455
	<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>59,266</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Bulletin	946	763
Report	3,507	3,106
Website	43	52
Publicity	-	201
Bird ringing	164	1,802
Grants	3,529	1,018
Conservation breaks	4,629	2,214
Projects	1,682	897
AGM expenses	490	38
Postage	131	170
Stationery	40	93
LFS Library	226	-
Stock value reduction	1,293	-
Sundries	90	101
	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>10,455</b>

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	£	£
Stock – books	2,797	3,348
Stock – bird rings	1,803	2,545
2023 day trip charter deposit	435	-
2024 field course booking with Landmark	2,054	-
NS&I account	384	384
Current account	59,846	43,387
Reserve account (project fund)	11,242	10,679
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>78,561</b>	<b>60,343</b>
<b>Less</b>		
Advance subscriptions	761	963
Advance conservation break deposits	2,240	610
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>75,560</b>	<b>58,770</b>
<b>Other assets</b>		
LionTrust Sustainable Fund	44,100	44,100
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>119,660</b>	<b>102,870</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Brought forward	58,770	23,604
Transfer to specific reserve	-	-24,100
Surplus for the year	16,790	59,266
<b>General Reserves</b>	<b>75,560</b>	<b>58,770</b>
Specific reserve	44,100	44,100
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>119,660</b>	<b>102,870</b>

**Note:** In 2019 an Ethical Fund was established as an endowment in which income and capital would be accumulated to meet the costs of future major projects. This is shown above as a specific reserve. At the balance sheet date the investment had a market value of £44,294.

## Lundy Field Society Accounts Examination for 2022

‘I have examined the accounts of the Lundy Field Society for the year 1 January to 31 December 2022, and can report that the figures presented to me by the Honorary Treasurer, in my opinion, represent fairly and accurately the overall financial situation of the Society for the financial year.’

R A Williams  
Honorary Independent Examiner  
10 February 2023