



Discover Lundy 2012

*Programme, event details
and speaker information*



All events are subject to the Lundy factor and are D.V. & W.P.

WELCOME

DISCOVER LUNDY has been almost two years in the planning. The idea to bring together Lundy specialists has been floated before but I think that this is the first time the Lundy Field Society has organised a week of co-ordinated talks, walks, demonstrations and activities in which you can completely immerse yourself. The roots of the LFS are in the study of birds but the Society now encourages the study of all aspects of Lundy including its history, natural history and the conservation of its wildlife and antiquities. I hope that the range of activities this week cover all of these facets and that you will learn something new about our favourite island.

The programme has activities throughout the day and you are welcome to join in as many as you wish. Non-members are invited to participate also so please encourage them to come along to the activities. On the days the *Oldenburg* visits, the afternoon activities are aimed at giving day trippers a taster of what Lundy has to offer and you are welcome to come along to the walks and talks.

Some activities are weather dependent. If anything is cancelled or postponed then a notice will be put up in the Tavern. I'll also post there news of any additional activities that might take place.

I hope you have an enjoyable stay!

All the very best,

Michael Williams

For all activities:

- What to bring is highlighted in the 'Events' section.
- You might want to bring a cushion for the talks in the Church!
- Changes or additions to the programme will be advertised on the Tavern noticeboard.
- Please invite non-LFS members to join in our talks and walks - everyone is welcome!
- Do talk to non-members about the Society and encourage them to join. We have plenty of membership leaflets if you would like some.

SATURDAY 26 MAY

- 9.00 Depart Bideford on MS *Oldenburg*
11.00 Arrive Lundy
3.30-4.00 **Welcome and introduction** with Keith Hiscock & Michael Williams, in the Church
4.30-5.45 **Round the island boat trip** on MS *Oldenburg*
7.30-8.30 **Discovering Lundy in 1960: photos from Derek Sach** with Simon Dell, in the Church

SUNDAY 27 MAY *(MS Oldenburg will visit today on a private charter)*

- 8.00-12.00 **Bird ringing demonstrations** with Paul James, Tony Taylor and Rob Skeates, at Brambles (weather permitting)
10.00-10.30 **Discovering Lundy fungi** with John Hedger, in the Church
10.30-12.00 **'A smutty walk around Millcombe'** with John Hedger - meet at the Church
12.00-1.00 **Fungi under the microscope** with John Hedger in Government House
2.00-3.00 **Photography workshop** with Paul Sterry - meet in the back room of the Tavern
3.00-4.30 **Seashore safari** with Keith Hiscock - meet on the Jetty
5.30-6.15 **Evening service** with Chris Baillie in the Church
8.00- **Social gathering** in Government House
9.30-11.00 **Moth trapping** with Andrew Cleave, in Government House grounds

MONDAY 28 MAY

- 9.30-10.00 **Moth identification** with Andrew Cleave at Government House
10.00-10.30 **Discovering Lundy's freshwater biology** with Alan Rowland, in the Church
10.30-12.30 **Freshwater biology** with Alan Rowland - meet at the Church
2.00-4.00 **Archaeology walk** with Chris Webster - meet outside the Tavern
5.00-6.00 **Lundy's marine ecology and conservation** with Keith Hiscock, in the Church
10.30-11.30 **Star gazing** with André Coutanche & Grant Sherman, starting in the Tavern (weather permitting)

TUESDAY 29 MAY *(including day tripper activities)*

- 8.00-1.30 **Bird ringing demonstrations** with Paul James, Tony Taylor and Rob Skeates, at Brambles (weather permitting)
- 10.00-10.30 **Discovering Lundy's flora** with Andrew Cleave, in the Church
- 10.30-12.30 **Lundy flora walk** with Andrew Cleave - meet at the Church
- 12.00 MS *Oldenburg* arrives. Day trippers met and guided to the Tavern by Simon Dell
- 12.30-2.00 **Book launch and signing** with Lundy authors, in the Tavern
- 1.30-2.00 **Short talk on a Lundy topic** with a nominated presenter, in the Church
- 2.00-4.30 **South end walk** ending on the Jetty with Simon Dell - meet at the Tavern
- 4.30 MS *Oldenburg* departs
- 5.00-6.00 **From the Azores to the Atlantic: travels in search of the Lundy Cabbage** with Roger Key, in the Church
- 8.00-8.45 **Lundy's Manx Shearwaters: a conservation success** with Tim Davis & Tim Jones, in the Church
- 11.00-1.00 **Shearwatering: a night time walk** with Tim Davis & Tim Jones - meet in the Tavern



WEDNESDAY 30 MAY

- 10.00-10.30 **Discovering Lundy's birds** with Tim Davis & Tim Jones, in the Church
- 10.30-12.30 **Birdwatch Lundy** with Tim Davis & Tim Jones - meet at the Church
- 1.30-3.00 **Dolphin watching** with Paul Sterry & Mike Foord - meet at Castle Parade
- 5.00-6.00 **The University of Sheffield sparrow project: why Lundy sparrows are so special** with Isabel Winney, in the Church
- 7.30-9.00 **Film night** with André Coutanche, in the Church

THURSDAY 31 MAY *(including day tripper activities)*

- 8.00-1.30 **Bird ringing demonstrations** with Paul James and Rob Skeates, at Brambles (weather permitting)
- 10.00-10.30 **Discovering Lundy's freshwater biology** with Alan Rowland, in the Church
- 10.30-12.30 **Freshwater biology** with Alan Rowland - meet at the Church
- 12.00 *MS Oldenburg* arrives. Day trippers met and guided to the Tavern by Simon Dell
- 12.30-2.00 **Book launch and signing** with Lundy authors, in the Tavern
- 1.30-2.00 **Short talk on a Lundy topic** with a nominated presenter, in the Church
- 2.00-4.30 **South end walk** ending on the Jetty with Simon Dell - meet at the Tavern
- 4.30 *MS Oldenburg* departs
- 9.30- **Plankton dipping** with Andrew Cleave - meet on the Jetty
- 7.30-8.30 **'Walking Westward' films** with Derek Cheesbrough, in the Church

FRIDAY 1 JUNE

- 9.30-10.00 **Plankton identification** with Andrew Cleave at Government House
- 10.00-12.00 **Birdwatch Lundy** with Tim Davis & Tim Jones - meet at the Church
- 12.30-1.30 **Queen's Diamond Jubilee picnic** at the Felix Gade Hut (weather permitting)
- 2.00-4.00 **Lundy flora walk** with Andrew Cleave - meet at the Church
- 5.00-6.00 **Discovering Lundy's history** with André Coutanche, in the Church
- 9.00-10.30 **Quiz night** with Michael Williams, in the Tavern

SATURDAY 2 JUNE *(including day tripper activities)*

- 12.00 *MS Oldenburg* arrives. Day trippers met and guided to the Tavern by Simon Dell
- 12.30-2.00 **Book launch and signing** with Lundy authors, in the Tavern
- 1.30-2.00 **Short talk on a Lundy topic** with a nominated presenter, in the Church
- 2.00-4.30 **South end walk** ending on the Jetty with Simon Dell - meet at the Tavern
- 4.30 *MS Oldenburg* departs
- 6.30 Arrive Ilfracombe

THE EVENTS

Round the island boat trip (Saturday 26 May)

Meet on the jetty at 4.30pm ready for departure at 4.45pm for a one hour cruise around the island. Commentary will be provided detailing the island's history, geography, terrestrial and marine biology by a group of Lundy experts. *A charge will be made at boarding* and please check the start time because this may change depending on the weather and sea conditions.

Discovering Lundy in 1960: photos from Derek Sach (Saturday 26 May)

The late Derek Sach's photographs of Lundy illustrate many books and literature. He first visited the island for a summer holiday in 1960 and now we can share his private photo album with you for the first time. Simon Dell presents these fascinating photos of Lundy from over fifty years ago courtesy of Derek's widow, Bridget.

Bird ringing demonstrations (Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday)

Bird ringing is an important tool in the generation of information on the survival, productivity and movements of birds, helping us to understand why populations are changing. Over 2,700 trained, volunteer ringers ring up to 1,000,000 birds in Britain and Ireland each year, helping us to understand the reasons for population change - vital information for conservation. Ringing also continues to help us to understand bird movements which came into focus recently during the avian flu outbreak. The demonstration is a rare chance to 'get close and personal' to the Lundy birdlife.

Discovering Lundy fungi (Sunday)

Join Professor John Hedger for an entertaining and informative look at Lundy fungi. The talk will introduce the fungi that can be found on Lundy and describe the methodology for surveying.

A smutty walk around Millcombe (Sunday)

An excursion to Millcombe led by Professor John Hedger to search for mushrooms and toadstools in the valley and adjacent woods. The party will divide into groups to survey the Red Campion flowers for infection by the Anther Smut fungus, which replaces pollen by spores. Infected flowers, easily spotted by their dark centres, will be counted and compared to numbers of 'healthy' flowers, with white centres. The results will then be pooled and compared with counts carried out in previous years in Millcombe. The microscope session on Sunday will give you a chance to see the fungi that were collected and look at spores of the Anther Smut fungus under the microscope. *Please bring:*

- Hand lens if you have one
- Pencil and notebook
- Plastic tub or lunchbox for collecting toadstools
- Stout footwear

Photography workshop (Sunday)

An introduction to macro-photography. Bring your camera and have a go at photographing some of the fungi from the morning event and other specimens that will have been collected from pond-dipping and plankton-netting sessions.

Seashore safari (Sunday)

Join Keith Hiscock as we delve into the rock pools of the Devil's Kitchen and explore the shores around the Landing Bay and see some of the weird and wonderful plants and animals that are uncovered by the tide each day.

Evening service (Sunday)

Chris Baillie conducts a service in St Helen's church.

Social gathering (Sunday)

All the LFS members and island staff are invited to join us in one of the island's most comfortable properties for a glass or two of wine and a chance to make new friends who all share a love of Lundy. Wine and soft drinks are provided so no need to bring a bottle. *Please bring a wine glass!*

Moth trapping (Sunday) & **Moth identification** (Monday)

The study of moths through the use of non-lethal light traps is a fascinating activity. Andrew Cleave demonstrates the various techniques for trapping moths, and will go through the catch the following morning to identify the many different species that you can expect to find on Lundy. For the night-time moth-trapping, *bring sunglasses* to protect your eyes from the very bright U/V lights.

Discovering Lundy's freshwater biology (Monday & Thursday)

Join Alan Rowland to learn how to collect and identify various families of freshwater invertebrates from a newly-formed pond in Brick Field. There will be an opportunity to take specimens back to the laboratory to see them in high detail using a stereo-microscope, and all the specimens identified will contribute to the ongoing survey of Lundy's freshwater habitats. *Please bring:*

- Boots or Wellingtons are advised but not essential
- Pencil and notebook
- Hand lens if you have one

Archaeology walk (Monday)

A walk around the south end of the island, visiting some of the significant areas of Lundy's historic environment: Brick Field, Quarter Wall, Aclands Moor, Beacon Hill and the Castle. Sites dating from 10,000 years ago until the 19th century will be described, giving a picture of people's use of Lundy from earliest times.

Lundy's marine ecology and conservation

Lundy's marine life has been investigated thoroughly since the late 1940s when co-founder of the LFS, Leslie Harvey, described its seashore ecology. Now, more than 60 years later, Lundy is one of the most thoroughly investigated marine areas in the world. Much of that work has been to provide the science that helps manage the area for conservation. The presentation will describe highlights of Lundy's marine life and where we are now with its protection.

Star gazing (Monday - weather permitting)

Lundy's clean air makes it the perfect place to appreciate an often neglected part of the world around us - the night sky. A short introductory talk in the back room of

the Tavern will be followed by a star-gazing session for as long as you like! Dress appropriately for standing still outdoors at night. *Please bring:*

- A torch - but use it sparingly, to maintain your night vision
- Binoculars if you have them - though we will have the use of Grant's telescope

Discovering Lundy's flora (Tuesday)

An overview of the wild flowers and ferns of Lundy, with some hints on where to look for some of the island's very special plants. Why does Lundy's flora change so much and what does the future hold? *Please bring:*

- Sensible footwear and suitable clothing for the weather
- A camera and a hand lens if you have one

Lundy flora walk (Tuesday & Friday)

We will leave from the Church and look at some of the plants which grow in the cultivated areas, then continue through Millcombe and potter down the Beach Road to look at some of the special wild flowers of Lundy and the problems they face.

Book launch and signing (Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 2 June)

Several Lundy authors will have their books available for purchase and signing, or you can bring your own copies along. Authors include Tim Davis, Simon Dell, Tim Jones, Alan Rowland, Myrtle Ternstrom and Michael Williams. Simon will also be launching his brand new book this week, *Walks on Lundy* - come and be one of the first to buy a copy!

South End walk (Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 2 June)

Simon Dell leads a short walk from the Village to the Old Light and around the south of the island to the Castle. Day trippers will then be escorted down to the jetty ready for the return journey on the *Oldenburg* to Ilfracombe.

From the Azores to the Atlantic: travels in search of the Lundy Cabbage (Tuesday)

In the mid-2000s many members will have met Jenny Craven who was studying for a PhD looking at the evolution and conservation of the Lundy Cabbage and its beetles. For this she needed related plants and insects from along the Atlantic and Mediterranean seaboard. During that period Roger Key and his wife Rosy set themselves the onerous task of holidaying along the beaches from Arctic Norway, western Britain, northern Spain, Morocco and some of the Atlantic and Mediterranean islands, in search of specimens. They found many beetles and plants - and an awful lot more besides ...

Lundy's Manx Shearwaters: a conservation success (Tuesday)

In bird conservation terms, Lundy is perhaps more important for Manx Shearwaters than for any other species. Yet over many years two questions that intrigued birdwatchers and conservationists were: do Manx Shearwaters breed on the island and, if so, in what numbers? Since the recent eradication of rats, the answer to the first question is a resounding 'yes'. The Tims will describe the ongoing research into the island's shearwater population, revealing more about their rapidly growing numbers and the astonishing distances they fly in search of food and far-flung winter quarters.

Shearwatering: a night-time walk (Tuesday)

The two Tims will guide you to one of Lundy's Manx Shearwater colonies to listen for calling birds. Depending on wind direction and weather, the walk will either be to the Landing Bay or to the West Side near Old Light. The darker the night the better the chances of hearing the birds! Please bring:

- A torch/headlight
- Stout footwear
- Warm, windproof/waterproof clothing

Discovering Lundy's birds (Wednesday)

Well over 300 different bird species have been recorded on Lundy, with about 140 occurring annually. Only a select band actually nest on the island however, typically around 35 each year. The two Tims will give an overview of Lundy's breeding birds, as well as migrant visitors, that might be expected, along the shore, on the cliffs and on the island's plateau, during a late-spring walk.

Birdwatch Lundy (Wednesday & Friday)

Take to Lundy's paths to watch seabirds and landbirds. From cliff-nesting Guillemots and Razorbills (and possibly a Puffin or two) to island-top Wheatears and Skylarks and more, join Tim Davis and Tim Jones in an exploration of Lundy's bird life. Please bring:

- Binoculars
- Stout footwear
- Clothing appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions

Dolphin watching (Wednesday)

Depending on where the cetacean activity is we may walk around the south end as far as the Old Light. Please bring:

- Sensible footwear and suitable clothing for the weather
- Binoculars

The University of Sheffield sparrow project: why Lundy sparrows are so special (Wednesday)

For over 18 years the Lundy House Sparrows have been the focus of scientific study, on topics ranging from the purpose of the black chest badge to the sneaky extra copulations some males gain. Isabel will take you through why the Lundy House Sparrows are a great population for scientific study and what surprises we have encountered from studying this small, unobtrusive and fascinating bird.

Film night (Wednesday)

Vintage television programmes, beautifully reworked early cine footage and even some YouTube gems. If there's really nothing you haven't seen before, André will buy you a pint afterwards!

Plankton dipping (Thursday) & **Plankton identification** (Friday)

Plankton are the astonishingly diverse group of tiny plants and animals that live in water. Collecting plankton is easy using a fine net or even a jam jar. Some will be

visible to the naked eye and can be studied immediately; others can only be seen under the microscope. This unusual activity promises to reveal lots of exciting finds from the sea around Lundy. For the plankton-dipping on Thursday evening, *bring a torch and wrap up well!*

'Walking Westward' films (Thursday)

Courtesy of Derek Cheesbrough we are able to show two archive films from the 1970s of Westward Television's 'Walking Westward' series presented by Clive Gunnell. For the series Clive walked the entire coastline in the south west and made the journey to Lundy where he took in the scenery, and met islanders including Felix Gade. The films are a fascinating insight of Lundy forty years ago.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee picnic (Friday - weather permitting)



Islanders picnic for the Diamond Jubilee, 1897

In 1897 the Heaven diaries record that a special service for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was held in St Helen's church which had only been consecrated three days earlier. Two days later the islanders held 'a Jubilee feast followed by sports'. Join us at the Felix Gade Hut at the Quarries as we recreate the feast with a picnic for our own Queen's Diamond Jubilee. *Please bring* your own sandwiches and perhaps something to share.

Discovering Lundy's history (Friday)

From the Ice Age to the Information Age - can it be done in forty minutes? Probably not - but there'll be a new snippet or two even for those who have read all the books ...

Quiz night (Friday)

Join us in the Tavern for the last night of the *DISCOVER LUNDY* holiday for a pub quiz. Questions won't be too challenging and will be general knowledge and have a Lundy theme.

THE TEAM

Chris Baillie: Chris first visited Lundy in 1969 as a 15 year-old. In 1975 he was part of the first LFS rhodie-bashing work party, and remained on Lundy for the season as an informal worker. In 1977, while he was honeymooning on Lundy, the Queen made a private visit, so Chris and his new wife were taken on to help with the general tidy up. Over the years he has made scientific studies into the goats and their faeces. After a spell in the Caribbean Chris and his family have returned to Lundy every year since 2001.

Andrew Cleave MBE: Andrew first visited Lundy 45 years ago and has returned almost every year since. For many years he led school field trips to the island, and has made frequent visits to study the flora.

André Coutanche: As a Guernseyman, André is addicted to islands, especially ones with a granite landscape on the edge of the Atlantic. He is, in a non-expert way, interested in archaeology and history, bird-watching, wildlife in general, landscape and townscape - and therefore walking, though not for its own sake.

Tim Davis & Tim Jones: Tim and Tim are the authors of *The Birds of Lundy*, published in 2007, and since 2008 have been the island's bird recorders on behalf of the Lundy Field Society. Former British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) staff members, the Tims have nearly 70 years of combined experience of birdwatching on Lundy between them.

Simon Dell MBE: Simon has been visiting Lundy since the 1960s and leads guided walking groups on day trips. His first book about the island, *Lundy Through Time*, was published in June 2011 and sold over 1,000 copies in five weeks. His next book will be published during the *DISCOVER LUNDY* week!

Mike Foord: Mike first visited Lundy on a school field trip and has been a regular visitor ever since, having a particular interest in birds and cetaceans.

Professor John Hedger: John studied for his degree in Botany and his PhD in Mycology at Cambridge in the 1960s. From 1970 he was a lecturer at the University of Aberystwyth before becoming a professor at the University of Westminster between 1996 and 2010. John has been a committee member of the LFS since 2009 and is well known for his enthusiastic interest in fungi which means his talks are always entertaining and informative.

Dr Keith Hiscock: Keith was born and brought up in Ilfracombe. After becoming fascinated by seashore life, he took a zoology degree and dived on Lundy for the first time in 1969. That trip provided a glimpse of the outstanding quality and variety of marine wildlife around Lundy and he discovered colonies of sunset cup coral there for the first time in Britain. He was instrumental in establishing the voluntary marine reserve around the island in 1973 and undertook much of the work that now underpins the management of the statutory Marine Conservation Zone. He is a Vice President of the LFS and is currently our Chairman.

Paul James, Rob Skeates & Tony Taylor: Paul, Rob and Tony are experienced ringers who have ringed birds on Lundy both together and part of other teams for a number of years. Tony worked on Lundy for four years from 1973, doing research on seabirds and migrants, and has coordinated bird ringing on the island since 1979. All three have ringed birds for other organisations around the world and along with the support team will be happy to demonstrate and discuss any feature of bird ringing.

Dr Roger Key: Roger was formerly Senior Invertebrate Biologist at English Nature and then Senior Education Officer for Natural England. With his wife Rosy and Dr Steve Compton from Leeds University, he has been monitoring and helping to conserve the Lundy Cabbage and its insect fauna each year since 1993.

Alan Rowland: Alan has been visiting Lundy since 1991 and is currently the LFS Vice-Chairman. A chance encounter with Professor Jenny George in 2008, who was surveying Quarterwall Pond, saw him offering to be her labourer, carrying equipment and becoming her apprentice. Benefiting from her tutoring, he has been surveying the Acland's Moor and Widow's Tenement ponds since 2009. He has just started a year-long project to survey and assess the plankton in three of Lundy's ponds.

Grant Sherman: Grant lives on Lundy and works in the Marisco Tavern. His interests include the seabirds of Lundy and he is a member of the British Ecological Society and the British Ornithologists' Union. He also has a degree in astrophysics from Cardiff University.

Dr Paul Sterry: Paul is a wildlife photographer and author and has written many of the Harper Collins photographic field guides. He is a regular visitor to Lundy and has photographed much of Lundy's wildlife from above and below the water.

Chris Webster: Chris is an archaeologist with a particular interest in the early medieval and post-medieval periods. While employed by Southampton University he carried out fieldwork on Lundy between 1988 and 1992 on the previously cultivated areas south of Quarter Wall. He currently works for Somerset County Council and is busy writing up his excavations at Taunton Castle. Chris was Honorary Secretary of the LFS for ten years from 1993.

Michael Williams: Michael came to Lundy to ring on the church bells when they were refurbished in 1994 and has been visiting regularly ever since. After university he worked in the Tavern for two summers from 2000. Whilst living on the island he wrote *The Lundy Companion* guidebook. Michael has been the Honorary Secretary of the LFS for the past six months.

Isabel Winney: Isabel is a PhD student at the University of Sheffield looking at the effects of personality on fitness in the Lundy House Sparrows. She started her work in 2011 and can be found around the village conducting fieldwork during the summer. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask her at any time.



for the study and conservation of a unique island

www.lundy.org.uk