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## Eightieth Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society at **St Helen's Church, Lundy** on **Tuesday 19th May 2026**. Refreshments and anniversary cake will be available from 10.30am and the meeting starts at 11.15am. 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. Election of Vice Presidents**
- 10. Date and venue of the next AGM**
- 11. Any other business**

The business meeting will be followed by a lunch break (own arrangements), the Wildlife Report, presented by Simon Parker, and the Lundy Managing Director's Report, presented by Derek Green.

Following the talks we hope to be able to sail around the island aboard the MS Oldenburg, weather permitting, for which a small charge may be made.

**Minutes of the 79th Annual General Meeting held at the Boniface Centre, Crediton on Saturday 8th March 2025 from 1.00pm.**

The meeting was attended by 89 members and visitors. It was also streamed over the internet with up to 31 sessions running online. It was chaired by Belinda Cox.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from 71 members.

**2. Minutes of the 2024 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 that would not be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**4. Reports**

**a. Honorary Secretary**

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

The Lundy Field Society has had a productive year and promises to have a busy time ahead as we have been preparing for future activities.

During 2024, the LFS sent four Conservation Breaks to Lundy, one in spring, one in summer and two in autumn. 55 people participated and many diverse tasks were completed. Many thanks to leaders Belinda Cox, Hilary Winsor, Sue Murray, and Mandy English.

The first LFS Field Studies Course took place in April. These courses are intended to develop expertise in recording natural history to ensure we can continue to maintain our deep and rich records of observation on Lundy. Participants spent a week on Lundy with experts sharing their knowledge of freshwater ponds and streams, bird ringing and Grey Seals. We will be arranging a further course in October 2025.

Fungi surveys were carried out by John Hedger and Mandy Dee in mid-September and early November. The November survey yielded 18 species of fungi new to Lundy, bringing the current island total to 833. There was a bumper fruiting of grassland fungi all over the south of the island.

The November visit included a very successful Fungus Foray over the south of Lundy attended by 32 people including visitors, LFS members and island staff. The group found 68 species of fungi, including a new record for Lundy.

On the marine front, Lundy continues to be a hotspot for gelatinous plankton in the south-west, the highlight of which must be the Spiral Salp. (Salps are colonial sea squirts that live in the open ocean.) A nationally rare sea slug *Trapania tartenella* was found on the wreck of the MV Robert.

Several visitors to Lundy contributed botanical records to the LFS Logbook this year, with some very long lists of species recorded. Amongst the lists there may be at least two new species of flowering plants for the island, but these will need to be verified before they can be added to the official list.

Various reasons conspired to delay this year's Lundy Cabbage count. Despite the fact that much of the Cabbage was beginning to go over, an estimate of almost 2,300 plants was made.

The first record of a Green Snail since 1906 was made by Mandy Dee. Mandy also reported the first sighting of Masked Yarrow Aphid and Mark West found a Ragwort or Tansy Flea Beetle at Quarry Cottages.

The sighting of the year must be that of a Common Lizard seen on the Gorse bushes at Rocket Pole Pond. This further supports the Common Lizard sightings in 2000 by a National Trust group.

A record total of 724 Manx Shearwaters were newly ringed in 2024, and 253 previously ringed birds were recaptured.

The long-term colour-ringing study of Wheatears had another record year: there were an estimated 69 pairs nesting in the study area between the Castle and Jenny's Cove, and the season ended with 124 of the breeding adults involved carrying colour-rings.

The LFS offers modest research grants each year and there were three awarded during the year. Ruben Mole from Imperial College, London received £900 to survey the heather areas of Lundy by extracting and identifying DNA of fungi from soil and the roots. Amanda Mead, Middlesex University, studied the nest building behaviour and chick interactions of the Black-legged Kittiwakes on Lundy with her £800 grant. Chenxi Zhang, also from Imperial College, received a grant of £460 to study the calls of the Manx Shearwaters with passive acoustic recorders in different colonies on Lundy.

We wish to ensure that the LFS remains sustainable well into the future. As a charity it is sensible to review our internal governance periodically. A small Governance Review Group has been established to evaluate our overall direction, effectiveness and accountability.

The committee held four meetings during the year both online and in person. Mark West has been co-opted to the committee to lead on the proposed photo library and earlier this year he agreed to act as Vice Chair whilst Bee went travelling. The Society's policies have been reviewed and our new Treasurer, John Shelley, is drawing up a reserves policy.

The technical infrastructure including the content management system for the website is being updated.

Looking ahead, 2025 is 100 years since Martin Coles Harman bought Lundy as his private estate and went on to found the Lundy Field Society in 1946. The LFS will be marking this anniversary in some modest ways, including reprinting his biography, *Island King*, that we published in 2016.

2026 will mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Society so we are organising a Discover Lundy week in May of that year.

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

The Honorary Treasurer, John Shelley, presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024.

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

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. 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.

There were no questions.

**c. Honorary Membership Secretary**

The Honorary Membership Secretary, Lucy Lo-Vel, was unable to attend so Belinda Cox gave her report: at the end of December there were 509 active memberships, equating to 669 members including family members. Our total membership is the highest ever recorded.

We have had agreement to start work on an online membership system. This means members can keep their details up to date without the need to email Lucy. For the time being we will continue to take subs payments the way we do now.

Lucy has worked with the Treasurer to redesign the current database to ensure we are complying with Gift Aid requirements.

**5. Election of Officers**

The Chair, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Membership Secretary were all willing to continue. The Vice Chair had been vacant for most of the year and Mark West had been Acting Vice Chair since the start of 2025.

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

<b>Role</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposer</b>
Chair	Belinda Cox	André Coutanche
Vice Chair	Mark West	Belinda Cox
Honorary Secretary	Michael Williams	Derek Green

Honorary Treasurer	John Shelley	Chris Webster
Honorary Membership Secretary	Lucy Lo-Vel	Chris Breese

Each proposal was seconded and there being no other nominations, they were declared elected.

#### **6. Election of Executive Committee**

One committee member, Tim Jones, was due to retire this year and would not be standing again so there are three vacancies.

Proposals were sought but there were none. The Chair invited anyone interested in joining the committee to get in touch with her or the Honorary Secretary.

Tim Jones was thanked for his work and the Chair presented him with a gift to warm applause.

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

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

#### **8. Governance Review Update**

Chris Webster updated the meeting. The Governance Review Group had been established in early 2024 and comprised of new and existing committee members and two external members. Its work included auditing the skills of the current committee, reviewing the legal duties of its trustees and ensuring we are following the Charity Commission's guidance on good practice. A report was being prepared, which would include making recommendations to the committee.

#### **9. Date and venue of next AGM**

The Chair informed members that there would be a Discover Lundy week on the island between 16th and 23rd May 2026 and the committee was considering holding the AGM on the island during this period. The date for the 2026 AGM would therefore be announced in due course.

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

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 1.52pm and was followed by the Lundy Bird Observatory Report, given by Joe Parker and a talk about Lundy's hidden fungal communities by Ruben Mole. After the tea break, Derek Green and Gary Sharples updated members on the renewable power project, Joe Parker, the Lundy Warden, presented the wildlife report and Derek Green, Lundy Managing Director, presented the Lundy report.

Michael Williams, Honorary Secretary

## Lundy Field Society Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The society returned a pleasing surplus of £5.8k in 2025 despite significant expenditure supporting conservation projects on the island and it being an LFS journal publication year.

The surplus was in large part due to a very generous legacy donation of £12.1k received from the estate of Diana Keast, former president of the society.

Other income, led as usual by subscription income (£11.7k), remained broadly stable, although we also caught up with two years of gift aid claims (£3.5k) which had been delayed while we were auditing and updating our gift aid records.

Significant non-recurring financial outlays during the year included funding for new safety equipment for the island conservation team's Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat, the development of the Marine Protected Area website, and a new Camera for the island to monitor seal productivity.

The society also agreed to fund two scientific research projects into fungi on the island for £1.7k.

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

The value of our investment fund increased by £5.9k to £93.2k reflective of the positive performance of global stock markets during the year. We also hold £65.3k 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 2025

<b>Income</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Subscriptions		11,691	11,762
Legacies		12,087	-
Jennetts Trust donations		2,040	2,040
Other donations		824	856
Gift aid	1	3,508	-
Conservation break deposits		3,360	2,680
Field Courses		3,652	-
Book sales		1,186	1,220
Postage		-	7
Bank Interest		1,020	314
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>39,368</b>	<b>18,879</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Support &amp; Governance Costs</b>	<b>2</b>		
AGM Expenses		663	853
Committee Expenses		556	155
Insurance		185	-
Book / Publicity Printing Costs		478	283
Postage		133	94
Stationery		-	6
Stock Value Reduction	3	-	1,885
<b>Charitable Expenditure</b>			
Bulletin		1,139	1,663
Annual Report		5,431	5,217
Journal		6,964	-
Website		119	112
Conservation Breaks		7,487	6,918
Field Courses		4,666	2,182
Charitable Projects		4,478	1,620
Grants		1,266	4,096
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>33,565</b>	<b>25,084</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>5,803</b>	<b>(6,205)</b>

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stocks (Books)		166	295
2025 field course accommodation booking		-	712
2027 field course accommodation booking		1,151	-
2026 Discover Lundy accommodation booking		7,854	7,854
Cash at Bank		65,268	27,737
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>74,439</b>	<b>36,598</b>
<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>			
Advance subscriptions		1,077	658
Advance conservation break deposits		2,455	2,680
Discover Lundy 2026 advance payments		26,010	-
Other Creditors		4,568	-
Grant Commitments		1,726	460
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>35,836</b>	<b>3,798</b>
		<b>38,603</b>	<b>32,800</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			
Other Assets - 7im Investment Fund	4	<b>79,300</b>	<b>79,300</b>
		<b>117,903</b>	<b>112,100</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>			
<b>Reserves</b>			
Brought Forward		112,100	118,305
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		5,803	(6,205)
<b>Closing Reserves</b>		<b>117,903</b>	<b>112,100</b>

### Notes to the Accounts

- 1) Gift aid claims for two years were made in the year following a delay to claims in 2024.
- 2) As the society spends almost no money on fundraising all expenditure can be classed as charitable under charity accounting rules. The split between support expenses and charitable activity is provided to give members a clearer insight into how we spend their money.
- 3) The stock value reduction in 2024 related to the write-off of the value of our remaining copies of Lundy Fungi as it seemed unlikely that these would sell.
- 4) The unrealised gain on the value of our investment portfolio is not shown in the accounts. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December, the market value of the investments was **£93,195** (2024: £87,294).

### Lundy Field Society Accounts Examination for 2025

'I have examined the accounts of the Lundy Field Society for the year 1st January to 31st December 2025 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 2025.'

Robin O Hall, Honorary Independent Examiner,  
22nd February 2026