



# DISCOVER LUNDY 2026

## PROGRAMME AND INFORMATION



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

## WELCOME

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Eighty years ago the foundation of the LFS was rooted in the establishment of a bird observatory on Lundy but we now encourage the study of all aspects of the island's natural history as well as its archaeology and history. Through our working holidays, we also support the conservation of our beloved island. The programme for *DISCOVER LUNDY* reflects the diversity of subjects and we hope that you will find plenty of interest to enable you to immerse yourself in all things Lundy.

*DISCOVER LUNDY* could not take place without the knowledge and commitment of our activity leaders so our grateful thanks to them. André Coutanche has done a magnificent job of producing this programme and other printed materials. We also record our thanks to the islanders, ship's crew, and staff in the Shore Offices for their support and patience as we almost take over Lundy for a week.

We hope you have a fantastic time!

Richard Breese, Belinda Cox, Michael Williams  
Organising committee

### Things to remember:

- What to bring for each activity is listed in the programme.
- Changes or additions to the programme will be advertised on the Tavern noticeboard and/or on an A-board outside.
- Please invite non-LFS members to join in our talks and walks – everyone is welcome unless a 'max.' number is shown.
- Do talk to non-members about the Society and encourage them to join. We have plenty of membership information cards if you would like some.

**BIRD RINGING DEMONSTRATIONS** will be advertised during the week and are expected to take place in the early morning. Bird ringing is an important tool for monitoring the survival, productivity and movements of birds. Ringing on Lundy also provides information on the timing of migration and the health of many of our long-distance migrant species. The demonstration is a rare chance to 'get up close and personal' to the Lundy birds and learn more about the amazing journeys that they make.

**BUTTERFLY TRANSECTS** will be led by Mandy Yates when conditions are suitable. The transect is a walk along a set route where the number of butterflies is counted and the climatic conditions are recorded. Using this method comparisons can be made year-on-year and between transects. Look out for notices for when this will take place.

## SATURDAY 16 MAY

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- 10.00 Depart Ilfracombe on *MS Oldenburg*.
- 12.00 Arrive Lundy.
- 14.00 **WELCOME BRIEFING**  
A short introduction to the week's events and an opportunity to sign up for the events where numbers are restricted. Goodie bags and clothing orders will be available.  
*In the Church.*
- 20.00 **WELCOME PARTY - all welcome**  
Meet your fellow members and islanders who are participating in the week over a glass of wine. No need to bring a bottle. Non-alcoholic refreshments will also be available.  
*In Government House.*  
'Whack a Rat' with Trevor Dobie. *In Government House garden.*  
Trevor will be running this fun fairground stall at the Welcome Party. Lundy has been rat free for 20 years thanks to the Seabird Recovery Project which has realised enormous growth in the number of burrow-nesting seabirds on Lundy.

## SUNDAY 17 MAY

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- 08.00 **PUFFIN SPOTTING WALK**  
An informal walk for anyone interested in looking for puffins. It will not be led. *Meet outside the Tavern.*
- 09.00-11.00 **FUNGI FORAY** with John Hedger  
We will be exploring Millcombe and its woods for fungi, which will include some toadstools, perhaps re-discovering the rare and elegant Spring Pinkgill amongst the Daffodil clumps below the Ugly. Another focus will be to look for the Anther Smut blackening the centre of the flowers of Red Campion along the Millcombe paths. On the last *DISCOVER LUNDY* spring meeting the survey seemed to show the Smut was not uniformly present so we can do some citizen science on its distribution in Millcombe. A further challenge: to find it in flowers of Sea Campion during coastal walks, which would be a Lundy first. A microscope will be set up in the St Helen's Centre for those who want to look at Smut in more detail or indeed the other fungi we will find.  
Please bring:  
○ Notebook and pencil  
○ Hand lens if you have one  
*Meet outside the Tavern.*

12.00

**SEAL WALK** with Tara McEvoy-Wilding

This event will start at Felix Gade's Hut where we will have a brief talk about Lundy's seal population. We will then make our way down to the Terrace to begin looking for Seals. We will walk north along the Lower Eastside Path, looking for seals hauled out along the coastline. The walk will finish at Brazen Ward where you will be able to walk further up the coast or choose to head back towards the village.

Please bring:

- Sturdy walking shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather
- Binoculars if you have them

**Max. 15 people** - a sign-up sheet is available.

14.00-16.00

**LETTERBOXING** with Bob & Charlotte Gardner

Today's letterboxing walk will be on the East Side around the Quarries (the second walk is on Saturday). A not too strenuous walk but there will be a bit of clambering about.

Please bring:

- Self-addressed postcard if you wish to leave a card in the box
- A map of the island or a letterboxing pack from the shop
- Notebook to record Letterbox stamp in

*Meet outside the Tavern.*

16.00-17.00

**DISCOVERING LUNDY'S ARCHAEOLOGY** with Chris Webster

An introduction to Lundy's archaeology – with more questions than answers.

*In the Church.*

18.15-18.45

**PRE-DINNER DRINKS AND SPEECHES - all welcome**

*In the Square between Old House and the Radio Room.*

19.00

**80TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER - booked only.**

*In the Tavern.*



The joint founders of the  
Lundy Field Society in  
1946:  
Martin Coles Harman (left)  
and Leslie A. Harvey (right)



## MONDAY 18 MAY

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- 08.00 **PUFFIN SPOTTING WALK**  
See Sunday for description.
- 09.00-11.00 **FUNGI FORAY** with John Hedger  
See Sunday for description.
- 09.30-12.30 **SOUTH END ARCHAEOLOGY WALK** with Chris Webster  
A walk to the Castle and then up the West Side to the Old Light. We'll visit sites from the prehistoric period up to the mid-20th century. No special equipment needed, just normal Lundy walking gear.  
*Meet outside the Tavern.*
- 12.15 **ROCKPOOL RAMBLE** with Keith Hiscock  
We will start with a brief on the history of Lundy marine biological studies, 'avoiding disturbance' and safety. Dress appropriate for the weather but footwear will get wet – wear trainers or wellies/waders. You may wish to wear shorts to wade to some features. We will not be netting. We will maintain a list of what we find.  
Please consider bringing:
  - A walking pole to help balance
  - A camera (phone) to enable you to check identifications
  - A notebook
  - A magnifying glass for serious id. work
  - A waterproof torch
  - Some may choose to bring a packed lunch*Meet at the Beach Building.*
- 15.30-16.30 **'ENDEMIC'** with James Harding-Morris  
Around 70,000 species call Britain home, but how many of them can be found here and only here? Join conservationist James Harding-Morris as he uncovers the stories of our endemic wildlife, including our very own Lundy Cabbage, from his recently published book.  
*In the Church.*
- 21.00 **MANX SHEARWATER WALK** with Thomas Weston  
Enjoy a magical night on the cliffs listening to one of Lundy's least seen seabirds. In the day they are feeding out at sea, but at night a cacophony of sounds fills the island as they return to their burrows to breed. With roughly 15,000 breeding pairs on the island, we hope to show you a few of them up close and personal. Wear suitable footwear and waterproof clothing. Bring a red light torch, if possible.  
*Meet in the Church.*

## TUESDAY 19 MAY

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08.00

### **PUFFIN SPOTTING WALK**

See Sunday for description.

08.00

### **MOTH TRAPPING** with Andrew Cleave and David Rowe

We will look at the moths caught in the various traps overnight and there will be a chance to photograph them before everyone helps release them alive into suitable locations.

Please bring:

- Camera
- Hand lens if you have one

*Meet outside the Tavern.*

10.30 for

### **LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY 80TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

11.15

followed by group photo. Refreshments and anniversary cake will be served from 10.30, with the business meeting starting at 11.15. The Puffin Pealers will serenade us on handbells! Lunch break is from 12.15-13.30 (Tavern or bring you own), followed by the Warden's report and the General Manager's report.  
*In the Church.*

15.15

### **ROUND THE ISLAND BOAT TRIP**

The Captain of the MS Oldenburg has kindly agreed to sail around the island before boarding for the evening sailing back to Bideford. No need to book. A small charge may be made.  
*This will be subject to the weather and sea conditions and will not be confirmed until the day.*

*Meet on the Jetty.*

20.30

### **A DARK SKY WALK TO TIBBETT'S LOOKOUT**

with Paul McGowan & Hilary Winsor

The walk is roughly three miles in length on the main track to Tibbetts and back. Weather permitting, we will aim to familiarise ourselves with the main objects visible in the night sky. We will also find out just how many lighthouses are visible from Lundy! Dress appropriately for the weather.

Please bring:

- A pair of binoculars.
- A torch, ideally with a red light setting. But we will plan to use light sparingly, as white light degrades your night vision.
- You may wish to bring a mat to sit on and a hot drink.

*Meet outside the Church.*

## WEDNESDAY 20 MAY

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- 08.00      **PUFFIN SPOTTING WALK**  
See Sunday for description.
- 08.00      **MOTH TRAPPING** with Andrew Cleave and David Rowe  
See Tuesday for description.
- 10.00-12.00 **FUNGI FORAY** with John Hedger  
See Sunday for description.
- 14.00-15.00 **SNORKEL SAFARI no. 1** with Tara McEvoy-Wilding  
The session will start with a briefing. You will be shown how to use the equipment and we will make sure you're comfortable with it before setting off. The Safari will take you on a circuit over a rocky reef and then under and around the jetty, which acts as an artificial reef. We should see an array of fish species including Wrasse and Sand Eels as well as lots of invertebrate life such as Anemones, Starfish, Spider Crabs and Sea Squirts. Participants must be confident swimmers and able to walk on rocky and wet uneven surfaces. Wetsuits and snorkelling equipment will be provided; all you need to bring is swimwear, a towel and warm clothes for afterwards.  
*Meet at the Beach Building.*  
**Max. 6 people** - a sign-up sheet is available.
- 15.00-16.00 **SNORKEL SAFARI no. 2** with Tara McEvoy-Wilding  
See above for description.  
*Meet at the Beach Building.*  
**Max. 6 people** - a sign-up sheet is available
- 16.30      **GREAT LUNDY BAKE OFF** with Bee Cox  
It's 'Scone Week' on the Great Lundy Bake off. You are invited to enter three scones into the competition, either sweet or savoury, and if your scones or their presentation has a Lundy theme it may improve your chance of winning. We hope to arrange a picnic (or afternoon tea) after the competition, when we will provide toppings for the scones for everyone to share and enjoy together.  
*In the Tavern.*
- 20.00      **MAGIC LANTERN SLIDE SHOW**  
with Richard Breese and Michael Williams  
A set of glass slides dating from the late 19th century was donated to the LFS last year (see the recent *Discovering Lundy* bulletin). We will show these along with a range of historic images of Lundy and get to see the Magic Lantern projector that lives on Lundy.  
*In the Church.*

## THURSDAY 21 MAY

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- 8.00        **PUFFIN SPOTTING WALK**  
See Sunday for description.
- 8.00        **MOTH TRAPPING** with Andrew Cleave and David Rowe  
See Tuesday for description.
- 10.00-12.00 **LUNDY FLORA WALK** with Andrew Cleave  
We will head through Millcombe towards the East Side to look at the variety of introduced and native species which grow in the more sheltered conditions of the island – maybe some of Lundy’s lost plants will be discovered with many pairs of eyes searching for them! We then head up towards the Castle to look at the flora of the more exposed South End and return via the Rocket Pole Pond. Please dress appropriately for a 2-hour walk.  
Please bring:  
○ Camera  
○ Hand lens if you have one  
*Meet outside the Church.*
- 12.00-15.00 **PUFFIN SPOTTING IN JENNY’S COVE**  
A member of the Conservation Team will be on hand and a telescope will be available.
- 14.00        **GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
with Derek Cheesbrough and Michael Williams  
The nine-hole golf course on Acklands Moor opened in 1927. It measured 2,630 yards and par was 36. The first tee is the original tee on the north side of the Old Light. This is all about fun and frivolity! Previous experience is definitely not required nor possessed by most. The Rules of St Andrews do not apply – ‘air shots’ don’t count! Spectators and photographers are welcome even if you don’t fancy actually playing. All equipment will be provided.  
*Meet south end of Ackland’s Moor, outside the Old Light.*  
**Numbers will be limited** - a sign-up sheet is available.
- 20.00-21.00 **‘THE PURSUIT ON LUNDY ISLAND’**  
A rehearsed reading of a radio play from 1950. Adultery and murder on Lundy! Scotland Yard’s finest is on the case! Follow the twists and turns of a classic whodunnit! With sound effects!  
*In the Church.*

## FRIDAY 22 MAY

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- 08.00 **PUFFIN SPOTTING WALK**  
See Sunday for description.
- 10.30 **NORTH END ARCHAEOLOGY WALK** with Chris Webster  
A walk visiting the 'Mangonel Battery', the 'Black House', Widow's Tenement, Bronze Age fields and houses and Brazen Ward (steep climb but can be omitted). No special equipment needed, just normal Lundy walking gear. It will be a full day – bring food.  
*Meet at the west end of the Halfway Wall, above Jenny's Cove.*
- 14.00-15.00 **FOR THE LOVE OF LUNDY'S SEALS – THE AMAZING LIFE OF THE ATLANTIC GREY SEAL** with Carole Anne Lee  
Learn how seals live: their life cycle, behaviours, and special adaptations for survival, and what our role is in respecting, protecting and enjoying watching seals well.  
*In the Church.*
- 15.30 **SAUSAGE SIZZLER**  
Following an ad hoc party at Felix Gade's Hut many years ago where sausages were cooked in the fireplace, we thought we would try again but with a barbecue this time! Food will be provided, including veggie options, but please bring something to drink. Come and enjoy some food and the great view from this sheltered spot.  
*At Felix Gade's hut.*
- 20.30 **QUIZ NIGHT AND PRIZE GIVING**  
with Michael Williams and Richard Breese  
Join us on the last night of *DISCOVER LUNDY* for a pub quiz. Don't worry, you won't need any specialist knowledge as the questions will be general knowledge and some will have a Lundy theme. Prizes for the week's competitive events will be awarded during the evening.  
*In the Tavern.*

## SATURDAY 23 MAY

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- 10.00 Vacate properties.
- 10.30 **LETTERBOXING** with Bob & Charlotte Gardner  
See Sunday for description. Today's walk is on the West Side, possibly Jenny's Cove and Earthquake.
- 16.00 Depart Lundy on MS *Oldenburg*.
- 18.00 Arrive Ilfracombe.

## THE TEAM

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**Richard Breese:** Richard first visited Lundy in 2001 and was hooked at once, immediately joining the LFS as a life member. He is particularly interested in the industrial archaeology and history of the island and is a keen photographer. He is a LFS committee member and a churchwarden of St. Helen's.

**Derek Cheesbrough:** Derek has been a regular visitor to Lundy since 1973. He joined the LFS soon after and subsequently came over on working parties. In 2000 he formalised the existing Lundy Letterboxes, replaced missing stamps and listed the boxes. Inauguration took place on the 'LFS Week' in 2000 (Alan Rowland's excellent book provides a full record). The Golf Tournament he is running will be the fourth he has organised for the LFS on Lundy!

**Andrew Cleave MBE:** Andrew first visited Lundy 60 years ago and has returned almost every year since. For many years he led school field trips to the island, and now leads trips each year for Naturetrek. Andrew has made frequent visits to study the flora, moths and butterflies, and marine life, and is co-author with Dr Paul Sterry of a number of Harper Collins field guides. Andrew is a committee member of the LFS and also sits on the PCC of St Helen's church.

**Belinda Cox:** Bee first discovered Lundy around 2000 when she visited on a day trip with her running club. Her interest was immediately piqued, and she began returning as often as she could. She attended *DISCOVER LUNDY* in 2012 and said to Michael, 'If you ever need any help organising another one of these, just let me know.' The rest, as they say, is history, and she has been a member of the LFS committee for several years, including serving as Chair for the past two. She is a Lundy Ambassador and also attends at least one LFS conservation week each year. She edits the *Discover Lundy Bulletin*.

**Trevor Dobie:** Trevor has been an LFS member for around 25 years along with his wife Karen. He has been a committee member and LFS Conservation Breaks Organiser since 2007 and has attended more than 20 of the breaks himself, as well as one or two holiday visits each year since 1998.

**Charlotte and Bob Gardner:** Charlotte and Bob have been visiting Lundy since 1990, having seen the island on Leslie Thomas' *Some Lovely Islands* TV programme. It took them quite a few years to find all the letterboxes and it was a great way to get their two children around the island looking for treasure. One of the last official letterboxes placed is theirs which you will find in Alan Rowland's excellent book.

**James Harding-Morris:** James is a passionate nature enthusiast with a lifelong love for exploring the natural world. Whether trekking up mountains in search of rare flowers, scouring fens for elusive moths, or investigating exotic invertebrates in hothouses, James's fascination with wildlife is unwavering. In his professional life, James specialises in communications and public engagement within the conservation sector.

**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 is well known for his enthusiastic interest in fungi which means his talks are always entertaining and informative.

**Dr Keith Hiscock MBE:** Keith has been studying Lundy's marine ecology for nearly 60 years (following in the footsteps of LFS co-founder Leslie Harvey who catalogued shore life in the late 1940s) and has organised much of the survey work that has documented marine life around the island. With changing seas and the arrival of warmer water and non-native species, there are changes to document. Keith is an Associate Fellow at the Marine Biological Association and was awarded an MBE in the King's 2023 New Year Honours for Services to Marine Conservation.

**Carole Anne Lee:** With no formal qualifications in the subject of seals, Carole's knowledge is based on a lifelong love of wildlife and a hunger to learn. She works regularly with the Seal Research Trust as part of the Research Team, the Strategy Group, and giving talks.

**Tara McEvoy-Wilding:** Tara first came to Lundy in 2022 as a volunteer for the Marine Festival. After conducting her Master's degree research project around the island in 2023 she was appointed as Assistant Warden, starting in March 2024. Her main area of interest is marine invertebrates and she enjoys taking visitors rockpooling and snorkelling.

**Paul McGowan:** Paul works in central government. He lives in Cotswolds with his wife and three children. He is interested in most aspects of natural history and many outdoor activities (biking, climbing, skiing).

**David Rowe:** David has been visiting Lundy since 2005, and has been looking after the moth data from the logbook for three years. He's the voluntary warden at Rod Wood Nature Reserve on the edge of the Peak District, for the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. His main interests are invertebrates and wildlife photography.

**Chris Webster:** Chris is an archaeologist based in Somerset. He carried out research on Lundy in the 1980s and has recently published reports on the 1960s excavations. He is the author of *Lundy's Archaeology* (2023) and is a past Honorary Secretary of the LFS.

**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 since 2011 and is a regular visitor to Lundy despite living in Cambridgeshire!

**Hilary Winsor:** Hilary has led several LFS working parties, and has a passion for lighthouses, the night sky and the great outdoors.

**Mandy Yates:** Mandy has a degree in Applied Biological Sciences. She volunteers at a Devon Birds nature reserve where she does conservation work and conducts surveys of the birds and Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies). She is part of the North Devon Dragonfly Network and is the LFS contact for Odonata. She also takes part in and leads LFS Conservation Breaks.

