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# Editorial

Andrew James

It is a great pleasure to write my first editorial as editor of *The New Puffin Journal*. Although I cannot claim a long-standing connection with Lundy, I was fortunate to visit the island a couple of years ago—an experience that left a lasting impression. Alongside this, my interest in Cinderella stamps has drawn me into the fascinating and varied world that surrounds Lundy and its rich collecting traditions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, James Thomas, who has recently stepped down after many years of dedicated service. Under his stewardship, *The New Puffin Journal* has become a publication of real quality and character, valued by members for both its scholarship and its sense of community. I am also personally grateful for the help and guidance James has generously offered me over these first few months; it has made the transition both smoother and more enjoyable.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition of the Journal. As ever, it offers a rich and varied selection of material, including articles on Lundy's history, stamps and postcards, insights into the creation of the most recent stamp issue, a report from a recent club meeting and even coverage of Virtual Stampex. It is this breadth of content—and the generosity of members in sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm—that continues to make the Journal such a rewarding read.

In taking on this role, my ambition is a simple one: to continue James' legacy. The *Journal* plays an important part in preserving knowledge, sharing discoveries and keeping our community connected. I hope to ensure that it remains a place where members can both learn and contribute, whether through articles, notes, or reflections on their own collections and experiences.

Above all, this is your *Journal*. I would encourage members to consider contributing material, however small, and to share feedback and ideas for future issues. I look forward to working with you all to continue celebrating—and documenting—everything that makes Lundy and its collecting traditions so special.

*Andrew*

# The Manager's Post

Greetings fellow Lundy collectors, to say its been a busy period since our winter news bulletin, is slightly understated. But it's been a tremendously positive and engaging busy period for the LCC. Christmas would seem a natural period where clubs and societies would enter a passive time where not much was happening; however, we had a very large influx of new members over the festive period and our social media engagement was very high as we continued our outreach and promotion of our club. The new was no time to rest as we went straight into preparation for our February meeting at Easter Compton, which was a tremendous success. Our recent membership of the Association of British Philatelic Societies was immediately recognised with the LCC being put on the front page of their first bulletin of 2026 and we will be submitting regular contributions with updates from LCC activity, wherever it may be occurring.

As the LCC moved into a new year with a change of the team leading the club forward, a recognition of the club's heritage and longevity felt an important step and so this year we are very proud to celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Starting back in 1956 as the Lundy Island Specialist Society based in the UK, a shift in the membership focus saw the Lundy Collectors' Club based in the US, continue to promote Lundy philately and a centre where Lundy enthusiasts could meet and study the postal history of their favourite local post. With the UK chapter of the LCC becoming active and the waning of the membership in the US, the running of the club once again returned to the UK and with an unparalleled lineage of the clubs existence, we enter 2026 determined to ensure another strong year and hopeful that we can celebrate our anniversary through our scheduled programme of events and special anniversary club souvenirs created for our members.

As always I has thoroughly enjoyed the correspondence I receive from you all, please do continue to send me an email and let me know what's going on Lundy related in your area, or maybe it's a suggestion to help improve what we are doing, it is all valued feedback and really appreciated.

Best wishes,

Mark McShane, Club Manager  
*(pictured, right, with longtime LCC member Michael Bale)*



# Celebrating 70 Years of Passion, History and Community!

Mark McShane

This year we proudly celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Lundy Collectors' Club, a truly historic and treasured club that has brought together collectors and Lundy enthusiasts from around the world!

Since its founding, this remarkable club has fostered a deep love for everything connected with Lundy Island, from its iconic Puffin stamps and unique postal history to rare postcards, literature, and ephemera. For seven extraordinary decades, generations of collectors have shared discoveries, stories, and friendships built around one of the most fascinating philatelic chapters in the British Isles.



From its passionate beginnings to today's vibrant global membership, the Lundy Collectors' Club stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of collecting and the joy of preserving history. Whether you're drawn by the charming puffin issues or the island's rich postal legacy, this club continues a proud tradition that has inspired countless collectors and shows no signs of slowing down!

As part of the celebrating this special year with our members, special souvenir material and anniversary collector's memorabilia will be produced and shared with our membership in appreciation of everyone's continued support of the LCC. I will be adding some gifts for the members to celebrate our 70th anniversary, with more to follow at future events and journals in 2026.

Here's to 70 years of heritage, camaraderie and many more chapters to come!

# LCC Programme 2026-27

**Saturday 9 May 2026:** Zoom meeting, 'Bring, Show and Tell', starting at 6.00pm British Summer Time (1000 Pacific Daylight Saving Time; 1300 Eastern Daylight Saving Time; 1900 Central European Summer Time). Zoom joining details will be emailed to members.

## **Boston 2026 World Expo**

*28 May 2.00pm ET*, LCC member Sid Morginstin will give a presentation, the topic for this presentation is 'Lundy mail to/from Destinations, origins other than the UK'. This is sure to be a very enlightening talk and members attending Boston '26 should add this to their calendar. We are very proud to have Sid represent the LCC at this international event to showcase Lundy philately.

Also at Boston, Jon Aitchison has been selected by the board of election of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists to sign the prestigious roll, considered one of the hobby's most significant honours. In addition to Jon's long association with the LCC he is also well known for his collection of the Channel Islands and aspects of Jon's collection of Egypt have gained high awards both nationally and internationally for postal stationery and officially sealed mail, as have his exhibits of Siege of Paris mail. The signing ceremony will take place on 28 May May 5.00pm ET.

**Saturday 1 August/Sunday 2 August 2026:** Summer weekend meeting. Day trip to Lundy on Saturday 1 August; Club meeting on Sunday 2 August at Durrant House Hotel, Bideford. Advance booking for the Oldenburg sailing for 20 persons have been secured by the LCC. Members intending to attend this weekend event should contact the manager to notify the days they intend to participate. Further details on the programme will be emailed to members and posted on the LCC website.

**Stampex 2026:** Will take place on 28-31 October at The Business Design Centre, London. Further details to follow, but LCC plan to have a meeting on Saturday 31st at this event with invitations extended to other philatelic clubs. LCC members wishing to display at this event should contact the manager.

**15-19 March 2027:** 4-night visit to Lundy, including meetings, events and auction. The reserved accommodation is for Members Only. Anyone on the island at the time is welcome to come to the events. Pre-bookings and deposits are now being accepted - please contact the manager.

# Lundy Letterbox Review

## **The Missing Bunny (Mark McShane)**

On a visit to Lundy in April 2025 we were fortunate to come across the Lundy Bunny; happy with finding the elusive island hopper we took the opportunity to make plenty cachets strikes in our notebooks to commemorate the occasion. We returned to Lundy in August and, although we did not set out to complete the full letterbox set, we did notice many comments in the letterbox logbooks that there were very few sightings of the bunny and it seemed the elusive letterbox stamp had been hidden and was determined to remain burrowed away.

The mystery of the missing bunny was finally revealed when we returned to Lundy in September. We were out visiting some of our favourite letterboxes when we came across the bunny. However, this was not the same bunny as we had found in April and a comparison of the two cachets revealed that they were indeed two different stamps. Two bunnies - were they quite literally breeding like rabbits? All was revealed when we mentioned this finding to the staff in the general stores. It turns out that sometime from mid-April 2025 a visitor had found the bunny but had inadvertently forgot to leave stamp in a new letterbox location and left Lundy with the stamp. The bunny went off island on a brief hiatus and when a lack of findings was reported to the island staff in June, a "backup" bunny was put out into letterbox circulation. The missing bunny returned to the island in August and for a brief time there were two bunnies hopping around the letterbox circuit. This population increase was finally brought under control when both bunny stamps were taken to the general stores and the case of the missing bunny resolved. Apparently the person that took the bunny off island took the stamp back to Lundy on a return visit and placed it with a letterbox.

## **Heligoland Trap, A New Letterbox (Tara McEvoy-Wilding, Assistant Warden, Lundy)**

We decided to make a new permanent letterbox for a couple of reasons. The first was because over the years several letter boxes have been lost for health and safety reasons, so thought it would be nice to make a new permanent one. The second reason was to provide some interpretation for the Heligoland Trap, as people often wonder what it is. As Lundy doesn't generally do signs, we thought if we created a letterbox close by then information could be enclosed within it.

The stamp design is a simplified version of the Heligoland Trap, as a 'life like' one had too many sticks and wouldn't have made a good stamp. It is hand cut from a piece of lino by myself and then Ian Bushell, part of the maintenance team, created the handle and back mount for it.

# The Harman family Lundy Postal Archive

Lars Liwendahl

The more we know about the objects in our albums, the more interesting they become. This is an old truth and in one way a leading star for our hobby. We can even say that our stamps, covers, postcards etc, all and each of them, represent different pieces of history. Looking at our hobby of collecting in this way, we can say, that what we in reality collect are pieces of Lundy and its history.

Being “Lundy lovers”, as all of us LCC members are, it is hard to be neutral about our island. Although it is a truth that Lundy has both a long and a rich history I would also add the word colourful. This often most fascinating history, together with its stamps and Lundy being a small and very beautiful island, makes it very attractive to many stamp collectors all over the world.

During the years hundreds, if not thousands, of articles have been written about Lundy and its stamps. There are also a number of books and catalogues. Some examples are: Felix Gade’s “Lundy Postal History”, Barry Chinchon’s “A Catalogue of Lundy stamps” and the different editions of “Stamps and Postal History of Lundy Island” by Stanley Newman, Michael Bale and now Jon Aitchison. With this we can say that the island’s stamps and postal history are well documented. Still there is, as often, more!

In my own experience, having now been involved in the designing, production and issuing of the Lundy stamps for more than 35 years, I see how much more there often is to say about the different stamp issues and the postal service as such, than just the descriptions of the stamp motifs, denominations and printed quantities. Myself I have tried to document and publish information about “everything around” the recent issues in articles and presentations over the years.

Equally important documenting the history is to collect and keep an archive of all related material. Here Lundy is very fortunate as we have the British Library (BL) and its department for Philately. I think we sometimes do not realise how valuable this is and how lucky we are having them!

Since the 1970’s the British Library has taken an active interest in Lundy and through donations it has become not only an important place for research but the Library also has a most extensive reference collection. It all began with Barry Chinchon’s large collection of Lundy stamps, most of them in complete sheets, and postal history donated by Barry in the late 1970’s. Then, in the early 1990’s, I was asked by The Landmark Trust to organise all they had belonging to “Lundy stamps” in their files since taking over the running of the island in 1969. To make a long story short, this material was put in order and donated to British Library in 1992.



*David Beech (head of British Library, The Philatelic Department), Robin Evans (director of The Landmark Trust), Wendy Puddy and Lars Liwendahl donating the Landmark archive in 1992.*

Since Landmark's initial donation, examples of all new issues including proofs have been sent to BL, keeping their Lundy collection up to date.

With all these donations, the BL has not only all the stamps, first day covers, etc. but also the archive from 1969 onwards. The weak side, relatively seen, was the background history of all older issues. The general view about this was that not much more existed about this, "we knew what was possible".

Some of us long time Lundy collectors knew Diana Keast in person. We knew that she had kept much documentation relating to Lundy from the many years when the island was owned by the Harman family. Some of us had even been to her home and seen some of the boxes. Diana was always positive and keen to support serious researchers and writers with information about Lundy. All of us who also had the opportunity to sit together with Diana listening to her telling about "Lundy in the old days" have memories for life!

Diana understood that much of the Harman family material was of a wider interest among Lundy enthusiasts. How to keep it and possible also having it available for studies was not an easy question to answer.

It was agreed that all the general material should be taken over by The North Devon Studies Library. Regarding the postal material Diana was in contact with James Thomas and asked him to help. Diana wanted all issued stamps, FDCs etc to be sold at the Lundy Collectors' Club auctions, then organized by Mike Thompson. Proofs, artworks and other unique material, as all the files of correspondence regarding different postal matters and the stamps she wanted the British Library to take over.

An extensive sorting work took on! It was carried out in different steps by James Thomas, André Coutance, Michael Williams and one of Diana's relatives. Michael and Roger Chapple helped storing it. James also got permission to copy and scan material of interest for use in The New Puffin Journal, and which we have seen parts of the latest years. All this was a rather long process with the lock down restrictions not making it easier. Diana also passed away in October 2021.

With the generosity from Marion Evans, John Harman and Inez Lunan representing the Harman family all postal material has now been handed over to the British Library. This took place at a ceremony at the library in London on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. 2025 with Paul Skinner and Richard Morel present from the British Library and Derek Green, Lars Liwendahl and Michael Williams. This donation means that the BL now also covers its "missing gap", the background history to the Lundy stamp issues before 1969.



*Picture 2. Text: Paul Skinner, head of British Library, The Philatelic Department, Derek Green, Lars Liwendahl and Michael Williams. Photograph by Richard Morel*

## **A big box full of history!**

The key question now, to all of us, is of course: What does this donation contain more in detail??

After going through the material myself, briefly, it is quite a lot. It is mainly correspondence with copies of outgoing letters and incoming ones (in originals), almost all from and to Harman's office in London. It is correspondence with stamp printing companies, designers, Felix Gade, stamp dealers and collectors. Of the last two categories there is surely not everything, but just to some of the more important ones. More "daily correspondence" as orders for stamps from collectors, etc. was handed by Felix Gade on the island, and it is not included.

All together it is an extensive correspondence and much work is required to locate all new and relevant information which surely must exist. As I understand it, this new information will likely not change our current knowledge about the different issues, etc., but it will more give additional information, and likely, more details about their backgrounds.

There were hardly any issued stamps in the archive as they had earlier been handed over to the Club auctions. There were also hardly any imperforate proofs, etc. of different issues. I saw one set of imperforate Churchill stamps on cards from De la Rue, items we already know about and which have reached the marketplace earlier.

Some artist sketches and drawings were found, mainly from John Dyke. We already know that he made images, often enlargements in post card size or larger, for different Lundy stamp issues. They often also showed the perforations (drawn by hand) as on the final printed stamps. Items like these are sometimes found in collections. To my understanding, also remembering from conversations with John himself, he did these sometimes on the specific request of the Harman family, but also, rather often, he produced them on his own initiative to be shown to the Harmans and to be used in discussions with them about possible future issues. Sometimes these artworks were later used as the originals for the printers in their work to produce the stamps when it had finally been decided to have them issued. Although produced for different reasons, both these types of artwork are of course interesting to Lundy postal historians.

Looking briefly at all this now donated correspondence I could also see a few examples of another "Lundy phenomenon", if I may call it that: some collectors and dealers with a keen interest in Lundy have occasionally written to the Harmans (and the island) suggesting new stamp issues, sometimes also enclosing sketches and artworks of various kinds. During my own involvement in the production of new Lundy stamps I have also experienced this a couple of times. Nothing wrong with trying to help the island in this way, of course. A new issue nowadays is almost always the result of

input from many different persons. Still artworks like these are different to the ones initiated by Lundy.

Illustrating this article I show two pieces of artwork made by John Dyke, described by him on the envelope they were found in as: "Design for proposed "mammal" postage stamps". From documents earlier seen and copied by James (from the Harman postal archive) we understand that they were made in 1968, and likely on John's initiative. Maybe there is more information to find about this.



I have a few more illustrations of other artworks I found which I plan to show in coming Puffin Journals. This article has already become very long! James also has more scans of items which he plans to write about and publish in our magazine.

As mentioned most of the material now handed over to the BL is correspondence. My feeling is that much are letters (often written on thin fragile paper) with messages from printers like: "Enclosed are 30.000 stamps of each value, as ordered". Ahead now for the BL is to organise this material and make it accessible for studies and research. This will take some time, and this is something which we must accept. The first and main thing now is that this "Harman Lundy Postal Archive", which we hardly knew existed, has been saved and will be kept safe for the future.

# The end of the GPO on Lundy

James Thomas

In 2011 my dear friend, the late Myrtle Ternstrom, sent me an envelope full of many of her research documents for me to use in articles for *The New Puffin Journal*.

One such document is a photocopy of a letter dated 3rd December 1927, which was sent to the Postmaster at Bideford from Felix Gade at the Estate Office, Lundy.

The letter reads –

*Dear Sir,*

*I am in receipt of your letters of 13th and 25th ult: together with form to be filled up in connection with my appointment as Postmaster.*

*I regret to say that I shall, however, be unable to apply for the position, and moreover I do not see my way to permit any of the employees here to apply for or accept the position. In short I see no necessity for a Sub-Postmaster and you had, therefore, better make arrangements to take over stamps, postal orders, cash and all stationery belonging to the Post Office, on or before the 31st December.*

*I am sorry if I am putting you to any inconvenience, especially as I said I would succeed Mr. Mien, but my ideas have altered since that date.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*F.W. Gade*

Such an important document which ended the contract between the General Post Office and Lundy and expressed in so few direct words.

# Burrow Postcards

Alan Rowland

As well as collecting just about anything Lundy related, I also have a small collection of Burrow Postcards.

Thomas Cory Burrow was born in 1872 and lived and worked in Hartland until his death in 1956. A life-long bachelor, he dedicated his life to chronicling the lives and events in his parish of Hartland, Devon. He built his own printing press and made and set his own type. He was reporter, photographer, typesetter, publisher and distributor of the Hartland Chronicle (later Hartland and West Country Chronicle) from 1896 to 1940.

As well as events in Hartland, he reported on events from Morwenstow and Kilkhampton in Cornwall and all the villages between there and Bideford.

This included Lundy and rarely was there an issue without a mention of our island. His first report in issue number 7 April 1897 reported on the smack "Telephone" in trouble off Lundy. In all, 42 of the 45 years of publication carried articles concerning Lundy including the marriage of Frederick Allday in February 1916 and the death with photograph of the Rev Hudson Grossett Heaven in February 1916 and of course that well-known photograph of the tavern taken in 1911 by a Mr Marshall.



Lundy Island Shop.

The wreck of the *Montagu* was covered extensively from May 1906 for a number of years until it passed out of the news. Cory Burrow had no qualms about reproducing copy from local and national newspapers so it is difficult to decide whether he visited and reported personally on this major event.



From 1904, he advertised the sale of Postcards – his shop in Fore Street Hartland was an ironmongers, newsagents, stationers as well as the printing works for his newspaper – viz: *“Portrait of Parson Hawker, His curious seal, Morwenstow Church, The Life Rock and coloured cards of Point and Lighthouse from the sea, Hartland Quay when complete, St Nectan’s Church & Churchyard, Abbey and the Lawn – many thousands of cards in stock.”*

In 1905 the list had risen to 34 different cards including “Lighthouse – Lundy in distance” and an Autochrom version of the same card.



After the Montagu was wrecked a note in the copious coverage stated “Picture Post Cards of the *Montagu* on sale by Burrow & Co at 46, The Terrace, Hartland” and included line drawings apparently taken from a postcard.

I have a collection of Burrow postcards which always feature the official business name or the distinctive ribbon title below the picture.

Fig 1 – showing Cory Burrow’s Shop and typical ribbon

Fig 2 – publisher credit on reverse



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

I have one example of the named views with Lundy in the distance but not any Burrow Montagu postcards. Roger Allen’s listing of postcards does not mention Burrow – with the exception of RL Burrow of Ilfracombe which is obviously not Thomas Cory Burrow of Hartland.

Does anyone have any Burrow postcards of Lundy or the Montagu in their collection? I would be very interested to know.

# Colour Variations

Ray Thomas

Identifying colour variations in Lundy stamps can be difficult.

It is best done in good daylight or under a microscope. One example where identifying the colour variation helps in identifying a Lundy stamp is the Europa 1961 overprint variety ref 149(a), which is the 1p value with the overprint missing.

It can easily be confused with the Millenary (Horses) 1p value, ref 129.

149(a) has a frame colour of sepia (reddish brown) and a vignette of brown whilst 129 has a frame colour of brown-ochre and a vignette colour of deep brown. The main difference is in the frame colour.

I attach photos of both stamps.

Other members may wish to mention other examples where colour identification is important.



# Lundy Collectors' Club at Virtual Stampex 2026

Mark McShane

The Lundy Collectors' Club took part in Virtual Stampex 2026, the online stamp exhibition organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society. Held on a dedicated virtual event platform, Stampex brings together dealers, societies, collectors and exhibitors from around the world. Visitors can explore virtual exhibition halls, attend talks and roundtable discussions in the auditorium, view competitive displays and interact directly with organisations through online booths.

The Lundy Collectors' Club maintained a virtual booth within the Societies Hall, providing visitors with information about the club, its activities and the fascinating field of Lundy philately. Over the course of the event the club's booth welcomed 120 visitors, demonstrating continued interest in Lundy material among the wider philatelic community.

The booth's messaging facility proved particularly useful, with over 55 messages received and responded to during the exhibition. These conversations ranged from general enquiries about Lundy stamps and postal history to questions about joining the club and accessing further information.

Encouragingly, analytics from the booth also showed that a number of visitors followed links through to the Lundy Collectors' Club website and Facebook page, helping to broaden awareness of the club and its activities. This demonstrates the value of maintaining an active online presence and highlights the effectiveness of events such as Virtual Stampex in promoting specialist societies to a wider audience.



*LCC booth at Virtual Stampex*

As in previous years, the event featured a strong programme of talks and roundtable discussions. Topics ranged from promoting the hobby and encouraging new collectors to exploring what the future of philately might look like in an increasingly digital world.

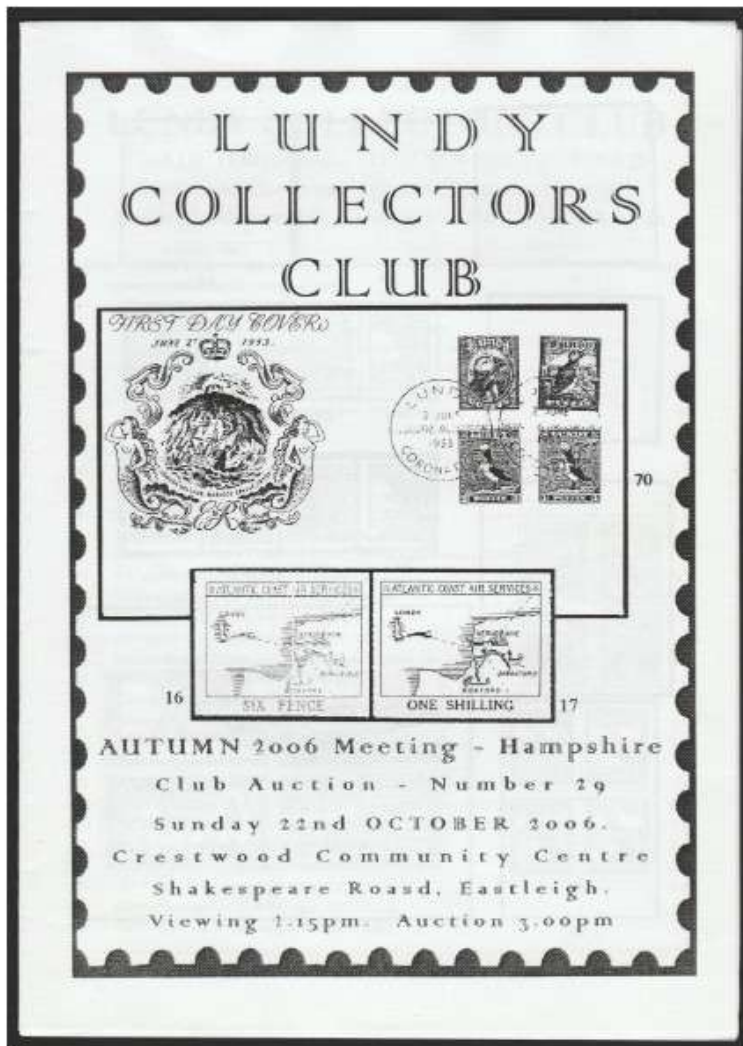
Several sessions focused on the use of artificial intelligence in philately, while others examined how social media platforms can be used effectively to promote the hobby and connect collectors.

The exhibition displays available to view online were also of a very high standard, covering a wide variety of philatelic subjects. Of particular interest to members was an exhibit by David Boyd (a non-LCC member) featuring material connected with Lundy Collectors' Club meetings and exhibitions. The display examined items such as ephemera, publicity labels, souvenir sheets and stamp booklets associated with the club. As the exhibitor noted, such material can often be difficult to obtain and may command high prices when it appears on the market, making the collection both unusual and historically informative.



*A sheet of twelve overprinted Stampex publicity labels (D. Boyd display)*

Overall, participation in Virtual Stampex 2026 proved to be both worthwhile and enjoyable for the Lundy Collectors' Club. The event provided an excellent opportunity to promote Lundy philately, engage with collectors from around the world and strengthen the club's online presence. The continued success of this digital exhibition demonstrates how modern technology can complement traditional philatelic activities and help sustain interest in the hobby for the future.



*LCC Club Auction catalogue, no. 29 (D. Boyd display)*

# 1936-38 'Winged Motif' cancel

James Thomas

The 1936-38 'Winged Motif' cancel in its various forms was in service between 25<sup>th</sup> March 1936 and 10<sup>th</sup> November 1938, although the official date of introduction was 31<sup>st</sup> March 1936.



*The full cancel, type Cb, showing the frame, winged motif, date and the words 'BARNSTAPLE, LUNDY ISLAND'*

The cancel was made of rubber and over time, with use, various elements of it wore down and became distorted. As this happened, the worn elements were removed. However, one variation, type Cba, is an anomaly because the frame, which was the first element to be removed, is in place and so are the date and words. The question is, why has the winged motif been removed only to reappear in types Cc and Cd where the motif appears crisp and clear?

Jon Aitchison, in the sixth edition of his catalogue, suggests two possible options. First, the winged motif was removed from the cancel or secondly, the cancel was not fully inked and the motif missed out. I have always believed that the cancel was not fully inked because the winged motif appears quite clearly in types Cc and Cd.

Recently I looked through my collection and found what I initially thought to be a type Cba but on closer inspection I noticed a faint small section of the winged motif.



*Type Cba (perhaps!) showing a small faint part of the winged motif*

Jon states that only four examples of type Cba are known to exist which makes me believe that type Cba is in fact type Cb that were not fully inked and the example shown above shows that the motif was present but only a small part received ink.

I believe that a similar story applies to Cca, although I do not have an example of this one in my collection. In Jon's catalogue, he shows an example of Cca without the motif dated 20 July 1937 and also an example of Cc with the motif dated 15 August 1937, nearly a month later. Surely, the winged motif was not removed and then replaced a few weeks later; more likely, it was not fully inked.

If you can throw anymore light on the subject, please email your findings to the editor – [editor.lundy@mail.uk](mailto:editor.lundy@mail.uk)

*Catalogue references used in this article are from Stamps and Postal History of Lundy Island, Sixth Edition as published by Jon Aitchison.*

# The Lundy Bird Observatory stamps

Lars Liwendahl

I think all of us know that Lundy released a new set of stamps in March this year. The date of issue was March 11<sup>th</sup> during our society's 5-day island meeting, making it a first time for many LCC-members to be present on the actual day of issue for a new Lundy stamp set.

It has become a bit of a tradition that I on the first day of our island meetings tell a little about the latest stamp issue. Being much involved in the production of them I also know the background story. The following lines are based on my presentation in March about this year's issue – The Lundy Bird Observatory.

The first discussions about a 2025 stamp set were up in connection with my visit to the island in May 2023. We then had the special cancel and cover celebrating the coronation of king Charles III and a week later the issuing of the new puffin on coast definitives / John Dyke jubilee.

As we were not immediately aware of any big and well known jubilees the nearest years to come we made an investigation. No real good ones appropriate to celebrate with stamps came up – apart from one: in 2029 we have the centenary of the first Lundy stamps. The island hopes (and plan!) to come back on this!

Instead we focussed our discussions on themes and different ones were up. Soon it became obvious that the newly gained Lundy Observatory status was THE one! Lundy is indeed known as a bird paradise and the new Lundy Bird Observatory status had resulted in much attention both among ornithologists and the general public.

Choosing birds we had one concern. Lundy had rather recently, in 2017 done a set showing different birds. *Birds now again??* On the other hand, birds are one of the signatures for our island and creates much interest. So, why not give the visitors what they want?! We decided to go for some Bird Observatory stamps. We also said they then must be easy to differ from the 2017 ones.

Next step was to find an artist. Having had the success with the 2017 bird stamps, would Sharon Read be interested to do an other set? Could we repeat the success? We asked Sharon and she was delighted to help.

The more "hands on work" with the stamp designs started in the spring of 2024. A year is the normal time it takes from start until some new stamps lay on the Post Office desk we have in the Tavern on the day of issue.

When we started our design work Sharon had already done some initial sketches. I had at the same time studied some ideas from 2017, which we did not use then. I also had some new ideas myself. In connection with these I had also put together some points for the new set:

- \* Only landscape format. This is preferable for postcards.
- \* They should be easy to differ from the 2017 bird stamps.
- \* Different island scenes in the background on each stamp
- \* I wanted the stamps slightly smaller in size than the 2017 ones. This we had to give up rather soon of technical and cost reasons.
- \* Show birds easily possible to see on Lundy, and also new birds not shown 2017. This apart from the puffin, which we thought was a must.

Rather early Sharon also came up with the idea to incorporate the Observatory logo on each stamp.

Next step was that Sharon and I tested different designs following the outlines set up. We had many talks over the phone & emails re all our ideas and alternatives! Derek was also involved.

One initial idea was to show what the Observatory is doing – ringing of birds among other things. This was given up as such motifs easily could be misunderstood in stamp format.

It will in this article be too much to show all sketches and design ideas. I have instead put together a selection which gives an idea of the work and how it progressed.

In July last year we had all designs in black and white as we wanted them and Sharon began to do the water colours. They were done in large post card size, about 12 x 18 cm. They took over a week each to do and it is hard to do any changes afterwards. Still, when they were completed, we saw some changes needed. With extra effort Sharon managed this! One of the things, not surprisingly, was to make sure that the text and the denominations were to be easily seen and read. An other challenge was to have enough space for the denominations. This ended with that we changed the Marisco Tavern stamp from being ROW to 1<sup>st</sup> class. My first idea was to have the guillemots as first class.

The design we had the biggest challenges with was the Marisco Tavern one. The birds, the sparrows, melted into the background. Sharon worked a lot on this one, and was prepared to redo the watercolour entirely. In the end we decided not to.

The watercolours were ready in November. This time they were not sent as scanned attachments in an email to the printers, as for the 2023 issue. We sent the original watercolours as such. Cartor could then scan them and adjust the colours more easily, if

needed. They could also incorporate the text better, which Sharon had done on separate acetate overlays.

We saw proofs in December and after adjustments of the sheet layout I said “yes, go to print” in an email to Cartor on New Year’s Eve at 18.07 hours to be precise. It was my very last last work I did that year, just before opening the New Year Eve champagne!

The printing was done in January.

It can be noted that Cartor now are even more careful about who they print stamps for. They only print for the government of the country indicated on the stamps. This was a bit of a challenge for Lundy as it is no independent country at the end of the day. Now Cartor knows us well since over 20 years of work together, but they at least in their marketing sometimes talk about “The Government of Lundy”.

The finished stamps were delivered to Lundy on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. This was earlier than ever, at least the latest decades. The worst, as I remember, was the 2008 Oldenburg stamps.



*Sharon at work*

They arrived to Bideford on a Friday and they were issued the next day, The sales started already on the ship, where we had a post office on board!

Back to January this year!

After the new stamps had come to the island it was time for the next jobs:

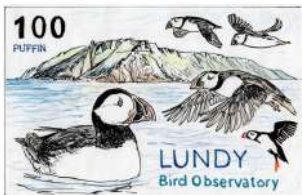
- Tearing stamps
- Preparing presentation packs
- Making First Day Covers
- Designing and producing two special cancellers
- Writing and distributing a newsletter
- Internet marketing
- A press release for the press



Rather much all together! Just talking about tearing stamps, nearly 10.000 stamps were teared. My friend Jan-Erik Wellerfors again helped doing the cancellers and the design for the FDC.



Sam (Samantha) on Lundy, our island postmaster, worked hard, with assistance from her colleagues. I arrived a week before the Collectors Week and we were all much up on track the day of issue. I did my presentation about the new stamps on the first Collector evening, the day before we started selling the stamps. It was a special feeling among all when I let a sheet set be handed around in the room. To have a new stamp in your own hands BEFORE the day of issue is something special!



THE LUNDY COLLECTORS CLUB MEETING ON LUNDY  
10.3 - 14.3. 2025



# LCC meeting report - 21.2.26, Easter Compton

Mark McShane

Following the many changes that occurred in the management of the club last year, it was felt that having a meeting early in 2026 would be good to bring the membership together and share all the latest news of what had been going on. More importantly it was an early opportunity for people to meet, some for the first time, to finally meet in person and start the new year with a strong social engagement. The venue was selected with the aim being to select a suitable location that meant travelling distances for



those members living in the south and east of the country could manage the travel and meeting in a single day. Easter Compton was suggested and the Village Hall turned out to be an ideal venue. Those that attended commented very positively on the ease of attending that was made possible by selecting this venue. With seventeen people in attendance, it was a marvellous turnout for a fresh spring weekend and with a full days schedule to keep everyone occupied, the day was a wonderful success.



The meeting opened with a member's bourse with an ample selection of Lundy related books, guides and ephemera available. Lots of bargains were to be found and it was evident that many people were taking home good deals and more Lundy reading material. The first display of the day was presented by Roy Bentley (left), with a terrific display of postal history titled '*Lundy Island From Around The World*' that

covered inward mail to Lundy from some very unusual countries. Each cover was well presented and written up to describe the country of origin, the recipient and franking and cancellations of interest. Some notable covers included a very nice Pittman copper plate handwritten cover from Newfoundland, addressed to F.W. Gade and received on Lundy Christmas Eve 1938. Another cover with transit port interest was from India, addressed wit lighthouse keeper G.F. Waghorn, with the India postage stamped additionally tied with the Appledore, Bideford double circle hand stamp dated 14 November 1946. Complementing the international inward covers, were several inter island local post

covers, with one example for Stroma and two very nice Caldey Island franked covers received at Lundy.

The next display was presented by Julie Lester (right) with another very important postal history display covering the period prior to the closure of the Post Office on Lundy, following through to the brief period when Harman had agreed to carry mail for free in 1928 and then running through to the early period of the private local post. Examples of some really clear strikes and the thimble cancels were shown on cover and postcard, with each sheet written up with good



descriptions of the cancel type cover or postcard usage. There were some early examples of the 1929 ½ Puffin and 1 Puffin on covers from 1930 with a description of how the Post Office Regulations evolved to require the Lundy franking to be placed on the reverse of outward covers and not, as shown in the examples displayed, on the front alongside the GB franking and cancels. A very attractive and rare outward registered mail cover to Penarth, dated 1911, took centre stage in this very fine display and Julie entertained the audience with anecdotes of its purchase in the early days of eBay and how this cover garnered much attention and offers for purchase from desirous Lundy collectors. As if following up this stunning item would seem difficult, Julie ended the display with two very fine examples of covers with the 1939 Red Cross overprint on cover, including one that was franked with the ½ Puffin, 1 Puffin and 2 Puffin Red Cross issues all with the overprint selvage attached.

Lunch break was another opportunity for socialising and many of the attendees took advantage of The Fox public house being next door to enjoy lunch and drinks and the company of fellow members. But it was not all idle gossip and it was back to the hall for final viewing of the auction lots. The majority of bidding was by postal bidding, with several members bidding in the room. With 100 lots available, bidding was brisk with some lots catching the eye of several postal bidders that generated healthy competition. It was good to see a very strong postal bidding and in the end there were only 15 unsold lots from the auction. Our thanks to our auctioneer Jon Aitchison, for facilitating another great auction.

The final item on the schedule was a display by Mark McShane with a study of the first day covers from the Europa1961 issues. These were presented following the catalogued printed addressee's, such as Phillips and Medawar, which was cross referenced with FDC5 cancel types and colour of ink used.

## THE POSTAL HISTORY OF LUNDY TO 1930

Lundy is an island in the Bristol Channel, which is eleven miles from Hartland Point in North Devon. The earliest date recorded for the opening of the British Post Office is the 3rd. March 1887, though it is unlikely that it did in fact operate until 1892, when the Post Office laid a cable from Croyle in Devon and built a stone hut where the cable terminated.

The cable hut became known as the Post Office and in 1896, a linesman was sent from the mainland to lay and service the cables connected to Lundy's two lighthouses, which subsequently came into service later in 1896.

The first mails to and from Lundy were carried by the cutter "Gannet", base at Instow, Devon, and the service continued virtually uninterrupted until 1912.

This display shows the G.P.O. era and Part One of the Private Post until 1930.

### Pre - 1928 G.P.O. Cancellations.



Type Aa. Type Ab. Type Ac.

Type Aa. Used from December 1886 until 1893. (No examples recorded.)

Type Ab. Used from August 1893 until after 1914.

Type Ac. Used from 1920 until December 1927.



Outward Mail. A postcard sent to Johannesburg, South Africa. Showing the Lundy

Type Ab "Thumb" handstamp, dated the 17th August 1911.

Also showing the Instow code "A" "Squared Circle" handstamp. Dated the 12th September 1903.

## THE POSTAL HISTORY OF LUNDY

### The G.P.O. Type Ab Cancellation



Outward Mail. A 1911 registered cover to Penarth, South Wales. Showing the Lundy Registered label with the "Thumb" handstamp with no time and date.

Under Post Office regulations, the Lundy Post Office (which was a sub-office of Instow) did not have the authority to cancel the stamps on a registered cover, but had to handstamp the cover on the reverse. It was sent to Instow, where the two K.G.V. one penny stamps (which paid the 2d. Registered fee) and the Q.V. Inland Revenue one penny stamp (which paid the postage) were cancelled by the Instow code "A" "Thumb" handstamp. Dated the 18th August 1911.



1) Lundy Island "Thumb" handstamp, dated the 17th August 1911.

2) Instow code "A" "Thumb" handstamp

3) Barnstaple single circle handstamp

4) Bristol "Thumb" handstamp.

1-4 All dated the 18th August 1911.

Pages from Julie Lester's display (above) and Roy Bentley's display (below)

## LUNDY ISLAND FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### BELGIUM TO LUNDY

POSTED MAY 1ST 1936



BRUSSELS AIRFIELD 1936



BELGIUM STAMPS CANCELLED SINGLE RING DATE STAMP BRUSSELS 1-Y-1936

LUNDY 1/6 PUFFIN #7M MAY 1936

## LUNDY ISLAND FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### CALDEY ISLAND



POSTED FROM CALDEY TO LUNDY NOVEMBER 20th



CALDEY NEW STAMP ISSUED NOVEMBER 20th



*Viewing Roy Bentley's display*



*One of the Red Cross overprint covers*



*Auction lots*

# Lundy Managing Director's Report

Derek Green

Lundy had a varied season in 2025 with long periods of hot weather, a high number of cancelled sailings and a remarkable shortage of rainfall, which led to rationing and water having to be imported by the "Oldenburg".

Poor weather in August reduced day trip numbers for the second year in a row and whilst property occupancy remained strong at 88%, it was down slightly on 2024. It's noticeable that pressure on finances has led to a reduction in secondary spend from visitors due to the increased cost of living on the mainland.

The Oldenburg had a challenging summer season with 25 sailings from 100 affected by weather or mechanical problems. We normally lose around 10 sailings per year, but persistent strong winds and storms in August and September have now curtailed sailings for the last two years. The ship suffered mechanical problems, which affected three sailings until we were able to rectify the problem.

## Oldenburg

The ship had a prolonged visit to the dry dock in winter 24/25, when we had to replace most of the foredeck due to wear and tear. The foredeck takes the worst of the weather and it was expected that some areas of steel would need to be replaced. However, following survey, we took the decision to replace the entire deck whilst we had the opportunity and resource was available. This led to a slight delay at the beginning of the season.

Over the winter we also took the opportunity to have the SLEP report (Ship's Life Expectancy Report) reviewed which provides details and recommendations for future work and the expected life cycle of the ship. It was pleasing to note that with continued investment, the Oldenburg has several years service left in her yet.

On that basis plans were drawn up for this winter's dry docking, which have focused on the hull condition below the waterline and which are expected to take 3 or 4 years to complete as we replace areas of steel. Additionally, the cargo crane has had a major overhaul and, internally, we're refurbishing the seating in the forward salon.



## Hartland Heliport

Work to Hartland Heliport continued over the summer with a new AVGAS fuel pump installed by Castle Air and the buildings getting a fresh coat of paint, courtesy of Mike Weston and the crew, between sailing days. A new safety video has been produced and plans are underway to entertain visitors waiting on foggy days, with some lovely Lundy images and videos being put together from Richard Breese and LFS members.

## Shore Offices

Plans have been drawn up to move over to digital lines with BT to improve communications. Online ticketing for day trippers continues to be successful, with the majority of tickets now purchased this way. However, the cost of putting period return online was unfortunately cost prohibitive and so we've had to postpone that phase of this project for the near future.

The team flew the Lundy flag at the Royal Cornwall show in June and attended several other regional shows spreading the word.



*Lyndsey and Tracey at the Royal Cornwall Show*

## Passenger Numbers

Day trip passenger numbers over the summer remained steady until the end of August when poor weather impacted some sailings and reduced numbers. Letting properties remained busy through the summer but, noticeably, May is now our busiest month with the highest occupancy and increasing day trip numbers.

Property occupancy remained high with Old Light cottage the most popular landmark - amazingly booking for 100% of all available days last year. Castle Cottage (98.5%), The Radio Room (98.1%) and Tibbetts (94%) are also extremely popular and it's pleasing to see that the Vestry is now the sixth most booked property on the island, booking 92% of the year.

## **Maintenance**

It was a busy year on the island, with a new micro grid at Tibbetts installed, allowing us to replace the old "cantankerous" water boiler. A new solar array, 8Kw battery bank, 240v inverter and new central heating system have been sympathetically installed along with LED lighting utilising the existing iconic gas light fittings. The system is currently working successfully.

A new Air Source Heat pump has been installed in Stoneycroft along with double glazed windows to conserve heat. The new system reduces load from the generator and keeps Stoneycroft cosy and warm. The shower room was also refurbished as part of the project.

The Old Lights have had both shower rooms refurbished, with new sanitary ware and shower cubicles installed. Many properties have had new double glazed windows installed, including Hammers, St Johns, The Barn, Brambles and Quarters.

Millcombe has had an external and internal makeover during the winter, bringing the island's finest property back up to a high standard. The castle complex was re-roofed in December during a period of light winds and it's pleasing that several leaks persistent small leaks have since been eliminated.

Fifteen of the island's multifuel stoves were replaced over the summer by our Hetas registered contractor. Many had new flue liners and pots replaced to ring them up to standard.

Work to "Brambles Bank" concluded in January with thanks to Roger and his team of volunteers. Stabilisation works will soon vegetate and blend into the landscape.

One of the largest projects last year was the repair and encapsulation of the vehicle workshop roof, which has been sealed to prevent leaks. At a cost of over £100,000, it's an "unseen" cost but one which is vital to protecting our sensitive control room and generators.

## **Water**

The island's water supply was severely reduced with a lack of rainfall during the main summer months, leading to rationing. The dry weather, however, helped identify a persistent leak in the campsite which was found and repaired. The island generally uses C.16T per day.

## **Internet**

Following the end of the f.o.c. two-year trial of BT's "One Web" satellite broadband, we've installed Starlink to provide reliable internet connection to the island (for business use only). The two One Web domes are due to be removed shortly.

## **Power**

Work continues to monitor and fine tune the new PLC and controls remotely. The island's main generator sets have been running reliably with no major issues since work was completed in the winter of 2024/25.

## **Farm**

We've reduced domestic sheep numbers significantly over the past year and the island has now recovered from over grazing and the abundance of sheep from 2024. We've introduced three new Dexter cows in line with our aspiration to have more controlled grazing using GPS controlled collars.

Feral stock numbers have also been reduced, with over 100 Sika Deer and a similar number of Soay culled since the last feral stock count.

We continue to work with the NT land management team to draft a new HLS scheme. There is no update on when we might be invited to apply for a new scheme, but the team remains focused on having an application ready to submit in partnership with the NT.

## **Vehicles**

With help from our Royal Marine friends at Instow, we've replaced the farm tractor and mower. We've also replaced the mainland crew minibus after a series of mechanical problems and advice from our garage.



*Tom cutting winter silage with the new mower*

## **Events**

The island's annual fly-in for light aircraft was cancelled due to bad weather. The annual trail run took place in July with several of the islanders successfully completing the gruelling 14-mile course around the island.

Several film crews have been filming in and around the island, notably "Our Tiny Islands" on C4 and "Sailing the Shipping Forecast" also on C4 with the Rev Richard Coles and a programme focusing on our Soay sheep from St Kilda for BBC Alba.

## **Bird Observatory**

Following three years in probation, I'm delighted that Lundy has been re-admitted to the Bird Observatory Council following their AGM IN February 2026. Many thanks to everyone who made this happen - in particular, Chris Dee, Dean Jones, Joe Parker and Tim Jones (for patiently convincing me outside Barton's that we should do it !)

## **Staffing**

There were a number of staff movements in 2025, notably:

Erin Waller (General Assistant and deputy HK) left in July to take up a position with HM Coastguard on the mainland. Pete Hayes (Senior General Assistant) left in December to take a position with the Lakes Trust with ex-Lundy Ranger, Nick Herbert. Joe Parker (Warden) left in December to take up a position with The Birds of Poole Harbour Trust while Zdena Best (Temporary Assistant Ranger) left in December after spending a few months assisting Roger, the island Ranger. I don't normally mention temporary staff, but Zdena was exceptional and I'd like to acknowledge her contribution to the island.

Joining us over the last 12 months were Simon Parker (warden) who joined us in January 2026, taking over from Joe Parker (no relation). Simon has previously been the warden on Flat Hold Island, further up the Bristol Channel. Also joining us in January were Aaron Cann and his partner Talulah Robinson (General Assistants) and Thomas Weston and Eleanor Harris (Bird Warden & General Assistants). Thomas is a qualified bird ringer and will share his time between island departments and looking after visiting bird ringers as part of our commitment to the Bird Observatory. Steve Young (Cargo Co-Ordinator) joined us in March. Steve has been working on Lundy on and off as a maintenance contractor for a number of years and brings a wide range of useful building skills to the island.

Andy Hall joined us on the bridge of the Oldenburg as 1st Officer (Mate). There were no significant changes in the Shore Office or within the crew.

## **Renewable Energy Project (REP)**

Internal restructuring within the National Trust has caused delays to the planned REP. However, work over the year has continued to support our planning application and a pre-application has since been submitted to Torridge District Council.



The full scheme consists of:

Wind – 100 kW Turbine

Solar – 400 kW - approximately 1 hectare

Battery store – 1 MWh

Diesel Generation – Existing (15%)

In summary, 2025 was another challenging but busy year all round with the changing weather patterns dictating most things. However, there have been many improvements across the island, ship and on shore over the past year and the island and ship are in good shape.

We have some significant changes ahead with the pending retirement of Rob and Sue Waterfield, who are due to fly off into the sunset after 11 years at the helm of the island. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank them for their dedicated service, it's been a real pleasure having you both on the island and we all wish you a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

I'd like to also take the opportunity to thank the Lundy team for their ongoing commitment and support to the operation. On Lundy, the Oldenburg, the Shore Office teams and the Ground Crew at Hartland, all helping to keep Lundy the special place that it is. A special mention to my wife and dedicated P.A. Lyndsey Green, who quietly and efficiently keeps the show running behind the scenes.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Lundy Field Society for their ongoing support over the last 12 months and wish them a successful anniversary year in 2026.

We look forward to welcoming you to Discover Lundy 2026!

# Improved Lundy Stamp Ordering

James Thomas

Lundy has a new improved system to order philatelic material online.

Collectors can now view pictures of all available stamps and covers and access the latest order form.

The Lundy Postal Service now has its own section on the Lundy Island website through the Landmark Trust.

[www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland/discovering-lundy/lundy-post](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland/discovering-lundy/lundy-post)

The site is under continual development and it is planned to make further improvements over time.

Of course, all of the existing ordering methods are still available - either write a letter addressed to the Lundy Postmistress, email [lundypostalservice@lundyisland.co.uk](mailto:lundypostalservice@lundyisland.co.uk) or telephone 01237 431831.



## World's Largest Puffin?



In August, Sid Morginstin and his wife Helene took a St. Lawrence seaway cruise. At one port of call, they saw this.

Is it the world's largest puffin?