

THE PUFFIN



NUMBER

5

JULY

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NEWSLETTER OF THE LUNDY SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary and Editor:
E.N.D. Chinchen,
97, Chamberlayne Road,
Eastleigh, Hampshire, England.

Dear Fellow Members,

Lundy has been much in the news since the last number of the "Puffin". It has had its first Royal Visit. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother spent three hours there on Sunday May 11th on her way back from Northern Ireland.

Mr Gade very kindly sent me a copy of the Bideford Gazette which contained a very full account of the occasion. Unfortunately when I wrote to the printers only twenty copies remained; I obtained these, and some of you will receive them. I have duplicated the article for the others, so I hope you will not be too disappointed if you have not received the Gazette itself.

Mr Gade has selected a few of the snapshots taken by the islanders during the Visit, and is having prints made. These are not yet ready, but the cost, I am told, will be about eightpence each. The photographs will be obtainable from him.

I have to report a change of address:

Miss Jane Metcalfe, Apt. 1, 13 Prospect Avenue, London, Ont. Canada

Again I must appeal for articles, the Newsletter can not continue without these. I have been looking out for some from other sources. Mr John E. Moss pointed out to me an illustrated article, in the Cooperative Society's Magazine, about Lundy. I could not obtain copies of this, as it was published a year ago, but I have the publisher's permission to reprint it, though I would have to get the author's also before I could do so. I am afraid the photos in it would be impossible to reproduce. This article is very well written, and although it does not contain any new information you may find it interesting, so I may be able to include it in the next "Puffin".

I have been wondering if it might not be a good idea to compile a list of the books that have been written about Lundy, or contain references to the island. I would welcome lists of such books that you know of. From these a full list could be drawn up for inclusion in a future "Puffin".

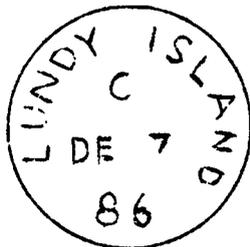
Yours sincerely,

Barry N. D. Chinchen.

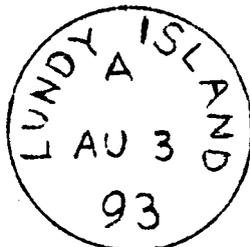
A FURTHER ADDITION TO THE LIST OF BIRDS SEEN ON LUNDY.

Mr John Moss reported that the Bee Eater had nested in the garden of Millcombe House when he was on the island in September 1941, and had robbed Lundy of most of its bees.

THE BRITISH POST OFFICE CANCELLERS
by Wm. Rowcroft Jr.



Issued to Cardiff December 8 1886.



Issued to Barnstaple August 4 1893.



First Used August 1909.

According to the British Post Office these are the only cancellers issued by them.

Mention should be made of Donald Heaysman who took over the postal administration when Mr. Gade retired to live on Hartland Point. Donald used to visit me in my City Office near St. Paul's, and it was his idea to suggest to Lady Selby that her island of Shuna in the Hebrides could also issue local stamps. He left Lundy to become her postmaster, and the 2d. violet Shuna "stamp" soon followed. The idea was to issue a full set of these "stamps" in all denominations from ½d. to 1/. As you doubtless know, the first mail was confiscated by the G.P.O. at Oban, but a few first day covers got through, mine included. You see Shuna did not have a measure of autonomy, like Lundy- the island where there are no taxes not even income tax.

John E. Moss.

I would like to draw your attention to the book "Tempestuous Isle" by Colonel P.T. Etherton and Vernon Barlow. Published by the Lutterworth Press, London, in 1950.

I discovered this book quite recently on the shelves of the local Public Library. Not having Lundy in its title I had hitherto missed it. I thought that perhaps you may have done the same, and might be interested to hear of it.

It contains a fine geography of the island. A Chapter headed "A Coastal Journey" deals with many of the prominent landmarks.

It makes mention of both botanical and zoological aspects of the island, including the story of the cabbage plant only found on Lundy - *Brassicella Wrightii* - and the two unique families of beetles which pollinate it.

The wonderful caves are beautifully described. A history of the island, and a section about its birds is also included. The stamps however get only a passing mention.

The photography is the most impressive part of the production. The Precipice below Marisco Castle is awe inspiring, and the Devil's Limekiln - "A frightful pit yawning in the granite" - really makes one feel dizzy.

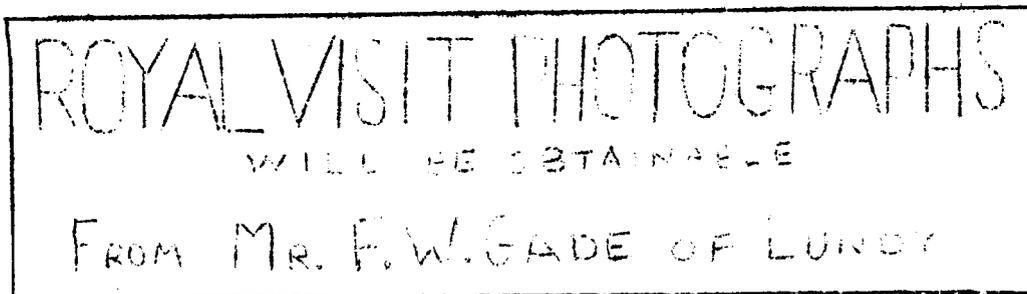
These photographs and many others (there are twenty-one in all) were taken by J. Allan Cash F.I.B.P., F.R.P.S. and are absolutely superb.

The introduction of the book contains this sentence :- "This book seeks to span the centuries, to picture a fascinating island, to tell a glamorous and colourful story." This is an excellent summing up.

B.C.

A year ago the Suburban Stamp Co. of 32 Victoria Street, London S.W.1. were offering, the Wright Brother's Anniversary set of 12 values (the only Lundy they had) at 12/6 the set, blocks pro rata.

B.C.



The heading of this Newsletter, a lino-cut, another adaptation of Mr. John Dyke's design, was kindly prepared by Mr. Geoffrey Sutcliffe of Barton Peveril, Eastleigh.

LUNDY WELCOMES ROYAL VISITOR

Queen Mother's Two Hours On "Your Beautiful Island"

by Bideford Gazette reporter

Almost hidden behind the family group gathered on Lundy's tiny landing beach on Sunday a small girl shuffled her feet and bobbed experimental curtsies. At the water's edge stood the dominant, grey-haired figure of Mr. Albion Harman, owner of the island, watching ropes being coiled down on the landing stage.

Lundy was ready to welcome Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, the first Royal visitor to the island.

Minutes before the Royal Yacht Britannia, in which the Queen Mother was returning home from her state visit to Northern Ireland, had dropped anchor in Lundy Roads, her gleaming deep blue hull reflecting the bow wave and her scarlet boot-topping just visible at the water-line.

But the question everyone on the island had been asking for days- "Will she land"- remained unanswered.

Anxiously people waiting all over the island watched as a naval landing party in yellow life-jackets came into the landing beach and returned to Britannia.

Then, down from the yacht's davits dropped the Royal barge - the Queen Mother was coming ashore.

Between the small ships at anchor closer in, among them the Lundy Gannet, dressed overall by skipper Trevor Davey, sped the Royal barge and then the Queen Mother was stepping ashore helped by bearded islanders, shepherd and goatherd John Ogilvie, his sheepdog Toss at his heels, and Vince Squire, the engineer, builder and boatman.

The Queen Mother, dressed in grey, was greeted by Mr. Harman, who introduced his 10-years-old son John, his two sisters, Mrs. Ruth Harman Jones and Mrs. Diana Keast, members of their families, and Mr. F.W.Gade, agent on Lundy since 1926, and Mrs. Gade.

One who missed the Royal Visit was Mrs. Kathleen Harman, wife of the owner, who had to stay in Bideford nursing an injured leg she sustained on Lundy recently, but from her husband and her young son she received first-hand accounts of Lundy's Royal Day.

SUN SHONE

Swallows skimmed across the beach at her feet as the Queen Mother sat in a chair while Mr. Harman pointed out landmarks along the eastern coast where carpets of rhododendrons were turning pink as its flowers burst into bloom. At its most capricious until then, Lundy's weather moderated as if in welcome and the sun shone for most of the Queen Mother's two-hour stay.

A tractor-drawn trailer, driven by farm bailiff Bob Bendall had been prepared but the Queen Mother chose to walk with the Harman family up the rough, twisting, Beach Road to visit the church of St. Helen at the "top" of the island some 300 feet above sea level.

WIND WHISTLED

At the Church door she was met by the priest-in-charge, the Rev. Royston Dixon, Vicar of Appledore, and by Mrs. Audrey Smith, the Church keeper and organist. As the force five westerly wind whistled through telephone wires outside and rattled the windows of the tiny church, the Queen Mother talked with Mr. Bill Copp of East View, Meddon Street, Bideford who has been working on the roof of the church, about the difficulties of keeping the building in repair.

POSTCARDS TO ROYAL CHILDREN

Smiling happily as she held firmly to a blue headscarf she had sent for to keep her hat in place, the Queen Mother walked on to the Marisco Stores where, from 17-year-old June Smith, she purchased two picture postcards bearing Lundy's puffin stamps and showing the beach where she had landed. On each she wrote a brief message before addressing one to Prince Charles and the other to Princess Anne. "I adore puffins, don't you?" she said as she handed back the postcards to be franked on Lundy and then dispatched in the mailbag aboard the Lundy Gannet for delivery on the mainland. In the stores the Queen Mother also met Mrs. Mary Squire, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F.W.Gade, who was shopping there.

On the bar counter of the Marisco Tavern next door the Queen Mother signed her name on an illuminated vellum scroll commemorating her visit and designed by the island's artist, John Dyke, of Fairy Cross, who presented her with a set of the current Lundy puffin stamps. All the names of the islanders are listed on the scroll as well as those of people living on the mainland who serve the island, including Dr. William Ruddock and Mr. Maurice Ross (dentist), of Bideford, who were presented to the Queen Mother in the tavern together with other islanders and the principle keepers of the North and South Lighthouses.

"COSY SPOT"

"What a cosy spot this must be in winter," said the Queen Mother as she glanced around the spotless white walls where are hung the lifebelt souvenirs from ships wrecked on Lundy's rocky shores through the years.

Behind the counter stood barman Stanley Smith, who doubles as builder, and he told the Queen Mother how he met and married his wife on Lundy and later returned to the island when his children had begun to grow up. With the youngest of the family, Wayland, the Queen Mother chatted about his schooling which is carried out by post. She had word, too, with Lundy's oldest inhabitant, 71-years-old Frank Cannon, grandfather of the Smith children, and who is Lundy's gardener and sharpshooter.

PICNIC TEA

All the islanders joined the Queen Mother in a picnic tea at Millcombe Gate in a sheltered valley in front of the island's Manor house and there she had introduced to her the youngest islander, 10-months-old Sarah, the daughter of chef Edward Wood and his waitress wife Ann.

As she went back down the Beach Road to board Britannia, past Hangman's Hill where the island's blue and white flag stood out stiff in the wind, the Queen Mother was still smiling and chatting happily.

THRILLED WITH GIFTS

"How lovely, how thrilling," she exclaimed as Mr. Harman presented her with a basket of freshly-caught fish and Lundy lobsters and with two baskets of herring gull gulls' eggs nestling in moss and fern which had been gathered from the cliffs by Miss Barbara Whitaker, the Lundy Field Society Warden, and by Mrs. Mary Squire.

"My visit to Lundy is something I shall never forget-I can quite understand people wanting to live here," said the Queen Mother as she smilingly took her leave

Led by Mr. F.W.Gade, the islanders and visitors on the beach cheered their Royal visitor as her barge, flying her personal standard, backed away from the landing stage.

FAREWELL WAVE

As Britannia weighed anchor Lundy saluted the departure of her only Royal visitor with a barrage of rocket signals from Hangman's Hill and of fog maroons from the South Light, and as the Royal Yacht, steaming slowly out to sea past Rat island, replied with blasts on her siren, the Queen Mother was still visible waving from the after-deck.

From Britannia the Queen Mother radioed, "I greatly enjoyed my visit to your beautiful island and send you my very sincere thanks for your kindness and hospitality. I was so pleased to meet the people of Lundy island and will always have very happy memories of today's visit."

THEIR HAPPIEST DAY

Mr. Harman replied via the island radio: "Your Majesty's kind message is greatly appreciated. For those living on Lundy today has been the happiest day they have spent on the island. All on Lundy send your Majesty their thanks and wish you a safe journey."

At vantage points all along the North Devon coast people were defying the squally showers on Sunday afternoon trying to get a glimpse of the Royal yacht but practically all of them were disappointed owing to the weather. A few boats put out from North Devon and South Wales to visit the vicinity of Lundy.

Mr. Harman's guests were taken out to the island on Saturday in the Lundy Gannet and the fishing vessel Felicity from Bideford Quay. Owing to the worsening weather they were unable to make the return as planned on Sunday evening, and came in at about 2p.m. on Monday.

In view of this delay press accounts of the visit were relayed to the mainland by the island's radio-telephone through the helpful co-operation of the Coastguards at Hartland Point.

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