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LUNDY POST

*75
years*

1929 - 2004

SPRING 2005

Published by the Lundy Collectors Club

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Cover Picture
Lundy Post Box
In special 75th
Anniversary livery
Photo: Bob Harper

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2005 SUBSCRIPTION

Most members have renewed their subscriptions for 2005, however, there are still a few who have yet to up-date their membership.

A tick in the box indicates that you have not renewed your membership for 2005. If you wish to continue your membership and receive *The New Puffin Journal* please send your subscription immediately. No further reminders will be sent.



Please send your subscription to James Thomas at the address shown on this page. Thank you.

EDITORIAL

Despite the very sad start to 2004, the year as a whole turned out to be a very successful one for the Club. The Autumn Meeting was without doubt most successful and was enjoyed by all who attended. A full report supported by many photographs can be read in this issue. Although the Autumn Meeting was the “jewel in last year’s crown” lets not forget all of the other activities and achievements.

We started the year with the publication of the “Index” which covered in detail the first seven years of the *Journal*. A very well supported Spring Meeting was held at Eastleigh along with the first of last year’s three auctions. The Summer weekend consisting of the usual meeting and auction, again included a day visit to Lundy on the Saturday and at the meeting a major display of John Dyke’s work was shown. Then the year was brought to an end with the Autumn Weekend Meeting on Lundy. Throughout the year several souvenirs were produced to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the first Lundy stamps, Lundy also produced a set of stamps to commemorate the occasion and Brian Drew published a detailed catalogue of the Lundy stamp folders.

A lot of hard work was done by a small group of members which made for a very successful year. However, this amount of work is unsustainable and this year will be much quieter whilst we recharge our batteries ready for 2007 when it is planned to have another weekend bash on Lundy.

I would like to say a big thank you to all members who helped with the work load during last year. I am not going to mention names because I am sure to miss someone out.

This year we are planning to hold the usual three meetings and auctions, a trip to Lundy in the summer and of course three issues of the *Journal* will be published. During 2006 the Lundy Field Society will be celebrating their 60th anniversary and the Lundy Collectors Club is planning another year to remember in 2007 starting with a Spring Weekend Meeting on Lundy.

In the mean time I would like to wish you all a belated Happy New Year and look forward to seeing more of our membership during the year at our meetings.

James

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

By James Thomas and Photographs by Bob Harper

Friday 5th November 2004

Standing around aimlessly at 10.00am at Hartland Point to some might seem pointless, however, to the intrepid members of the Lundy Collectors Club it was the start of an exciting weekend adventure to a quiet desolate island 12 miles off the North Devon coast - Lundy.

The seven seater Agusta 109 helicopter flown by Chief Pilot Keith Thompson started flying at 11.30 am with approximately 40 minutes between flights. Whilst the early flights made off across the Bristol Channel, passengers waiting for the later trips stood around outside the small hut café drinking hot coffee and eating marvellous home made cake and cheese scones.

However, it wasn't long before we were all on the island and unpacking our bags at our various properties scattered over the southern end of Lundy. Although the weather was clear, the north-easterly wind was biting when fully exposed to it so arriving at a nice warm house was even more inviting. On our walk from the helicopter to the office we passed the Lundy Letter Box which had been specially painted to celebrate the 75th Anniversaries – a very thoughtful touch and most appreciated by all present.



At 4.00pm we assembled in the Marisco Tavern to receive the welcoming speech from Paul Roberts, Lundy General Manager. Paul talked about where Lundy is at the present time and the improvements that he and the Landmark Trust are planning to do.



He stated that working in partnership with interested groups such as the Lundy Collectors Club and the Lundy Field Society has started to pay mutual benefits.

He explained some of the immediate improvements in the pipe line. The two rooms that once served as the workers rest rooms off the top end of the Tavern have been knocked into one room and converted into a 36 place restaurant. The atmosphere will be chic with low lighting and blue flock wallpaper.

He stated that Millcombe House is currently looking a bit shabby and that 17 new timber windows have been made ready for fitting during the 2004/05 winter. Work has already started on the repairs to the stone garden walls at Millcombe House. Once repaired it is planned to use the walled gardens as a tree nursery in an attempt to give saplings a start in life and protect them from the island's wildlife.

New diesel storage tanks have been delivered to the island and are currently standing on the jetty and once the island staff work out how to move them to the top of the island, they will replace the existing old tanks.

On the stamp front he said that he thought that a new stamp issue every two years would be adequate to keep the island's stamp stocks healthy and enough to maintain collectors' interest. He is planning to produce an issue in 2006 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Montagu and then another set in 2008 with a Lundy related subject as yet to be decided on.

Paul was asked if it was possible to incorporate the British stamp that is due to be released during February 2005 with a picture of Lundy on it, on an official piece of Lundy mail. On this subject, Paul was open to suggestions as long as it is in compliance with both Lundy and British Postal regulations. He finished off by introducing two of his key island workers. Derek Green who is now the Island Manager and dealing with the day to day running of Lundy and the island Postmaster Reg Tuffin who many Club members have known for many years and who worked extremely hard over the weekend of the 75th Anniversary stamping all of the mail with the special postmark.

After a most sociable evening meal of Lundy Soay sheep and Lundy rabbit in the Tavern, we all made our way to Saint Helena's church for a talk by Ben Sampson the Lundy Warden on the island's wildlife and fauna on land and beneath the waves. He explained with the aid of slides how the rat eradication programme will help the recovery of the puffin population and how the "no take zone" is already helping the recovery of the fish stocks around the island.

The evening was rounded off by most in the Marisco Tavern talking about old times over a drink or two!



Clockwise from lower left
Roy Bentley, Bronnie Bale, Michael Bale,
Tom Baker & Sharon Reed.

Saturday 6th November 2004

Early morning on Lundy is so quiet with just the sound of the birds, animals and the lap of the waves on the slate shingle beach. This morning was bright, clear and fresh and with not a soul in sight, it was a most perfect time to take some photographs.

The full English breakfast at the Marisco is good with lots of toast, marmalade and tea to follow and is quite perfect to set you off on a morning's walking. Many parties formed and went to most points of the compass to explore the many interesting aspects of Lundy. But come lunchtime there was a substantial number back in the Marisco for a lunchtime pint.

The planned programme of events started at 4.00pm in the Marisco bar with Michael Bale presenting a display of some of Lundy's rare and in many cases unique Lundy stamp material. Michael's display was titled "50 Scarce and Unusual Items from Lundy". Michael stated that he started collecting Lundy stamps at the age of 15 and had a flying visit to the island at the age of 19 when he met Felix Gade for the first time. Then after National Service he started to deal in stamps on a small scale by buying from people like Mr. Windeatt and selling on to William Frazer of London. Over the years he has bought many good and major collections including those of the late Ian Wilkinson, Jon Aitchison, Tim Lardner and the very famous Ulrich collection which consisted of 20 albums and two stock books. Today his collection is much smaller specialising in original artwork, proofs, colour trials, essays, normal stamps and errors, which made his selection of only 50 items (helicopter weight restrictions determining the size of this display) a very difficult task.

Our evening meal of Beef Wellington and something very naughty made of chocolate; all washed down by a bottle of red wine set us all in the right frame of mind for the auction.

The auction lots were displayed on the Marisco mezzanine and later the auction was held in the main bar area. Mike Thompson ably assisted by Julie Lester, Bob Harper and Michael Bale held what could only be described as a two hour floor show which was enjoyed by club members as well as many of the other visitors.



Sunday 7th November 2004

Early morning walks were becoming a most enjoyable habit and like yesterday I was down on the Landing Beach at just before 8.00am. However, this morning I was not the only one out walking so early. Jon Aitcheson led a group of six on 'The Great Rat Island Expedition' to change the Dartmoor style stamp canceller on Rat Island. He and his group risked extreme danger climbing the loose rocks above the choppy sea but had to turn back unable to reach the post box. It is always best to try to reach this point when there is a spring tide as that is when the low tide recedes sufficiently. Despite the disappointment of not being able to reach the post box, the group did manage to traverse the sea cave through the island. This monumental event was recorded in history with the publication of a celebration postcard.

This made for many good stories over breakfast at the Marisco. At 10.00am Ben Sampson, Lundy's Warden led a two and half hour walk over the southern end of the island stopping at various points to explain the work that is being carried out. During the walk we saw many rare plants and mushrooms including many of the "magic" variety!

Along the western cliff edges were Soay sheep and rabbits and at one location were three intrepid rock climbers in what looked to be quite a frightening position on the cliff. The walk traversed to the Upper East Side where we returned via the old Quarry Cottages. To our delight we saw a group of five Sika deer bounding along before stopping to graze.

Once again lunch was partaken by most in the Marisco and consisted of a pint and a bowl of Lundy vegetable soup.

Again at 4.00pm the programmed events started with a magnificent display of rare, unique and unusual Lundy stamps and associated proofs presented by the very knowledgeable Jon Aitchison in a manner that kept the group captivated.



As one thought that this was a hard act to follow, Roger Allen gave a 45 minute lecture on the 1871 Monograph of John Roberts Chanter, as the source for many subsequent Lundy authors. Roger was followed by the Member's displays which straddled the traditional Sunday roast evening meal. No fewer than seven members produced quality displays, which constituted perhaps the best presentation seen at a Lundy Collectors Club meeting for several years.



The evening and of course the weekend was rounded off with a Lundy Pub Quiz where the Lundy boffins went into battle. With Roger Chapple as Question Master, every person in the Marisco Tavern attempted to attain the top score of 20 correct answers. This was not achieved but two Lundy 'old timers' did score a very respectable 18. Roger Allen and Tom Baker then fought out the tie breaker with the first man to answer one correct question. On question three, and with no help from the bar (because no-one else had a clue to the correct answer) Roger Allen forged forward with the correct answer and stole the coveted Lundy Woolly Hat first prize.

Monday 8th November 2004

Yet another early morning walk and the last for the weekend as straight after breakfast we had to pack our cases and prepare for the return flight to Hartland. At 10.00am the pre-flight instructions were presented in the Marisco Tavern and shortly afterwards, in our groups of seven we made our way to the helicopter to rejoin the real world, eight minutes flying time away. The end to a perfect weekend.





Is she still there?



Hartland International Airport!



Keith Hand our weekend organiser.



Patsy Hand and James Thomas trying to look cool for the photo!

75TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND SOUVENIRS

By James Thomas

Over the weekend of 5th to 8th November 2004, the Lundy Collectors Club celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the first Lundy stamps and to help us to remember the event in years to come, several members produced Lundy related souvenirs. Each member of the organised group was presented at Hartland with an A4 size clear plastic presentation pack containing many souvenirs as well as their helicopter tickets.

Sharon Read produced an A5 sized card with a photograph and details of the first Lundy Post Office of 1892 which was built against the Marisco Castle. Each card was endorsed with the member's name in gold.

The postal history of Lundy first started in the 'Cable Hut' or 'Post Office.' This was a penthouse stone building with a corrugated iron roof, built against the east wall of the keep of the Marisco Castle, 1892.



Presented to: **James Thomas**

*Recording his participation in the
Lundy Collectors Club
Anniversary of 75 years of Lundy Post*

*Held on Lundy in the Bristol Channel
Friday 5th - Monday 8th November 2004*

Designed by S.J.Read

LUNDY

This rocky plateau, a granite barrier between the Atlantic and Bristol Channel, lies 11 miles from the nearest point on the North Devon Coast, and covers a length of 3 miles by 1 mile at its broadest point.

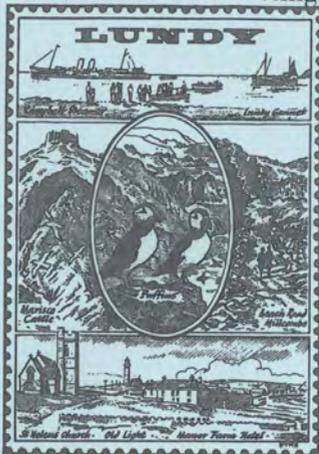
Once famed as a pirate stronghold, it is now a peaceful bird sanctuary and haven for seals and other wild life. There are three lighthouses on the Island, one of which has ceased to operate and is now a bird observatory. There is also a farm, a hotel, a manor house and the remains of a Norman fortification, the Marisco Castle.

Lundy is unique in that it has its own postal service, and all letters to and from the Island have to bear a puffin stamp. This service was instituted in 1929 on the closure of the British P.O. on the Island, which operated from 1887.



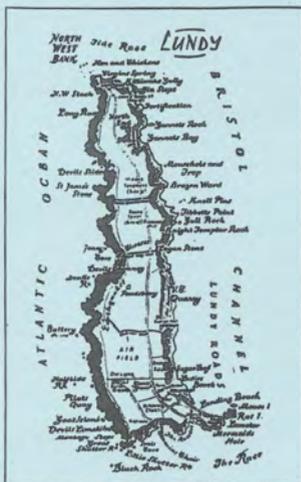
b.drew no. 8 of 35

a souvenir for l.c.c. meeting



on lundy nov. 5th-8th 2004

A souvenir selection of LUNDY LOCAL CARRIAGE LABELS affixed officially to all incoming and outgoing mail



75th anniversary of lundy stamps

The outer and inner faces of Brian Drew's 75th Anniversary Stamp Booklet celebrating the Club Meeting on Lundy



The LCC 2004 Souvenir envelope posted from Lundy during the 75th Anniversary weekend.



Souvenir envelope produced by Wim Ros and posted from Lundy during the 75th Anniversary weekend.

PLACE
LUNDY
STAMP
HERE

THE GREAT
RAT ISLAND
EXPEDITION

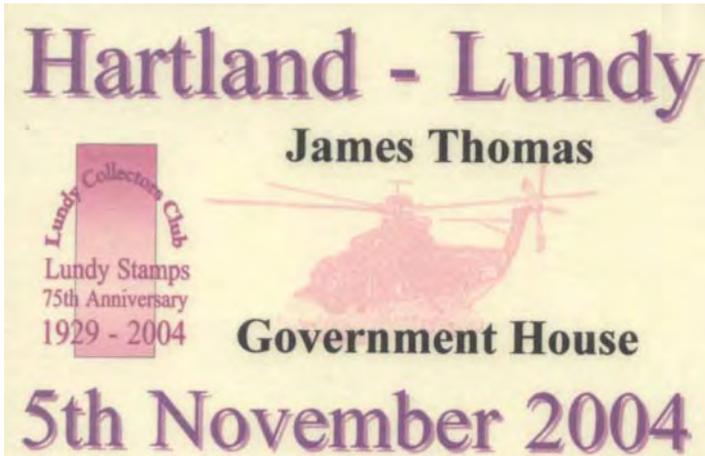


RALLYE COMMODORE 180 AIRCRAFT
THAT CRASHED DURING LANDING ON
LUNDY ISLAND, 28th MAY 1992.
Photo Reg Lo-vel. Published by Jon Aitchison.



7.11.04 SEACAVE
THROUGH RAT I.
TRAVERSED

Postcard produced by Jon Aitchison to commemorate the traverse through the Rat Island sea cave on 7th November 2004.



Souvenir luggage label.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OFFICIAL PRODUCTS

Right: The official First Day Cover with a 75th Anniversary sheetlet cancelled on 1st November 2004.

Below: The official cover produced by Lundy to commemorate the Lundy Collectors Club 75th Anniversary meeting on Lundy.

Below Right: The 75th Anniversary sheetlet of four stamps showing the first two 1929 Lundy stamps and photographs of Martin Coles Harman and his friend, Postmaster and Lundy Agent Felix Gade.

A Presentation Pack was also prepared with the sheetlet set in a green and white cover.



FIRST DAY COVER



THE STAMPS OF LUNDY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
2004



F.W. GADE

LUNDY 27P.



THE FIRST LUNDY STAMP ISSUE

LUNDY 34P.



THE FIRST LUNDY STAMP ISSUE

LUNDY 46P. LUNDY 100P.



M.C. HARMAN



THE STAMPS OF LUNDY
75 YEARS 1929-2004



F.W. GADE

LUNDY 27P.



THE FIRST LUNDY STAMP ISSUE

LUNDY 34P.



THE FIRST LUNDY STAMP ISSUE

LUNDY 46P.



M.C. HARMAN

LUNDY 100P.

THE STAMPS OF LUNDY
75 YEARS 1929-2004

H.M.S. MONTAGU – THE CAMELS

By Roger Allen

Everyone will have heard of the ‘Camels’ that were placed alongside the wrecked Montagu in an attempt to refloat her. Perhaps we have seen the old postcards showing the camels either in position or being towed up to the battleship. They consisted of ten large hollow boxes fixed onto the shore side of the wreck. The hope was that the camels would lift the ship as the tides rose. The attempt was of course a complete failure.

Camels have of course previously figured in history and in one of C. S. Forester’s ‘Hornblower’ novels there is a very good description of their use. The particular novel is entitled “The Commodore” written in 1945, and is set, as many of them are, in the time of the Napoleonic Wars. Hornblower’s area of campaign in this story is the Baltic Sea and the defense of Riga. He has to attack an enemy position on a spit of land that has extremely shallow waters around it.

Amongst the little fleet at his command are two ships called bomb ketches. They sat high in the water and had large cannons that fired bomb-like shells and were quite an innovation in the British Navy. In order to get them close to the enemy position in those very shallow waters, a lighter was tied to either side of the ketches, having first been filled with sand. The sand was then emptied out from the lighters and in so doing the ketch rose up in the water. The bomb ketches normal draft was 7 to 9 feet but after the lighters were attached it was reduced to 2 to 3 feet. The crew could then move into the shallow waters and attack the enemy positions. Lighters are small launch like ships that were probably used to transfer goods and men from ships to shore when it was not possible to tie up to quaysides. Forester uses the word ‘camel’ to describe these lighters.

The similarity in the intended uses of camels in this story and on the Montagu can be readily understood and what a pity it was not as successful. A Twiss postcard of fixing the camels on H. M. S. Montagu is illustrated on page 18.



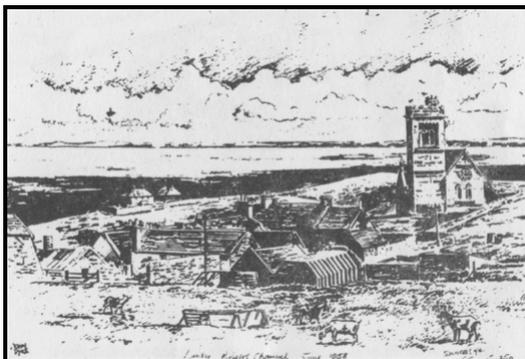
A real photo postcard of the wrecked H.M.S. Montagu with the floatation camels shown alongside.

The postcard is no. 19 as produced by Twiss Brothers.

THE JOHN DYKE LUNDY COLLECTION

In 1983 John Dyke produced a set of six drawings of Lundy scenes which were copied and hand coloured by John and sold as a limited edition of 250 copies.

A Lundy Collectors Club member has collected five of the set but has been unable, after many years of searching, to find a copy of the final print to complete her collection. The missing print is number 4 titled 'Lundy, Bristol Channel, June 1958' and is shown below. If you have a copy that you would like to sell, please write to the Editor and I will pass your details direct to the interested member.



THE HARTLAND CHRONICLE

By Roger Allen

The local newspaper for the isolated town of Hartland has been in production since the very beginning of the 20th Century and with some breaks and with some changes of title, has continued in publication to the present day. Its first title was *The Hartland Chronicle*, which ran from 1896 to 1940; although sometime in 1924 the name was changed to *Hartland and West Country Chronicle*. The paper is now called the *Hartland Times*. The current editor, Mr. Tony Manley, has very kindly agreed to look out for any articles that have a particular Lundy connection. He has come up with six to date. One is from 1934, two from 1981 and the other three are all from that shadowy period between 1918 when the last of the Heavens sold the island to Augustus Langham Christie and 1925 when Martin Coles Harman entered into possession.

Précis or résumés of these articles follow. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of these writings is the mention of persons who lived or were present on the island at the time. Many of these names do not figure in Mr. Gade's *My Life on Lundy* or other sources and nor do they figure in the documented history of Lundy under the Heaven dynasty. Those names below about whom nothing is known were probably visitors to the hotel.

Hartland Chronicle No. 322, April 1924.

Sunday March 2nd. Viewed from the North Devon Coast, Lundy appeared white from end to end. Snow is exceedingly rare and last remembered about 30 years ago.

Report of Friday March 7th presented to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in connection with Lundy. Though Lundy is a breeding area under the Devon Bird Protection Order, egg taking has continued. The owner of the island is in full sympathy with the Society's efforts and a watcher will be stationed there in 1924, reviving the previous gannet protection efforts. It is unlikely that such depredations will take place in the future.

Referring to the oil nuisance, the report states that when the Act was passed prohibiting the discharge of waste oil within the three mile limit, it was understood that arrangements for the reception and destruction of the stuff would be made in various harbours and docks. It is impossible for bird protectors to rest content with this statute which does not prevent oil from washing up with deadly effect on our shores. The greatest hope lies in some invention for the profitable use of the waste oil.

A very successful dance was held at the Assembly Rooms (See Appendix) on March 17th to celebrate the 21st birthday of Mrs. O. Ottley and to commemorate St. Patrick's Day as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. W. Barter (See Appendix). Previous to the dancing, Mr. Sleep, the chief officer of Lloyds's Signal Station, made a brief speech, thanking Miss Nancy Sage (See Appendix), the popular hostess (manageress) of the Manor Farm Hotel for her kindness in granting the use of the hall. Mr. Barter, Chief signalman of the Lloyds Signal Station, who carried out the duties of Master of Ceremonies, also spoke.

At 8 p.m. Miss Sage and Mr. Sleep opened the ball. The hall was tastefully decorated with fairy lights. The music played on the grand piano by the Misses F. Sleep and B. Smith was greatly appreciated. Refreshments were served and a successful comedy was performed by Messrs. W. H. Lang (See Appendix) and Sleep entitled '*The Policeman and the Chink*'.

The merriment continued until midnight when it concluded with the singing of 'God Save the King'. Those present included: Miss. Sage, Mr. and Mrs. Sleep and Miss F. Sleep, Mr. and Mrs. Ottley, Mr. and Mrs. W. Barter, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Miss B. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Hayward, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lang (See Appendix), Miss Coaker, Mrs. Eynon, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Parminter, Mr. and Mrs. Worth (See Appendix), Sam Stookes (See Appendix) and Miss Margaret Alford (See Appendix).

Hartland Chronicle No. 323. May 1924.

Of all the caverns which Lundy boasts, not the least interesting is 'Seal Cave' situated at the South end of the island and accessed from the 'Rattles'. It is a large vault with a sandy bottom, some 12 feet wide and 60 feet in height, narrowing to a small passage and then opening abruptly into a second lofty chamber. Here seals resorted in considerable numbers. One big bold fellow was old 'Ponto', well known to the islanders in the early 1890s by his frequent visits to the landing bay.

He had a habit of bobbing up close to the boats which provoked a chase one day from the Sugar Loaf rocks to Tippetts (sic) Point, about half the length of the island. The ultimate disappearance of 'Ponto' from his favourite haunt was due to another cause. (sadly, this "other course" is not given)

On March 25th a whist drive and dance was held at the Manor Farm Hotel, a large number attending. Mr. Sleep, Chief Officer of Lloyds Signal Station carried out the duties of Master of Ceremonies in his usual bright manner. The prizes were presented by Miss Sage, the booby prizes causing recipients and guests much amusement. The prizewinners were, Ladies; Mrs. Barter, Mrs. Heywood (sic), Miss Margaret Alford 'booby', Mrs. C. Parminter and Mrs. Worth. Gentlemen; Mr. J. Parminter 'booby', Mr. Smith, and Mr. George Worth (See Appendix).

Mr. Sleep thanked Miss Sage for her kindness in providing such a pleasant evening and Mr. Hayward seconded. Three cheers for Miss Sage were given and dancing in the Assembly rooms continued until midnight, when the evening concluded with 'God Save the King' and 'He's a Jolly Good Fellow' in reference to the occasion of Mr. Sleep's birthday.

The weather at Lundy was ideal for Easter Holidays. A few visitors have arrived and boating and bathing have begun. Captain Honey with two men, arrived for the lobster fishing and already good results are being obtained. A yacht arrived from Weston and stayed two days. The visitors landed and were charmed with the scenery.

On Easter Monday night a fancy-dress ball was held at the Assembly Rooms in honour of the marriage of Mr. Sleep junior. The wedding was celebrated in Yorkshire and telegrams of congratulations were sent by Mr. and Mrs. and Miss F. Sleep together with the best wishes of the whole island. About 30 attended the ball, the costumes being very pretty, Mr. Jovosky as the 'Mad Mullah' and Mrs. Ottley as a Pierrot were awarded first prizes. Miss Rene Smith gave a most artistic dance, a Scotch Reel, and Mr. W. Barter danced the Sailor's Hornpipe. At the conclusion a hearty vote of thanks was given to Miss Sage for providing the refreshments and to the visitors who so kindly helped to make the islanders' evening a success.

Hartland and West Country Chronicle. No. 329-330. November 1924.

During September on Lundy, a party of Oxford graduates came here on holiday. They brought equipment for producing kinema films and with other visitors made a two reel picture '*The Pirates of Lundy*'. Many scenes were thrilling, including cliff climbing feats. The smugglers' quarrel ended in a realistic set-to with bare fists. Other smaller films were made including '*Lundy Rodeo*' (loading cattle by swing ropes from the beach to the barges) and landing of passengers from the *Lerina*.

Then came the big night, thanks to Miss Sage a large room was provided and all were invited to a kinema exhibition. The quality of the pictures surprised visitors and the island children who had never seen any kinema shows before were filled with wonderment.

Mr. J. Tout of Barnstaple, was assisted by Mr. Terrance Greenage (See Appendix) in operating the acetylene plant. The party left on Friday 28th September.

One of Mr. Peto's (See Appendix) nomination papers was from Lundy, where there are only 16 electors. Lundy voters had a stormy passage to Instow on Wednesday and so rough was it on Friday that Captain Dark was afraid to take over the Vicar of Appledore in case of getting weather-bound.

On Friday morning, 14th November, the Reverend C. A. S. Muller, sailed with Captain Dark from Appledore in the *Lerina*. After a rough voyage and a disagreeable landing he celebrated Holy Communion and at 2 p.m. a proper Armistice service, which was well attended. In his address Mr. Muller referred to the crews of small coasting vessels who bravely carried coal and food during the war and who had found a watery grave in the vicinity, owing to enemy submarines. It was only right that the islanders should have an opportunity to hold a Service of Remembrance for the Glorious Dead.

As the weather was threatening, the *Lerina* left for Appledore directly after the service with several islanders escorting the Vicar to the boat. He has come fortnightly since May when the weather permitted.

Hartland and West Country Chronicle No. 439. November 1934.

At the British Association meeting on Thursday 12th September, one of the papers in the Geology section was that of Dr. A. J. T. Dollar on the magnetic rocks of Lundy Island. The island is traversed by thin vertical parallel sheets of magnetic basalt, frequently dolerites containing magnetic lodestone. These rocks can deflect the needle of a compass from magnetic North so that they can be detected even 10 feet below the ground. Two out of 20 samples were found by Dr. Dollar to be twice as strong as the average and he suggested this was an unusual physical structure of the iron ore in the rocks.

On Sunday October 28th, Charles Samuel Smalldon, who was born in 1908 and was aged 26 years, a general labourer, and Jack Crews (See Appendix), a boatman, both employed on Lundy, were taking Skippers Brown and Dodd to the nearby Swansea trawler *Harlech Castle* when a strong squall arose. The small boat overturned and all four were plunged into the sea. The trawler rescued three men who were clinging to the boat but there was no sign of Smalldon. The *Harlech Castle* then proceeded to Swansea where Jack Crews was landed.

Smalldon leaves a widow and four children. His father lives at 8, Pottington Road, Barnstaple and is employed by Messrs. Jewell, Railway Contractors. Smalldon was responsible for the landing of passengers from P. and A. Campbell's pleasure steamers and was consequently well known to their crews and was known for his courteous manner. He was a native of Barnstaple. He had come to Lundy to work on the farm when he was 17 in 1925. He was a good horseman and had shown a keen interest in the farm. His wife, previously Miss Margaret Alford of Lapford (See Appendix), was employed in the Manor Farm Hotel and the family had lived in Stoneycroft.

The father of the drowned man flew over to Lundy on Monday morning and brought off one of Smalldon's children. On the same afternoon the deceased's brother and sister also flew over to Lundy. The aeroplane is the only means of access to the island at present, as the *Lerina* is under repair. During this period the resident agent Mr. R. W. Gade (sic) and his wife are believed to have been on holiday in Spain.

Jack Crews had only recently returned to Lundy by plane with his wife from a holiday in Cornwall. Mrs. Dorothy Crews carries out the duties of sexton at St. Helen's (sic) Church and they have been living on Lundy for about three years. Reports that the tragedy was witnessed from a Barnstaple aeroplane are inaccurate.

Hartland Times. Number 1. May 1981.

Hartland Point – Lundy Air Service. Our front page picture shows the Bell Longranger six-seater helicopter of Castle Air Charters airlifting holidaymakers' luggage to Lundy on the first Sunday of operational flying from Hartland Point on 19th April last. Taking just seven minutes, its flights to Lundy are planned to operate on Sundays and Mondays throughout the summer. (The photograph shows the chopper with a large net of luggage swinging below it.)

Hartland Times. Number 2. Summer 1981.

Birds-eye view of Hartland. With the advent of helicopter service between the mainland and Lundy Island now operating from Hartland Point, it is possible to get a birds-eye view of Hartland – and what a spectacular view it is. Pleasure flights around Hartland and the coast are fitted in between the Lundy flights. The cost is £6.00 per person and the flight lasts about six minutes. No need to book your flight, just go along to Hartland Point and they will tell you when you can be fitted in. The helicopters pilots, either Chief Pilot Keith Thompson or Operations Manager Capt. Jerry Grayson, are more than ready to adjust the trip so that you are able to fly over your own home.

For those who would like to visit Lundy by helicopter, the cost is £25.00 for the return flight. Book with the Landmark Trust by telephoning Woolacombe 0271 870870. (The photograph of Hartland Point Lighthouse was taken by Dennis Heard the Hartland Times photographer.)

Appendix.

Alford, Margaret. Married Charlie Smalldon in 1927 on the mainland and then joined him on Lundy as chambermaid. They lived in Stoneycroft and had four children. She left the island in 1934 after his death by drowning. Her father had been bailiff on Lundy under Mr. Herbert C. May, lessee from 1920 to 1925.

Assembly Rooms. This was probably the dining room area in the Manor Farm Hotel but it is possible that it was the old 'Black Shed' built in the 1890s and situated where the present 'Black Shed' stands which is used to store the luggage after being unloaded.

Barter, William and wife. Chief signalman and second officer at the Admiralty Signal Station. Was on the island when Mr. Gade arrived but left in 1927. They were Irish and drank heavily in the Tavern.

Crews, Jack. He came in 1929 and worked as a slaughterer, boatman and gardener. His wife was named Dorothy and his daughter Joan. They left in 1939 but returned briefly from 1947 to 1949. He was involved in the same accident in 1934 in which Charlie Smalldon was drowned.

Greenage, Terrance. Mentioned by Mr. Gade as a visitor in 1927, where his name is given as Terence Greenidge.

Lang, W. Henry. He was a general handyman and his wife worked in the hotel. He was a Royal Navy pensioner and after F. W. Allday left in 1926, he became the postmaster but he left soon afterwards in 1927. He lived on Lundy with his wife and niece, both of whom worked in the hotel.

Peto, Sir Basil. MP for Barnstaple. Complained in 1929 that Martin Coles Harman was impeding the Lundy islanders from voting in the election. This was strongly denied by MCH.

Sage, Miss Nancy. She was the hotel manageress under the Christie regime and left in 1927. She was the daughter of a farmer, in her fifties and Gade thought her very capable.

Stokes, Samuel. Cowman and general handyman. He was there in 1925 when Mr. Gade arrived. In 1933 he married Nellie Alford, sister of Margaret Smalldon.

Worth, George. A Barnstaple contractor who worked on Lundy from 1926 to 1927. He and his men stayed in the Barton cottages and worked on the extension to the Manor Farm Hotel. They also concreted round the Golden Well and constructed a filter bed at Brambles Villa.

Illustration on next page:

The arrow points to the original "Black Shed" built in the 1890's. This could have been the building described in the accompanying article as the Assembly Rooms. This building was demolished during the Harman period and later replaced by the present "Black Shed".



DIARY 2005

Saturday 5th March 2005

Lundy Field Society AGM, Exeter.

Sunday 17th April 2005

Lundy Collectors Club Meeting, Eastleigh.

Saturday 16th July 2005

Lundy Collectors Club Day Trip to Lundy.

Sunday 17th July 2005

Lundy Collectors Club Meeting, Ilfracombe.

Sunday 23rd October 2005

Lundy Collectors Club Meeting, Eastleigh.

(Please note that the October date has changed since the publication of the Autumn 2004 issue of this Journal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cavendish held a public auction on 25th to 26th November 2004, which included a fairly extensive collection of Lundy material sold in 16 lots. A seven volume collection estimated at £600 sold for £1600! Two other items of interest were two bulk lots of 1935 ‘Tramtickets’ comprising a total of about 136 items described as used but most probably mint. I was unable to get to the sale and have since been in contact with Tom Baker, Roger Allen, Jon Aitchison, etc., and none of them appear to have bought these two lots.

My main interest is with the ‘Tramtickets’ as I was keen to find out if there were any new numbers to add to the Register that I hold and which is frequently up-dated and published in The New Puffin Journal. I have sent two letters to the auction house and they have promised to send them on to the two buyers so hopefully we will obtain the required information.

If by any chance we do not have any replies, could you through the pages of the next Journal, appeal for the buyer(s) to assist us? As this appears to be an old-time collection it could well be that some of the numbers would be unknown to us.

Michael Bale.

If you have bought either or both of these lots, we would like to hear from you. We only want to know the value and number of each stamp and if you wish to remain anonymous, please send the information on a plain sheet of paper to: The Editor, The New Puffin Journal, 5 Manor Drive, Kingskerswell, Devon, TQ12 5HB.

Ed.

I must write to congratulate you on the excellent weekend which I am sure we have all enjoyed on Lundy.

We should also thank Keith Hand for his splendid organisation, to all those giving presentations and to Michael Thompson who, I am sure, has never before held an auction on licensed premises during opening hours, and receiving such constant attention from the Lundy Collectors Club paparazzi – there will no doubt be sufficient photographic records of the proceedings to last for the next 75 years.

Roger Chapple
Chairman – Lundy Field Society

1961 EUROPA MINIATURE SHEET

By Martin Evans

Pictured below is the 1961 Europa Miniature sheet as printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd, London. This particular sheet has the brown missing on the one puffin value, is larger than normal and has the printers' guide marks at the top and bottom.



LUNDY NEWS

Roger Allen reports the following:-

ROYAL MAIL PROGRAMME FOR 2005.

A set of Royal Mail stamps called 'South West England: A British Journey' was issued on February 8th 2005. The design for the 68p value is a photograph of St. James's Stone, Lundy. The photograph shows the Stone with a background of Lundy cliffs. The Stone does not stand out very well from the coastal scenery in this photograph but to those that know, it is obviously Lundy.

MARITIME MUSEUM, ODUN ROAD, APPLEDORE.

The museum advises in its latest newsletter that it has received two donations of material relating to Lundy. The first gift comes from Mr. Ashton Reed of Paignton, nephew of Archibald Fill, who was on board the H. M. S. Montagu at the time of its loss on Lundy in 1906. Mr. Fill is described as Chief Admiralty Writer on board the ship. One imagines he was responsible for the ship's records and log. The donation includes a notebook of newspaper cuttings on the Court Martial of Captain Adair, a cap with ribbons, a notebook recording the wreck, some postcards and several photographs. These should certainly be worth examination.

The second gift to the museum is what is described as the 'Francis 'Red' Lyall collection'. Mr. Lyall lived in Appledore and died about five years ago. This collection was donated to the museum by his brother. It apparently consists of a box of photographs dating from between 1958 and 1963, these being the years during which Red Lyall lived on Lundy. Our shipping correspondent says that the collection is rather disappointing considering the hype that preceded its arrival, but nevertheless, any collection of photographs from the Harman period is sure to have some aspects of interest.

According to Mr. Gade's memoirs, Red Lyall came to Lundy in 1958 having been hired by Albion Harman as deputy agent. He worked on the farm, on the beach, in the bar and in fact seemed to be a complete Jack of All Trades. Before coming to Lundy he had worked in the film industry, with Associated Rediffusion. He left the island in 1963 at his own request and remained a good friend of Lundy till his death.

OBITUARIES. Reported by Roger Allen

Barbara Cole. In December of 2004 Barbara Cole, wife of Peter Cole, died in Reigate at the age of just 70. She first came to Lundy in about 1954 when she was working on the thesis for her M. Sc. which was a study of liver flukes in sheep. It was at this time that she first met Peter. She made her career as a biology teacher until she retired. She was an active member of the Lundy Field Society all her life and a great support to Peter, who was the secretary of the LFS for many years. They have four children, including Liza Cole who was the Warden on Lundy for several years. Barbara's passing was very sudden, she was together with the whole family at Christmas and her funeral took place at the New Year.

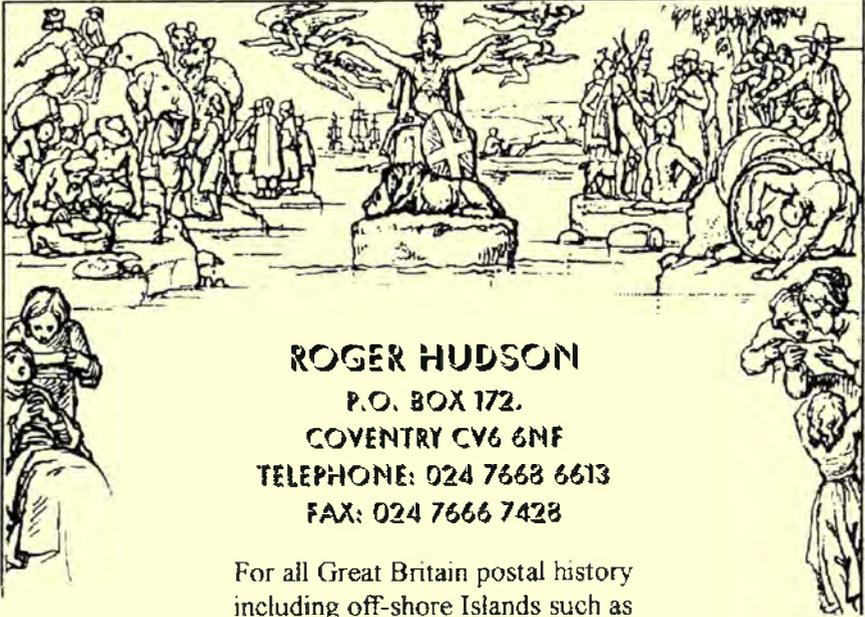
Joan Dyke. John Dyke used to say that he could never have done all the work that he did without the support and active assistance of his wife Joan. They actually lived on Lundy from 1970 to 1975 in Signal Cottage North, where John produced the Lundy Illustrated News. Joan acted as the unofficial sexton of St. Helena's Church and kept it as well as possible. She had a very fine voice and in her earlier years took principal roles in Musicals and Light Opera. She seldom if ever returned to Lundy after they left, though John often went there. They had two children, David and Jilly. David was at her funeral but Jilly had died several years before and was the wife of Reg Lo-Vel. After John's final retirement they lived first in Bideford itself, then finally in Kenwith Castle, Bideford. Her funeral took place in the Methodist Church, Bideford on Tuesday 18th January 2005.

Gwyneth Whyte. At the grand age of 94, Gwyneth Whyte died on January 8th 2005. She was well known to most Lundy visitors as a friend of the island and a great paddle steamer enthusiast. Last year she was taken to Lundy for the last time by her friends, although wheelchair bound. She has been visiting Lundy from her home in Penarth since 1929. She was known as a prolific writer of long letters and for irrepressibly taking snaps with her camera. She had immense energy almost to the end of her life and would arrive on Lundy for a paddle steamer day trip and immediately walk to the North End and back, yet still have time to talk to all the islanders. Her collection of books and other material has been donated to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon in Tooley Street, Barnstaple.

The Reverend Donald Peyton Jones. As Vicar of Appledore, North Devon, from 1973 to 1978 he also held the position as Priest in Charge of Lundy. PJ, as he liked to be called, is well remembered in the village for his eccentricities, which included riding around the village on his horse Magpie and knocking on his parishioners' front doors with his riding whip and trampling on their front gardens. He always wore his green Marine's beret with pride. He was in favour of burials at sea, swimming in the nude, church services held outdoors and he was an enthusiastic visitor to all the pubs in Appledore. He was however reverent and sincere in his services in St. Mary's Parish Church and his traditional churchmanship is remembered in the Appledore of today with sighs. On Lundy he is remembered with affection for his frequent pastoral visits to the island and for his effective methods of practically driving the Tavern's customers to the church on Sunday mornings and evenings. As a seaman he was in his element on Lundy and spent as much time there as he could. He sent carrier pigeons from Lundy to his home telling his wife when he expected to be able to return.

PJ only entered the church well after the Second World War. He was commissioned into the Royal Marines in 1933, specializing in gunnery. During the war he served in Norway, Italy, Crete and Egypt, where he was bombed while on board HMS *Coventry*, and was awarded the DSC. He was officer in charge of a flotilla on the Normandy landing beaches in 1944. He left the Marines as a Major in 1959 to enter the Ministry. He had served in various parishes before arriving in Appledore, including at Salcombe, where he was elected to the local council and where he did his election campaigning on horseback. He was always closely involved in the Mission to Seamen.

PJ married his wife Anne in 1938 and they had six children, two of whom died young. His wife died in 1984. He retired to Plymouth and ended his days in the care of the nuns of Nazareth House after both of his legs had been amputated. Even after that, he continued an active life in an electric wheelchair. He died on December 23rd 2004 aged 90.



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For all Great Britain postal history
including off-shore Islands such as
Lundy, Sark, Herm, Alderney,
Guernsey and Jersey contact.....

ROGER HUDSON

LUNDY NEWS CONTINUED

It is with regret that I announce the news that Paul Roberts, Lundy General Manager is to leave Lundy in April 2005.

Paul became the General Manager of Lundy in 1997 and has worked very hard improving the island's infrastructure and accommodation. Paul is responsible for the new Beach Road, the Jetty, new fresh water pipes and tanks, numerous improvements to the island's properties including the new Marisco Restaurant to name but a few.

Paul is also responsible for other success stories such as the Sea Bird recovery programme, the energy and waste management programmes and two new stamp issues.

The Lundy Collectors Club wishes Paul all the best for the future.

OUR NEXT MEETING

The Spring 2005 Meeting of the Lundy Collectors Club will be held on Sunday 17th April 2005 at the Crestwood Community Centre, Shakespeare Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire - commencing at 10.30am. The Programme will be as follows:-

10.30 am	Registration and Reception Bourse Opens
11.15 to 12.30 pm	Members Displays
12.30 to 2.15 pm	Lunch (not provided)
2.15 to 2.45 pm	Auction Viewing
2.45 to 3.00 pm	Secretary's Announcements
3.00 to 4.00 pm	Club Auction (Auctioneer - Mike Thompson)
4.30 pm	Bourse Closes

The Bourse features dealers with stocks of Lundy material and Members with surplus material for sale.

The Crestwood Community Centre can be approached by leaving the M3 Motorway at junction 13. Travel along the A335 (Leigh Road) and take the 1st left into Woodside Avenue, after the roundabout take the 1st right into Shakespeare Road.

