

THE NEW PUFFIN JOURNAL



Autumn 2013

Published by the Lundy Collectors' Club

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Editorial

The summer in Devon this year has been good with lots of hot and dry weather. This was reflected on Lundy and the island this year is beautiful and looking in good condition. Our summer trip to Lundy was most enjoyable with calm crossings both ways and a hot sunny day on the island. To read more please go to the 'Summer Weekend Report' which starts on page 2.

We still do not know the subject for the 2014 stamp issue as Derek and Lars are still undecided, however, when the news breaks, you will be the first to know. Please do not contact the island as they are busy with the 'day job' but they have promised to let me know as soon as a decision is made so that I can pass the news on to you. The island will also contact you direct with an order form.

It might be hard to believe but this issue of *The New Puffin Journal* is number 50. In 1996 when the idea of a Club magazine was first discussed, I don't think anyone was thinking beyond the first few issues yet alone the first 50 issues. What has made this possible has been the help from Club members who have submitted articles. My main helper since the passing of Stanley Newman in 2004 has been Roger Allen who has produced a continuous supply of well researched and written articles. Not only has Roger supplied articles but has also been the *Journal's* proof reader ensuring that the final product is lacking typographical mistakes and is factually correct. To Roger I am most indebted. Now for the next 50 issues! Well, I think we will approach that target cautiously, year by year but at the moment I am positive about the future and where the Club and the *Journal* is going and with your support I am sure we will make issue 100 in the year 2030!

Please note that the next meeting in Eastleigh will be held at a different venue from usual and on a different date from that published at the start of the year, full details are printed on the back cover.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

James

Summer Weekend Report

By James Thomas

On Saturday 20th July 2013, the Lundy Collectors' Club set-off on board the m.s. Oldenburg on it's annual adventure to Lundy. We up-anchored at 8:30 a.m. and set off into the Bristol Channel. After just 1½ hours we were running down the eastern coast of Lundy with our highly trained Captain carefully manoeuvring the ship around submerged rocks, sailing against a strong easterly wind and heading towards the jetty with the hope of avoiding a scene reminiscent of the 'Navy Lark'. Carefully tied-up we disembarked onto the sun drenched island and made our way to the Tavern for morning coffee.

What a difference a year makes! Last year the island was water logged, this year many of us travelled in shorts and tee-shirts – no raincoats just sun cream.



Lundy – July 2012



Lundy – July 2013

After a quick coffee, a must trip was to Jenny's Cove to see this year's puffins and we weren't disappointed. Although not counting the birds on and around the ledges at Jenny's Cove, Grant, The Marisco Tavern barman, later stated that there have been individual sightings of in excess of 180 birds. When the final numbers are confirmed for this year, I am sure the puffin numbers will equal if not exceed last year's count.

After escorting Roger Chapple back to the Tavern for his lunchtime medicine, a pleasant hour was spent in the Tavern over lunch, consuming both the solid and liquid varieties!

The summer breeze was strong, very warm and just as intoxicating as the lunchtime cider. Butterflies were everywhere, so a trip to the East Siding was the next venture in an attempt to capture a few Lepidoptera photographs.

After another glass of cider we headed off on a pleasant trip in the evening sunshine back to the Big Island. I never enjoy leaving Lundy but on this occasion I really did not want to return to reality.

Lundy is looking beautiful and is extremely well managed, for this all credit has to go to Derek Green and his great team of workers – well done!

The following day the Club held its Summer meeting at the Landmark in Ilfracombe where this year's attendance was back to normal with over 30 members spending the day with us. It was also very encouraging to see a few new faces.

The bourse tables were full of everything related to Lundy. Jon Aitchison had a huge stock of mainly philatelic material, Roger Allen had a selection of books for sale including his latest publication 'Watercolours – Mainly Lundy' and Alan and Sandra Rowland had a table full of Lundy pot-pourri bargains that were being sold for Lundy Field Society funds.

We kicked-off the morning with the three competitions.

The Stanley Newman Trophy for Lundy Philately was held again as a one sheet competition. There were five entrants and in third place was Tom Baker with a block of 4 1969 Provisional overprints 1p on 9p overprinted in red. In second place was Mike Thompson with a sheet of various 'Devonair Ltd' overprints and in first place was Graham Chadwick with a sheet of Red Cross overprint varieties. The other two entrants were John Wright with a sheet of 'Lundy and Atlantic Coast Air Lines Ltd' proofs and Jon Aitchison with a sheet of eight 1972 Trinity House colour trial proofs in issued designs and foreground colours but with additional background colours.

The Julie Lester Trophy for Lundy Postal History attracted three entrants. Michael Bale came third with eight sheets of mail to and from Lundy and various places throughout the World. In second place was Tom Baker with seven sheets relating to Harpers Book shop, 11 High Street, Bideford and its connection with Lundy. But in first place was Mike Thompson with a well presented eight sheets of postcards titled 'The Postal History of Lundy to 1930'.

The final competition of the morning was the R.E. Allen Trophy for Lundy Postcards, Literature and Ephemera. In third place was Keith Hand with five sheets of the 1954 stamp issue and relating postcards showing the same views as shown on the stamps. In second place was Tom Baker with two sheets of John Dyke's un-adopted meter designs and in first place was Mike Thompson with eight sheets of old black and white Lundy postcards showing various views. The other entry was submitted by James Thomas who displayed eight sheets of the 75th stamp anniversary souvenirs and ephemera.

After another superb lunch provided by the Landmark, we settled into the auction which as always was conducted by Mike Thompson and ably assisted by Julie Lester and Bob Harper.

Two displays followed, the first was a 40 sheet pot-pourri of postcards with pictures ranging from puffins to HMS Montagu. The second display consisted of nine sheets of postcards covering HMS Montagu and other Duncan Class of ships.

With no further business the meeting came to a natural close at 5:00pm.

Lundy Photographic Competition

Please remember that the Club's annual Lundy Photographic Competition will be held at the Club's Autumn meeting at Eastleigh on Sunday 3rd November 2013.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to submit an entry, please send your photo prints to James Thomas who will submit them on your behalf.

50th Anniversary of Lundy Stamps

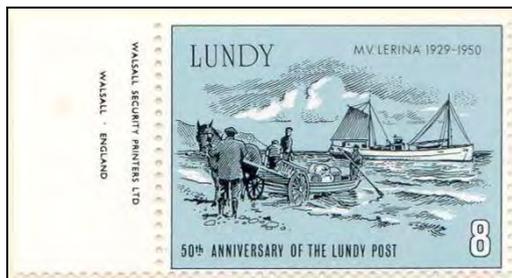
By James Thomas

By 1979, the Lundy private postal service had reached its fiftieth year of continuous operation. From the first two stamps issued on 1st November 1929, by Martin Coles Harman to what was then a modern day commemorative issue in 1979, the Lundy Postal service had survived many challenges. The main challenges were the acceptance of Lundy stamps on mail from Lundy by the British Post Office, the Second World War and the austerity years that followed. In fact it is a tribute to the Harman family and the Landmark Trust that the Lundy Postal Service has now completed 84 years of continuous service.

Back in 1979, it was considered that the 50th Anniversary should be celebrated (like all 50th anniversaries should be!), so a new stamp set was designed by John Dyke depicting how the service had been delivered throughout the fifty years. It is a shame that the new stamps weren't issued on 1st November 1979, which would have been on the exact birthday, however, a new set was issued on 4th May which was probably more of a commercial decision enabling the island to sell the new stamps to visitors throughout the summer months.

The new set was quite a grand one consisting of five large format stamps with values relating to the postal rates of the time and was designed by the most respected Lundy stamp artist so far. Twenty-five thousand stamps of each value were printed in sheets of 50 but issued in sheets of 25 by Walsall Security Printers.

The 8 puffin stamp has a black line drawing in landscape format on a pale blue background showing the mail being collected on the Landing Beach by horse and cart from the M.V. Lerina between 1929 and 1950.

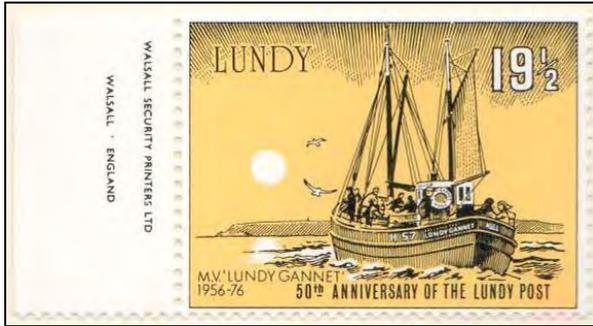


The 10 puffin stamp is one of two portrait format stamps and comprises an image of the very first Lundy stamp, the ½ puffin pinkish red together with an image of the 1974 10p Puffin Bust definitive in violet, which was at the time part of the current definitive set of Lundy stamps.

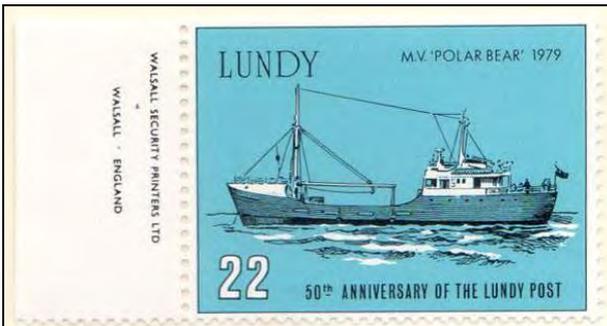


The 11½ puffin stamp is the second of the two portrait format stamps and has a black line drawing on a pale bright green background and depicts the post being carried from the airstrip, past the linhay (now the shop) towards what is now the Tavern. In the sky there is an aeroplane flying away and the person carrying the mail bag marked 'Lundy' has the stance and tall stature of Felix Gade. This stamp commemorated the airmail services between 1935 and 1939 and then between 1950 and 1956.

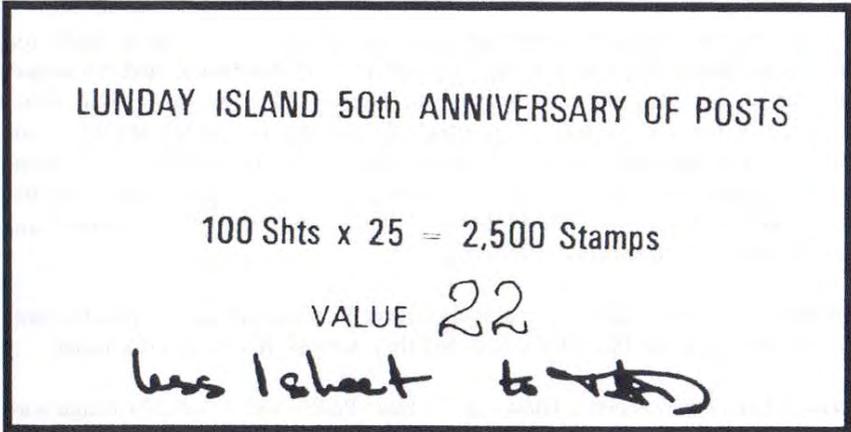
The 19½ puffin stamp has a black line drawing in landscape format on a lemon background and depicts the mail crossing the Bristol Channel from North Devon to Lundy onboard the M.V. Lundy Gannet between 1956 and 1976.



The 22 puffin stamp is the last of the landscape formatted stamps and is probably the simplest of the five designs. A black line drawing on a light blue background depicts the M.V. Polar Bear at anchor. In 1979, the M.V. Polar Bear was the mail boat serving Lundy and was owned by the Landmark Trust from 1972 to 1986.

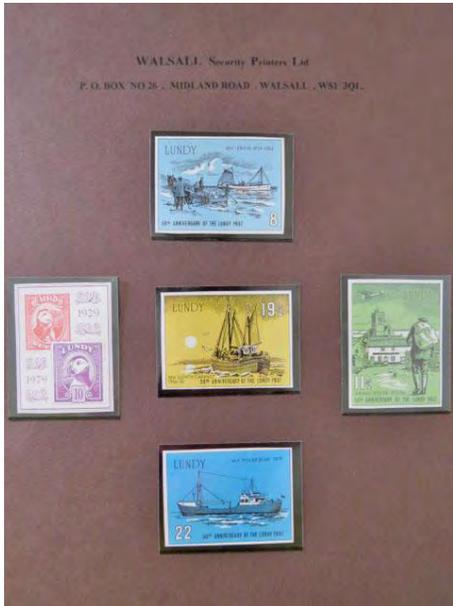


The printers delivered the stamps to Lundy in brown paper packets each containing 100 sheets of 25 stamps. Each packet bore a printed label on which the value of the stamp was inserted using a ball point pen. A single set of packets was sent to the Lundy Philatelic Service, each packet having had a sheet removed which had been sent to John Dyke. The surprising thing about the labels was that the word LUNDY was incorrectly spelt.



A copy of one of the labels used for the 22 puffin value and stating that one sheet had been removed and sent to John Dyke.

As with all stamp issues, various proofs and essays were produced as part of the production process. These items are either very rare or unique and nowadays demand very high prices. With the help of other Club members I have managed to locate a few images which are shown on the following four pages.



Printer's proofs in issued colours



Set of Bromide proofs



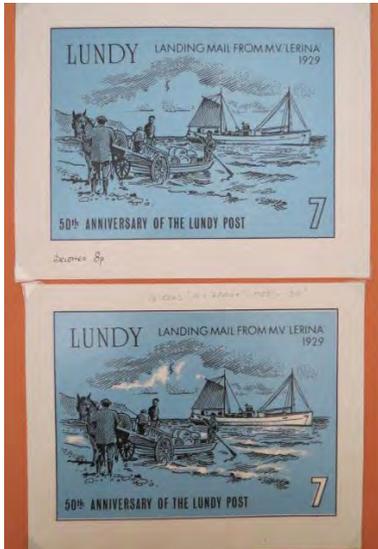
John Dyke's artwork showing the stamp that was finally issued as the 11½ puffin value

1979
PROOFS
50th Anniversary of Lundy Post,
Printed by Walsall Security Printers Ltd.

10 Puffin.

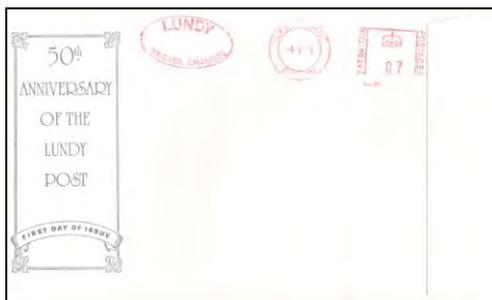


Printers proof of the 10p value



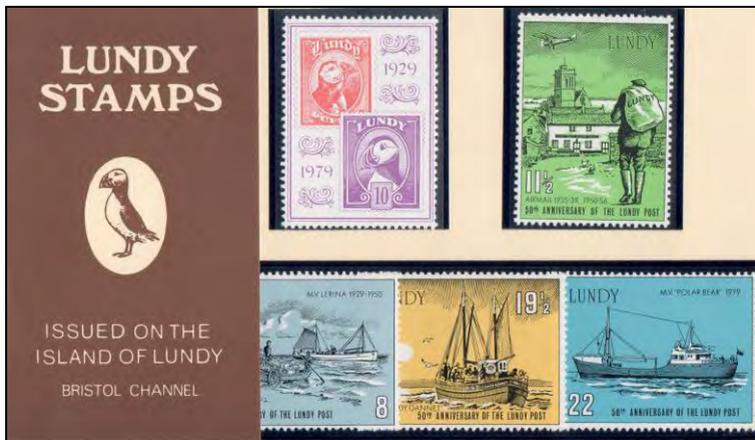
*Various proofs and values.
Note the variations between each proof and also between
the proofs and the issued stamp.*

A First Day Cover was produced using a 20mm diameter rubber canceller, type GG, with black ink on 4th May 1979, used solely for cancelling the 50th Anniversary issue. This canceller is a retro style design based on the GPO 'Thimble' canceller. In place of the 'C' or 'P' that can be found in the old 'Thimbles', '50' was inserted.

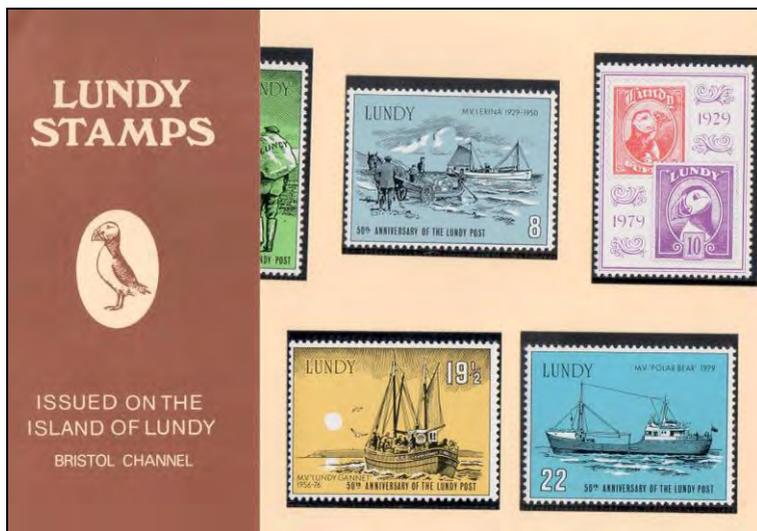


The two sides of the official First Day Cover

Two Presentation Packs were produced in brown and yellow but with slight differences. A pack using a standard size card cover (186x 107mm) was first produced with the 8p, 19½p and the 22p values overlapping each other to fit into the available space. On the rear of the cover it is stated that 40,000 sets were produced as opposed to 25,000 that were actually produced. There is also reference to 25,000 miniature sheets being printed which in fact did not materialise. The second pack was larger than the first pack (188x129mm) and gave sufficient space for the five stamps to be mounted clearly. On the rear of the cover the wording had been amended to include brief details about the stamps and omitted the reference to the miniature sheet.



The smaller pack with a note on the rear referring to the un-issued miniature sheet



The larger pack with amended wording on the rear

Note: None of the images in this article are to scale.

Lundy Archive

By James Thomas

On 30th October 1973, Felix Gade typed a letter to Barry Chinchin at a time when Lundy stamp stock was being transferred to the 'Lundy Philatelic Service'. This letter is reproduced below.

**LUNDY
BRISTOL CHANNEL
via ILFRACOMBE
N. DEVON**

B.N.D. Chinchin, Esq.,
97, Chamberlayne Road,
Eastleigh,
Hants. SO5 5JJ.

30th October 1973.

Dear Barry,

In anticipation of the work on the hotel being commenced early in 1974, I have been informed by Mr. Grainger that I should now send you the residue of the stamps which I still hold and this is the first parcel of such. It consists of the stamps of the 1930 issue, a total of 45,531 mint stamps made up of 19,750 – 6p, 25,483 – 9p and 298 – 12p, and there are 19 sets in transparent bags.

There will be to come, the remainder of the stamps of the 1951 issue, including the 8p over 12p provisionals. The stamps held by me of all issues, subsequent to 1951, until the Decimal issue of 1971 is reached, are not many, but there will be perhaps three parcels of the 1971 stamps. The issues of 1972 I hold (*are*) quite moderate stocks, and I shall of course have to keep the Lighthouse Anniversary stamps for postal purposes until the new definitive issue appears.

In addition there are a lot of FDC, but I will write you separately about them when the time comes for their despatch.

In this parcel are some typescripts which you might find useful to send to those collectors who are interested in imprint and gutter blocks.

There are also to come the remainder of the 'Postal Histories', together with supplements, of which there are two. There are 310 fair copies of the 'Postal History' and 389 copies wherein the wire hinges have become rusty, and stained the sheets a little. These shop-soiled copies I have been in the habit of sending to enquirers, either free of charge or at a reduced price. Most of these shop-soiled Histories are fully equipped with both 1st and 2nd supplements, but few of the fair copies have any supplements with them. As the supply of 2nd supplements is only 95, it seems necessary to have another 200 copies printed, but that of course I must leave to you, as you may have other ideas on the subject, and might even be contemplating writing your own version of the 'Postal History'.

The enclosed clippings from Continental newspapers have been sent by Mr. Kurt Rolli. AIJP, p.o. Box 77, CH-3250 Lyss, Switzerland, and I send them to you solely to show you what Mr. Rolli has done, and is doing, to announce new issues in Continental newspapers and magazines. For years I have been sending him details of new issues and almost invariably a mint set or sometimes a FDC, gratis. As to whether you continue this practice, you must be the one who decides, but I feel it is useful to have Mr. Rolli's assistance.

With my very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

F.W. Gade

This letter came to me in the envelope addressed to Barry Chinchen by Mr. Gade but which was not posted by him. A hand written note on the front of the envelope reads "*Barry, This was in a parcel of stamps which was to be posted to you but it is now included in the one large consignment. Ian*" It appears, for reasons unknown, that Mr. Gade did not post the letter as intended but it was posted later as part of a larger parcel by Ian Grainger (Lundy Agent 1970-77) who included his address label in the same envelope.

The New Puffin Journal - The First 50 Issues and all that!

By James Thomas

17 years and 50 issues of *The New puffin Journal!* I can't believe how quickly time has flown.

During the Autumn of 1996, the late Stanley Newman sent out a request for someone to edit the new *Journal* of the newly formed UK Chapter of the Lundy Collectors' Club, as we were then known.

The plea read:

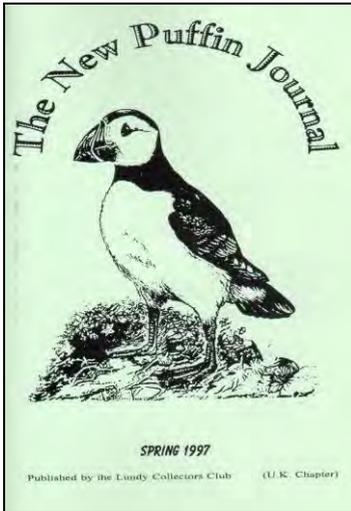
"We are searching for an energetic Club Member to undertake the Editorship of a revival of THE PUFFIN JOURNAL. This was a most successful publication which appeared sporadically from the mid-1950's until about 1986 (issue 28), and contained interesting articles on Lundy Philately and Postal History, as well as some non-philatelic articles about the island and its activities.

The content of the revival publication would be left in the hands of the new Editor, but I am certain that many UK as well as some of our overseas Members would gladly contribute articles and illustrations.

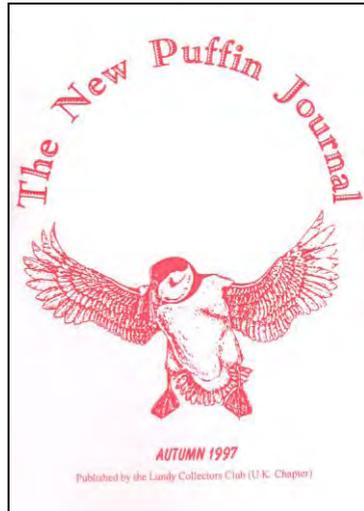
*A Member with a general knowledge of the island, its stamps and Postal History, who is prepared to undertake this most interesting Editorship, should write to me as soon as possible. The LCC (UK Members) will hopefully be in a position to finance the initial issue of the revived magazine, which we would expect to become financially self-supporting in due course. Please write to me at.....
Stanley"*

After reading the plea I thought that I am the man for the job, after all, I had a computer, a small collection of Lundy stamps, a book about Lundy and I had visited the island once in 1994. To my surprise my application was accepted (because nobody else applied!) and I was invited to become Stanley's Assistant Editor. I was also surprised that my suggestion to name the magazine *The New Puffin Journal* and my proposed artwork for the front cover were also accepted.

The first issue was published in the Spring of 1997 and was printed on Stanley's old black and white photocopier. This resulted in black blotches on many of the pages, so in an attempt to improve the quality; Stanley Tipp-Ex'd them out.



Issue 1 - with ink blotches



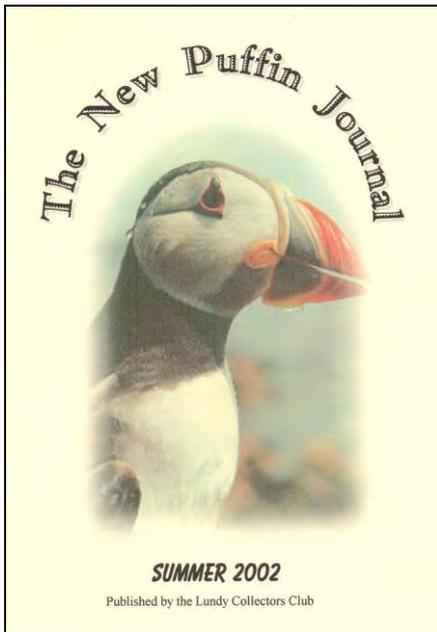
Issue 3 – the first issue using colour

During the early days we were very aware that there was a lot of room for improvement in every area. For issue two we bought a new photocopier which instantly eliminated the black blotches. Stanley liked the idea of publishing a colour magazine but in the early days we did not have the money, technology or skills to make this big step and realised that we had to concentrate on the fundamentals first. However, colour is what Stanley wanted and by issue three we had it, albeit in a mono approach. By changing the photocopier cartridge from black to red, we could print individual pages in red ink.

My promotion to Editor was gradual and dependant on Stanley's failing health. The Editorial Office finally moved from Brighton to Kingskerswell after Stanley's health took a serious dip in the Autumn of 1999. Roger Allen took on the position of Proof Reader after Stanley's death and started his new job during the Summer of 2004.

From issue 10 the page layout became more uniform and a re-designed contents page was introduced. Continuing improvement was and still is my main aim and this was seen in each issue that followed. In issue 29 back in the Summer of 2006, I changed the font style from *Times New Roman* to *Arial* because this style is more compliant with the Disabled Discrimination Act requirements as it is easier to read if you have eye-sight issues or suffer from dyslexia.

However, the most noticeable change came in issue 17 in the Summer of 2002, when we introduced full colour printing. This transformed the *Journal* and improved the quality of photographs and illustrations.

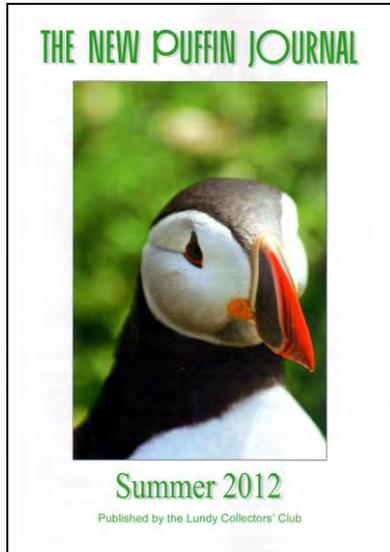


Issue 17, the first full colour issue.

In 2005 photographs were no longer taken on film and scanned into the computer but were taken by an 8 mega pixel digital SLR camera. Saving the digital files direct from the camera to the computer showed a vast improvement in picture quality.

Further minor improvements continued until the end of 2010 when a complete revamp of the cover design was made. The cover design was showing its age and was becoming to look quite amateurish, so during 2011 each issue had a slightly different cover design. After each publication, I gauged the response from the membership and made minor tweaks. The new design was finally published on the front of the Spring 2012 issue and has been well received.

However, I consider the biggest improvement so far was made in the Autumn of 2011 when the *Journal* was, for the first time, professionally printed in colour on glossy paper. I received a lot of complimentary comments especially about the quality of photographs and illustrations.



A copy of the current cover style professionally printed on glossy paper.

I think the *Journal's* success over the last seventeen years has been due to the balance of philatelic and non-philatelic articles and my aim to strive for continuing improvement and not accepting complacency – now for the next 50 issues!

Thank you all for your support and hope that you enjoy all future issues.

Lundy News 50 Years Ago!

By James Thomas

The main news on Lundy in 1963 was the weather. The weather is still quite a topic of conversation on Lundy, what with excessive amounts of rain, no rain, gale force winds, etc. But the weather that we endured in Devon and of course Lundy during the winter of 1962/63 is still talked about today.

I was a six year old boy living in South Devon and can remember opening the back door of our house one morning in January and being faced with a wall of snow half way up the door opening. At 6 years old, the snow was higher than I was, but unlike nowadays, I still went to school which was a half mile walk down a steep hill. The snow laid and then more snow fell and some more and everything froze-up for eight weeks. We were cut off with no buses or any vehicular traffic. To buy provisions my mother had to make a 2½ mile walk into town and bring back as much as she could carry. Nowadays, life would grind to a standstill with nobody going to work or school, but back then life just continued. The bad weather didn't just affect South Devon but the whole of the county from the south, across Dartmoor to the north and as far as Lundy. An account of Lundy's winter was recorded by Felix Gade and included in his book 'My Life on Lundy'. With the kind permission of Myrtle Ternstrom, I have reproduced Felix Gade's recollections of life on Lundy during this savage winter.

“On December 19th Albion, Kay, John, Inez and Christopher Russell arrived for Christmas and on December 29th there was a severe easterly gale with snow, which was blown off the fields and drifted up against the walls. The temperature fell below freezing point, and thus the great frost of 1963 began, and it continued until March.

East winds continuing, the Lundy Gannet did not make an appearance until January 5th, but through the kindness of Commander Dove of the Alert, Albion and his party were given passage to Swansea on 4th. The Lundy Gannet managed to get down the river Torridge and out to sea on January 12th; the river was frozen from side to side with ice nine inches (225mm) thick. Day after day the wind continued to blow from the east. We were feeding hay to the cattle and ponies, and hoping that the sheep would find something to fill themselves up where the wind had swept the snow to the walls.

The Fordson (tractor) was driven across the shallow ponds in the Tent Field, to break the ice and the ice on the Rocket Pole pool and Quarter Wall pool had to be broken up every day. It really was a terrible time, no water was running into any of the houses, and we all had to assemble at the reservoir to collect water which was siphoned through a hole bored in the ice. Twelve-and-a-half gallons per day per household was the ration all through January and into February. Lambs were being born from February 25th, and it is not surprising that few of them lived longer than a day, as the ewes had little milk. Large flocks of birds arrived, and it is impossible to say how many died of cold, starvation and thirst, but there must have been thousands. Mary (Gade) tried to keep some curlews and woodcock alive by feeding them with strips of raw rabbit flesh, but the wretched birds had lost all appetite, and made no effort to swallow. Great black-backed gulls were slaughtering lapwings, curlews and woodcocks and eating their meagre bodies, and rats were killing the birds for food. Vince Squire found a rat's nest with a store of dead skylarks in it and Mary found forty-three dead starlings in a hole in the barn.

I do not remember now what the toll of farm stock was, but compared with farmers of Dartmoor and Exmoor, I feel that Lundy was lucky. It helped that the snow blew off the fields, leaving the frosted grass visible, and there were also two short periods of thaw on Lundy from February 6th to 9th and from the 13th to the 16th. On February 8th the Lundy Gannet was prevented from crossing to Lundy by the break-up of the ice which had held a grip upon the river Torridge. It was like the stories one used to read in 'Boys Own Paper' of the break-up of the ice on the Canadian rivers. The dreadful frost ended on March 10th, and then came the burst pipes, the rain and the landslides."

The South-West of England is better known for its mild winter climate, we often go several winters without having snow at all, so I am sure that after reading such an account, one can realise why we are still talking about the winter of 1962/63.

Letters to the Editor

I have been reading *The New Puffin Journal* summer 2013 issue and the article by Roger Allen titled "Good Heavens". In his third paragraph he mentions his postcard is signed by S.H. Roger suggests that this could be Sarah Langworthy who was a Heaven, but the postcard is dated 1906 and Sarah died in 1891. Sarah (1797-1891) was the 3rd of 9 children of Samuel (1745-1829) and Ann Heaven. My suggestion is that it was in fact Nicholas Heaven's wife Sarah, who died in 1925. Nicholas Heaven is my great, great, grandfather; his brother was John Cookesely Heaven who married Marion Cecilia Harley Heaven (Winnie), who wrote much of the history of the Heavens on Lundy. I'm sure Roger is correct in stating that Sarah Langworthy's money financed the construction of the corrugated iron church.

I feel I should add a thank you for all your hard work in providing such a fine journal about Lundy. I am also at last going to spend a week on Lundy at the end of this month (July) and will be staying in Millcombe House.

John Heaven

Lundy News 2013

MARINElife, a marine wildlife conservation, research and education group is being supported by the Landmark Trust by placing officers on-board the m.s. Oldenburg every Saturday throughout the summer until the end of October. They plan to introduce passengers to the bird and sea life between the North Devon coast and Lundy. It is planned to continue this work into future years. To find out more about their work please log onto www.marine-life.org.uk

OUR NEXT MEETING

The Autumn 2013 meeting of the Lundy Collectors Club will be held on Sunday 3rd November 2013 at the Cranbury Community Centre, Cranbury Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5HR – commencing at 10:30 am. The Programme will be as follows:-

10:30 am	Registration and Reception Bourse Opens
11:15 to 11:45 pm	Lundy Photographic Competition
11:45 to 12:30 pm	Members Displays
12:30 to 2:00 pm	Lunch (not provided)
2:00 to 2:30 pm	Auction Viewing
2:30 to 2:45 pm	Club Announcements
2:45 to 3:45 pm	Club Auction (Auctioneer – Mike Thompson)
4:30 pm	Bourse Closes

The bourse is open to dealers with stocks of Lundy material and Members with surplus material for sale.

The Cranbury Community Centre can be approached by leaving the M27 Motorway at junction 5. Travel along the A335 north bound passing the Southampton Airport and continuing into Southampton Road. After a short distance, turn left into Cherbourg Road and then take the third turning on the right into Cranbury Road. The Cranbury Community Centre is on the left.