

THE NEW PUFFIN JOURNAL



Spring 2017

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Photograph by James Thomas



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Editorial

This year Lundy is spoiling us collectors with a selection of new postal items. On 1st January a new canceller was introduced to cancel the general mail and Ceri Stafford, Lundy's Postmaster is confident that it will last the next twelve years. This canceller replaces Type CCC which was introduced on 1st January 2006. During March Lundy will be re-issuing the 2008 m.s. Oldenburg's 50th Birthday Presentation Pack. As with previous re-issues, the pack will be produced in a new colour, it will have new text on the rear and will bear the re-issue date. On 14th May Lundy will be issuing a new set of stamps to coincide with the Devon Birds trip to the island. More details will be published in the next issue of this *Journal*. I would like to thank Ceri Stafford and Derek Green for all their hard work that keeps our hobby going and for putting up with me and all of my questions.

The Club's 2017 five day long Autumn meeting on Lundy still has a double room vacant, so if you are interested in joining our friendly group, please contact James Thomas immediately. For those unable to attend this meeting, the Club is organising a day trip to Lundy onboard the m.s. Oldenburg on Saturday 22nd July. More details and a booking form will be posted to you with the Summer issue of the *Journal*.

It is with great sadness that I learnt during January that the North Devon Theatres Trust had gone into receivership. The trust had administered the running of The Landmark Theatre in Ilfracombe which the Club has used for its Summer meetings since the year 2000. Because of this, I have now booked the function room at the Carlton Hotel which is only a stone's throw from the Landmark, as our new venue. The hotel which is receiving some very smart improvements has a very nice function room, facilities for the disabled and will serve lunch. More details of this venue and the meeting will be published in the Summer issue of the *Journal*.

Finally, I would like to thank Club member Robin Taylor for generously donating the souvenir postcard that accompanies this issue.

James

Autumn 2016 Meeting Report

By James Thomas

The Autumn 2016 club meeting was held on 23rd October 2016, at the Royal Oak, Pewsey, Wiltshire and started at 11:00am with tea and coffee.

Apologies were read from Diana Keast, Bob Harper and Peter Alford.

James Thomas gave a brief up-date of the church restoration fund and how Lundy is still trying to raise £400,000 match funding. To help with this Shaun Barnes had produced a slate plaque depicting the church which was being sold by silent auction on 28th October 2016.

John Wright followed with a display of 27 sheets of ephemera produced by Jim Czyl including envelopes, labels and miniature sheets. Robin Taylor continued the displays with his home made fun items with a Lundy theme which included labels and postcards. John Wright then returned to lead us into lunch with an Appeal card.

After a beautifully home cooked Sunday roast, Mike, Julie and Sue Leather held the Club's 59th auction. Currently, Lundy philatelic material is selling well and bidding was at times quite furious.

To finish the day Mike Thompson displayed 28 sheets of the Large Map issue in all its various forms including mint, used on cover and one cancelled by the 'LUNDY' straight-line cancel type Bc.

The meeting was well attended and had a most enjoyable atmosphere, so it was decided to hold the Club's Spring 2017 meeting at the same venue. For more details of this meeting, please refer to the back cover of this *Journal*.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 4:30pm.

Lundy News

2017 Lundy Stamp Issue

On Sunday 14th May 2017 Lundy will issue its next set of stamps to coincide with the Devon Birds charter to the island. Designs are still being finalised but full details will be published in the Summer issue of this *Journal*. Lundy will contact you nearer the time with full details and an order form.

The Club's Autumn 2017 Meeting on Lundy

Planning of the Club's five day meeting on Lundy from Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November 2017 is going well with, up to just recently, all places fully booked. However, a cancellation has been made which releases a double room in the centre of the village. If you are interested in joining our friendly group for the five day trip, please write to James Thomas immediately with a cheque (payable to James Thomas) for £125.00 per person. This will be full payment for your accommodation on the understanding that should you cancel the payment will be returned once a replacement is found. We will be flying to Lundy by helicopter from Hartland and you can purchase your helicopter ticket direct from the Lundy Shore Office nearer the time. The Tavern is open for eating from breakfast time through to evening meal time or if you wish, you can purchase your own provisions and cook in the fully equipped kitchen at your accommodation.

The Club's Summer 2017 Weekend

The Club's Summer 2017 meeting will be held at the Carlton Hotel in Ilfracombe on Sunday 23rd July. For those unable to attend the Autumn meeting, a day trip to Lundy will be organised on Saturday 22nd July travelling on board the m.s. Oldenburg. This year the ship will sail out of Ilfracombe at 10:00 am and return to Ilfracombe at about 6:30 pm. Full details and booking forms will be sent out with the Summer 2017 issue of this *Journal*.

Congratulations!

Congratulations go to Sid Morginstin from America who won a Large Silver for his exhibit of 'Lundy Island' at Jerusalem 2016.

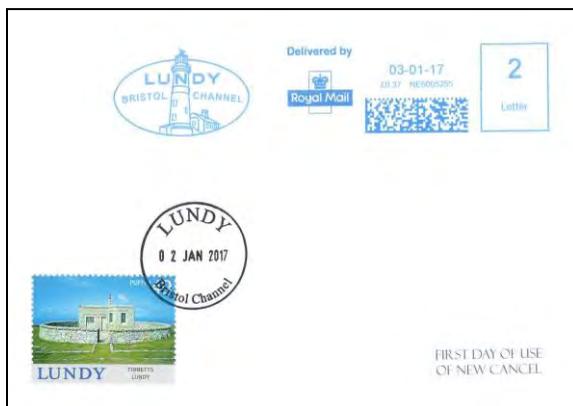
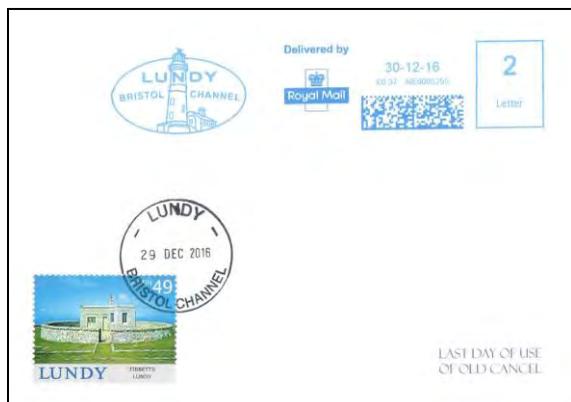
The 2017 Cancellation

By James Thomas from material supplied by Ceri Stafford

On 1st January 2017 a new 29mm circular cancellation came into use on Lundy to cancel the general mail.

To commemorate the occasion Lundy has produced a pair of envelopes to record the last day of use of the old Type CCC cancel and the first day of use of the new cancel.

If you wish to buy a set please place your order direct with Lundy. The pair will cost £4.00 plus postage and packing at £2.30 for UK addresses, £3.00 for Europe and £4.00 for the rest of the World.



Lundy Heaven Montagu Postcard

By Roger Allen

A recently purchased 1907 postcard has proved upon examination to be even more interesting than its auction description implied. The clear, though lightly impressed, Lundy thimble is dated 29th August 1907 and has the usual Instow cds alongside dated 30th August 1907. The card itself is a faded black and white photograph by Batten Photos, Ilfracombe, and shows the *Montagu* in the middle distance, taken from a point further South along the cliff top. The suspension bridge, stretching to the shore, can be faintly seen. The card is number BA 090 in the Allen catalog.

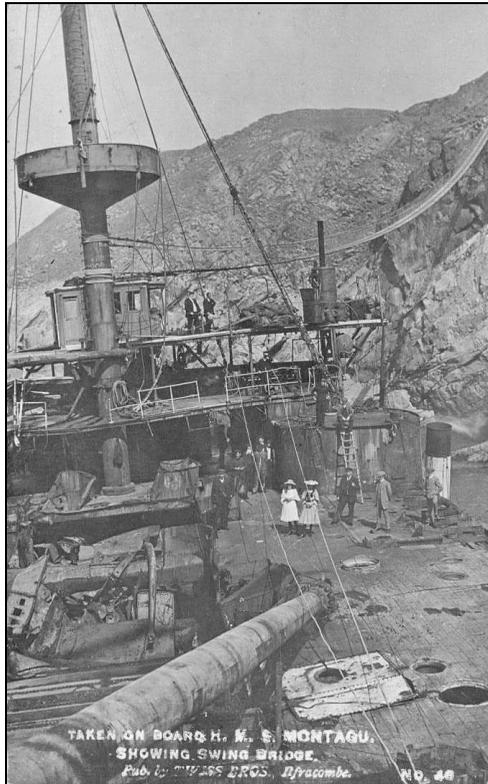


The card is addressed to Dr. Heaven, 17 Whiteladies Road, Clifton, Bristol. The text message is unsigned but the handwriting, after comparison with letters in my collection, is that of Marion Cecilia Harley Heaven, née Heaven, (1861–1951) and she is writing to her husband Dr. John Cookesley Heaven, (1858-1929). They were distant cousins, sharing the same great grandfather.

Mrs. Heaven was on Lundy at the time with her two daughters, Eileen Doris (1893-1983) and Silvia (1889-1965), aged 14 and 18 at the time. Eileen was, we all know, the last Heaven contact with Lundy, which she continued visiting all her life. Her large Lundy archive was made available to Myrtle Ternström, who has produced a continuous stream of Lundy research, books and papers available to us all.

Mrs. Heaven's message is written in tiny crabbed handwriting difficult to read and transcribe. It reads as follows. "We are sending you 5 of these (cards) this mail. 600 ft long, must be about the length of Clifton Suspension Bridge. The two girls have boarded her across it but as yet I have not been down the cliff. I saw the salvers had made a good zig zag path down from Amyas Leigh's Seat. It reminds me of that suicidal ridge on Lametory. There has been a big landslip at the top of the Cove, which smashed my long coveted walnut shell: Uncle's (and) George's boats had only been moved away about 2 hours."

The two young girls must have been of an intrepid nature to venture over the suspension bridge. Interestingly, Mrs. Heaven describes the bridge as being 600 feet long, whereas Tony Langham says it was 500 yards long (Page 152 of his 1994 *The Island of Lundy*). I believe 600 feet to be the more likely.



At about the same time as this postcard was sent to Dr. Heaven, Twiss Bros. of Ilfracombe issued a postcard of the deck of the *Montagu* with salvage operations in full swing and the suspension bridge in the background. Posing on the deck in the photograph are two young ladies in white dresses and white hats. They look about the right age that the two Heaven girls would have been and it is more than possible that this Twiss photo was taken on the same day that Mrs. Heaven refers to in her message, when her two daughters ventured on board the *Montagu*. The Twiss card is number TW 120 in the Allen catalog.

Mrs. Heaven refers to a good zig zag path down to the ship. I believe she refers to what came to be known as the Montagu Steps. On page 45 of his memoirs, Mr. Gade categorically states that the steps were built by the Admiralty in 1906 at the time of their salvaging attempts on the *Montagu*. Like Mrs. Heaven, he describes the Steps as having zig zags in their construction. At the top of the Montagu Steps there is indeed a small flat area from which the iron railings of the upper Steps began. Remains of those railings could still be seen a few years ago. Except for this one card from Mrs. Heaven to her husband, I have never heard of that small flat area at the top of the Montagu Steps being called Amyas Leigh's Seat. It certainly would have been a good vantage spot for the hero of Kingsley's *Westward Ho!* to have watched the Spanish galleon wreck itself on the Shutter Rock at the end of that great novel, but I have never heard of it being called Amyas Leigh's Seat anywhere else. I contacted Diana Keast and she too had never heard of Amyas Leigh's Seat. We believe that the Heavens, who were rather sentimental and often gave each other and places romantic names, used this name amongst themselves and that it died with them.

The final sentence in Mrs. Heaven's message concerning the landslip, rings bells amongst us all; landslides on the road up to the top of the island have been a continual part of Lundy life within and beyond living history. What she means by her 'long coveted walnut shell' is not clear. It may have been a small coracle-like boat that she used or wanted to use. How lucky that uncle's (Reverend Heaven's) boats were moved just in time.

So much to be gleaned from one innocent message on an old card! Surprisingly, although the auction price was not cheap, I obtained this fascinating card at the reserve price and I think it was well worth it.

New Lundy Cancels

By James Thomas

Since 2015 Lundy has produced four new cancellations; to celebrate the Lundy Collectors' Club 2016 five day meeting on the island, the World's first Cinderella Stamp Congress held in London, the Lundy Field Society's 70th anniversary and a new general use cancellation.

14th to 18th March 2016 – '14-18.3 2016 LCC LUNDY MEETING'

This 28mm circular postmark was introduced to celebrate the Lundy Collectors' Club five day meeting on Lundy and was used in red and black. Red ink was used on 500 specially produced souvenir cards and the black ink was used on general mail over the five day period.



16th to 18th September 2016 – '16-18 SEP 2016. CINDERELLA CONGRESS. LUNDY IN LONDON'

A special 34mm circular cancel produced to commemorate the World's first Cinderella Stamp Congress in London and was used on mail from the congress over the three days. Only black ink was used with this cancellation.



**24th September to 1st October 2016 – ‘24 Sep.-1 Oct. 2016
LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY. DISCOVER LUNDY. 70TH ANNIVERSARY’**

A special 34mm circular cancel produced to commemorate the Lundy Field Society’s week long meeting on Lundy celebrating the society’s 70th anniversary. Only black ink was used with this cancellation.



1st January 2017 - LUNDY Bristol Channel

A new 29mm diameter circular cancel came into use on 1st January 2017 and it is planned that this will cancel Lundy’s general mail for the next twelve years.



New Official Lundy Postcards

By James Thomas

Since the start of 2015 four new official Lundy Postcards have been issued covering various island subjects.



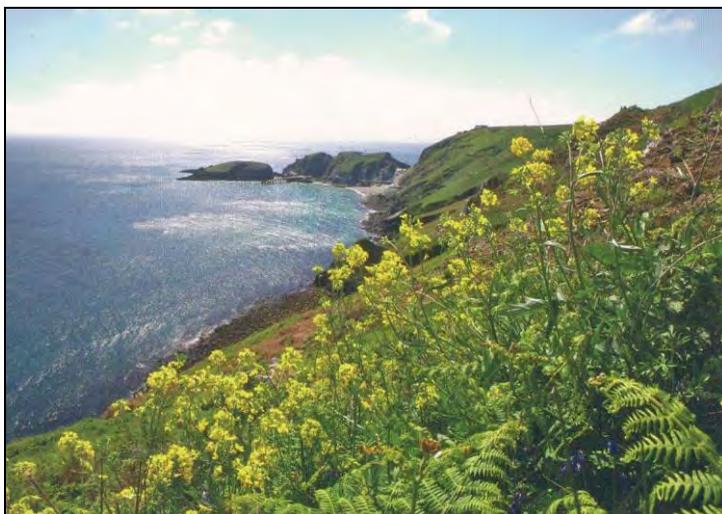
WINTER ARRIVAL – Photograph by Nigel Dalby



LUNDY – Photograph by Jonathan Evans



THE LANDING BAY – Photograph by Hartmut Strobel



LUNDY CABBAGE – Photograph by Kate West

Lundy:- Herbert Van Os

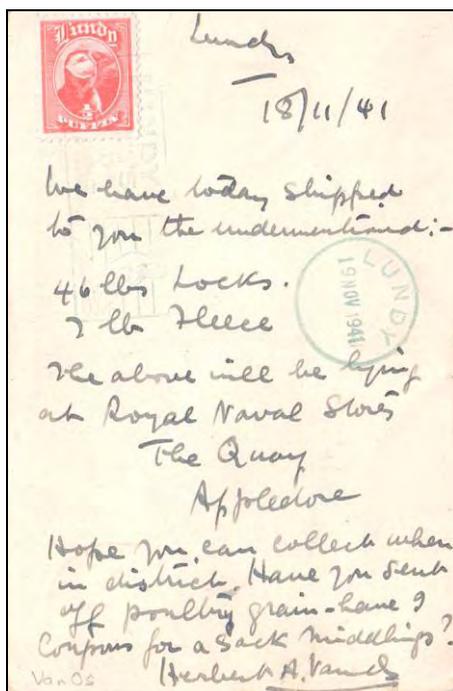
By Roger Allen

In May 1940 Martin Coles Harman made the surprising decision to lease Lundy for a period of ten years to a Mr. Herbert A. Van Os. This man persuaded Harman that he was an experienced farmer and quite capable of running the Lundy farm. This did not turn out to be the whole truth as future events showed. In Chapter 10 of his memoirs "My Life on Lundy" Mr. Gade tells exactly what he thought of Mr. Van Os and his abilities as a farmer. In fact he virtually wrecked the whole farming structure of Lundy and left it in ruins. Fortunately Van Os gave up the lease after less than two years and in February 1942 he left Lundy after a difficult settlement with Mr. Harman. The chapter is worth reading again to get the whole feeling of this story and Mr. Gade's contempt for Van Os.

Correspondence from this short period is hard to find but I have in my collection an interesting card signed by Van Os and a cover addressed to Mrs. L. E. Layland, who Van Os brought with him to run the hotel and shop. She left Lundy when Van Os departed and she bought the Seagate hotel in Appledore which Gade implies she ran very well. I also have a letter or two written by Gade in which he repeats and adds to his accusations and recriminations of the way that Van Os ran the Lundy farm into the ground.



Cover addressed to Mrs. L. E. Layland



The two sides of the postcard signed by Herbert Van Os

The postcard signed by Van Os is interesting in itself, as it shows that in spite of Mr. Gade's accusations, some farming work and activity did go on in this period. The message on the card (given below in full) indicates that sheep were being shorn, even if it was Mr. Gade that had to do it, and the wool was being transferred to the mainland. It should be noted that the fleeces were being taken to the Royal Naval Stores on Appledore Quay, under the control no doubt of the redoubtable Rear Admiral Harold G.C. Franklin. It is also of interest to note that farmers still needed war time coupons for some of their purchases. And what are "Middlings"?

The address side reads:- "Messrs G.T. Andrews and Sons Ltd., Town Mills, Barnstaple, Devon."

The card did not have any British postage stamps and so was charged 4d postage due. The two 2d postage dues are on the address side cancelled Barnstaple 20 Nov 41. The card bears an Instow postmark also dated 20 Nov 41.

The message side reads:-

"Lundy 18/11/41." (The Lundy ½ puffin is tied by the 'Lundy Lights and Leads' cancel, catalogue reference Fa in turquoise.)

"We have today shipped to you the under mentioned:-

46 lbs Locks

7 lbs Fleece

The above will be lying at Royal Naval Stores, The Quay, Appledore.

Hope that you can collect when in district. Have you sent off poultry grain and have I coupons for a sack of middlings?

Herbert A. Van Os."

In a long four page typed letter dated Jan 4th 1941, written just a few months after Van Os had taken over, Gade writes to Stanley Smith, a long time close friend, who had spent much time on Lundy and knew it well, giving him every detail of the absolute mess that Van Os is in and the terrible state of the farm. Many of the matters he talks about are covered in his memoirs, Chapter 10, but there are several extra complaints in this letter, some of which I briefly mention below.

For example the cows are not milked early enough and sometimes not till the afternoon, this can cause terrible suffering to the cows. Also Gade says the dung was not removed from the shippens for months, basic farming requirement. The lambing season was a tragedy, says Gade, barrow loads of dead lambs being brought in every morning and sick lambs not being fed properly or placed carefully with their dams. At the end of the season nearly 200 ewes only produced 62 living lambs. In this letter Gade mentions that the horse Marisco had been allowed to get cold and had died of a chill, leaving he says only "Tom" who has long since been unable to work. The famous horse of the postcards "Prince", mentioned in Chapter 10 of his memoirs, is not named in this letter and in fact Gade says that the island was now left without any horses.

In September 1941 Gade tells us in his letter that Van Os just upped sticks and left the island for ten weeks. The men left behind also took a great deal of time off and did a minimum of work: cows were not milked, fowls unfed, sheep died of maggots all over the island and the crops left uncared for. The Devon Agricultural Committee were asked by Van Os to pay for a new tractor which he had brought over when he returned, but a quick visit by the Committee persuaded them that no profit was going to be made from the farm and they refused.

Harman came at Christmas 1941 and Gade believes that he was then persuaded that this type of farming could not continue and this probably led to the departure of Van Os early in 1942 and thus ended the sad saga of Herbert Van Os on Lundy.

Book Review

By James Thomas

During the autumn of 2016 two new Lundy books were published.

The Island King. A biography of Martin Coles Harman, Overlord of Lundy.

Author – A.F. Langham. Published by The Lundy Field Society.

This is a 48 page black and white illustrated booklet of the work of the late Tony Langham.

The publication is the story of Martin Coles Harman as written by Tony Langham in 1995 but never published. The manuscript was discovered 20 years ago but only published during 2016 with the permission of his widow Jennifer, to celebrate the Lundy Field Society's 70th anniversary. The Preface was written by Diana Keast and the introduction by Tony's long term friend, Roger Allen.

This well researched publication has proven to be very popular and is already out of print.

Crumpet goes to Lundy, aka “Napoleon’s Last Battle”

Written and illustrated by - Maggie Partington-Smith.

Enquiries - crumpetgoestolundy@gmail.com

In 1989 the BBC produced a documentary about Napoleon, however, they were on a very tight budget and could not afford to transport the whole film crew to St. Helena, which until recently, was only accessible by taking a two week ship journey. So, an alternative location was required to do the filming to give the illusion of it being on St. Helena, so Lundy was chosen!

The 179 page soft back book is a light hearted and humorous view of behind the scenes and the Heath Robertson way in which the documentary was made.

This is a good read and for £10 worthy of a place in any Lundy collector's library.

Some Notes on Alfred E. Blackwell.

By Roger Allen.

The inspiration for these notes comes from a postcard dated 2nd September 1950 from Alfred E. Blackwell to his son, who was serving his National Service in Scotland. The card, addressed as follows:- 2428128 LAC Blackwell P.A., R.A.F. Pitreavie Castle, Dunfermline, Fife, was a Valentines sepia card, serial number H. 8506 WILD GOATS LUNDY (Allen Postcard Catalog No. VA 060). Postmarked at Bideford on 5th Sept 1950, the Lundy ½ puffin stamp is tied in blue by type I. dated 4th Sept 1950.

The message on the card, written by Alfred Blackwell, is as follows:- "LUNDY 2nd Sept. 1950. What joy! We were told this morning that we might stay until next Wednesday (6th). So our belongings were taken round to room 24, a jolly little bedroom at the end of the old block with a view straight out to the sea & the sunrise which we are to have for 4 more days.

Now on the beach. 11 a.m. a goodish sea but warm sun. I was out as usual before breakfast with a boy aged 10, who is keen on birds and other nature studies. We hope you are going on well & happily. Please give our love to the folks at Polmark. Much to yourself from M & D. (Mum and Dad)

Sunday Morning 3rd Sept. A howling gale & thick drizzly rain. A Campbell steamer & "Lerina" scheduled but not in the least likely to come. "Lerina" due yesterday but did not make it. Some people consigned to go and some to come but unable to do so. Familiar Lundy conditions. The plane came yesterday brought 5 people in three journeys. Seals come in quite close at the Lundy beach. There is a large flock of Soay sheep besides, the goats, wild ponies & deer. Rabbits & mushrooms are in profusion. M & D."

It is interesting that although the ships could not come to the island for the weather, a plane had come three times in the one day on the 1st September. The plane that Blackwell mentions was probably the De Havilland Rapide G-AKNY although if it took three flights to bring just five people, it is just possible that it could also have been the Auster Single engine Monoplane G-AJEA which Drabble had just purchased in Sept. 1950.

At this time, the “Lerina” was coming to its last gasp and in fact it made its final journey to Lundy in November of that year 1950. John Drabble had approached Gade in the summer regarding the reopening of air flights to Lundy and after a visit from the Air Ministry, Gade set to work to lay out and prepare the runway. Although it was not till November 1950 that the first Airmail was carried from the island on Devon Air Travel Ltd., it can be seen from Blackwell’s card, that flights to the island were taking place at least as early as September. In none of the standard works on Lundy; Gade, Langham or *Lundy by Air* by Stan and Joan Rendell, is there any mention of the official date that passenger flights actually began earlier in 1950.

Alfred Blackwell (1884 to 1967) was a well known Lundy visitor during the Harman regime although his first recorded visit to the island was in 1922. He continued to come to the island up to the 1960s, usually staying in the hotel. He lived at No.97, Altenburg Gardens, London, SW11 and was an officer in the Metropolitan Police. Upon retirement in 1936 he moved to Instow where he was known, amongst other things, for always taking a dip in the sea each day. In his retirement he became the librarian of the North Devon Athenaeum, later the Barnstaple Museum. He occupied this post from 1946 to 1964. He also became Harman’s shore agent for Lundy, authorised to make bookings and sell the tickets for the *Lerina* and later, for the air crossings, when Drabble’s Company started their flights to the island. During the war he was the billeting officer for Bideford.

Blackwell was a member of the Lundy Field Society since its inception in 1947 when he appears in the list of members. He remained a member until his death in 1967. Although he wrote several works on Lundy subjects, (see below) he never contributed articles to the Lundy Field Society report. A. F. “Tony” Langham wrote an obituary of Blackwell for the Lundy Field Society report Number 18 for 1967.

Gade informs us that it was Alfred Blackwell who rescued the name plate of the “Lerina” after she was laid up and which now is on the wall of the tavern on Lundy. Gade also tells us that after the newly purchased “Lundy Gannett” had arrived on Lundy on the 25th June 1956, Blackwell was on board her when she left on the 27th June, her first working trip back to Bideford.

Blackwell is best known to us for three literary works that he wrote on the subject of Lundy. The best known work is his 1958 booklet entitled *The Charm and History of Instow (with notes on Lundy)* which was published with the help of Instow Parish Council. There are six pages on Lundy plus a photograph of the East Side taken from half way up the beach road. Almost all the historical material in these pages is taken from the 1895 book *The Coasts of Devon and Lundy Island* by John Lloyd Warden Page. Overall, the facts that he gives in these six pages are correct and accurate but there are at least two comments that he makes which are incorrect. He states that the castle that we all know today was built in 1199 by the Mariscos, whereas we know that it was built by Henry III in 1242.

Blackwell devotes a paragraph on Thomas Benson and gives the basic facts of Benson's smuggling activities and the use of the island to transport convicts that should have gone to Virginia. He also states quite incorrectly that Benson used the cave below the castle to house a cannon and which he would fire off at passing ships if they refused to salute him. Quite an interesting thought but with no basis in fact.

In 1957 he wrote a paper for the Devonshire Association which appeared in their Transactions for that year. It was entitled *Some Critical Notes on the Bibliography of Lundy*. This document begins with a full description of John Roberts Chanter's monograph of 1877 based on his paper, read to the Devonshire Association and appearing in their Transactions for 1871. Blackwell praises this monograph and states that it is an exhaustive work to which all subsequent writers have acknowledged the debt they owe to Chanter. He remarks that the monograph has been bound in three different colours; blue, green and brown. The green is the most commonly found, then brown, although it is usually thought of as being red, and then the rarest, blue.

Blackwell's paper begins with the earliest mediaeval mentions of Lundy and carries on to mention Gade's Postal History of the island and his guidebooks from the 1950s. It is in fact a useful, compact list of most Lundy literature up to the middle 1950s.

Interestingly he also describes the *Cave and Lundy Review* which began in 1824 and although mainly on subjects other than Lundy, it was, he tells us, "published at Barnstaple monthly to be forwarded regularly to Lundy by the Lundy Packet". Whether this was in fact so, is an interesting speculation.

The copy of an off cut from the Devonshire Association Transactions in my collection, was sent to Stanley Smith signed, and inscribed with the words "with best wishes from the author" on 25th March 1958. There was also a little loose scrap of paper included on which Blackwell apologises for the shortness of this note, pleading a cold, and says that he looks forward to the next issue of Stanley's *Lundy Review*.

In the above paper, when mentioning G. Steinman Steinman's work *Some account of the island of Lundy* Blackwell informs us that it was published in 1836 by John Bowyer Nichols & Son of St. Paul's Churchyard. This pamphlet by Steinmann Steinmann, who lived in Norwood, Middlesex, is extremely rare and in 1947 Martin Coles Harman obtained the text and reprinted it with the help of Exeter City Library who had an original copy. Harman tried to contact the publishers John Bowyer & Son but they had long disappeared without trace.

To digress a little, the pamphlet by Steinmann Steinmann actually consists of a detailed and highly researched account of the changing ownership of Lundy from the earliest Marisco times. It is almost certain that most accounts of the history of Lundy since then, including Chanter, have utilised the intense research work of Steinmann Steinmann in their works. His account of the legal aspects and the transferring of one ownership to the next through the ages is full of interest and information and a useful addition to any collector's library.

My copy of Steinman Steinman is the Harman 1947 reprint. It is numbered 408 and signed by Martin Coles Harman although in his introduction he says that he only signed the first 250 copies of the 1,000 that were printed. This reprint also includes a photograph of his son John Pennington Harman VC and the text of the citation of 1944 when he was awarded the VC posthumously after the Battle of Kohima in North East India in which he died. There is also a sketch by John Harman of his plans for a fence running along Quarter Wall and designed to keep the deer in restricted areas.

In his introduction to his reprint Martin Coles Harman does not say why he decided to include his son's citation in the Steinmann Steinmann. There does not seem to be any real connection between the pamphlet and the VC, but to have the citation, photograph and sketch available in this pamphlet, was a very good way of making this significant moment in Lundy history available to a wider readership.

The third Lundy work for which we know Blackwell, is entitled *Lundy's Ecclesiastical History*. Again this was a paper written for the Devonshire Association and appears in their Transactions for 1960. The 13 page offprint in my possession came from the collection of Tony Langham and carries his Ex Libris. It has been rebound by Tony in red cloth hardback and again bears the signed inscription from Blackwell "Best wishes from the Author".

The work is quite comprehensive and covers religious mentions of Lundy from mediaeval times, and onwards right up to 1953 when Reverend Roy Dixon became Vicar of Appledore and Priest in Charge of Lundy. He enlarges at length on the name of the chapel in the cemetery; which he names as dedicated to St. Helena. In fact it is usually accepted that the church on Lundy was dedicated to St. Elen or St Elene who could be an obscure local saint and not necessarily St. Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great. It was of course the church built in 1896 by the Reverend Hudson Grosett Heaven that was given the name of St. Helena.

He describes the construction and the inside of the present St. Helena's church. His description of the interior of the church is very comprehensive, he gives full details of what stone was used in the various parts of the church, the floor tiles and where it all came from. He gives the full names of the sculptors, the architects, the designers of the three stained glass windows and the total cost of the church and the history of the dedication by Bishop Bickersteth. Although most of these facts could be obtained elsewhere in various documents, having everything all gathered together in this one paper is very useful. He tells us that in Crockford, the Revd. Hudson Grosett Heaven is described as curate of Lundy, 1864 up to 1886, and then as vicar of Lundy, 1886 to 1911 when he left the island. These titles are however courtesy titles, as Heaven was never actually inducted officially into the church on Lundy.

Blackwell gives us several anecdotes of the Reverend Hugh C. A. S. Muller; Mr. Fred Allday, lay reader; the church bells and finishes with useful details of births, baptisms and marriages which have been recorded on Lundy from earliest times up to the 1950s. The marriages include in 1916, Wilfred Thomas to Mildred Allday, the daughter of Fred Allday the last G.P.O. appointed postmaster of Lundy and the marriage of Stanley Smith to Audrey Cannon in 1938. He then lists the inscriptions on all tombstones that could be deciphered in the churchyard dating from 1861 up to the Harman graves in the 1950s.

He states that the Reverend Henry Hezekiah Lane was inducted rector of Lundy in 1922; the first officially appointed incumbent of Lundy since the 14th Century. The Reverend Lane was a competent poet, Blackwell tells us, and wrote many agreeable verses describing Lundy. Sadly none of these poems seem to have been preserved.

Blackwell became a friend of Stanley Smith, who lived and worked on Lundy both before and after the war and produced the *Lundy Review*. This was an occasional magazine published and printed by Stanley Smith from 1957 up to 1961, just six issues in all. It contained news of the island, including stamp information, but it is best remembered for its long historical articles by Felix Gade, Tony Langham, Alfred Blackwell, John Dyke, Stanley Smith himself and others. Blackwell contributed notes and articles in four of these issues. They are briefly listed here.

Lundy Review Issue No. 2 Summer 1958. Article by Blackwell on the granite quarries, covering the complete history of the quarry companies, the quarry railway, the VC quarry and the eventual failure of the Quarry Company.

Lundy Review Issue No. 3. Winter 1958. Short article by Blackwell on Lundy Bibliography with a concentration on the contents and subsequent use of Chanter's 1877 monograph. A long list follows of books, articles on Lundy, fiction and non fiction, guidebooks and philatelic material.

Lundy Review Issue No. 4. Spring 1959. Blackwell contributes a very favourable review of Stanley Thomas' new book *The Nightingale Scandal* covering the story of Thomas Benson scuttling his ship "Nightingale". There is also a letter from Blackwell concerning a confirmation on Lundy, officiated by the Bishop of Exeter in 1886. This service was almost certainly held in the corrugated church built in 1884 at the top of Millcombe and dedicated to St. Helen.

Lundy Review Issue No. 5. Autumn 1959. An obituary of Inkerman Rogers appears in this issue written by Blackwell. Inkerman Rogers was a local worthy and councillor, who was principally a geologist and historian and who wrote a pamphlet in 1938, now quite rare, entitled simply *Lundy Island*. He was also a horologist and one of his elaborate and complicated constructions is in the Barnstaple Museum.

The only other work by Blackwell that I could find is an article dating from 1955 once again in the Transactions of the Devonshire Association for that year, entitled simply *John Gay, (1685-1732)* being a short thirteen page essay on the Barnstaple born author and playwright. There is a photograph of a portrait of Gay and a bibliography of books and articles on the subject of the author. It is probable that Blackwell wrote this paper as a result of working at the Barnstaple Museum.

Available photographs of Blackwell seem to be few in number, but in the Lundy Field Society publication of 2013 entitled *The Harman Family's Lundy 1925 – 1969* there are two photographs, one dated 1922 of Blackwell emerging from the Monastery Gate, that opens from Millcombe Valley to the back of the Tavern. A second photograph of Mrs. Blackwell, also from 1922, kneeling with her two children outside the Barton cottages. *The Harman Family's Lundy* has a small section on Blackwell which contains some additional information and is worth reading in conjunction with this article.

Diary 2017

Saturday 11th March 2017

LFS AGM, CREDITON, DEVON

Sunday 26th March 2017

LCC Spring Meeting, Pewsey, Wiltshire

Saturday 22nd July 2017

LCC Day trip to Lundy sailing from Ilfracombe, Devon

Sunday 23rd July 2017

LCC Summer Meeting, Ilfracombe, Devon

Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November 2017

LCC Autumn Meeting on Lundy

Magazine Binders

The Club has a small stock of binders for *The New Puffin Journal*.

Each binder will hold 12 'Journals' and is bound in maroon leatherette with gold lettering and logo on spine.

They cost £8.00 each if ordering from the UK or £10 each for foreign orders which includes postage and protective packing.

To place your order, please write to:-

James Thomas, 5 Manor Drive, Kingskerswell, Devon, TQ12 5HB, UK, stating the number of binders required and enclosing a cheque made payable to the '**Lundy Collectors Club**'.

Club Badge

The Lundy Collectors' Club lapel badge is a full colour metal badge, 20x40mm and shows a picture of the 1929 Lundy ½ puffin red stamp with the words 'LUNDY COLLECTOTORS CLUB' alongside. On the back is a safety brooch pin.

To place your order please send a cheque for £4.00 for UK sales or £6.00 for all foreign sales to James Thomas, 5 Manor Drive, Kingskerswell, Devon, TQ12 5HB. Please state how many badges you require and please make your cheque payable to the **Lundy Collectors' Club**.

If you order a badge at the same time as a binder, the badge can be sent in the same packaging at a reduced price of just £3.00 each for both UK and Foreign sales.

Badge and Binder - £11 UK, £13 for all foreign sales.

OUR NEXT MEETING

The Spring 2017 meeting of the Lundy Collectors' Club will be held on Sunday 26th March 2017, at the Royal Oak, 35 North Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN9 5ES – commencing at 11:00 am.

The Programme will be as follows:-

11:00 a.m.	Bourse opens
11:30 a.m.	Members' Displays
12:45 to 1:45 p.m.	Optional Lunch at the Royal Oak
1:45 p.m.	Club Auction lots on view
2:20 p.m.	Club Announcements
2:30 p.m.	Club Auction (Auctioneer – Mike Thompson)
3:45 p.m.	Members Displays
4:30 p.m.	Bourse Closes

It is hoped that as many as possible will join us for the optional lunch at the Royal Oak. Reasonably priced meals including a Sunday roast are on offer.

In order that the Club can make the necessary arrangements, will all those wishing to attend the meeting please complete and return the enclosed Meeting Attendance form. To help the Royal Oak prepare enough food for us and all of their other customers will you please indicate if you would like to join us for lunch?

Directions

If approaching from the M4, leave the motorway at junction 15 and drive south along the A346 into Marlborough along Herd Street and Barn Street. Turn right into George Lane (A345) to Pewsey. Drive along North Street and the Royal Oak is on your right.

If approaching from the A303, at Amesbury turn onto the A345 to Netheravon and on to Upavon and finally to Pewsey. The Royal Oak is on your left.

The Royal Oak has its own spacious car park to the rear of the pub.

Please note that the room will not be open until 11.00am