

# THE NEW PUFFIN JOURNAL



## Autumn 2018

Published by the Lundy Collectors Club

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The Right Reverend

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Bishop of Exeter and

Derek Green in

St. Helen's Church.

Photo by James Thomas

30<sup>th</sup> June 2018



**Issue No. 66**  
**Autumn 2018**

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## Coming soon.....

Robin Taylor souvenir booklet and postcards – part two

[www.thelundyclollectorsclub@weebly.com](mailto:www.thelundyclollectorsclub@weebly.com)

# Editorial

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It was a joy to meet all of the Lundy Collectors Club members and guests who travelled to Lundy onboard the Oldenburg at the end of June and who attended the Summer Meeting the following day. Although we had a superb group of friends on our day trip, visiting a beautiful island, weather can make or break a day and this year the weather was perfect.

Because the whole weekend was so well supported (thank you!) we plan to continue with the new format for future years.

The one sad piece of news since the last *Journal* is the passing of my dear friend Roger Allen. Although Roger's physical health had been deteriorating over the last few years, he managed, with the help of his wife Eva, to attend the Summer meeting in Bideford. Sadly the next day he passed away.

Since Stanley Newman died in 2004, Roger has given me valued assistance with the *Journal* as proof reader and provider of numerous quality articles. I will not only miss his help and advice, but also his humour and sincere friendship.

I would like to thank three members who have offered me help with some of the Club's duties. Firstly, André Coutanche who has kindly taken on the responsibilities of Journal Proof Reader; secondly, Roy Bentley who from now on will take over many of the meeting organisational jobs that Keith Hand once did as well as being the Club's Webmaster and finally, but not least, Julie Lester who will assist me with organising the Spring 2020 meeting on Lundy. I consider myself lucky to have three capable volunteers now helping me – thank you!

Finally, news from Derek Green.

“Next September marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the island's ownership by the National Trust and the management by the Landmark Trust and it is anticipated that the occasion will be celebrated with a new stamp issue.”

That is good news and when more details are available they will be announced in a future issue of this *Journal*.

*James*

# *Hot sunshine, a magical island and relaxed friends*

*A Report of the Club's Summer Weekend Meeting*

By James Thomas

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## **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

The weekend started early in the morning on Bideford Quay as we boarded the Oldenburg for a very relaxed and calm two hour cruise in the sweltering sunshine to a magical island. Although it was only 8:00 am when we departed from Bideford, the sun was already very hot; however, as we crossed the Bideford Bar for the open sea we enjoyed a lovely warm breeze. The ship had a full compliment of passengers which included The Right Reverend Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter, his entourage of helpers and a BBC news film crew.

With seven hours on Lundy and not a cloud in the sky, everyone was relaxed and planning their adventure for the day. Most headed for the Marisco Tavern for a quick coffee before dispersing around the island to enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Many visited the recently refurbished St. Helen's Parish Church and Centre to see for themselves the beautiful work that was done over the autumn and winter months. Throughout the day a special Lundy/Diocese of Exeter flag flew from the church flagpole, which according to Derek Green, was the only time that this flag will be seen.



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Some walked the length of the island whilst one couple took their blanket to the old Hospital ruins for a quiet snooze in the sunshine. This is the joy of Lundy, there is something for everyone!

A visit to the General Stores was a delight because Nigel had returned for a few weeks to provide holiday cover. Retirement hasn't changed him, thank goodness; he was just as grumpy to the customers as he ever was which we all expected and took with a laugh.

At 2:00 pm the Bishop of Exeter conducted a service of Confirmation and Holy Communion in St. Helen's Church. Also, islander Shelly Sherman, was initiated as a Church Warden. Everyone on the island was invited and most attended filling the church to capacity. To complete the relaxed country atmosphere, the church bells were rung by members of the Lundy Island Society of Ringers.

During the early afternoon two light aircraft circled the island, swooping low over the airstrip a few times to clear the sheep before landing.



However, all good things have to come to an end and at 5:00 pm we set sail for the big island. Still with the hot sun shining, it was the perfect end to the perfect day.

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## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018

The Summer Meeting was also based in Bideford in an attempt to encourage more members to attend. We returned, after a 19 year break, to the Kingsley Room at the Royal Hotel where we were made most welcome.

The room was bustling with over 30 members and visitors in attendance including Roger Allen who joined us in his wheelchair with his wife Eva. The bourse opened at 10:30 am with Jon Aitchison displaying a vast stock of Lundy stamps, postal history, books and ephemera and all was for sale at very reasonable prices. André Coutanche and Alan Rowland setup shop on another table selling the recently published 'Lundy Guidebooks' guide and a few church service cards signed by the Bishop for church funds.

Although we attracted a full meeting room of members this year, the competitions were poorly supported again with only one competition contested.

The R.E. Allen Trophy for Lundy Postcards, Literature and Ephemera did however, attract four entries which made for a good contest.

Graham Chadwick took top honours and the silver trophy with a fine selection of some quite rare H.M.S. Montagu postcards. This year's runner-up was Tom Baker with a display of photographs and postcards of the S.S Carmine Filomena which went aground on Rat Island on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1937. Third place was shared between Tom Baker with a small entry entitled 'The Day of Abdication' which included a few Lundy postal items used on the day that King Edward VIII abdicated, and James Thomas who presented a selection of Langham 'Lundy' books from 1959 to 1984. Also on show was a very rare copy of a proof edition in plain light blue covers of Tony and Myrtle Langham's 'Lundy' book from the David and Charles Islands series dated 1970.

The other three competitions attracted only one entry each so these were setup as small displays.

Tom Baker presented six sheets of the 1977 1½ puffin un-issued essay which included an imperforate sheet.

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Mike Thompson displayed a beautiful line engraved sketch of the Church and the rear of Old House, a letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 1945, from R.T. Boyd of Lundy & Atlantic Coast Air Lines Ltd., stating that he did not know when the Air Service to Lundy would resume and a postcard of Millcombe House with a blue 3d Tramticket on the picture side.

The final display was presented by James Thomas who showed three A4 size colour photographs. The first was looking out through the Old Light Lower Lantern Room window and the other two were aerial views of the Church and South Lighthouse which he took from the front seat of the helicopter on his return trip on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017.

A very nice Sunday roast lunch carvery was taken in the hotel restaurant by most present. There was a selection of three meats and a large choice of vegetables and this was followed by a vast selection of desserts and ice creams. It was all beautifully prepared and very tasty and very good value at just £15.00.

As we all savoured lunch, the auction started slightly later than originally announced. However, Mike Thompson ably assisted as always by Julie Lester and Bob Harper got through the 295 lots in about a hour and a half. In true Thompson style, Mike conducted another very professional auction which often can only be appreciated when you visit other societies and make comparisons.

Roy Bentley presented a meeting souvenir which was a nicely produced souvenir stamp booklet containing three 20 puffin Lundy stamps from the 1974 definitive set.



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As we had no further business, it was time to say our farewells until next time and the meeting closed at 5:00 pm.



## *The LCC Spring 2020 Meeting*

By James Thomas

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The Club's Spring 2020 meeting will be held over five days on Lundy between Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The accommodation will cost £149.50 per person. The helicopter will fly out of and back to Hartland, North Devon and tickets can be purchased direct from the Lundy Booking Office nearer the time.

As in previous years there will be talks, displays, auction and a Lundy pub quiz.

If you wish to attend please send James Thomas a letter with a cheque for the full amount made payable to **James Thomas**. Should you later on cancel, a refund will be made once your place has been re-allocated.

Please note that only 28 places are available and each place will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

# 2018 Presentation Packs

By James Thomas

During May and June this year, Lundy re-issued the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stranding of H.M.S. Montagu on Lundy and the Centenary of St. Helena's Church Presentation Packs. Each pack is slightly different to the original packs with variations in the text and are printed in different colours.

**The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stranding of H.M.S. Montagu on Lundy** was re-issued on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in a black and white pack. The text has been re-written with many variations from the original. The original date of issue and the re-issue dates are both present.



## HMS Montagu 1906

Date of original issue: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Presentation pack reissued: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Denominations and motifs:

36 puffin HMS Montagu being dismantled  
37 puffin HMS Montagu with aerial gangway  
50 puffin HMS Montagu after grounding  
150 puffin HMS Montagu from the sea

Designed by: Jan-Erik Wellerfors, based on old postcards and sketches by John Dyke

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, Meaucé, France

Printing: Offset lithography, 4-colour process

Sheet size: 20 stamps per sheet

Printed quantity: 20,000 stamps per value

HMS Montagu, a Duncan-class battleship of 14,000 tonnes, ran aground on the southwest coast of Lundy in fog, early on the morning of 30th May 2006. After numerous unsuccessful attempts to refloat her, she was eventually dismantled and sold for scrap.

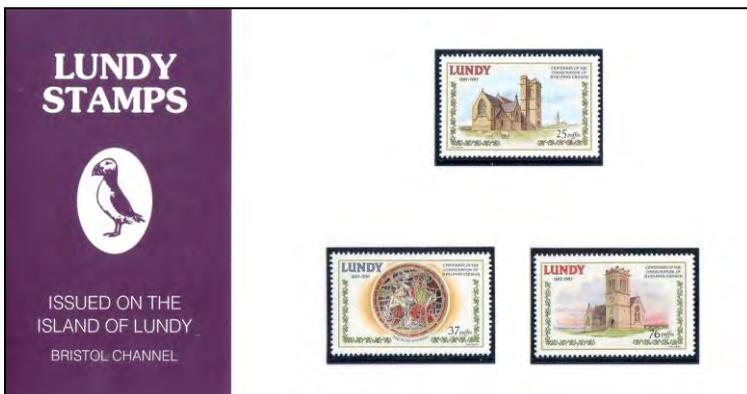
To commemorate this important day in both British naval and Lundy history, we have reissued this presentation pack.

Marlin Coles Haman established Lundy's postal service in 1929 and chose as his currency the 'puffin' as, historically, puffin feathers had provided a brisk and lucrative trade with the mainland. Since then nearly 400 different stamps have been issued. Many of them are now rare and all of them are still of great interest to collectors worldwide.

Lundy operates the oldest private postal service of its kind in the world.

For more information about Lundy's postal service and stamps, and how to visit and stay on the island, please contact: Lundy, Bristol Channel, EX39 2LY or visit [lundyisland.co.uk](http://lundyisland.co.uk).

**The Centenary of St. Helena's Church** was re-issued on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in a deep mauve and white pack. The text of this pack has also been re-written with many variations from the original. The original pack refers to St. Helena's Church as it was then known but for the new pack this has been changed to St. Helen's in keeping with current thinking. The original date of issue and the re-issue dates are both present. The original pack states that 15,000 of each value were printed, however, the re-issued pack states that 15,000 miniature sheets were printed; this is however, a printing error.



St Helen's Church		
Date of original issue:	7 <sup>th</sup> June 1997	The Reverend Hudson Grossett Heaven inherited Lundy in 1885. By 1897 he had fulfilled his ambition of establishing a church on the island. St Helen's was consecrated on 17 <sup>th</sup> June 1897. Lundy became known as the 'Kingdom of Heaven'.
Presentation pack reissued:	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	
Denominations and motifs:		
25 puffin	Exterior view looking northwest	The parish of Lundy was created in 2013. St Helen's was renovated in 2017 for use as an education and study centre as well as a place of worship. To celebrate this, we have reissued this presentation pack.
37 puffin	The Rose Window	
76 puffin	Exterior view looking southwest	
Artwork by:	John Dyke	Martin Coles Harman established Lundy's postal service in 1829 and chose as his currency the 'puffin' as, historically, puffin leathers had provided a brisk and lucrative trade with the mainland. Since then nearly 400 different stamps have been issued. Many of them are now rare and all of them are still of great interest to collectors worldwide.
Designed by:	John Dyke	
Printer:	The House of Questa, London	
Printing:	Offset lithography, 4-colour process	Lundy operates the oldest private postal service of its kind in the world.
Sheet size:	20 stamps per sheet	For more information about Lundy's postal service and stamps, and how to visit and stay on the island, please contact: Lundy, Bristol Channel, EX39 2LY or visit <a href="http://lundyisland.co.uk">lundyisland.co.uk</a> .
Printed quantity:	15,000 miniature sheets	

Each pack cost £4.95 plus p&p of £2.50 UK, £3.50 Europe or £4.50 for the rest of the World. If both packs are ordered at the same time, they will be dispatched together for just one postage and packing charge.

**Please send your orders direct to The Lundy Postmaster, Lundy, Bristol Channel, EX39 2LY, UK.**

# Farewell to Roger Allen

By André Coutanche

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Roger's funeral was at St Mary's Church, Appledore, on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018. All funerals are bitter-sweet occasions – remembering the good times while feeling the loss – but for many LCC members, there was the particular poignancy of having seen and chatted to Roger at the meeting in Bideford on 1<sup>st</sup> July, the day before he died. Eva had brought him in his wheelchair and looked after him so well during the meeting and the lunch. Although he was clearly ill, and hardly ate anything at lunch, I was surprised to hear that we had lost him just the next day. I've never been able to resist teasing Roger, and the old grin – somewhat attenuated – was still there. Also still there was his unflagging interest in all things Lundy. 'What's the next project?' he asked me, after Alan Rowland had given him his copy – signed by his fellow authors – of 'Lundy Guidebooks', the definitive (because so far the only!) work on guidebooks which he initiated and wrote the first draft of.

Roger's interests and collecting weren't confined to Lundy, of course. A fellow enthusiast for Rupert Bear was his friend the Revd. John Ewington to whom he had given his Rupert collection and who conducted the funeral service in appropriately yellow trousers. The service – which Roger had carefully planned – brought together his family and many of his networks of friends. The Collectors Club was well represented, along with the Lundy Field Society – many of those were members of both groups. 'Official' Lundy was there, in the person of Derek Green, together with other Lundy friends from way back. The Order of Service included the well-known evocative quotation from Felix Gade about Lundy's peace and freedom, and a pen and ink drawing by Roger of St Helena's Church.

Roger hadn't wanted the service to be overly solemn. His elder step-son gave the main eulogy, and was visibly moved while recounting memories – serious and not so serious – of his step-father. Roger's addiction to 'The Archers' wasn't forgotten, and, in what in another context might be called a *coup de théâtre*, his step-son then produced a mp3 player and – probably for the first time in its history – St Mary's Church briefly rang to the strains of that classic signature tune.

The refreshments afterwards – including suitably decorated iced cakes – were, as I'm sure Roger would have wished, a happy occasion, with memories being exchanged and general updates on Lundy news and gossip. Living in Bristol, I didn't talk to Roger in person as often as I would have liked, especially in recent years, but I will miss intense Lundy e-mail exchanges with [lundycabbage@aol.com](mailto:lundycabbage@aol.com).

# *The 1955 Millenary issue revisited*

By André Dufresne

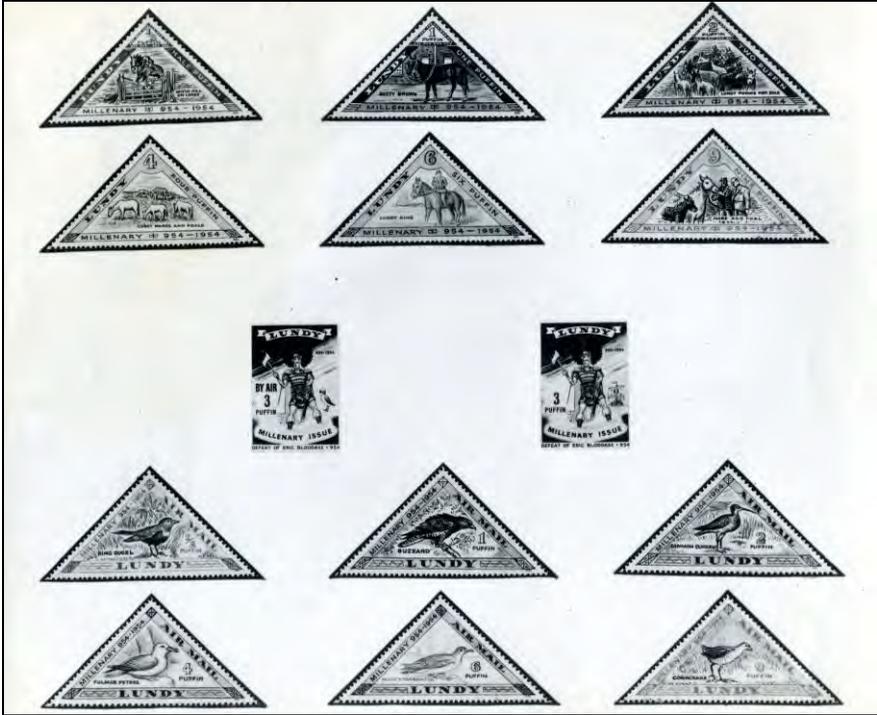
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The 1955 Millenary of Eric Bloodaxe issue is one of the most well-known Lundy stamps issues, mostly due to the large numbers printed and the heavy distribution by dealers in approval booklets and as packet material. The peculiar appearance of the issue, with 7 surface mail and 7 airmail stamps, 12 of which were triangular in shape and 2 were diamond-shaped large format stamps, must have made them attractive to young stamp collectors. It is remarkable to remember that Herm Island had issued a 12-stamp flora and fauna triangular set in 1954, the same year that another set of 16 triangular fish stamps was issued for the South Moluccas. Triangular pictorials were *à la mode* for the younger philatelists.

What is less known is that the 3 puffin stamps were not initially supposed to be diamond-shaped. I have in my collection a bromide of the essays of the Lundy Millenary issue and it clearly shows that initially the 3 puffin stamps were planned as vertical, rectangular shaped stamps. The bromide also reveals that changes were made to the other values to get to the final designs. Overall the stamps appear to be darker in the bromide, with more shading, but one of the main differences resides in the value tablet of the 3 lower-value surface mail triangular stamps. The ½, 1 and 2 puffin stamp values are enclosed in a tablet looking like a miniature triangular stamp. The text around the surface-mail stamps is set against a coloured background whereas in the final design the background is white. On the 4 puffin stamp the horses turned from white on the bromide to black on the final stamp. The background design of all the stamps was also reworked and softened, loosing in detail but gaining in harmony.

The airmail values suffered a similar fate: the coloured background of the borders became white. Two of the birds are entirely different species: the original 2 puffin stamp was to show a common curlew which morphed into cormorant in the final design, while the original 9 puffin stamp shows a corncrake, but the final design shows a lapwing. There are other differences in the background scenery but all the birds were reworked as well.

It is nice to have an insight of the preliminary stage of this set and to see what kind of work was done in order to get to a final, commercially acceptable design



*The bromide proof of the original designs*

## *Letter to the Editor*

It is with great sadness that I report the death of my husband, Caleb "Andy" Andersen on 27<sup>th</sup> May following a long illness. An avid Lundy Collector, Andy corresponded with Mr. Gade for many years and other Lundy people since the mid 1960's.

I send a big thank you to all who made Lundy collecting fun and exciting to him.

Cecile L. Andersen  
San Fernando, USA.

# *A Montagu Postcard First Day of Use – Perhaps? Continued*

By James Thomas

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In the Summer 2018 issue of this *Journal* I published details of a postcard that was supplied by Reg Lo-Vel which could possibly be the first known use of a Montagu postcard from Lundy after the grounding of the ship.

To my delight, this article has generated some interest and speculation.

First of all, Brian Drew, who has over the years carried out considerable research into H.M.S. Montagu before and after her grounding, wrote to me and sent me a few of his Montagu cards. He was not trying to disprove the first day of use date because the earliest date on his postcards is 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1906, however, he does speculate about who Mr. B. is.

Brian suggests that Mr. B. could have been a freelance photographer who worked for several postcard producing businesses such as Ingram Clark and Co. Ltd., and W.H. Smith and Son because postcards from these producers were published with very similar photographs. His postcard which is postmarked 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1906 was produced by Ingram Clark and Co. Ltd.



*Ingram Clark card from the Drew collection*

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Roger Cichorz has a different view and stated that he is convinced that Mr. B. refers to Batten Photo of Ilfracombe and not Bolam Photo. He has two sepia cards by Batten whose scenes resemble the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1906 postmarked postcard that was illustrated in the Summer 2018 issue of this *Journal*, and nine of his 15 Batten cards have the same inscription on the right-hand side of the message side, “THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN HERE” while his Bolam cards read “ONLY THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN HERE”. He goes on to say that two of his Batten cards were postmarked soon after the grounding (Ilfracombe, JU 4 / 06) and a third (Weston-Super-Mare, JU 11 / 06), which suggests other Batten cards were available very early after 30<sup>th</sup> May. His three Bolam cards are black and white scenes and his sole used Bolam card is dated three months later, Lynton, SP 19 / 06. Roger strongly suggests that the card illustrated in the Summer issue is a Batten card; he does however concede that his evidence is circumstantial.



*Batten card of similar scene from the Cichorz collection*

Although the speculation about who Mr. B. was is interesting and has opened another area of debate, we have yet to find a card used earlier than 5:45 pm on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1906.

# *Single use plastics on Lundy*

By James Thomas

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Only a few years ago a headline such as this would have meant nothing, in fact, I remember the LCC 2002 Summer trip to Lundy on the m.s. Oldenburg when we held the 'Great Lundy Bottle Launch' with a prize for the plastic bottle containing a message that went furthest. In our party that day were several LFS members who all joined in the fun but none of us gave one thought of the potential future problems that we were contributing towards.

Move forward 16 years and public awareness of plastic pollution in our oceans is very high. David Attenborough and the TV and media giant Sky are amongst the most vociferous regarding this problem. The embarrassment for Lundy is that it promotes ocean life and clean seas and is doing a brilliant job in this field (or should I say sea!), however, visitors to the island have to buy drinking water in plastic bottles because the tap water is unfit to drink. It is brown in colour and doesn't even encourage you to take a bath in it. Also, it is not uncommon to visit Lundy and find that there is a water shortage. On these occasions water bowsers have to be transported from the mainland on the Oldenburg to keep visitors supplied. This is not a new problem caused by Lundy's recent business success but has been around for decades. Nearly 60 years ago in 1959, Stanley Smith wrote about the island's water problems in the Lundy Review.

Over the last two decades improvements have been made with such projects as the laying of new underground water pipes to all the accommodation properties. Now Lundy has started (July 2018) an £80,000 water treatment plant project which it hopes will transform the collected rainwater and that pumped from boreholes to an acceptable standard and make plastic bottles on Lundy a thing of the past.

So, if all goes to plan, the next time you stay on Lundy you might enjoy the luxury of clear bath water, but if you are really responsible and wish to keep water usage to a minimum, you will of course enjoy a clean shower!

# Official Lundy Postcards

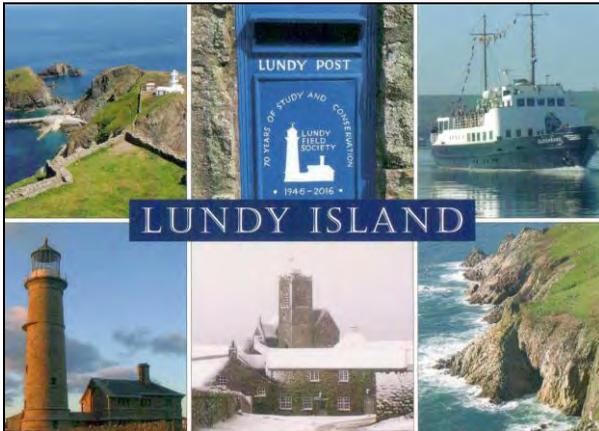
By James Thomas

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Two recent Lundy official postcards have passed by your Editor's attention and haven't, until now, been illustrated in this *Journal*.



*THE MARISCO TAVERN – Photograph by Nigel Dalby.  
Issued in 2011 – Allen LT400*



*No title – Issued in 2017 and un-catalogued*

Both of these postcards are still for sale on Lundy and can be purchased by contacting Lundy direct.

# *The Langham's First Lundy Book*

By James Thomas

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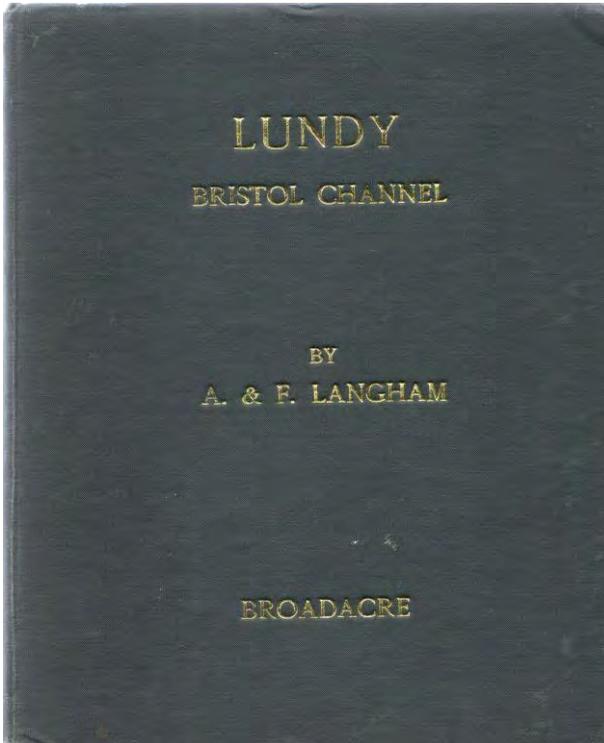
In 1959 Tony and Myrtle Langham published their first book on Lundy, simply titled 'Lundy Bristol Channel'. Just 250 copies were produced and each copy was numbered by hand. The Langhams were always very particular about correctness of fact which is why I have great regard for their publications, however, on the front cover of their very first book appears a mistake. It states that the book is by 'A. & F. LANGHAM'. A. F. were Tony's initials and it should have read A. & M. Langham, however, once the book is opened the first page has the correct initials and from there on you have to look very hard to find another mistake. That aside, the book is a very good and thorough account of all aspects of Lundy life, past and present. On pages 127 to 136 is a history and listing of Lundy stamps up to 1957.

Recently, I came across an account by Tony of his thoughts during the preparation of the book which he wrote in 1957 and which I found most interesting and quite rare.

For your enjoyment and interest, I have reproduced his full account below.

"Since 1925, when the last book on the history of Lundy was published, considerable new information has been brought to light, but when, six years ago, I decided to collect this into a new book about the Island, I little realised that the task would take so long or prove so interesting.

Trying to find new information about Lundy's past and trying to verify or disprove some of the legends has been rather like following a treasure hunt. The first clues were given to me by a librarian friend who supplied a list of magazine articles concerning Lundy. The only known copy of one of these was in the depths of Kensington Public Library. A helpful but incredulous librarian led me, with considerable trouble, to the volume which proved to be of no interest. However, I felt I ought to study it with every appearance of great interest before handing it back. Another book was to be found only at Reading Library. I arranged for it to be sent to me and was astonished to receive three huge volumes which did, nevertheless, contain some interesting pages on the coins minted at Lundy during the Civil War. The paper had originally been read in the presence of the late Mr. M.C. Harman a year or so before the appearance of the Puffin Coins.



There are several references to Cleve Abbey having had some connection with Lundy, but so far I have been unable to ascertain the exact tie which existed. It has been stated that the Abbey formerly housed some ancient Lundy documents but no trace of these can now be found; while another theory that they were lost in a fire at the Public Record Office towards the end of the last century is ruled out by the authorities there. To go to the Public Record office to do research is to enter upon a new and other world and it is fascinating to see quite ordinary looking men reading ancient vellum records as if they were the daily press. The British Museum also has an atmosphere quite its own, and never fails to have in the Reading Room interesting and famous people. My wife and I have spent a great deal of pleasurable time there and among our findings have been able to modify and expand the list of 53 owners of Lundy given by Lloyd to one of 76.

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We discovered amongst other things that there had been a Commonwealth Governor on the Island after Thomas Bushell had surrendered it and that the notorious Captain Kidd had been brought, captive, to Lundy on his way home to stand trial.

We have also carried out some practical work on the Island into the pre-historic settlements, particularly the one at Gannet's Coombe which seems to be of late Neolithic date. There are several stone circles and we have found one or two flint tools amongst the chippings we found there. We discovered, in Bristol, the beads dug up from the 'Giants Graves'; unfortunately we were very pushed for time and in our hasty photography took a double exposure resulting in a picture of the beads floating artistically over a Devon landscape. A quest for the old cannons from Brazen Ward has led us to Cardiff and Swansea but having made all possible enquiries I now believe they no longer exist. We later made a second visit to Cardiff where, in the Exchange, there are two pictures of Lundy painted in or about the year 1775; Lloyd states that trees are visible on the plateau in these paintings. We left London very early to get to the Exchange before it closed but when we eventually found the paintings we were unable to see anything but a very dim outline of Lundy with some ships in the bay. If there had been trees there, they would have been quite invisible under the grime and viewed only from a balcony some feet away and at a very acute angle. Once again feeling that something was demanded of us, we took photographs.

We have been very fortunate in finding Lundy literature. Amongst a pile of old Church guides I found, not long ago, a privately printed pamphlet on Lundy which was signed by the author, and have recently found a copy of the strange North Devon magazine, Lundy Review and Critical Revolving Light. A recent advertisement resulted in my acquiring, for six shillings, Chanter's own copy of the first printing of his address to the Devonshire Association.

Although to my friends it seems I have taken ages about it, the text of the book is now virtually completed, and it will appear as soon as we are able to find a publisher or finance private printing. It has made an absorbing hobby and not the least of the enjoyment it has given us has been that of making new and pleasant friendships and the deepening of our appreciation of Lundy itself."

# Water on Lundy

Originally by Stanley Smith and reproduced from the Lundy Review

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*The water problem on Lundy that I touched on in the article 'Single use plastics on Lundy' is not new. Back in 1959, the editor of the Lundy Review, Stanley Smith, thought that it was important enough to do a detailed account of the water situation on the island. Stanley went into so much detail and in doing so he provided a great record of one aspect of life on Lundy 60 years ago. Because of this, I have reproduced the article for all to read.*

“Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink”.....so might the Ancient Mariner have cried had he been wrecked on the Isle of Lundy this past summer; for Lundy, in common with the mainland, has had its driest season in living memory. Rarely a summer passes without the island having to impose some restrictions on the use of water, for Lundy has a lower rainfall than the adjoining mainland. Many times the islanders, praying for rain, have observed heavy rain pouring onto the sea near the Hartland coast, whilst all that Lundy received was a belt of mist or light drizzle.

There is much evidence that islanders of the past appreciated the need of water conservation, and did much to offset dry spells by the erection of dams, wells and reservoirs in various parts of the island. Undoubtedly additional devices were also used for catching and retaining rainwater flowing off roofs.

On an all-the-year-round basis, Lundy has water enough. During normal seasons, apart from summer, water flows in varying dribbles or floods down many combes to the sea. The map in Chanters 'Lundy Island' shows a position near the Sugar Loaf marked '**Watering Place**', indicating, apparently, a spring or stream from which it was customary for ships in the past to refill their casks with fresh water. In a cave below the North Lighthouse is **The Virgin's Spring**, a strong flow of sweet water bubbling through its floor, which can only be tasted at the lowest tides, being at other times far below the surface of the sea.

Combe, Coomb or Coombe is a local Westcountry word meaning Valley

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**Golden Well** is situated about a hundred yards south-east of the Church, and probably owes its name to the colour of its sediment. **St. Helen's Well** is near the centre of the field immediately east of the rocket house (St. Helen's Field). **St. John's Well** is close to the road, but some feet below its level, about 200 yards above the bungalow. **Parsons Well**, a short distance south of the burial ground, is dry and covered with a slab of stone to prevent accidents to sheep and cattle.

**The Punch Bowl Stream** rises in a swampy marsh known as Pondsburly at the west side of which may be seen a dam of some size. Another rivulet runs down the cliff below Quarter Wall Cottages. In addition, several wells have been sunk in the immediate vicinity and just north of the Old Lighthouse; a fair amount of water runs down the west cliff at a point nearly opposite Gannets Combe, and at another not far south of the Old Lighthouse; and a strong spring exists low down in Gannets Combe itself. A suggestion that all these springs have their source on Dartmoor and pass under the sea before appearing on Lundy is not deemed worthy of consideration.

Near the foundations of the ancient cottages north of Quarter Wall exist some wells, which have long since been disused, except in times of drought.

Tibbetts Lookout relies on the rainwater picked up by the roof, as do the Coastguards Cottages, Stoneycroft and the small bungalows facing east, although the Schoolroom supply is supplemented by a feed from the Tent Field.

During the winter of 1936, whilst preparing a site on Castle Hill for the memorial of Robert Burton, the author of "The Anatomy of Melancholy", I excavated some very old un-glazed bell-mouthed pipes that bore the finger moulds of the potter responsible for their manufacture, running from the high ground of the Tent Field towards the Castle, where it possibly supplied the garrison some time in the past. I understand that most of these old pipes have since been lifted and used to drain the Brick Field.

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The **Rocket Pole Pond** possibly owes its origin to the erection of St. Helena's Church, when its site may have been excavated to supply the rough stone for building. Undoubtedly it is fed, through faults in the earth structure, from the higher ground of the Lighthouse or Tent field; a very valuable source of water to the animals of Lundy, its pollution by the stock and the hundreds of gulls that frequent it, render it of little use for human consumption. That an attempt has been made to use it for the household is evident by the remains of a rusty iron pipe running in the direction of the Hotel buildings from the east wall of the pond. A pipeline to the main island buildings, a quarter-mile distant, would be a costly job, as it would also entail protection of the pond from air and land to ensure reasonable cleanliness of supply, and would, of course, mean denying its use to the animals, and so provide another problem.

Millcombe House water is sweet, pure at its source in the Tent field to the west of the Church, but in the course of its journey under the road and down the combe it is broken and exposed in several places to contamination. Its course over the Hotel sewage line, possibly severed in parts by the movement of horses and bullocks, and the entry into the line at the inspection points of weed or fouling matter should be a warning to regard the tap water with caution. If the old two inch earthenware pipes were replaced with alkathene of the same gauge, a very valuable additional asset would exist, for Millcombe water, apart from being of good quality, continues after many other sources have dried up.

The Hotel is supplied from marsh land and reed-beds in the Lighthouse field, by means of three inch field drainage pipes laid at angles to the mainline; it is picked up and conveyed to a filter bed and from thence to an underground reservoir, the capacity of which is about 10,000 gallons, a trifling amount to meet the summer demands of the island. Three years ago the feed pipes for 100 yards or so along the main route, and 60 yards each of two branch lines were lifted and cleaned, and where necessary, renewed before relaying; the flow thereby improved. However, judging by the amount of peaty deposit extracted from the pipes, there is no doubt that similar work on the upper reaches of the line would increase the pick-up even more. Whilst on the subject of the reservoir, it may assist those who one day will have the task of improving the island's supply and storage to study the conclusions I arrived at during the course of my work thereon.

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I found it proved that the acid content of Lundy's water reacted seriously on the cement used in water storage work. Three years after plastering the inner walls of the filter bed I noticed the peaty nature of the water had almost entirely destroyed the hard face of the work, and the sand could be scratched from its surface with a hard brush. During repairs to the reservoir walls at the same time, I discovered I could easily dig out the main body of the work with my fingers, the cement having perished; indeed, it was most difficult deciding where to call a halt without the task becoming a major operation. Acid-resistant cement is obtainable, and it is to be hoped that this will be used on all future cement work planned to come into contact with Lundy's water, together with the replacement of earthenware pipes.

In St. John's Valley, mid-way between the top wall and the bungalow, can be seen the remains of a dam which once stood there. From **St. John's Well** and **Golden Well**, the reservoir overflow for nine months of the year and a strong flow of water runs away to the sea. I have long fostered the dream of seeing a substantial earth and concrete dam constructed on this spot capable of a reserve of excellent water to the extent of 500,000 gallons, which I consider the minimum for Lundy's needs. The lighthouses, North, South and the Old, obtain their water from underground tanks which are fed by rainfall off the roofs. Even after a dry spell as we have suffered this summer, they have come through with some to spare. Useful reserves could be obtained by following their example, for instance by harnessing the rain picked up by the Hotel and Church roofs.

Under analytical test, the water on the island was declared unfit for brewing, but beer, and good beer at that, has been brewed from it, and I myself, have made some excellent Mead using the amber liquid of Lundy."

*In Felix Gade's autobiography, 'My Life on Lundy', in Chapter 14 he details how the drought of 1959 was managed. I think his diary entry for 26<sup>th</sup> July summed it all up. "July 26<sup>th</sup>. The reservoir was dry!"*

*It's hard to believe that this was written 60 years ago because the problems that they were experiencing back then sound all too familiar today. Ed.*

# *Photo Page*

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*An interior view of St. Helen's Church  
Photo – James Thomas 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018*

# *Changes at the Lundy Post Office*

By James Thomas

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*After ten years of dedicated service to Lundy, Ceri Stafford, Lundy's Postmaster has left for pastures new.*

*Ceri was promoted to the job of Postmaster on the retirement of Reg Tuffin in January 2014 and has since been responsible for the dispatch of three new stamp issues and the reissue of several Presentation Packs.*

*The Club has sent Ceri all the best for the future and look forward to meeting him one day on the island as a visitor. His replacement will be Grant Sherman who most will know as the barman of the Marisco Tavern.*

## **“And it's goodbye from me...**

All good things must come to an end, and by the time you read this I will have concluded my tenure as Lundy Postmaster, and made my move back to the mainland. I have loved every minute of my (nearly) ten years on Lundy. It only feels like ten minutes. I will miss the island – and the postal service - very much.

I have every confidence that Grant will continue to administer the island's postal service to the standards I have developed over the past five years.

### **2018 stamp news in brief:**

There was no new issue in 2018, but I did reissue two presentation packs. The 1997 St. Helena's Church and the 2006 HMS Montagu presentation packs have revised texts, layouts and colours. Both reissues have proven to be very popular with our regular collectors and are available to buy from the island for £4.95 each, plus postage and packing.

I have also made preparations for a makeover of our selection packs for 2019. Grant will let you know more about this.

In closing, I would like to thank:

Derek and Lyndsey Green for their patience and support

James Thomas for continuing to promote Lundy's postal service

Jan-Erik Wellerfors for his assistance with some fantastic stamp designs

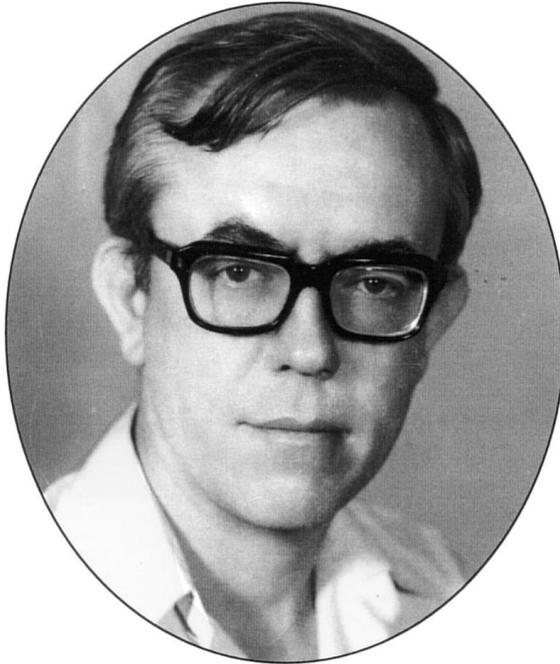
Tina Mead for her invaluable assistance with the preparation of stamp issues.

And last, but by no means least, Lars Liwendahl, our fabulous stamp advisor, for his advice, support and friendship.

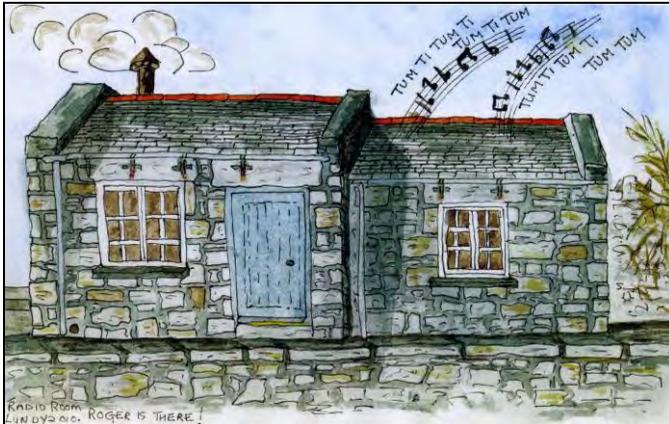
All The Very Best to you all, and happy stamping!”

Ceri Stafford, Lundy Postmaster, 2014 – 2018

# Roger Allen



*Roger's photo from the funeral Order of Service card*



*The Radio Room to the sound of the Archers - painted by Roger*