

## IT'S STARTING TO FEEL LIKE SPRING AT LAST!

**To say that Spring is here may be a little optimistic.** However on a day like this when the sun is shining, the Skylarks are singing, and the Lundy lambs are playing it is easy to forgive the chilly easterly winds that have returned this week.

Life on Lundy has been incredibly busy and equally exciting since my arrival in February. During the first week I saw my first Chough, the Lamborghini version of a crow, with silky black feathers, long red beak and red legs who arrived here back in November and has yet to be joined by a partner. Shortly after, the Peregrines returned to their nests and can be seen, and heard, across the island.

During March we welcomed the assistance of three volunteer working parties from the National Trust and Lundy Field Society. They assisted us with a number of tasks including progression with the Ranger's Rhododendron eradication programme. One of the last strongholds of the Rhododendron, the gully close to Quarry beach, was successfully tackled with further support from the Rope Works team as abseiling off a cliff with a saw in one hand is not our speciality. The removal of this invasive plant is essential to create open spaces for the native Lundy Cabbage.

The Countryfile team, including Tom Heap, visited us early in March to film a piece on the Marine Conservation Zone consultation period which ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Lundy was good to us that day as the thick mist of the previous day cleared and one of our juvenile male lobsters decided to join us. I'm sure you'll agree he was the star of the show!



The Puffins have returned and are well, I'm pleased to say. Let's hope more can join them in the coming weeks and that the unfortunate loss of so many seabirds on the East coast has passed.

Easter has brought with it the Wheatears along with a Little Ringed Plover and a Golden Plover who chose not to join in with our Family Easter Trail. The Trail, held on Easter Sunday, was devised by some of our clever staff members and I think they enjoyed writing it as much as the children enjoyed doing it! Chocolate eggs have been enjoyed across the island, even by my resident Pygmy Shrew, Wallace, who tucked in to my last Crème egg (other brands are available).

April is here now and with it lots more to see and do including our annual Open Day which is being held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>. So if you fancy a nosey around some of the properties, or just want to find out what the island is like, contact the shore office on 01271 863636 to take advantage of the Open Day offer.

Bye-bye for now

Beccy MacDonald, Warden

To find out more about our Marine Conservation Zone visit [www.lundymcz.org.uk](http://www.lundymcz.org.uk) or for more information on Lundy contact [info@lundyisland.co.uk](mailto:info@lundyisland.co.uk)

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## BASKING SHARKS HAVE COME EARLY

**April has been an exciting and busy month. It started with the arrival of our Volunteer Seasonal Assistant Ranger, Ashley, who has contributed the following short piece to this month's Letter from Lundy.**



“The role of the Ranger team on Lundy focuses on estate maintenance and practical conservation work on the land. This month we have been on the East Sidelands patrolling for Rhododendron as part of the eradication programme for this invasive plant. As part of this we pulled saplings and seedlings along with spraying of larger plants. All this work goes towards creating a better habitat for our native Lundy Cabbage. Work has begun on the Marisco Castle outer east wall giving me the opportunity to spend a week with the National Trust stone mason, Charlie Smith, assisting him with essential consolidation and repair works. This week we are focusing on our newly built benches in the beer garden and in the coming months we will be working with volunteers to build further benches for the camping field.” *Ashley Millman, Seasonal Assistant Ranger*

Ashley was not our only new arrival as there have been four Basking Shark sightings throughout the month which is very unusual as it is incredibly early for them to be in Lundy waters. However, these magnificent sharks are not the only rare sightings as we have also had a Long-tailed Skua and a Golden Oriole stopping off for a pit stop. Ironically most of these sightings happened during the short visit from a Springwatch filmcrew who came to Lundy to capture our wildlife for a short film to be shown in May.

The first Lundy Open Day was rescheduled to the 28<sup>th</sup> April and was a great success. Members of the Lundy Field Society did an excellent job of presenting Old House South, The Barn and Old Light Upper and with guided walks from Simon Dell and myself, everyone had a wonderful time in the glorious sunshine!

Attendance of the bi-annual Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group meeting was exceptional and I would like to thank all of those who attended and participated in the meeting. This meeting is held to inform users of the Marine Conservation Zone and No Take Zone, and to give them the opportunity to highlight any issues that they may have to ensure that the area is protected and used sustainably. If you are a user of the zone and would like to attend the next meeting in October please contact the Warden.

Preparations for our annual underwater photography competition, Splash In! are in full swing with prizes now confirmed from Forth Element, Olympus, Scuba Travel, Sea & Sea, AP Valves and Mares. The competition will be held on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> with the evenings judging being accompanied by music from the DamBuskers. To participate in the competition please email [warden@lundyisland.co.uk](mailto:warden@lundyisland.co.uk) for a pre-registration form and for further details check the Lundy Conservation Team facebook page.

See you all on Lundy soon

Beccy MacDonald, Warden

Lundy is now awash with colour as May has been a blooming marvellous month. The purples, pinks and yellows of plants such as Thrift, Sheepsbit Scabius, Birdsfoot Trefoil and Lundy Cabbage outline the island. Summer has now arrived and brought with it many visitors. Over recent weeks we have welcomed divers, kayakers, sailors, day trippers and stayers who have come to experience the tranquillity and beauty of Lundy.

May started with a true island wedding for two past Lundyites, Ed and Ellie who showed Lundy what a wedding is all about: unity, love and happiness. We wish them both “All the Very Best” in their future together.

The Conservation Team is now complete as we were joined this month by Aislinn Mottahedin-Fardo who has taken up the voluntary position of Seasonal Assistant Warden until November. Aislinn has kindly contributed to this month’s Letter from Lundy.

In early May I became Lundy Island’s newest recruit, joining the Conservation Team as the Seasonal Assistant Warden. My role is to support the warden in monitoring the island’s wildlife above and below the waves, as well as providing visitors with the walks and talks. One of my first jobs was to help conduct the annual productivity survey for our returning seabird colonies. Productivity



monitoring involves recording the breeding success of a number of our protected species including Kittiwakes, Guillemots and, of course, Lundy’s famous Puffin! A number of breeding sites have already been located, with Jenny’s cove being one of the best places on the island for Puffins. By keeping track of bird numbers we can ensure that our population sizes remain healthy. In the coming months the warden team will also be conducting surveys on our playful Grey seals and our

beautifully coloured cup corals. Fingers crossed the weather carries on improving ready for the summer survey season!

***Aislinn Mottahedin-Fardo***

As Aislinn mentions in her piece, the summer is our survey season and we are joined by a number of researchers from universities across the UK. So far we have our long-standing Sparrow population researcher from Sheffield University and two students from Plymouth University who are studying the movements of dolphins, whales and porpoises around the island. Frequent surveys of the marine life encountered on the journeys of the Oldenburg are carried out by MARINELife, and we have taken up the opportunity to participate in their Wildlife Officer Programme. From the beginning of June, passengers on Saturday sailings will be accompanied by a Wildlife Officer who can help with marine wildlife identification, and will answer any related questions that they may have.

Hope to see you soon **Beccy MacDonald, Warden**

As we amble into July, we can look back on June with a smile. June was an amazing month for Lundy and its wildlife, and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has to offer.

At the start of the month, we were joined by the Lundy Cabbage Counters – three intrepid biologists who have come to Lundy to count the Lundy Cabbage plants in bloom annually for the past 20 years. This year was a blooming marvellous one, with a record number of 13,000 plants in bloom across the east coast sidelands. The vibrant yellow flowers of the Lundy Cabbage were complemented by the vibrant pinks of the Thrift, purples of the Foxgloves and blues of Sheep's Bit Scabius. Lundy became one large beautiful garden.

The flowers are not the only record breakers for Lundy this year as this is our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rat eradication programme and we can proudly declare that it has been an amazing success. A survey of the Manx Shearwater population has revealed that our sorrowful population of just over 300 breeding pairs in 2003 has now risen to a staggering 3000+ breeding pairs! This, coupled with the increases in Puffin numbers from 5 individuals to well over 80, and Guillemots and Razorbill numbers doubling within the 10 year period, means that Lundy has an increasingly important seabird population and one that needs to be respected and protected for the future. We already place climbing restrictions on the coastline to protect these populations which normally ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> July however, due to late breeding this may be extended until late August as many of the seabirds are still with chicks.

June ended in celebration as our annual underwater photography competition, Splash In! event took place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, followed by a fantastic BBQ, with Lundy Lamb spit roast, and some excellent music by Baz and Steve from the Dambuskers and friends. Whilst the competition took a snapshot of the wonders that Lundy's waters have to offer, there are opportunities for staying visitors to catch a glimpse of our amazing underwater world through the Rockpool Rambles and Snorkel Safaris that will be held throughout July, August and September (contact [warden@lundyisland.co.uk](mailto:warden@lundyisland.co.uk) for further details).

The enthusiasm of the Splash In! participants was infectious; into the depths they went from 8am on the Saturday morning, cameras in hand and prizes in mind. In just a few hours, they managed to take over 3000 images that all captured the astonishing amount of life and beauty of the Marine Conservation Zone. Each competitor could enter four original images into the three categories of Marine Abstract, Mega to Macro and Marine Ambience. The judges, Stuart Philpot and Sam Stewart, had the difficult task of choosing images for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions for each category along with an overall winner. Due to the amazing standard of the images they introduced a new category of 'Judges Favourite' for images that captured their admiration. The sponsors of the event (Suunto, Fourth Element, Olympus, Mares, Cameras Underwater, Sea & Sea Ltd, Scuba Travel, AP Valves, Diver Magazine and Lundy Company) were incredibly generous with prizes ranging from dive computers and regulators to luggage and torches. The overall winner for the day was Mike Deaton who won a Sunnto D6i dive computer courtesy of Suunto for his image 'Jewel of Lundy' (see image). All of the entries including the winning images and their prizes, visit the Lundy Conservation Team facebook page. Splash In! 2014 will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, pre-registration is available through [warden@lundyisland.co.uk](mailto:warden@lundyisland.co.uk) – it is an event not to be missed (even if you just come for the party afterwards!).

**July's weather has really spoilt us on the island and has brought over many adventurous visitors.**

The Warden-led events over the summer include the introductory visitor talk and guided walk, along with Rockpool Rambles and Snorkel Safaris. The latter two events have interested our more inquisitive visitors and have become increasingly popular throughout the month as the possibility of encountering tiny marine critters or Grey seals is just too irresistible; even the less adventurous visitors have been enticed into the cool waters by the incredible clarity of the waters around the Jetty which have also allowed the spectators to see the diverse life of our Kelp forests. The events are organised and delivered mostly by myself and our Seasonal Assistant Warden, Aislinn who has settled well into island life and contributed to this month's Letter from Lundy (see inset).

Visitors on Saturdays are accompanied by a knowledgeable MARINELife Wildlife Officer whose guidance has been in demand. The Officer spends most of their time assisting with the identification of various seabirds and marine mammals. Therefore to support this demand we are producing two identification cards for visitors to use on their journey.

My role is to support the Warden in monitoring the island's wildlife above and below the waves, as well as delivering walks and talks to visitors. Since my arrival on Lundy I have been able to witness the entire breeding season of our seabird colonies, from nest building to fledging of chicks. One of my duties on the island is to conduct the annual productivity survey for a number of our protected seabird species. Productivity monitoring involves recording the breeding success of the Kittiwakes, Guillemots and, of course, Lundy's famous Puffins! By keeping track of bird numbers we can ensure that our population sizes are healthy. As the season has progressed I've seen the emergence of many chicks, including a number of Pufflings (puffin chicks) at Jenny's Cove. In addition to bird surveys, I have also conducted surveys on our playful Grey seals and our beautifully coloured cup corals. So far the year has proved to be very productive both on the land and in the sea. **Aislinn Mottahedin-Fardo, Seasonal Assistant Warden**

**As Aislinn mentions in her contribution, the island's Seabird population has been very productive this year and as with all species across the UK, the breeding season was originally delayed and is therefore lasting longer.** With this in mind, we have extended the climbing restrictions until the 19<sup>th</sup> August or later if necessary. Whilst this may mean that some climbs are unavailable, the spectacular Devil's Slide is open all year round as are many of the buttresses. Also, if you have yet to see some of our seabirds then there is still a little bit of time to come and see the nesting Kittiwakes, Fulmars and the odd Guillemot chick or even a Puffling or two!

The weather and wildlife also brought across BBC Radio Devon's Matt Woodley (who had never visited Lundy before) and a crew from Spotlight for a short piece on Lundy. They spoke with Derek Green (General Manager), myself and the star of the show Lundy Postmaster Reg Tuffin. The interviews will be broadcast on BBC Radio Devon and on Spotlight in early August.

All the very best!

**Beccy MacDonald, Warden**



**We've all been embracing the hot, sunny weather here on Lundy and this August has seen the best visitor numbers for people travelling on the Oldenberg to the island since 2007.** The Lundy 'Fly In' may have been cancelled due to poor weather but the August bank holiday proved excellent for the 'Lundy Olympics'(see insert) . Alongside the visitors we welcomed a number of media crews including a team from the BBC's Coast programme. The Coast piece will be shown early next year and was presented by Mark Horton who has an enthusiastic passion for the island and its eclectic history.

The month has also had a more subdued outlook as we edge closer to the possibility of an offshore development on our doorstep. Whilst as a country, we need to consider other energy producing options, we also need to contemplate the possible impacts. The remote wilderness that is Lundy has been protected since the late 60's due to its unique position, heritage and wildlife. It is important that you register your views, whatever they may be, to the Atlantic Array through the registration form which can be found through entering 'Atlantic Array Registration form' into any search engine.

All the very best

**Beccy MacDonald, Lundy Warden**

P.S. Photos of the Lundy Olympics and the BBC Coast visit are available on the Lundy Conservation Team Facebook page.

**The Lundy Olympics event was a great success with everyone taking part thoroughly enjoying themselves.** There were a gratifying number of people staying on the island that came along and got involved, including staff, some of whom helped to supervise the smaller games. The day started with a clay pigeon shoot over Benjamin's Chair and the day followed with various lawn games for people of all ages and abilities. One game involved the throwing of heaving lines towards a wooden cut out of M.S Oldenberg with high points for hitting the bow.



Egg & spoon race – Lundy style!

The team games proved to be the highlight of the day with Steve Pratt's (island ranger) own interpretation on some traditional games. This included dumpy bag racing, four legged race, welly wanging and of course tug o' war; which unfortunately this year the islanders lost to the visitor. Last of all there was the ram roast slowly cooking throughout the afternoon on its custom made spit, which along with a pint of Old Light was a perfect end to the day. Everyone went away with smiles on their faces; the winners had their prizes and medals which we fashioned out of cuts of rhododendron.

Elsewhere on the island we have finally sorted out the glitches in our weather station and have started to upload data to the Lundy island website on a daily basis once again. We have been removing ragwort from our priority areas and surveying the tree population and distribution, for the propagation program we have set for the autumn and winter. This is to compliment the ongoing maintenance of the tree copses/nurseries, which are the fenced off areas with saplings and small trees and bushes on the southern end of the east sidelands.

**Ashley Millman, Assistant Ranger**

**As the leaves begin to turn, and the breeze begins we know that Autumn has returned to Lundy.**

This time of year is special on the island as many migratory birds pass through the island on their way to their winter feeding grounds. Most recently, Pied Flycatchers, Whitethroats and a Wryneck have improved my early morning stroll up through Millcombe gardens. As a novice, it can be difficult to identify the smaller little brown birds, however we have a number of visitors who are happy to share their knowledge and understanding, especially the many bird ringing groups. If you are on the island at the same time as one of the ringing groups, please feel free to have a chat with them as they will happily explain how ringing works and why it is so important. Many of the bird ringers are members of the Lundy Field Society (LFS). The LFS play an integral role on Lundy as they are interested in the study and conservation of Lundy's natural history and archaeology. Twice a year, the LFS working party come to the island to enthusiastically assist the Conservation Team as described by James Staff:

“The main aim of this week has been to assist with the continuing Rhododendron Eradication Programme led by Ranger Steve Pratt. Rhododendrons are a highly invasive species, which have previously taken over large areas of the more sheltered east side of the island. Although beautiful whilst in flower, they destroy the habitat of the Lundy Cabbage; a plant unique to the island and home to two equally unique insects. For many years, islanders and volunteers have worked to eradicate the Rhododendron, and this year a huge increase in the Lundy Cabbage population shows that all the effort has been worthwhile.

The last fully grown Rhododendrons have already been removed, but large areas of stacked dead branches remain. These can provide cover for regrowth and so must be removed. Small branches are burnt on a metal platform (to avoid peat fires) and large ones are added to the island's firewood supply.

In addition, we have repaired a section of wire fencing, re-pointed Barton's Cottages using a traditional lime mortar method and carried out a survey of the island's tree population.

All in all it's been another wonderful week as part of the LFS working party. The time we spend volunteering on the island is tremendously enjoyable; the ideal mixture of hard work, fun and wonderful camaraderie with friends old and new. The LFS is always open to new members and to find out more please visit our website [www.lundy.org.uk](http://www.lundy.org.uk).”

As September comes to a close, the season for Snorkel Safaris and Rockpool Rambles also end for another season, however the guided walks and visitor talks will continue throughout the Autumn and Winter.

The focus of the Warden team now moves onto closer monitoring of the Grey Seals as their pupping season has begun and we are already delighted to see many adorable fluffy white pups appearing around the island. During this time it is important that everyone keeps a further distance from the seals and therefore we request



that any visitors respect this and inform us if they see any pups during their adventures around the island. The team has also undertaken our annual survey of a series of rockpools in Devil's Kitchen where we were delighted to find a plethora of seaweeds and marine creatures including Lightbulb and Star Sea Squirts along with Risso's and Montague crabs.

**Beccy MacDonald, Warden, Lundy Island**

October has been a busy month for the Conservation Team here on Lundy. We started the month by complementing our guided walks and talks with a Fungal Foray led by Lundy Field Society fungi expert John Hedger. John introduced visitors and the warden team to the array of fungi found across the island including those mentioned by Assistant Warden Aislinn in her contribution to this month's letter. The biannual Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group meeting took place at Ilfracombe dive centre and our thanks go out to all those who attended and to ILFSAC for hosting the event. The meeting is held to ensure that all those interested in Lundy are able to express any concerns and be kept up to date with current topics involving the island and the surrounding Marine Conservation Zone.

Pupping continued throughout the month, with a further five pups being born around the Landing Bay area. Last month's pups are all doing well and are often seen playing together in the kelp forests next the jetty. If you are visiting the island before the end of the year, please be aware that all beaches are now closed to allow the seals to pup peacefully and that a considerable distance should be maintained at all times to ensure that they are not disturbed.

The Ranger team progressed well with the burning of the Rhododendron stacks that are prominent on the East Sidelands with assistance from a National Trust working holiday group who showed real fortitude and enthusiasm for the task. With the last of burning for 2013, came with it the last working day for our seasonal volunteer Ranger Ashley Millman. Ashley has been an integral part of the Conservation Team this summer and we wish him the very best in his future career as a Ranger.

The end of the month was celebrated with a Halloween event run by Aislinn with assistance from housekeepers Emily and Lucy. Younger visitors spent an enjoyable afternoon carving their own spooktacular pumpkins such as that created by Fraser and Jude Sutherland (see photo).



Time has flown by since I started as Lundy's Assistant Warden in early May. As the seasons have come and gone I have seen Lundy's landscape change. When I first arrived the island was just coming into bloom with flowering Thrift, Bird's Foot Trefoil, Sheepsbit and Lundy Cabbage. Not only was the island awash with colour, but it was also busy with seabirds arriving on the west coast for the start of the breeding season. On the plateau the mammals were equally as busy with fluffy soay lambs and goat kids being born. As the summer came to a close the seabirds left the island, and the carpets of flowers started to recede. Now in October, the flowers have been replaced by an array of strange and spectacular fungi. On my travels around the island I have discovered many colourful Waxcaps, Fairy Spindles, Mottlegills and Puffballs. The birdlife on the island has been equally as impressive with large amounts of migrants visiting the island, including flocks of finches, warblers and starlings. As we go from autumn to winter I am interested to see how the island's flora and fauna changes. One thing is certain though, here on Lundy each season is as spectacular as the last, ensuring that visitors (and staff!) remain captivated by Lundy's beauty and uniqueness.

All the very best

*Beccy MacDonald*, Lundy Warden

Winter arrived on Lundy in November and brought with it our helicopter season as MS Oldenburg headed into dry-dock for her annual check-up and service. We were delighted to welcome Dr. Anna Keay as one of our first winter season visitors. Anna took on the role as Director of The Landmark Trust, who have been managing Lundy Island since 1969, in July and, like many visitors before her, Anna has found Lundy to be a magical place and one that not only needs to be protected today but also in the future. We send our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported Lundy and voiced their concerns regarding the proposed Atlantic Array project. As you can imagine, there was celebration and a huge sense of relief at the news that the project had been shelved, as we had many concerns regarding the impacts that the project would have on communities above and below the waves.

Warden visitor events continued with support from Lundy Field Society members. John Hedger continued on his quest to teach me the delights of Lundy's fungi and delivered an engaging Fungal Foray for visitors. Alan Rowland kindly provided his expertise on a Moth Morning and André Coutanche delivered an insightful talk on the history of Lundy. The history theme was continued by Simon Dell who provided a range of talks and movie nights that were enjoyed by visitors and staff alike.

Farm Manager Kevin was delighted as Felicity, one of our Gloucester Oldspots, became the proud mother of a litter of piglets who can be seen entertaining each other in the pigsty next to the Tavern's beer garden.

Quite the reversed happened for the Conservation Team as we said a fond farewell to Aislinn Mottahedin-Fardo who has been supporting the team as the voluntary Seasonal Assistant Warden. We wish her the very best for her future.

The end of month brought further celebration for the island and our vicar, The Reverend Shirley Henderson as the island became the UK's newest Parish. A special service was held for islanders and visitors by Shirley, who was delighted to have been brought to the island by RAF Chivenor who were using Lundy's steep cliffs for training exercises that day.

We are now look forward to a month of festivities leading up to the end of this special year. As Oldenburg returns from dry-dock, she will be tasked with bringing our vital Christmas supplies including the Tavern's Christmas Tree and all the ingredients for Head Chef John's exuberant Christmas lunch to be enjoyed by all our festive visitors. We'd be delighted to welcome you for a special Lundy Christmas and New Year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone on Lundy!

*Beccy MacDonald*, Lundy Warden



December has been one very windy month, and not the type that is the result of brussel sprouts! We are regularly advised by the weather station to 'hold onto our hats'! The winds have flounced across the island creating some of the most spectacular seascapes I have ever seen; Rat Island awash with waves is something to behold.

The island's bi-annual Coastguard week took place at the start of the month and we were assisted by veteran paramedic Rich Buckley and RAF Chivenor. With our medic skills up to scratch, we were invited aboard the Sea King to see her in all her glory. It will be a sad day when we lose the valuable service that Squadron 22 provide the island. We are so grateful and privileged to have such a close relationship with them and their unwavering support.

After our fun with the Sea King, it was time to return to our normal jobs and prepare for the best part of December...Christmas! I started preparing by making a pygmy sized stocking for our house pygmy shrews who thoroughly enjoyed a crème cracker on Christmas morning (see the Lundy Conservation Team Facebook page for the footage). On Christmas Day we were joined by 55 staying visitors who enjoyed a five-course lunch in the Tavern with the traditional mulled wine and mince pies and delectable treats such as Pecan Pie. In the evening, it was our time to enjoy Christmas as the island's staff congregated together to enjoy Christmas dinner with lots of fun and games.

As Christmas moved into New Year, staff and visitors prepared their outfits for the Marisco Tavern New Year's Eve Masquerade Party. An eclectic array of characters attended the party including Tolkien's Witch King, the Phantom of the Opera, a fox and a cow. First prize for costume went to the island's Ranger Steve as Tolkien's Witch King.

Overall, 2013 has been an amazing year for Lundy Island with record numbers of seabirds including Manx Shearwaters, Razorbills, Guillemots and the adorable Puffins. It was also a record year for the endemic Lundy Cabbage which bloomed across the east coast in May, showing its approval for all the hard work which has gone into eradicating the Rhododendron. The media interest in the island and all its glory has been incredible with BBC's Countryfile, Springwatch, Coast (due to be aired in Spring 2014), Spotlight, Points West alongside numerous articles in publications including, most unusually, Vogue. We welcomed thousands of visitors, including those from visiting ships such as the Balmoral and MS Minerva, who basked in the summer sunshine. Many participated in the visitor events including the annual underwater photography competition Splash In!, Lundy Olympics and Snorkel Safaris. Alongside the day visitors, I was joined by many enthusiastic and eager school children from the local area who marched across the island on adventures to find pirate caves and Puffins, and to climb Old Light. All in all, 2013 has been an outstanding year and for me in my first year, it will be the most memorable. We look forward to 2014 with anticipation as to what it might bring, and hope many of you will come and visit us to see North Devon's jewel in the Atlantic Ocean.

All the Very Best!

Beccy MacDonald, Lundy Warden