

Editorial

Our Society is primarily, of course, for the enjoyment of its members. However, its objectives are:

- to promote the study of natural history and archaeology, especially in relation to the Isle of Wight and
- to promote, in every possible way, the conservation of the flora and fauna of the Isle of Wight, and the proper preservation of all objects of special archaeological and geological interest.

As a result of the activities of our members, whether as groups or individuals, changes in the Island's natural environment are documented.

In this issue of *Wight Studies*, we are delighted to publish two papers which review some of the changes observed in the last two decades. Botanists have contributed to *Atlas 2020*, a national survey organised by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland and Colin Pope has summarised and interpreted the findings for the Island. Roger Herbert and Theo Vickers have brought us an update on the coastal and marine environment over the last 13 years, illustrated by truly astonishing underwater photography. Archaeological, historical and geological papers record change over much longer timeframes and we thank all our contributors who help to build up a picture of our beautiful Island.

The Kingfisher, featured on the front cover, is the *iWatchWildlife* species of the year for 2023. All you may see is a glimpse of their dazzling blue-turquoise plumage as they flash by at high speed, but their distinctive single note call may alert you to their presence. People are delighted to see this beautiful but elusive bird, and to share their photographs on social media. The *iWatchWildlife* project is looking for people to help to capture species records from social media posts for our database; please contact Tina Whitmore via the Society office if you would like to help.

Following advice from Chris Brailsford of Biltmore Printers, we have been able to streamline our production methods for *Wight Studies*, and this has led to savings, both in time and cost. We hope to bring in further workflow changes next year to continue our modernisation process. As always, we thank Chris for his helpful advice and the final touches in printing and binding.

Paul Bingham and Anne Marston
Editors of the Proceedings