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Derek Agutter Reid (1927 - 2006)

Derek Reid, who died on 18th January 2006 aged 78, was an internationally respected authority on fungi. Although he was not a member, he had a long and fruitful association with the Society and many of its members, both living and deceased. Much of the information in this account comes from conversations with Derek whilst he was staying with us.

Derek Reid was borne on 2nd September 1927 at Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. He was brought up in a sixteenth century half-timbered house in the High Street. His father and grandfather had run a shop from the premises, his father selling artists materials and picture frames, the family living upstairs. At school, Derek developed an interest in painting fungi. This was largely self-taught but he was encouraged by his father, who painted watercolours, and more particularly by his mother, who, he said, introduced an element of discipline into his paintings. He eventually amassed a huge collection of over 2000 fungal paintings over a period of more than 50 years of mycology. Some of them were published in the series of *Coloured Icones of Rare and Interesting Fungi* (1967-72). This work included descriptions of many new species and the series he started has continued with other contributors.

Derek went to University College at Hull after the War, to study for a degree in Botany and Geology. This followed a period of two years in the Royal Medical Corps, where he worked in hospital pathology laboratories. On arrival at Hull he found conditions to be rather spartan; students were housed in converted nissan huts. Derek was already interested in fungi, but he became inspired by Dr. John Webster (later Professor Webster) who was a young mycology lecturer at the University. Derek attended his first British Mycological Society forays whilst a student at Hull. He was also much influenced by Professor Good, the head of the Botany Department, with whom, as a student, he visited many good botanical sites. These included annual visits to Dorset, and a tea shop at Corfe Castle was always included in the itinerary. It was here that Derek gained a reputation for consuming large quantities of cream cakes, a reputation which stayed with him! Derek recounted that Professor Good had provided him with the inspiration to be a mycologist, but not the training to pass examinations!

Through Dr. Webster, Derek was recommended to work at Kew where the Mycology department at the time was dominated by Elsie M. Wakefield and R.W.G. Dennis, two highly influential mycologists of international renown. He took the place of Elsie Wakefield following her retirement in 1951. He worked at Kew Herbarium throughout his life, first as a scientific officer, then, in 1958, as senior scientific officer. He gained his PhD in 1964 for his monograph on the world species of stipitate *Stereum* species. Finally, in 1975, when Dennis retired, he was promoted to head of the mycology section. Although he published nearly 200 scientific papers, he will perhaps be most widely remembered as editor of Roger Phillips *Mushrooms*, the first extensive popular photographic guide to fungi, published in 1981 and still in print and highly regarded.

Derek met his first wife, Pamela Saich, also a mycologist, on a fungus foray and they married in 1953. They were fortunate to have rented accommodation in the grounds of Kew Gardens, in the servant's quarters of Kew Palace, the seventeenth century wing of a 16th century house. Derek was able to commute to work at the Herbarium through the gardens by bicycle, and he had a key to the gates so that he could go out in the evenings. The house had gas for heating, cooking and lighting. Electricity was finally installed at the time of the visit of The Queen to celebrate the bicentenary of Kew Gardens in the 1960's. The house was allegedly haunted and his second wife, Sheila, claims to have seen a scullery maid in one of the rooms. When Derek first worked at Kew, the gardeners had no vehicles, and two cart horses were kept in the grounds to tow carts around the Gardens.

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Derek was fortunate to be able to travel widely in his work, collecting throughout Europe, in North America, Australia, in Trinidad and Tobago. In the late 1960's, during a Botanical Congress held at Kew, he met Professor Albert Eicker who was the Head of Botany at the University of Pretoria. He persuaded Derek to visit him in South Africa. At first he was reluctant to go but, Professor Eicker persisted and so was formed a fruitful mycological and amicable partnership. Derek annually visited South Africa to carry out mycological studies long after his retirement. He held the position of Visiting Professor in the Botany Department between 1989 and 1997. This was the only place of mycological taxonomic research in South Africa and the two of them described many new species and, according to Derek, never got around to writing up many others. The partnership continued until the retirement of Professor Eicker in 1998, after which Derek no longer spent time in South Africa and taxonomic interest in fungi in South Africa waned.

Derek and his first wife divorced in the 1970's. He married his second wife, Sheila, in 1987. Sheila had been a cleaning operative in the Ministry of Agriculture at Whitehall at the time that the Labour M.P., David Blunkett, was a civil servant working on the marketing of eggs. On one occasion, Sheila had to assist David Blunkett to evacuate the building at the time of a bomb scare. This was successfully accomplished but the event proved too traumatic for David Blunkett's guide dog, which had to be put down subsequently. Sheila subsequently took a job at Kew, where she met Derek.

Derek retired, reluctantly, at the age of sixty-five in 1992 and went to live at Elmer Sands in West Sussex, in a house which had been his weekend retreat for many years. On retirement, laboratory space was provided for him to work one day a week at Kew. This was very much the pattern with retired members of staff at that time. He continued under these arrangements for a few years until he was refused permission to continue to work at Kew by David Pegler, the head of mycology at the time. This caused Derek much grief, as the two had never got on particularly well.

Derek always showed an interest in supporting local natural history groups and stimulating the interest of amateur mycologists. He took evening classes in London and led Field Studies courses at Box Hill and Preston Montford. He continued to run weekend courses for the Country-side Education Trust, based at Beaulieu in the New Forest, for many years up until 2004. He trained the television outdoor survival presenter, Ray Mears, in the identification of fungi and remarked what an enthusiastic and able student he proved to be.

Derek had a long association with the Bedfordshire Natural History Society, his home county. He joined in 1950 and soon attended the annual forays, which had been led by R.W.G. Dennis from their foundation in 1946. He attended their Society Foray annually until 1998, leading a total of 45 forays, and he maintained their record cards for a remarkable 47 years.

Derek arrived on the Island in 1980 to assist with our Society annual fungus foray, having been invited by Oliver Frazer, following Dr Ramsbottom's suggestion. His first Island foray was on Mottistone Down, a meeting held jointly with the British Mycological Society. Also in attendance was Audrey Thomas, who worked at Haslemere Educational Museum and had already visited the Island earlier with Mr E. H. Ellis from Guildford. Derek and Audrey proved to be a 'mycological couple'. They were a memorable 'team' for many years at fungus forays, Audrey patiently and repeatedly explaining the characteristics of some of the more readily identified species to the queues of eager forayers with laden baskets, whilst Derek concentrated on the critical species.

Following Derek's divorce from his first wife, he had developed an exuberant manner and a reputation as something of a ladies man! It was Derek, and particularly Audrey, who nurtured David Carr's growing interest in fungi, which was to develop into a genuine talent, David



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taking over as leader of the Fungus Section of the Society. Eventually, Audrey's declining health reached a point where she was reluctantly unable to assist with the annual forays, but Derek continued, visiting each year up until 2005, when his wife, Sheila, was diagnosed with cancer and he needed to remain with her.

During the course of his career, Derek described many fungal species new to science and he had eight fungal taxa named after him in his lifetime, in the tradition of honouring someone who has studied a particular genus in detail. One of these, *Hygrocybe reidii*, an orange-coloured waxcap with a characteristic honey-like smell, was named in Reid's honour by the French mycologist Robert Kühner in 1976; it is a widespread species of unimproved grasslands. During Derek's visits to the Island, he was particularly intrigued by the discovery, in 1989, of a large *Amanita* which had become established in the holm oak wood on St Boniface Down, Ventnor. He identified this as *Amanita ovoidea*, and the discovery resulted in a joint paper with myself, published in *The Proceedings* in 1993. St Boniface Down has since become a site of pilgrimage for mycologists keen to see this Mediterranean fungus growing in its only permanent site in this country.

Derek died unexpectedly and peacefully in his sleep on 19th January 2006, aged 78 years, leaving his wife, Sheila, and a son David by his first marriage, a malacologist at the Natural History Museum. He left all his books, papers and paintings to Kew.

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Colin Pope

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Dr Jack Jones (1926-2006)

Our society shares its loss with an array of Island cultural organisations that will miss the gentle wit, wisdom and companionship of Dr Jack Jones. As Leader of the Society's Archaeological Section in the 1960s he will be remembered as an ever affable and truly accomplished colleague, mentor and friend.

Jack and Johanna Jones arrived in the Island in December 1953. They settled in the Curator's flat high in the Montacute Tower of Carisbrooke Castle Museum. At the age of 27 Jack had moved from the Grosvenor Museum at Chester. There, as Assistant Curator, he had worked under Dr Graham Webster, the authority on Roman Britain and the Roman army. Living literally 'on the job' Jack made the museum a true temple of the Muses and he and Johanna clearly gave all.

Jack came to the Island with significant credentials. He brought an Oxford degree in History, a Diploma in Anthropology and Fellowship of the Museums Association. Something of his anthropological interests had been happily tickled at Chester where he had opened a box of excavated Roman material to find a set of bronze false teeth. At Oxford Jack took part in an elaborate hoax in which an obscure academic was heralded as a distinguished speaker at a highly publicised meeting of the University Archaeological Society. After the speaker had been introduced, the doors of the lecture theatre were locked. For the next three hours the 'guest' then proceeded to read the bible page by page in Welsh.



It was the Island's good fortune that Jack and Johanna decided on an extended stay. Due to Princess Beatrice, the last Royal resident of the castle, the museum had found home within a principal guardianship monument that was, then, administered by the Ministry of Works. The Trustees of Carisbrooke Castle Museum were few and unassuming. The Ministry certainly found a local museum an anomaly in its national portfolio of tidy ruins. The local authorities of the Island chose to see a Castle Museum as something that might be funded from the Ministry's turnstile. The challenge for Jack had already been set.

Those of us who enjoyed the privilege of working in the museum with Jack would later glimpse many vignettes of his life within the castle walls where he and Johanna were ever a hospitable team. At a management meeting a Ministry representative had announced to Jack that "there is nothing in the Ancient Monuments Act of 1912 that obliges Government to assist the public in understanding or interpreting an ancient monument or, indeed, a museum within a monument". For Jack this was no more than an intriguing pebble amongst the stones of a familiar curatorial road.

Entrenched adversaries of the museum could be amusingly satirised to neutralise their sting. By this means, dark shadows cast by such characters as 'Schickelgruber', 'the Black Widow' and the 'Micro-cerebral One' would fade to extinction in the light of Jack's sunny and reassuring cheerfulness. Inevitably, with the help of the Director of Education, 'Bill' Barratt and the Honorary Treasurer, Dr Keith Horsefield, Jack was to become the third musketeer to defend the Island's truly embattled museum. Jack's protective role and his daunting intellect were affectionately recognised amongst all of his staff where he was mutually acknowledged to be Fleming's 'M'.

Arriving at the Castle Museum 1973, I was soon introduced to Jack's ingenious philosophical mechanism for weathering adversity and winning the day through good humour. Locked in the black vault of the darkroom Jack emitted a sharp cry that was followed by an ominous crash. I was naturally concerned for his safety. After he had abandoned his bromide trays, Jack eventually ex-

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plained that the cry was the name of a certain councillor. "I always use his name when chopping the photographs in the guillotine". When a brittle cardboard storage box split and scattered all manner of contents from top to bottom of the cellar steps, Jack's perfectly natural exclamation was 'oh dear me, what a heterogeneous assemblage'!

Jack's gentle and impish good humour surely permeated the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society. In the 1970s the Society's council meetings had become legend for the size of their attendance and their ponderous duration. When minutes of the previous meeting were read for approval, Jack politely enquired whether it should read 'minutes of a meeting held on the 17/18th of September. The irony of the point was apparently lost. When Jack arrived for the next meeting his duffle coat and thermos showed that he was set for a long haul.

Jack's academic contribution to Island life and Island history was ever sound, intricate and well measured. The '*Royal Prisoner*' first published by Lutterworth in 1965 was a seminal study of the context in which King Charles 1 had been imprisoned in Carisbrooke Castle. With characteristic modesty, Jack ceded the publisher's royalty to the museum's slender funds. Some years later his generosity was repeated when the second edition was printed. These were no small gestures.

In volume 6 of the *Proceedings* (1968) Jack presented an account of '*The building of a fort at Sandown*'. This study soon moved beyond architectural and military history to offer testimony to the impact of fort-building on the natural environment of the Island in the 17th century. The social, economic and political events of this period were later expounded in the Jones PhD thesis of 1978. This study of *The Isle of Wight 1558-1642* provided the long-sought framework in which Islanders might set a miscellany of events otherwise glimpsed through such random accounts as those given in the Oglander archive and its published extracts in *A Royalist Notebook* (Bamford, 1936) and *Nunwell Symphony* (Aspinall-Oglander, 1945).

Other historic sources explored by Jack had been virtually untapped. With fierce independence, Medina Borough Council had declined to entrust its historic archives to the safekeeping of the Isle of Wight County Record Office. Jack's diplomatic skills were fully tested in negotiating a key and access to a remote back-store in Quay Street, Newport. Here the medieval documents of the Borough were lurking amongst modern mortgage papers and social service records. His transcriptions of these documents were to be an intriguing and colourful revelation.

Jack's gift of communication led him to his collaborative work with Johanna on *The Isle of Wight; an illustrated history*. This was published in 1987 by the Dovecote Press. Its success was consolidated by Jack's *Curiosities of the Isle of Wight* produced by the same publisher in 1989. Fine scholarship, perhaps less known, is 'The historical background to the refortification' a specialist chapter in the English Heritage report on '*Excavations at Carisbrooke Castle, 1921-1996*' (C. J. Young 2000). Here Jack reveals something of that great fund of knowledge that he held on the events on the Island during and after the Armada episode of 1588. With his inimitable style and scholarship he leaves the reader eager for more. The medieval history of the castle had been outlined by Percy Stone in 1898 and revised in volume 5 of the *Victoria County History* published in 1912. There was surely much more in the original documents that Jack had yet to tell.

Due to the elegant and persuasive quality of his written works, Jack Jones has left Islanders with an enchanting and lasting legacy. This, surely, will be crowned by his unforgettable modesty and charm. Jack has also bequeathed to us the names of those long distant trails that offer both Vectensians and visitors a snakes and ladders route through the Island's historic landscape. The creation of the Isle of Wight Archaeological Committee and the funding of the Isle of Wight County Sites and Monuments Record can all be traced back to a vital round-robin, penned by Jack in his tiny museum office, in 1975.

Life rewarded Jack with all manner of surprises: the gift of a renovated London taxi, given by the Priestleys to assist his bicycle-driven archaeological fieldwork in the 1950s; an unexpected visit from a deranged mental patient who arrived in the courtyard of Carisbrooke Castle in a stolen

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red sports car and blowing a trumpet. “After engaging with him in a conversation on the life of Oliver Cromwell, for three quarters of an hour, I finally realised that this lunatic was standing between me and the door”. When the office phone rang, Jack heard a policeman whisper “just keep the man talking”. When problems seemed to be over, there were castle donkeys absconding to Newport High Street. Later, high in the tower, footsteps were heard on the stairs. Sunday lunch was then interrupted by the arrival of an itinerant goat from Shorwell.

These have been a little of the times and events in the life of Jack Jones, the like of which can never pass our way again. His experiences he shared with us with amusement and joy and in his company it was always easy to assume a better world. Our deepest sympathies go to Johanna. A gentle giant has walked amongst us and now we are left to gaze in awe at the depth of his footprints and the direction in which they have led.

Some historical and archaeological works of Jack Jones

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David Tomalin (Assistant Curator to Jack Jones, 1973-1980).

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Dr. Eric Laidlaw (1915 – 2006)

ERIC FORTESCUE LAIDLAW was born in 1915.. His father, Dr. Frank Fortescue Laidlaw, was in general practice in Uffculme in Devon. Having read Zoology at Cambridge, Frank Laidlaw joined a scientific expedition to Malaya in 1898 and subsequently became an expert on the dragonflies and land molluscs of the region, publishing over a hundred scientific papers and donating specimens to the Natural History Museum. On his retirement he lived for a time at Ventnor where he pursued his natural history studies and rediscovered the Isle of Wight Helleborine at St. Lawrence in 1971.

Eric Laidlaw followed his father both in his career in medicine and in his lifelong interest in botany, especially that of Scotland and of Ben Lawers in particular, which he first visited with his father. He was educated at Epsom College and Peterhouse, Cambridge, and undertook his clinical training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, qualifying MB, BChir(Cantab) in 1941.

Twice he held posts as a Resident Doctor at the Royal National Hospital, Ventnor. He spent some time at a clinic in Switzerland and was Resident Surgical Officer at the world-famous Brompton Hospital in London. When the post of Deputy Medical Superintendent at the RNH fell vacant in 1947 Dr. Alex Miller, then Superintendent, asked Eric Laidlaw to apply, and Eric was duly appointed, holding that post until 1956. By that time modern drug treatments for tuberculosis were in use, the demand for sanatorium beds was falling and Dr. Miller left to join the Isle of Wight Hospital. Dr. Laidlaw now became Acting Medical Superintendent and remained there until the closure of the Royal National Hospital in 1964.

He then moved to St. Mary's Hospital as Consultant Physician (Chest Medicine and Geriatric Medicine) with an office in the newly built Hassall Ward, named after Arthur Hill Hassell, M.D., F.L.S.(1817-1894), another doctor naturalist who specialised in the study of freshwater algae, and who was the founder in 1868 of what was then the National Cottage Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, at Ventnor. Eric was devoted to Hassall's memory, was particularly concerned that Hassall's work in founding the RNH should not be forgotten, and proud of the fine portrait of Hassall that hung in the entrance to the ward named after him.

Dr. Laidlaw continued to supervise the treatment of all TB patients in the Island, but was increasingly concerned with the rising incidence of asthma, and of asbestosis and mesothelioma resulting from the exposure of Island shipyard workers to asbestos.

He developed a fully integrated geriatric service on the Island, a previously neglected discipline here, very necessary because of the increasing number of the elderly ill. He gained the respect of his colleagues for the new specialty of Geriatric Medicine, and was one of the first doctors locally to appreciate the skills and help of social workers. He initiated the Geriatric Day Hospital at St. Mary's, which was named after him, much to his embarrassment.

Great gentleness of manner and immense courtesy to his junior staff, nurses and patients made him much loved and respected despite, or partly perhaps because of his eccentricities and other-worldliness.

He retired in 1979 and continued to live in Wootton with his wife Brenda. In retirement he was the author of two well-researched books of local interest *The Story of the Royal National Hospital* (1990) and *A History of the Isle of Wight Hospitals* (1994). Eric joined the INWHAS in 1976 and as well as a keen interest in botany is remembered for leading some rather tortuous walks around St. Lawrence and some fiendish quizzes in aid of the Botanical Gardens. A Memorial Service was held on March 26, 2006 for Eric at St. Lawrence Church. At the end of the service a Peacock Butterfly was seen fluttering against the stained glass window inside the church. It was caught and released into the pale, early spring sunshine. Eric would have appreciated that.

David Biggs, Andy Butler

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Francis Rose (1921-2006)

The reputation of Francis Rose as a formidable field botanist went before him. I remember being told about field trips organised by this great teacher of botany who, with immense enthusiasm, would identify and patiently explain identification characters of plants in the field together with a wealth of detail about their distribution and ecology. His depth of knowledge meant that flowering plants, mosses, liverworts and lichens were equally familiar to him. He had a reputation of having botanised just about everywhere in the British Isles and on the near Continent, together with an encyclopaedic memory, a good humoured nature and an ability to teach and inspire others. His botanical knowledge of Southern England was unsurpassed. His field trips would continue well into the evening when light was failing and others enthusiasm was dwindling.

I subsequently attended some of his field visits when I was developing an interest in lichens, but my first direct contact with him was when I made the discovery of a large patch of lungwort (*Lobaria pulmonaria*) growing on an ash tree at Swainston. This splendid lichen is an old forest indicator species and, at the time, had not been recorded from the Island since the nineteenth century. I wrote to Dr Rose about my discovery and received a characteristically enthusiastic letter full of information about lichens and Isle of Wight sites and encouraging us to meet up for a field visit. He wrote:

I was delighted to receive your letter about lichens in the Isle of Wight, especially *Lobaria pulmonaria*. I have been working intensively for some years on lichen distribution and phytosociology, particularly in the New Forest but also in the rest of the country, and I have made several survey visits to the I.O.W. These however have been all too brief. The Island is near but it is very expensive to take one's car over, so day visits (without meeting a friend with a car in I.O.W.) are not very productive!

This was in January 1976. I was living in Edinburgh at the time but it was the start of a long period of regular exchange of correspondence, enthusiastic late evening telephone conversations, and packages of lichens sent off for identification.

I came to learn that Francis was not a newcomer to the Island. At the time, he had a post-graduate student, Rob Scaife, who was researching fossil pollen analysis on Island sites. Rob had been keen to carry out research on the Island and became a close friend of Francis Rose.

Lichens had become a very neglected group of plants in the twentieth century. The formation of the British Lichen Society in the mid 1950s came at a time when there was the glimmer of a re-awakening of interest in lichens but scarcely anyone had the knowledge to identify them. One of the early converts was Francis Rose, who already had a national reputation in higher plants and bryophytes. He was particularly interested in woodland lichens and made a special study of the New Forest lichens. Some woods were good for lichens and others were poor. Francis gained a legendary reputation for recognising promising sites from the ground, from the car and from the map. His highly developed ecological awareness was to elevate woodland lichen studies into an extremely valuable and powerful conservation tool. He was the first person to recognise the links with ancient woodland and medieval deer parks and *Lobaria pulmonaria* was the flagship lichen. Throughout the decade 1968-78, searching out relict woodlands containing this species and its associates became a minor obsession. At the same time, in order to understand the lichen flora afresh, the handful of developing experts set out to comb the countryside and record everything. One such pioneering band comprised Francis Rose, and two young enthusiasts Brian Coppins (later to become lichenologist at Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden) and Allan Pentecost (who went on to study lichens in North Wales). They visited the Island in 1971 and made the first comprehensive lichen records since Victorian times. They did not discover much in the way of ancient woodland lichens. Francis wrote, '*I have seen few areas of old woodland in IOW that contain many old standard trees in the coppice that prevails*'. However, they were able to record much of great interest. They were just in time to record the rich lichen flora of English elm trees at places such as

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Newtown, Brading and Swainston, just before their loss to Dutch elm disease, and they discovered the lichenological riches of Godshill churchyard.

Francis Rose's knowledge of the Island's botany was immense by the time I met him, although, in fact, this was no different to his knowledge of very many counties of the British Isles. Indeed, he claimed to have worked in the field in every county of Britain, excepting Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides. He had visited and recorded many of our Island sites, some for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust, and was passing his vascular plant records onto Bill Shepard and his bryophyte records to Lorna Snow.

One memorable occasion, was his visit in August 1986. Francis arrived at Ryde Esplanade station clutching a sandwich box which he opened to reveal a specimen of Red Helleborine (*Cephalanthera rubra*), one of Britain's rarest plants, sitting on a damp paper towel! It was my first encounter with the plant, which had come from The Warren in Hampshire and was the first specimen to have been found in Hampshire in modern times. Francis said that the flowering stem had been 'broken by a badger', although other explanations have been put forward for its accidental breakage! Anyway, he was keen for it to be preserved and we started our day's excursion with a visit to Carisbrooke High School Science Laboratories where we endeavoured to bleach the specimen with sulphur dioxide in a fume cupboard, a technique which, he alleged, would result in the colour re-appearing as it dried. This, in fact, proved unsuccessful!

His letters were always a delight to receive, full of helpful information about ecology, potential Island sites to visit, and the fruits of his latest visits to sites around the country and on the Continent. Profitable visits to certain ancient woodlands on the Island, in particular North Park at Swainston, Cliff Copse near Shanklin, Bonchurch Landslip and Bridlesford Copse, helped towards their subsequent designation as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Following a visit to North Park Copse, Francis wrote '*The site should certainly be conserved. I shall urge the NCC people to go there in June, and I hope to be able to come for a couple of days myself.*' He was referring to a special Nature Conservancy Council event organised by Colin Tubbs to survey woodland on the Island. At the time, little was known about the ancient woodland resource on the Island. Accommodation was arranged at the historic Royal Sandrock Hotel (subsequently lost to fire) at Niton, from 31 May to 3 June 1981. The prestigious group included some of Britain's top woodland ecology experts. Apart from Francis, there was George Peterken, Keith Kirby, Colin Tubbs, Dick Hornby and others, and the event led to the notification of a number of Island woodlands as SSSI's.

Francis's Island visits, particularly when searching for Bryophytes, were often with his friends E.C. (Ted)Wallace & Rod Stearn. Together, they spent much time searching the Undercliff for its specialised Bryophyte flora in the early 1980s. Francis and Rod Stearn also surveyed Parkhurst Forest for the first time for bryophytes and lichens in 1998/9. He was able to reveal a surprisingly rich old woodland (wood pasture) flora in localised and scattered patches of oak woodland, previously unrecognised. This information had significant implications for how the forest would be managed.

With Francis's encouragement and assistance I was able to publish the first up to date lichen flora of the Isle of Wight in 1983, and he assisted with its revision in 2003.

Francis's health failed in his latter years, although he remained enthusiastic to visit the Island again. Alas, efforts to do so in recent years came to nothing. One of his last pieces of published writing was a short chapter in *The Isle of Wight Flora* (2003), entitled 'Island Distinctiveness'. This was mostly a reworking of material published elsewhere or in correspondence, which I



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undertook, but he spent some considerable time working up a comparison of the bryophyte flora of the Island with neighbouring Hampshire and Sussex.

His memory lives on in the Wild Flower Key, one of the most popular and highly regarded field guides which has never been out of print since it first appeared in 1981. It has recently been revised by Clare O'Reilly and it is the standard reference book on our Botany Group field meetings.

His memorial service, held at Wakehurst Place in Surrey, was a happy occasion attended by around 150 of his friends, family and associates from throughout the country and abroad. The sun shone, creating ideal conditions for an autumnal stroll around the gardens. David Bellamy, a one time student of Francis, officially opened a new bird hide on the Francis Rose reserve, we examined the rock outcrops in the woods with their colonies of Tunbridge Filmy fern, a habitat much cherished by Francis, and a commemorative oak tree was planted overlooking the reserve. Indoors, eminent botanists paid their respects and tributes to this great man of botany.

Colin Pope