

## STEEP HOLM TRUST 1958

### TRUSTEES:

E. L. KELTING, O.B.E. *for Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.*

H. SAVORY *for Bristol Naturalists' Society.*

MRS. M. L. COLTHURST *for Mid-Somerset Naturalist Society.*

E. J. MASON *for Bristol Folk House Archaeological Club.*

The Steep Holm Trust is able to report another satisfactory season. As the attractions of the Island have become known, an increasing number of applications for visits have been received and it is pleasing to record that quite a number of these come from schools and bodies of an educational character. The Trustees, however, have adhered to their decision not to allow more than two boatloads of twelve on the Island at any one time during the months of May and June and always with an authorised leader.

The income from landing fees and barracks fees has been sufficient to meet running costs. The annual rent (£26) is covered by the guarantees of the four constituent societies; but the result of the season's working has been good enough to enable the Trustees to make a contribution towards the rent and part only of the guarantee has been called on. It may be necessary to consider at some not distant time a somewhat major work on the overhaul of the Barracks roof, which shows signs of deterioration.

The Research Committee continued its work through the year. Four visits were made and the Station was manned for eighteen days by fifteen people in all. The ringing of gull chicks has been carried on and mortality of young gulls is being investigated by pathological examination. No nest census of gulls was carried out in 1958 but there appeared to be no marked change in the breeding population and the Herring Gull colony may still be regarded as one of the largest in the British Isles. The Cormorant colony continues at approximately the same strength, but unfortunately, as has been the case during the last few years, neither the Peregrine Falcon nor the Raven has bred on the Island. We can be very satisfied with the continued good progress of the Peony, which is responding remarkably well to the regular clearance of surrounding growth.

Finally, those concerned would like to express appreciation to the boatmen, Mr. Frank Watts and his sons, for their co-operation and good services during the season.

HARRY SAVORY,

*Hon. Secretary, Steep Holm Trust.*