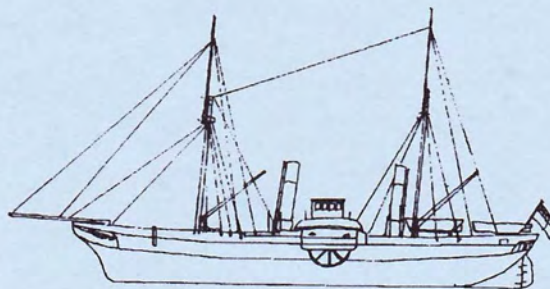


Newsletter of the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society

Winter 1998/99

Number 1



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No. 1 Winter 1998/99

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MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Secretary
Ian Killeen
163 High Road West
Felixstowe, IP11 9BD

01394 274618

Porcupine MNHS
welcomes new members -
scientists, students, divers,
naturalists and lay people.
We are an informal society
interested in marine natural
history and recording
particularly in the North
Atlantic and 'Porcupine
Bight'. Members receive 2
newsletters a year and
proceedings from scientific
meetings.

Individual £10

Student £5

On the cover: Mr Fred Bond outside the Whitby Museum, holding
the hull model of HMS "Porcupine"

Hon. Treasurer
Jonathan Moore
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Brunel Quay, Neyland
Dyfed, SA73 1PY
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Hon. Editor
Frances Dipper
7 Rutland Green
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PE18 9NT
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OUTGOING EDITORIAL

This is my last Report as I am retiring and handing over the Editorship to Frances Dipper, who, I am sure, will make a great success of the new Newsletter. There were only two Porcupine Newsletters in this past year. The reason was lack of copy. This was due in some part to the policy of organisers of meetings to ask for Abstracts of papers (which were mostly not converted to papers for the Newsletter) and producing them for the meeting. Hence they were available only to participants and most members were then denied more than a gist of the proceedings. Also other copy on non-meeting subjects has not materialised as we would wish. As I do not attend as many marine biological dos as I used to, I am not now in a good position for drumming up copy and so I am happy to hand over to others who can. I have enjoyed my spell as Hon. Editor and wish to thank all the people who have supported me and provided many interesting articles and snippets of information.

Further, I was most surprised and delighted to be honoured by being made a Hon. Life Member of Porcupine, together with my long term friend, colleague and fellow founder member, David Heppell. Thank you all for granting me this privilege.

Shelagh Smith

INCOMING EDITORIAL

It's always very dangerous to go to sleep during Porcupine AGMs. When you wake up you find you've volunteered for something! Still I wasn't the only one. There is now an 'Editorial Team' for Porcupine publications consisting of myself, Roger Bamber and Susan Chambers. Shelagh Smith has also promised to keep an eye on us beginners.

This has been an interesting year for the Society. A distinct lack of support for proposed meetings led to a lot of wasted work and disappointment by the organisers. The question had to be asked as to whether Porcupine should continue and if so, in what direction it should be going. Therefore members were invited to a discussion workshop last November (1997) at the Southampton Oceanography Centre. Thankfully this meeting elicited much positive discussion and a profusion of ideas, much of which lively Porcupines will be aware of from previous circulars. A very successful, interesting and entertaining meeting was held in April this year (1998) again at the SOC, followed by the AGM. At the AGM, responses to ideas concerning the newsletter, other publications, scientific meetings, remit, projects and in particular the NAME of the Society were evaluated and voted on. More details are given in the AGM minutes in this newsletter, in the reports from the officers and as a summary of key decisions.

All this is the reason why you have not received your regular newsletters during the past 12 months or so. Now that we are up and running again, your favourite bedtime reading should once again be clunking through your letter box twice a year. In addition we are producing our very own journal covering the proceedings of each of our scientific meetings. So you will have two vehicles in which to display your literary talents. The newsletter is the ideal vehicle for short notes and articles, letters, interesting records, book reviews etc. It will be even more interesting if YOU the members contribute and to help you, a list of possible headings and copy dates is included in this issue. I look forward to a full mailbag. MAKE USE OF YOUR NEWSLETTER. GOOD HUNTING!

Frances Dipper

THE PORCUPINE AGM - SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the content and important decisions taken at the AGM held on 19 April 1998 at the Southampton Oceanography Centre. (P = Proposer; S = Secunder)

The Hon. Treasurer's report was presented by Jon Moore. It was read and accepted (P - R. Harvey; S - I. Rees)

The Hon. Secretary's report was presented by Ian Killeen. The membership is stable at 190. The meeting held in April 1997 at Portaferry, on Marine Protected Areas was successful. Midway through the year, the Secretary circulated the membership about the future of the Society following a poor response to a number of proposed Porcupine meetings and an apparent lack of interest in the newsletter. Following on from this, the meeting in November 1997, arranged by Antony Jensen at Southampton Oceanography Centre, was a brainstorming session in which future directions for the Society were discussed and agreed. The Secretary's report was accepted (P - A. Jensen; S - J. Wilson).

The Editor's report was presented by Shelagh Smith. Abstracts effectively killed the newsletter (she prefers to think that rather than the fact that people just didn't feel motivated to contribute to her). A new format publication is planned (*Ed. Note: here it is!*). Shelagh Smith offered her resignation as editor which was accepted with grateful vote of thanks for all her hard work. Frances Dipper volunteered to replace her (*Ed. Note: as if I could, but I'll do my best*). The editor's report was accepted (P - F. Evans; S - R. Harvey).

Elections. The following elections and re-elections were unopposed:

Treasurer:	Jon Moore
Secretary:	Ian Killeen
Editor:	Frances Dipper (P - S. Smith; S - J. Light)
Council members:	Mike Bailey
	Roger Bamber
	Susan Chambers
	Dave Connor
	Mark Davies
	Frank Evans
	Helgi Gudmundsson
	Christine Howson
	Antony Jensen
	Jan Light
	Ivor Rees
	Ralph Robson
	Martin Sheader
	Shelagh Smith
	Dale Rostron (P - I. Killeen; S - F. Dipper)

It was explained that there is no set number of council members. However, 15 members seems enough. A quorum of 5 is required for meetings. Council has conferred Life Membership on David Heppell and Shelagh Smith.

Future meetings. There will be one 3 day meeting per year with a similar format to the Southampton meeting, but probably with 2 days of papers and one of fieldwork. Oban was suggested as a venue for 1999. It is also hoped to offer a structured field meeting as a second annual gathering. To attract research students (not undergrads who it is felt are not interested in Porcupine at that stage) a prize may be offered for the best student presentation.

Change of name. The three most popular options following the postal questionnaire were 'Porcupine' (17), 'The Porcupine Society for Marine Biology' (23) and 'The Porcupine Society for Marine Natural History' (24). Accordingly after comments and discussion, the latter two names were put to the vote, with 'The Porcupine Society for Marine Natural History' being carried by 15 to 13 votes.

YOUR SOCIETY

The Porcupine Society for Marine Natural History is YOUR society. There are around 190 of you out there and without you the Society would not exist. Around 60 of you turned up for the meeting in Southampton which was a great success and shows that Porcupine is still very much a going concern. HOWEVER, in order for things to stay that way we need continued input from you, the members. We would like:

- ideas for future meetings
- volunteers to help organise such meetings
- input to the newsletter (see below)
- input to the 'journal' (see below)

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will come out twice a year. What it contains will depend largely on YOU. Please use it to share interesting information about yourself or others and as a means of publishing short notes and articles on distributions, rare sightings, interesting field work and anything else relevant. The newsletter is scanned for articles of interest by Zoological Record and is sent to a number of marine institutes so you will have a wide audience. Please send me :

- articles
- short notes, new records, unusual sightings, taxonomic name changes & notes
- events for the diary, symposia, courses
- news from your marine lab
- updates on surveys
- requests for information
- book, publication reviews
- your new publications (advertise!)
- reports from meetings you have attended
- personal/personnel changes eg. taking up a new post, retiring, shaving off your beard
- etc

JOURNAL

In future we shall be publishing papers from our annual scientific meeting as a separate publication, the exact format of which is still under discussion. Members may also submit other papers relevant to the theme, for inclusion and the council may also invite papers from members. The extent to which papers for inclusion in the journal will be refereed is still under discussion.

COUNCIL STEERING GROUPS

Editorial S.G. Frances Dipper
 Roger Bamber
 Susan Chambers
 Shelagh Smith

Recording S.G. Jon Moore
 Jan Light
 Jenny Mallinson
 Lyn Baldock

Web S.G. Mike Bailey
 Dale Rostron
 Antony Jensen

PORCUPINE
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 1997

Year to 31.12.96			Year to 31.12.97	
£	£		£	£
		RECEIPTS		
34		Subscriptions-	1995 & Prior	0
1372			1996	0
13			1997	1065
	1419			1065
	110	Bank Interest (net of tax)		95
	34	Sale of PN Back Number		10
	1563	Total Receipts		1170
		PAYMENTS		
648		Newsletter-	Printing	311
207			Postage & Envelopes	117
	855	Total Newsletter Costs		428
	7	Hon Sec/Treas Expenses		0
	862			428
	701	SURPLUS BEFORE MEETINGS & DONATIONS		742
	195	MEETINGS - Costs		0
	2500	DONATIONS - Cullercoats Marine Fauna		0
	(1994)	SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		742
	4793	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		2799
		BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD		
1135		Current Account	1821	
1664		Deposit Account	1720	
	<u>2799</u>			<u>3541</u>

Jon Moore, Hon Treasurer
Nick Light, Hon Auditor

15th April 1998

Notice of Meeting & AGM

Marine Biodiversity: current research and conservation measures

at

Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory

19-21 March 1999

The Spring meeting will take place at Oban over the above weekend. Since the Rio Convention on Biodiversity in 1992, there has been a worldwide explosion of activity in this area. In Europe, the EU Habitats Directive has led to the proposed designation of marine Special Areas of Conservation (mSAC's), while concurrently the UK Biodiversity Action Plan has spawned a series of marine Habitat and Species Action Plans. Research on the underlying causes and maintenance of marine biodiversity, from coastal waters to the deep ocean, is accelerating. Contributions on the main theme of the meeting will be particularly welcome, but **Porcupine** will continue its tradition of allowing more general presentations. Students and non-Porcupines especially welcome. Please indicate below if you would like to offer a talk, poster, video show etc. There are good spring tides in the week preceding the meeting, and a shore excursion will be organised for Friday if there is sufficient interest. The opportunity to carry out field work will be available from Wednesday 17th.

Mailing list for second circular:

The second circular, with details of the provisional programme, accommodation, meals, costs etc. will be sent to those who return the slip below or e-mail the organiser:-

Robin Harvey

Scottish Association for Marine Science (S.A.M.S.)

Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory

P.O. Box 3

Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AD

e-mail: roh@dml.ac.uk Telephone 01631 567828 Fax 01631 565518

PLEASE REPLY AT THE LATEST BY 1ST MARCH 1999

PORCUPINE MEETING AT OBAN, 19-21 MARCH 1999

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Tel. /E-mail: _____

1. Please send me the second circular.....
2. I intend to come / may come (circle as appropriate)
3. I would like to offer a: talk / poster / video / other

Title: _____

Robin Harvey

Dunstaffnage Marine Lab

P.O. Box 3

Oban

Argyll PA34 4AD

Tel. 01631 567828

Fax 01631 565518

The Porcupine Recording Scheme

The concept and scope of the new Recording Scheme was approved at the AGM in April 1998 and it will begin in the new year. The main features of the Scheme are given below. Further details and recording cards will be sent to members in a dedicated mailshot.

Records will be sent to the co-ordinators of the Scheme in two ways:

- * Written on pre-addressed record card
- * Typed into an electronic form for sending by e-mail (proforma attached to web page)

Page 3

Species: _____
Location: _____
Grid Ref. or Lat./Long.: _____ Date: _____
Recorded by: _____ Phone: _____
Identified by: _____ Phone: _____
Other material available (circle): Specimen / Photograph / Species List / Habitat Form
Habitat details (substratum type and features, or biotope): Depth (m): _____

Other information:

Porcupine Marine Natural History Society

The slightly modified recording card (postcard sized) is shown above. It will be printed on A6 card with the Societies new logo and a mailing address on the back.

Features of the new Scheme will include:

- * A validation process for checking records, using a panel of taxonomic experts
- * Storage of records on an electronic database
- * Liaison with other recording schemes to enable transfer of records as appropriate
- * Publication of short notes and articles on records of interest in the Societies journal
- * Provision of validated records to taxonomic experts for use in atlases and synopses

The Scheme has been developed by Jon Moore, Jenny Mallinson, Lin Baldock and Jan Light, who will act as the initial team of co-ordinators.

We look forward to receiving your records.

ON THE OLD OCEANOGRAPHERS (3) (concluded)

Frank Evans

15 Thirlmere Avenue, North Shields, NE30 3UQ, U.K.

Sir Frederick Russell's name bore several affixes including as well as FRS, both DSC. (Distinguished Service Cross, a naval officer's decoration of the First World War) and DSc. (one of several honorary doctorates). He was for many years the director of the Plymouth Laboratory and was known the world over for his research. His early work was on zooplankton. I have been at pains to study the publications of Professor Alexander Meek of the Dove Marine Laboratory on chaetognaths in the 1920s and it is clear that he very nearly understood the significance of *Sagitta setosa* and *Sagitta elegans* as planktonic indicators of different water masses. But it was to Russell that the clear elucidation of the concept of plankton indicators and the importance of these two species in that connection must be credited. This was in the early thirties, at a time when he was also doing pioneer work on the diurnal vertical migration of zooplankton, particularly *Calanus*.

His two large volumes on the medusae of the British Isles are classics, as is his more recent and masterly book on the eggs and planktonic larvae of marine fish. Russell was a true naturalist in that he retained an active interest in marine biology not only during his working life but also throughout his retirement. In his last years I sent him many coelenterate specimens, which he always took the trouble to identify for me. He was a true Victorian, and for instance always addressed me in his letters as "Dear Evans". I had no difficulty with my own salutation in return: "Dear Sir Frederick". As I have noted earlier, he was always known as "Freddie". I believe he was a successful and inspiring leader during his many years at Plymouth. During the time the "Petula" was in Plymouth we had the run of the laboratory and were given many small items of equipment through his generosity.

Sir George Deacon, FRS, was the director of the National Institute of Oceanography. This institute, as I have earlier indicated, was a post-war amalgam, employing many of the country's leading deep-sea physical and

biological oceanographers. I have heard that he could be a difficult man to work with but never saw that side of him. On our return from our transatlantic "Petula" voyage I went down to the NIO to see him. He decided that I should not report only to him. He sent a message round for everyone to congregate in the tea room where I found myself giving an off-the-cuff account of our voyage.

Deacon was best known for his physical oceanographical work on Antarctic deep currents; he found that hibernal pulses of cold, deep water could be traced sequentially for a number of years up into more tropical latitudes. But he was not trained as a physicist, having a first degree in chemistry. And his interests extended widely into marine biology. On one occasion I persuaded my university in Newcastle to invite him to give a public lecture there. At dinner afterwards he showed pleasure at the reception he had received and offered to return on another occasion and talk about euphausiids.

Euphausiids were really the province of "Scout" Marr, also of the NIO. He was known as Scout Marr because in 1910 when Scott, in a blaze of publicity, went down to the Antarctic, he offered a place aboard the "Terra Nova" to a member of the Boy Scout movement. The Scouts, then quite recently formed, were riding on a wave of public interest, generated by that master of PR, Baden Powell. Marr at the time was both a Scout and an undergraduate at, I think, Edinburgh. His acceptance by Scott and his departure for Antarctica were national news and he was burdened with the epithet for the rest of his life. He remained in seagoing oceanography as a member of the NIO until his retirement in the fifties. Towards the end of his working life he produced his masterpiece, a volume of four hundred and fifty pages in the form of a *Discovery Report*, containing his life's work on euphausiids, covering every aspect of their biology.

At the time of which I am writing the NIO had two ships, the "Discovery II" and the "William Scoresby". The "Scoresby" was a converted whale catcher and she had recently completed a survey of the Benguela Current off south west Africa. Aboard her were two NIO scientists, "Pop" Hart and Ron Currie. The voyage had been successfully completed but only through the heroic efforts of the young Ron, for the

skipper and Pop began to hit the bottle hard, to the neglect of the research. Hart told me that on his return Deacon had been extremely kind and understanding to him because of his lapse, for which I salute Deacon. Hart was an able practical planktonologist and much of what I know about the management of plankton samples, both in bulk and under the microscope I learnt from him at the NIO.

There were few women in the oceanographic field in those days. I think of the botanist Mary Parke and the authority on crustacean larval stages, Marie Lebour, both of Plymouth, neither of whom I met, although the latter had long ago worked at the Dove Marine Laboratory. I did meet Sheina Marshall of Millport whose life work with A. P. Orr on *Calanus* was of sufficient significance to gain her her FRS. Once, when she and Orr were working offshore in the Clyde they set about taking a routine sea temperature and water sample using the standard Nansen-Petersen water bottle, a substantial nickel-plated brass instrument bought from Copenhagen. But after putting the bottle over the side they noticed that they had omitted to attach the wire to it. It says something about the standards of the time that the pair felt it their moral responsibility to buy a replacement instrument for the lab from their own pockets.

Helen Bargmann would have had better luck today. She worked for the NIO in the Discovery Hut in South Kensington, mostly on euphausiids, but she longed to go down to the ice aboard the "Discovery II". She once described to me the difficulties that the men around her placed in her way. In a sense it was a microcosm of the larger world of feminine inequality of the time: there were no separate loos aboard ship or in Antarctica, what would the men's wives say, women could not face the rigours of the climate, they would hate the bad language, and so on. And so, thwarted, she spent her working life in London.

Although I met women specialists in several groups of marine animals, Olive Tattersall with her mysids being an example, I cannot recall any others who might be truly thought of as oceanographers.

The names of others that I met flood to mind, Macintosh, deputy at the NIO, Fraser (whales) and Fraser (plankton), Parker, herpetologist and Keeper of Zoology at the Natural History

Museum, (turtles), Harvey, the Plymouth chemist (who once had to say "AsH₃" to a mixed audience since he feared to pronounce "arsine") and dear Gerry Robinson, pillar of the Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey, who returned to cigarette smoking at the end of his life. I wonder if he had knowledge of his forthcoming death and felt it did not matter any more.

But I would like to conclude with an oceanographer I met only once. It was at a "Challenger" dinner given in honour of J. N. Carruthers. I am not sure of the date but it might have been at his retirement from the NIO. Next to me at table sat F. J. Ommanney. His name was known to me, for as well as being a whaling and fisheries expert, he was the author of a number of books of travel. I am uncertain at this distance who employed him but he had held posts in South Africa, South Georgia, Zanzibar, Singapore and Hong Kong, and doubtless elsewhere. On all of these he wrote. I had recently read his book on Zanzibar, called "Isle of Cloves". He was a most urbane companion and I quickly warmed to him. But I had been told he had a secret that could not be revealed at the time. He was gay. It must have been most burdensome having to bear the fear of discovery and the inevitable criminal proceedings. More recently I have read his last book, "Lost Leviathan", in part about his time in South Georgia. In it, somewhere, is repeated a remark he made to me that night: "Norwegians are thought of as being tall, blond and phlegmatic, but in my experience they are short, dark and excitable." One of the things about the old oceanographers was that they were mostly good for a laugh. And in fairness, in these difficult times, that remains true. We are a pretty cheerful bunch even now, sometimes with rather little to be cheerful about. May we continue so!

FISH NOTES

Frank Evans

15 Thirlmere Avenue, North Shields, NE30 3UQ, U.K.

Moonfish or Opah. On 29 August 1987 a moonfish, *Lampris guttatus*, of standard length 70 cm and weighing 18 kg. was landed at North Shields Fish Quay where it was bought by Henry Foskett, the wholesale fishmongers. There are records of moonfish from the region from as far back as 1769, some of caught fish, others of

dead and floating, or stranded specimens. Landings of as many as one or two moonfish a year were reported early in the century, (Davis, 1983). It is not known where the current specimen was caught but it would most likely be within a hundred miles of the Tyne. However, there are no exact records of a moonfish landing at North Shields since 1924 (Jenkins, 1936) and none of the fish merchants had ever seen one before. The fish would have been sold on.

Hatchet-fish. The distribution of the hatchet-fish, *Argyropelecus olfersi* in the North Atlantic is given by Wheeler (1978) as from the North Cape through Icelandic and Greenland waters to Gibraltar. It is a small midwater fish, less than about 10 cm. long and is moderately common on the edge of the continental shelf. Records from British merchant ships (Evans, 1995) refer to this fish from time to time, with reports of specimens found on the decks of ships. As these decks are sometimes as much as 25 m. above the sea it has not always been clear how these little fish have arrived there, even in high seas.

But in the Meteorological Office journal, "Marine Observer", for April 1979 the case was reported of a lookout on the m.v. "Timaru Star" in position 45° N 8° W who was hit on the head by a falling hatchet-fish. Then again in the "Marine Observer" for April 1986, it was reported that a flock of gulls flew over the m.v. "Myrmidon" in position 47° N 7° W. One gull was seen to make a catch, then hovered over the accommodation. It fumbled, and dropped a hatchet-fish on deck. So hatchet fish sometimes arrive aboard by avian agency as well as by being washed aboard.

I hold some ten records of *Argyropelecus olfersi* found on ships' decks from 1978 to 1996. One record is from the Mediterranean and one from 36°N. All the rest are from between 45°N and 47°N and between 7°W and 8°W, fairly precisely at the edge of the continental shelf. Since the fish may not always have been found at once after landing on the deck some displacement might be expected in the positions reported. Nevertheless the region of 45-7°N appears to be a place where both hatchet-fish and gulls congregate. It is thought the fish approach the surface only at night. The fish found on the "Myrmidon" was dropped during the forenoon

(8-12) watch but as it was reported to glow brightly in the dark (they are bioluminescent) it must have landed early in the watch. All the merchant ship records to date are from the months of December to April.

Davis, P. 1983 Fishes. The Marine Fauna of the Cullercoats District, 11. *Report of the Dove Marine Laboratory, 3rd series, 24*, 1-231.

Evans, F. 1995 Some observations on observations of marine life from merchant ships. *Porcupine Newsletter, 6*, 73-75.

Jenkins, J. T. 1936 *The Fishes of the British Isles*. Warne, London.

Wheeler, A. 1978 *Key to the Fishes of Northern Europe*. Warne, London.

All members - Subscription reminder

Please note that 1999 subscriptions are due on the 1st of January:

Full members: £10

Student members: £5

Please send subscriptions to

Jon Moore, Hon Treasurer

c/o CORDAH/OPRU

3 Dolphin Court

Brunel Quay

Neyland

Pembrokeshire

SA73 1PY

Bankers Order forms are also available from Jon Moore

Copy Dates

Copy for winter newsletter should reach the editor by November 15th.

Copy for summer newsletter should reach the editor by May 1st

PORCUPINE FINDS

Calyptraea chinensis (L., 1758) (Mollusca: Gastropoda)

By Shelagh Smith

This limpet has now reached nearly as far north as Oban. One living specimen was found at Clachan Sound, 5619.6'N 0534.8'W On 26 May 1998, not of course by me, but by David Hurd who had wandered off over the gravel with his bucket while I was doing much more scientific things in the rapids. In July we hunted the same site and another nearby without further success.

Previous records in Scotland include four dead shells found in Loch Sween, 5558.8'N 0539.5'W in August 1985 and a considerable breeding colony in Loch Ryan, 5458.0'N 0503.5'W in July 1991, as previously recorded in Porcupine newsletter. Both Loch Sween and Loch Ryan have large concentrations of wild oysters (*Ostrea edulis* L., 1758) and the former also has farmed *Crossostrea gigas* (Thunberg, 1793).

The distribution and spread of *Calyptraea chinensis* beyond its original areas has been linked to oyster cultivation (Minchin *et al.*, 1987; Smith 1991) but there are no oysters near Clachan Sound and this newest arrival must, as a larva, have been washed up from further south by natural means. More records from west Scotland are welcome.

Minchin, D.; McGrath, D. and Duggan, C.B. (1987). *Calyptraea chinensis* (Mollusca, Gastropoda) on the west coast of Ireland - A case of accidental introduction? *J. Conch.* 32: 297-301.

Smith, S.M. (1991). *Calyptraea chinensis* (L., 1758) in Loch Ryan. *Porcupine Newsletter*, 5: 48-49.

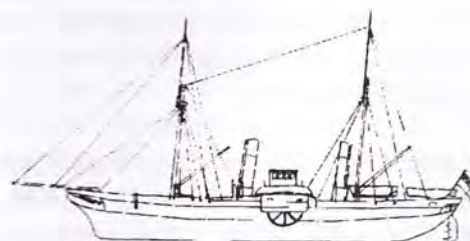
Model of HMS 'Porcupine'

By Frank Evans

On 14 March I received a letter from Mr. Fred Bond of Whitby enquiring whether I had gained any information about HMS "Porcupine" following my note on the ship and on our society which was published in the August 1982 issue of "Mariner's Mirror", the journal of the Society for Nautical Research. He wanted to inform me that he had recently restored a model, 35 cm long, of the hull of "Porcupine" in the Whitby Museum. I displayed his letter and his photographs of the model at the April Southampton meeting of the Society, where they excited some interest. I subsequently visited him at the museum, where he kindly showed me his work. The model is one of some fifteen made by Edwin Turnbull, a member of a local shipping family of the town. The

caption accompanying the models, almost all fully restored, reads: The ship and yacht models in this collection were made by Edwin Turnbull (c1830 - c1873/4) of Bridge Road, Whitby. He was a watchmaker and jeweller by craft and also a member of the Whitby lifeboat crew. Mr. Turnbull exhibited models in the Great Exhibition of 1851, which is not surprising in view of the quality of his work; for example, the gun and gun-carriage, barely a centimetre long, on the "Porcupine's" foredeck is quite perfect. The collection was presented to Whitby Museum in 1986 by his granddaughter, Mrs. Irene R. Baker of Portslade, East Sussex. The models were cleaned and conserved by Mr. Fred Bond in 1997-8. As a former university principal laboratory technician his work, too, is of a very high standard. Mr. Bond notes in his letter that "Porcupine" is mentioned in "Paddle Warships" by D. K. Brown (Conway Maritime Press, 1993) and in "Surveying Ships of the Royal Navy" by Rear-Admiral R. O. Morris (Mariner's Mirror, 72, 385-411). However, these publications appear to add nothing to what appears about the ship in Tony Rice's "British Oceanographic Vessels, 1800 to 1950" (Ray Society, 1986), an extract from which I was able to send Mr. Bond. It is not known what prompted Mr. Turnbull to model "Porcupine" or whether the ship ever visited Whitby, although it seems not unlikely. Enquiries at the museum produced no photographs of her.

Note from Editor. Ken Collins has kindly produced us a new logo based on HMS Porcupine. You will see a draft of it on the front cover. We will be playing with it before the next issue. Comments, ways to improve, other suggestions are welcome.



OBITUARY OF NORMAN TEBBLE: MARINE ZOOLOGIST AND MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Born: 17 August 1924 - Died: 23 July 1998

Norman Tebble published 15 papers on polychaetes, a popular guide to British Bivalve Seashells, book reviews and several other museum related papers. A taxonomist and museum director were not obvious career choices for someone from a Northumbrian mining village.

Norman Tebble was one of 6 children born in East Sleekburn, Northumberland. Although, not from a mining family he saw and was aware of the hardship all around him in his early childhood. He knew in order to escape he had to work hard at school which he did and won a scholarship to Bedlington Grammar School. He eventually went to St Andrews University which he loved and saw as the ultimate accolade for a boy from such a humble beginning. Unfortunately the Second World War intervened and he trained for a military career with the RAFVR. He then went on to serve in Burma and India as a pilot. Although flying was exciting and gave him tremendous confidence he knew life as a commercial pilot was not for him. After the war he returned to St Andrews and under the guidance of the head of department, David Burt developed an interest in Foraminifera (siliceous protozoa). David encouraged and recognised Norman Tebble's skills as a taxonomist and pointed him in the direction of the British Museum (Natural History). In the summer after graduating he worked in the Hague for the Dutch oil company, Shell, where he learnt many fundamental skills in identification. Then in 1950 he was appointed a scientific officer at the BM (NH) responsible for curating numerous invertebrate phyla including sipunculids, platyhelminthes, chaetognaths and annelids. Why he chose to work on polychaetes is unclear but it was an interest that never waned over 30 years.

Three years after working in the museum he met and married Mary Archer a curator of echinoderms. He eventually specialised in pelagic polychaetes and published on the Discovery collections held at the BM(NH). In 1958 he was awarded a John Murray travelling studentship from the Royal Society of London. As a consequence he took his wife and family to Scripps, La Jolla California where he worked on Pacific pelagic polychaetes. In his research on Atlantic and North Pacific pelagic polychaetes he showed for the first time the presence of hydrological boundaries in the open ocean restricting the distribution of pelagic species. Although Norman was very focused on his research he was persuaded to organise a conference on "Speciation in the Sea" many years later he said it was experience never to be repeated by him. For his research work he was awarded a D.Sc. in 1978 by St Andrews University.

On his return to the UK he was transferred against his will from working on polychaetes to the Mollusca section. As he was not someone to take injustice lightly this was the beginning of a long struggle with his colleagues. However, in the short space of time in the Mollusca section he completely reorganised their very large dry shell collection and became interested in another group of marine animals, bivalve seashells. This led to the publication in 1966 of the first edition of "British Bivalve Seashells", a popular guide still in demand today.

He dealt with problems by pushing himself and others very hard to achieve results often in conflict with his peer group. Norman didn't let the grass grow under his feet and in 1968 was appointed curator of the Zoological Collections and Lecturer in Zoology at Oxford University. In his 3 years at Oxford he developed the exhibitions with the general public in mind as well as students. Although he had no teaching experience he was also voted best lecturer in Zoology by the students. For his contribution to the Zoological life at Oxford

he was awarded an MA.

When the post of Director of the Royal Scottish Museum (now Royal Museum) in 1971 was advertised he applied and was appointed. He had a strong sense of public duty and enjoyed the role of director immensely as he was able to establish many new ventures such as the Museum of Flight, Costume Museum and major changes to the Education department. He also fought a hard battle with the Williams Committee set up by the Secretary of State for Scotland to investigate the status of museums and galleries. In spite of all this administration he found time to return to polychaete taxonomy and began publishing again on the Scottish Fauna. He retired in 1984 and spent many hours birdwatching on the coasts of East Lothian and as advisor to the Tyne and Wear museum service.

Norman Tebble was a very private person and devoted to his wife and family. He is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter and 4 grandchildren.

BOOK REVIEWS, BOOK REVIEWS



MARINE LIFE OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS. Sue [Daly. t.h.f. Kingdom Books, 1998. £13.95

"This book will be an inspiration to anyone attracted to the sea" Lee Durrell, Jersey Wildlife Preservation trust

"....this well researched and beautifully illustrated book will be an invaluable aid to experts and amateurs alike and should be taken as the definitive guide to the little known but fascinating and, in some cases, surprising exotic marine life found around the Channel Islands" Neil Garrick-Maidment, National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth.

Sue Daly is an artist who has put her skills to good use as an underwater photographer. This little

book is jam packed with excellent photos of the beasts commonly seen by rock-poolers, snorkellers and divers around Jersey. Each photo is accompanied by clear straightforward text describing the animal, its habits and home. It is not and was not intended to be a scientific book but I for one, found it of great use on a recent visit and a pleasure to curl up with and peruse in comfort after climbing out of my less-than-elegant drysuit. Sue Daly is chairman of the Jersey Branch of the Marine Conservation Society
Recommended.

SUSSEX MARINE LIFE. Robert Irving. East Sussex County Council. 1998. £11

"This Guide will help divers to identify over 190 species of plants and animals that they may encounter whilst diving off the Sussex coast (and anywhere else along the English Channel). It features over 350 colour photos, the majority of which have been taken by divers in Sussex waters. Descriptions of each species are set out in an easy to follow format, with notes on how to distinguish similar species." Quote on rear cover.

This is another local identification guide with plenty of colour photos and perhaps rather more detailed text. The guide results from a project called 'The Sussex SEASEARCH Project' which began in 1992 and is still ongoing. It is supported by many different organisations including the Marine Conservation Society and utilises amateur divers to record the habitats and species along the whole length of the Sussex coast. The guide is designed to help those taking part in the project but will have a far wider appeal. It is well written and researched with many useful identification tips. Having photographs actually taken in Sussex waters means that the animals are seen as they look rather than being portraits taken in clearer waters. Robert Irving is both a marine biologist and an artist and this is reflected in the clear and careful layout of the book. Recommended.
Frances Dipper



PORCUPINE PEOPLE NEWS

Shelagh Smith

Has been awarded a Life Membership of Porcupine in appreciation of her long editorship of the newsletter. She was a founder member of Porcupine



David Heppel

Was a founder member and has been awarded Life Membership of Porcupine. He has now moved to Canada: R.R.#4, S14-C1, Gower Point Road, Gibson's Landing, B.C. Canada VON 1V0



TO ALL PORCUPINES

If you have an **e-mail address**, please send/e-mail it to the Treasurer JON MOORE

MEETINGS NEWS

COASTAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY. REVIEW of EVENTS in 1998 & FUTURE TRENDS

January 20-21st, 1999, London

The conference provides the most cost effective briefing on marine and coastal environmental issues of the year. It provides a chance to listen to and meet with a wide range of professionals engaged in current marine and coastal environmental topics.

Topics covered will include developments in the new Government's policies, integrated coastal management, marine nature conservation, water quality and pollution control and fisheries.

The meeting will be the sixth in this series run by CMS. It will be held in the new and comfortable Brunei Lecture theatre at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Russell Square, University of London. Price £60-£90

For details contact: Bob Earll, CMS, Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos. GL18 2BU
Phone/Fax 01531 890415

Integrating Information and Management on the Coastal Zone Linking Science to the Management Challenges

January 19th 1999

University of London, SOAS, Russel Square

This conference run by CMS, will explore the role of information in integrated coastal zone management for whilst technological advances are providing an enormous array of tools these are too often not being used. The meeting will focus on how links can be made between scientists and managers, the information needs of ICM and it will also demonstrate some of the technologies and processes which can be used to bring stakeholders together to utilise information effectively.

The meeting will be held in the new and comfortable Brunei Lecture theatre at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Russel Square, University of London.

For details contact: Bob Earll, CMS, Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos. GL18 2BU
Phone/Fax 01531 890414