



# Brent Island Trust



## Newsletter, October 2025

- **Graham's message**

Yes, it's the October newsletter announcing the arrival of Autumn on The Island. The weather has turned colder and the leaves are falling from many of the trees around The Island, although there doesn't seem to be a lot of colourful leaves on display at the moment. The many leaves are being swept downstream to form lots of little islands where they rest against rocks and stones, waiting to be swept further down when the next rain comes. Not too long surely? There is plenty of daily activity on The Island with lots of regular dog walkers, swimmers, walkers and people just enjoying the calm surroundings. So many people tell me how much they appreciate our wonderful Island and are so grateful to have such a place in the village. Many thanks to all who support us, it's what makes it all worthwhile!



### **'Our Lizzie'**

On Saturday 23 August, 'Our Lizzie' made her first appearance on the Island. Our Lizzie is a small traction engine that belongs to John Hoare. John agreed to bring down the engine to assist with removal of a large log wedged underneath the bridge and to also relocate other logs further upstream near the weir to parts of the Island out of the way. 'Our Lizzie' proved to be very popular with all those visiting the Island that morning. I am sure that it will not be the last time we see her and John on the Island.



### **Working Party Thursday 11 September**

A group of volunteers from EE led by Sam Richards, along with members of the Brent Island Committee and other Brent Island Trust members undertook a number of tasks on the Island. These included raking the cut grass on the meadow, cutting back overhanging branches, and cutting back the brambles and

other encroaching vegetation from pathways around the Island. Branches and logs from the fallen apple tree were moved to the bank behind the Linhay. Generally the weather was kind, although the Linhay provided much needed shelter when the heavy showers did come through.

## Moths and Batting (Phil Dean)

On the evening of 13th September some 25 of our members gathered hoping to see some of the wildlife



present on (and over) The Island. There had been heavy downpours earlier on in the day and so we tried to set expectations for a low species count. Committee member Phil Dean set up two light sources to attract moths - one at the top of the meadow and one near the Linhay. While we waited for light to fall and moths to arrive, Ken Neal, our local bat expert, deployed his bat monitor which translates the ultrasonic calls of these flying mammals to frequencies which are audible to humans. The sounds produced allow identification to genus or species level. The first to arrive were Common Pipistrelles which we saw overhead with their typical rapid, jerky flight and are found throughout the parish. These were followed by the larger Serotine Bats and then we heard

Daubenton's Bats swooping over the water as they picked aquatic invertebrates from the water surface. By this time some moths were arriving and we saw two species which migrate from mainland Europe - Dark Swordgrass and Rusty-dot Pearl. These were supplemented by some native species including Square-spot Rustic and Common Marbled Carpet. The evening proved to be an outstanding success, was much enjoyed by our members and we hope to have a similar event next year.

At the end of September we, once again, borrowed a bat monitor from the Devon Wildlife Group's bat project to repeat the survey we'd attempted in August which had little success. The monitor is left for three nights and continually records all passes of bats. It was very late in the season but we still recorded five species - Serotine, Noctule, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Whiskered or Brandt's Bat which can't be separated just from their call. We know there are more species present than this as in our survey some years ago we recorded at least 9. Perhaps next year the weather will be a little kinder!!

**Christmas Stall:** On Saturday 6 December from 9.30am we will be setting up in the Old School for our annual Christmas Stall. Featuring tombolas, cakes, mince pies and jam and other items for sale whilst being serenaded by carol singers, we look forward to seeing you all. If you would like to contribute to the stall, from 17 November we will have a box in Dame Hannah's Charity Shop for you to leave tombola prizes, suitable for both adults and children. Cakes, mince pies and jams and other items can be bought to the stall on the day or contact Graham or Geraldine (details at end of newsletter)

## Forthcoming events

**Christmas Stall: Saturday 6 December** – Brent Island Christmas Stall will take place in the Old School Community Centre. 9.30am - 12pm.

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