

Brent Island Trust

Newsletter, August 2020



Into the sunlight?

As the months of lockdown draw to a close it feels as though we are slowly emerging, blinking, into the daylight after a particularly long winter. Let's hope that the Covid situation continues to improve and this doesn't prove to be a false dawn. The Island remains open for mask-free recreation and is, as always, a haven for relaxation and the enjoyment of nature. Please remember to observe social distancing when you visit.

The pandemic necessarily brought a temporary halt to some of the management work we had planned, including disposing of the fallen 'elephant' beech tree, and investigating and fixing a small leak in the leat a little way in from the entrance gate. We plan to address these soon. We have not been able to organise our usual working parties, but hopefully these will also resume before too long. I am pleased to report that we will receive our annual visit by the volunteers from EE telecoms, albeit a little later in the year than usual, in September. They will be carrying out a variety of tasks, including cutting back vegetation from the paths.

You will read below about our thoughts on arrangements for the AGM. I would just add that we are always delighted to welcome volunteers to join our committee. The task is not very onerous and is good fun. We usually meet every two months for a fairly relaxed and convivial discussion over how to manage The Island, encourage new members, raise funds and enhance our profile at local events. If you would like to join us please feel free to chat to me or our Secretary Phil Dean. Our contact details are at the foot of this newsletter.

One traditional feature in the diary is our December Christmas Stall and carol singing outside the Village Shop. We are unable to tell yet whether we will be able to hold all, or some of that, this year, but if it does go ahead the date will be Saturday 5th December, from 10.00 until noon. Watch this space...

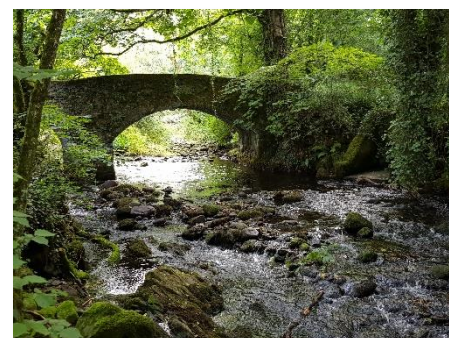
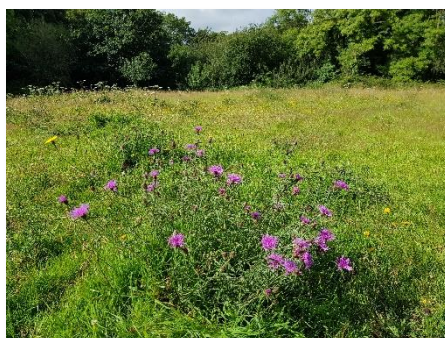
Finally there seems to be an increase in the amount of clothing left on The Island by people enjoying our intermittent spells of fine weather. Please remember to take everything with you when you leave and encourage others to do the same. Have a good summer!



Guy taking advantage of low river flow to inspect the weir for any signs of damage

Guy A. Pannell

A series of photos from 29th July this year



Annual General Meeting

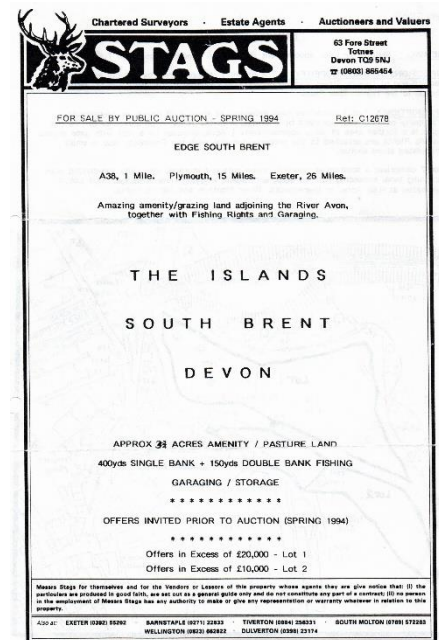
We're still contemplating the form our 2020 AGM should take. Many organisations, including Sustainable South Brent have held on-line events using Zoom. Others have opted for a postal system or a combination of the two. We hold committee meetings every two months and so we'll decide what to do in November – unless guidance from the government on public gatherings permits us to plan earlier. We're very aware that our members have a wide range of preferences and so we'll do our best to ensure that the AGM is open to as many people as we can make it.

The Island Archive

Over the 26 years of The Island Trust's life we've built up a substantial collection of photographs, documents, videos and other memorabilia on the life of The Island – some of it dating from well before 1994. We've started to digitise as much of this as we can and already most of the photo library has been scanned. The aim is to put it on our website and we'll let you know when the first tranche is there for all to see.

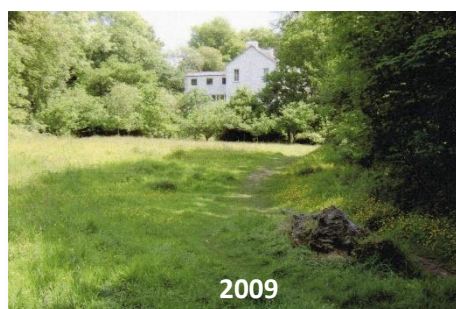
You are probably aware that a dedicated team has been busy creating a village archive in the Old School Community Centre. They had a launch last August and, before the current Covid situation, had open days every Monday which will start again when allowed. We're hoping to transfer some of our physical archive material to the village archive which will make it easier for all to see them 'in the flesh'.

We'll include some archive gems in this and future newsletters and perhaps the best place to start is the notice published in the autumn of 1993 announcing the sale, by public auction, of The Islands, South Brent, Devon which is described as 'an amazing amenity/grazingland adjoining the River Avon.'



More from the Photo Monitoring Project

In our April newsletter we described how The Photo Monitoring Project was started in 1999 by Don Stansbury with the aim of taking photos of 11 specific views on The Island every few years to show how the trees, vegetation and other features have developed over the years. So far we have photos from 1999, 2000, 2002, 2009 and 2019 all taken in May or June of those years. Here is another set of views :



These photos were taken from just over the bridge looking towards the top end of The Island. The log just by the path has slowly decayed and the interpretation board had arrived by 2019 but little else has changed over the 20 years. Perhaps it just demonstrates The Island's place as one of timeless peace and tranquility.

Membership

Thank you once again to everyone who has renewed their membership subscription. Paying by Standing Order has really simplified collecting subs for us! If you prefer to pay by cash or cheque and have not been able to do so because of the lockdown please don't worry. You can either wait until the situation has eased further or alternatively post or drop it in to our Membership Secretary Graham Royle at 2 Middle Green, South Brent, TQ10 9FG or hand it to any committee member.

Contacts:

Website: www.brentisland.org.uk Guy Pannell (Chairman) 01364 72275 ;
Phil Dean (Secretary) 01364 649189, philsue.dean@gmail.com.