



## Welcome to the Brent Island Newsletter for December 2024!

Season's Greetings to all of our members and best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy New Year.

We started off the festive season with our annual Christmas Stall on the first Saturday in December. As many of you will know there were warnings of severe weather and so I decided to relocate to the Old School Centre. Despite the comparative lower footfall, it was definitely the correct decision and partly due to many generous donation on the street where we left a few brave volunteers to take collections and direct folk to the Old School. Many thanks to all of you who donated gifts for the Tombola and baked cakes for the stall. It turned out to be a lovely and successful event.

2025 is another opportunity for us to enjoy and continue to look after The Island. For instance, we are planning to install some bird and bat boxes at appropriate places. It also looks as though we will need to have further remedial work to repair the weir and bring it back to a robust condition, and no doubt there will also be a few other challenges along the way, but we will continue to manage our wonderful Island for the benefit of us all.

**Graham Royle, Brent Island Trust Chair**

### **Wildlife**

During October there were further sightings of otters in the river between the Island and up towards Lydia Bridge.





These wonderful fungi were spotted in November near the viaduct.

*Clitocybe nebularis*, commonly called the Clouded Funnel (and formerly more often referred to as the Clouded Agaric), is often found growing in rings in coniferous forests. Although quite variable in appearance, there is something about this chunky mushroom that makes it recognisable from quite some distance. This mushroom also grows in deciduous woods and beneath hedgerows. Occasionally large fairy rings or masses of Clouded Funnel can even appear in shrubberies!

## Christmas Stall

On Saturday 7 December the Brent Island Committee had prepared to gather outside the Village Shop to assemble our regular Christmas Stall to help raise funds for the Island maintenance and to bring seasonal cheer to passers-by. Sadly Storm Darragh had other ideas and the team had to gather in the Aune Room in the Old School.



Members & supporters of Brent Island Trust, clad in waterproofs, took it in turns to position themselves outside the Village Shop to redirect people to the Old School so that they didn't miss out browsing the cake stall or trying their luck on the tombola. In the Old School, carol singers were accompanied by the musicians, bringing good cheer to all who stopped. We were also joined by Father Christmas.



Many thanks to all who baked cakes, and donated tombola prizes, to the musicians who accompanied the carol singers.

To all of you who stopped to chat and part with their well-earned cash helping to raise a total of £431.41.

Thank you to the Old School for allowing us to use the Aune Room at short notice.



## Dates for Your Diary

**Spring Working Party** Date to be published in the new year

**Easter Egg Trail** Saturday 19th April, 10am - 4pm, The Island

**Annual General Meeting** Tuesday 8th July, Village Hall

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