

Welcome to the April 2026 Brent Island Newsletter!



Dear Islanders,

What a wonderful time of year it is to visit The Island. So many different colours with blossom and new leaves appearing everywhere. Thanks to all those who came along for the Easter Egg Trail which once again was a great success. So lovely to see lots of families and children walking and running around to find the clues. Many familiar faces who turn up every year as well as plenty of new visitors!

Best wishes to you all,
Graham Royle, Chair, Brent Island Trust



Brent Island Easter Egg Trail

On Saturday 4 April the early morning showers had blown through and from 10am we saw a steady stream of families arrive at the Island to take part in the annual Easter Egg Trail. There was a great turn out with about 120 children taking part, accompanied by supportive adults and canine friends. A wonderful family activity on the Island. Brent Island Trust would like to thank Co-Op Funeral Care for their sponsorship of the fruit baskets which were an alternative for those children who were unable to eat chocolate or preferred the healthy option.

Island Tree Safety Inspection

Following recent storms which brought down trees and branches on The Island we thought it wise to carry out a full tree safety inspection. Accordingly we approached Aran Kimberlee who has carried out much tree work for us in the past and he was very happy to oblige. The purpose of the inspection was 'to assess the current condition and structural integrity of the trees on site, and to evaluate the level of risk they may pose to persons, property, and other relevant targets.' Also 'recommendations to assist tree owners or managers in addressing tree-related risk!'

Happily, the outcome was very positive and with just one exception all trees were found to have a 'broadly acceptable risk'. The exception is a tree near the linhay which was rated 'tolerable risk' but with suggested work to open up access for birds to enter the loft space and to avoid possible damage to the linhay. We are now looking at the best way to carry out this work.

BTO Greenspace

One of our keen birder members, Mike Goss, has registered The Island as a Greenspace with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) for their bird survey in April, May and June this year. This lets visitors to The Island record their sightings to help find out just how important greenspaces are for UK birds. From 1 April to 30 June, the BTO would like you to count the birds you observe in the greenspace. You simply need to tell them which greenspace you visited, how long you spent there, and which birds and how many of them you observed. You can record your data using their brand-new mobile phone app or using a paper recording form if you'd rather submit your data on the computer later on. You don't need to be a BTO member to take part and there is more information on taking part at www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/greenspaces

Tree Planting

Former Trustee Sam Richards, accompanied by her daughter Rowan, planted a tree on The Island on 21st March in memory of her husband Wayne who died two years ago. Wayne loved The Island and was a talented artist who produced the pen and ink artwork for a set of greetings cards as a fund raiser. The tree is a Peter Lock cider apple - a traditional Devon type - and replaces one of the same variety which was uprooted in the winter gales. After the planting, Sam's dad Guy Pannell raised a toast to Wayne and the tree, appropriately with cider. Our Chairman Graham with wife Chris and Phil Dean completed the job of installing a protective cage.



Island Membership Renewal

Thank you to those members who have paid their subscriptions for this year.

Subscriptions are due for those who don't pay by standing order (our preferred method) at the following rates: Individual £6. Family £10. Junior £2

Those who pay by BACS please make payment in the usual way to the Brent Island Account.

Bank details:

Account: Brent Island Trust ; Sort Code: 30-94-58 ; Account Number: 00535426

Those who pay by standing order do not need to do anything. Those who need to pay by cash or cheque please forward to Felicity Ferry or other members of the Committee. We now have to pay bank charges for cash or cheque receipts. Can you please consider paying either by BACS or, ideally, standing order if you are able to do so.

Dates for Your Diary

Annual General Meeting:

Tuesday 30th June, 7.30pm

Stansbury Room, South Brent Village Hall

Guest speaker Charlotte Squire from the Connecting People and Landscapes project

www.brentisland.org.uk

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