



Welcome to the Brent Island Newsletter!

Dear Islanders,

Please note that we have our AGM coming up soon on Tuesday 30th June and, due to circumstances beyond our control, the meeting will start at 8.15pm. Please come along as the turnout for our meetings is important. It is a chance for our members to ensure that we trustees are doing the right things. I hope we will see a great many of you there. We have a great speaker and as usual there will be cheese and wine as a further enticement! Further details below.

The Island is looking in great shape! Several of our nest boxes have a second generation of residents in some of the boxes that were used last year. Following the loss of several trees around The Island earlier this year we decided that we should have a tree survey carried out to ensure the safety of visitors to The Island. One tree near the Linhay has been identified as needing remedial work and that will be carried out later in the year.

Best wishes to you all,

Graham Royle, Chair, Brent Island Trust

Tiny Drops, Big Impacts: Protecting the River Avon

Many of us enjoy walking our dogs at the Island and along other parts of the Avon in the local area—but few realise that everyday pet care can have unintended effects on river health.



Products used to treat fleas and ticks, such as spot-on treatments, contain pesticides designed to kill insects. These chemicals can enter the river in small amounts when dogs swim or paddle after treatment, when bedding or equipment is washed, or when rain washes residues into drains and streams. Although the amounts are tiny, they can build up over time.

The River Avon supports a rich variety of small aquatic life—such as insect larvae and tiny crustaceans—which form the base of the food chain. These organisms are very sensitive to pesticides, and even low levels can affect growth and reproduction, disrupt feeding and behaviour and reduce overall biodiversity. Over time, this can impact fish, birds, and the wider health of the river. Protecting the Avon isn't just about tackling big pollution sources—it's also about understanding the cumulative impact of small actions. With a little awareness, we can all help keep our local river healthy for wildlife and future generations.

How you can help - simple actions can make a big difference:

- Only treat pets when needed – talk to your vet
- Keep dogs out of rivers for a few days after treatment

- Wash bedding carefully, avoiding outdoor drains
- Spread the word—many people aren't aware of this issue

Escape to the Country

For those of you who watch Escape to the Country on BBC1, Series 26 Episode 28 which was broadcast at the end of March was filmed in Devon. Some of the filming may have looked familiar as it was filmed on The Island!

Island Wildlife

Recently a number of male roe deer have been sighted near The Island.

The roe deer is a small deer, it is mostly brown in colour turning reddish in summer and darker grey in the winter. It has a pale buff patch around its rump. The roe deer has short antlers and no tail. The species is widespread in Europe.



Island Membership Renewal

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

Volunteers

Thank you to all who have helped with our working party groups on The Island. Can you help in other ways? We do need some new members on the Brent Island Committee, so if you feel you could help on the Committee please get in touch.

Island Membership Renewal

Sunday 5 July 5.00 to 7.00pm at South Brent Village Hall. A 50-minute film, followed by an optional open discussion. The evening will conclude with a nature walk down to The Island.

Dates for Your Diary

Annual General Meeting:

Tuesday 30th June, 8.15pm

Stansbury Room, South Brent Village Hall

Guest speaker: Charlotte Squire - Connecting People and Landscapes

Charlotte loves the Devon countryside and is keen to encourage others to enjoy the natural environment as part of the Connecting People and Landscapes project. [Connecting People and Landscapes in a Changing Climate](#) brings together farmers, landowners and communities across the South-West and beyond to create a more resilient landscape in the face of a changing climate.

[Read the Financial Report which will be presented at the AGM here](#)

www.brentisland.org.uk

Contacts:

Graham Royle (Chair): 01364 72803; grahamroyle@outlook.com

Geraldine Coleman (Secretary): 01364 388477; geraldinemcoleman7@gmail.com



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Our mailing address is:

Brent Island Trust Oakmeade Exeter Road South Brent, Devon TQ10 9JP United Kingdom