

# Brent Island Trust

Newsletter, August 2021



## A Message from Graham

Dear Members,

I sincerely hope that you are enjoying the Summer while it is still here, at least in between the showers and more persistent rain! The Island seems to be being well used during the Summer months. It is especially nice to see many young families visiting and enjoying the open air. I think The Island has been looking particularly beautiful recently with the meadow and trees in bloom and very active insect and bird life. Many thanks go to the EE volunteers, see below, for their sterling efforts especially in spreading the gravel on the pathway. The Island has been visited by members of both Dartmoor National Park and Westcountry Rivers recently to check on the health of the flora and fauna which seem to be in good shape.

As always, please feel free to contact me or other committee members if you wish to report anything. We are always happy to receive feedback from our members. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming AGM in October.

### AmazonSmile – please sign up!

We have now registered with AmazonSmile which means that when you sign up to the scheme, Amazon will make a contribution to Island funds of 0.5% of eligible purchases you make from them. There is no extra cost to you. To sign up, simply log into your Amazon account and search for AmazonSmile. This will then guide you through the process which is very simple. When it asks for the charity enter "Brent Island Trust". We will receive donations quarterly (or annually if under £5).



### Peter Reay asks ... Have you seen any Goosanders?

In connection with my talk on Goosanders at The Brent Island Trust AGM (see below), I thought it would be interesting to find out how often these birds are seen around The Island. I already know of two sightings this year, but there have probably been others, and some from previous years too. If you've seen any, I would appreciate details – when, how many, male or female etc – in advance of the AGM. Please contact Peter Reay [peter.p.j.reay@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.p.j.reay@btinternet.com).



Male Goosander at Stover  
(Photo by D Smallshire)



Female Goosander on River Dart  
(Photo by R Hibbert)

## Wildlife on The Island

Not so much **on** The Island as **by** The Island, Olivia and George from Westcounty Rivers carried out their annual 'electrofishing' survey of the river at the top of The Island near the viaduct early this month. In the time they were there they recorded and measured the length of 19 trout fry, 6 salmon fry and 4 salmon parr. Fry are newly-hatched fish while parr are juveniles which have grown from last year's fry.



## Island maintenance

**Invasive Species:** A team from the Dartmoor national Park Authority (DNPA) visited recently to help clear the invasive plants, Skunk Cabbage and Himalayan Balsam, from The Island and its surroundings. The aim is to prevent their seeds from washing down the river and invading other areas.



**EE (the mobile phone company):** spent the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> June for their now regular summer volunteering session on The Island. They efficiently worked their way through all the tasks from 'bracken-bashing' to spreading more aggregate on the path between the gate and bridge to help consolidate the softer areas. Thanks also to committee member, Rob Wills, who supported them during their visit.

## Dates for your diary

- **Autumn Working party:** This has been set for the morning of Saturday 6th November starting at 10am. As usual there will be several tasks to help 'put The Island to bed' for the winter including clearing paths, filling holes etc. All are welcome to join us and we'll give more details in our next newsletter. Strong shoes and gardening gloves are recommended.
- **Annual General Meeting 2021:** As mentioned in our June newsletter this will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October starting at 7.30pm in the village hall. Our guest speaker will be Peter Reay taking "A Gander at Goosanders" – waterfowl which are sometimes seen on the river by The Island.
- **Christmas Fair 2021:** as usual, this will be on the first Saturday in December which this year falls on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Brief notes

- If you plan to hold any activities on The Island we ask that you let us know beforehand to check that there is no clash with other events. Contact details are below.

## Contacts:

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