

Brent Island Trust

Newsletter, December 2022



A Message from Graham

Dear Members,

Another two months have passed since our last Newsletter and it has been a time of great Autumn beauty and glorious colours. Most leaves have now been released from the trees leaving them still beautiful in the shapes of their trunks and branches. The recent cold weather has not made The Island any less wonderful with frosted grass and trees making a visit well worthwhile. Much bird activity can be seen with recent sightings of many species including Heron.

As reported below, we enjoyed a very successful Christmas Stall recently, this is our biggest fund-raising event each year, so many thanks for all help and donations. Unfortunately this festive glee was rather dampened by the discovery the next morning that our beautiful Linhay had been vandalised! Many thanks to those who very quickly helped to clear, clean and restore it with some rather hard work and application!

Good news! Due to funding sourced by Dartmoor National Park it looks like we are going to be able to improve accessibility to The Island – more details below.

Festive Greetings and a Happy New Year to you all. Best wishes,

Graham Royle (Chair)

Our Christmas Stall

The 'Team' gathered outside the Village Shop on the morning of Saturday 3rd December to assemble our regular Christmas stall and bring seasonal cheer to all passers-by – as well as helping to raise funds for Island maintenance. Despite the cold wind whistling down Station Road people were stopping before we had officially opened up to browse our offerings. However, soon the musicians and



carol singers were in full flow bringing smiles to all. The rain (and snow) held off and all of our cakes were snapped up in less than one hour while the tombola tickets encouraged people to test their luck and win extraordinary prizes. Many thanks are due to all who gave generously of their baking skills and tombola prizes and to all those who came for a chat and to part with their hard-earned cash helping us to raise a magnificent, record-breaking total of £418.



Making The Island More Accessible

Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) has an initiative aimed at improving accessibility across Dartmoor to meet the needs of all who would like to visit but currently find it rather challenging. We've had discussions with DNPA about how to better provide access to The Island – especially along the lane down to The Island gate which is very rough and presents a problems for those with buggies, using mobility scooters or who aren't too steady on their feet. It is now highly likely that DNPA will generously be able to tarmac this lane, improve access through the gate, help with draining

the muddy patch across the path from the gate to the bridge and improve the path around The Island in two places. We hope to be able to show you the results before too long and will bring more news as soon as we can.

Vandalism on The Island – yet again

On the night of Saturday 3rd December, revellers decided it would be a good idea to spray graffiti on the linhay, to discharge several cans of silly string and to leave behind them rubbish and broken glass. This only happens occasionally but does create a messy job for us to clear up afterwards. We need to carefully collect all the shards of glass to prevent them cutting dogs' paws or being picked up by young children. We fully support people using The Island as a place of relaxation and to have fun but understanding the need to daub walls and smash bottles defeats us.

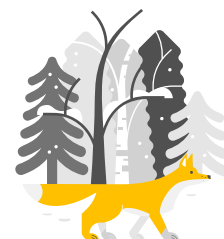


A Surprise Working Party – 21st January 2023?

As reported in our October newsletter, one of the tasks we weren't able to complete was to cut back brambles on the north and west sides of The Island. While bramble does provide an excellent habitat for many birds, mammals and invertebrates it can spread wildly and so our aim is to scallop its edge to meet the needs of wildlife while also checking its growth. We must do this before spring to avoid disturbance to wildlife and so we anticipate this will be on Saturday 21st January 2023. We'll start at 10am and, bearing in mind likely low temperatures, coffee will also be available! We'll be in touch nearer the time when we can see whether the weather will let us do this without too much discomfort.

Stop Press!!

Just as this newsletter was about to be sent out a sprinkling of snow arrived.....



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