



Brent Island Trust

Newsletter, June 2024



Message from Graham

Welcome to our June Newsletter. It is a very significant month for Brent Island, being 30 years since the purchase and official opening in June 1994! We are currently planning the 30th Anniversary Event as we go to press, scheduled for Saturday 21 September. Still a way off yet, but certainly a date for your diaries.

Much sooner is our Annual General Meeting which is being held on Tuesday 25 June at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall. I would really love to see you there and we do have a high-profile speaker in Kevin Cox who is the Chairman of the RSPB and will deliver a talk on "Making Space for Nature". Unmissable! Please come along!

I promised to keep you up to date about the work on the railway viaduct. You may well have already seen that Balfour Beatty have indeed started work, but NOT accessing the bridge across The Island. This is good news for the fabric of the island and there will be much less disruption, of course. BB had promised to carry out some remedial work on the weir for us and they are still willing to do this as we were so cooperative when we were originally approached, so this may be a fantastic result for us if it all works out to plan. The weir has certainly suffered with the high river levels this Winter and Spring and so we will be very grateful for the work to be carried out.

Please go down and enjoy our wonderful Island while the sun is shining!

Sadly, I have to report the death of Wayne Richards, one of our long-term members and supporters who had been involved in many of our activities over the years. Wayne leaves his widow, Sam (a former Committee Member and daughter of Guy and Cathie Pannell and their two daughters, Ellie and Rowan. Our thoughts are with all his family.

Working Party: A small working party met on the morning of Tuesday 21 May to undertake some necessary work on the Island. The group started with the removal and replacement of the post near the entrance attached to the post where you would find the map of the Island, Dartmoor National Park Authority information.



The Island map has since been repaired, cleaned and reattached to the post. We await new copies of Dartmoor National Park Authority information



Other tasks included the removal of Skunk Cabbage from the leat, cutting up branches along the side of the weir and removing them to the bank and finally taking necessary ground measurements in preparation for the layout of 30th Anniversary event in September.



Annual General Meeting

You are invited to attend the AGM meeting of Brent Island Trust Stansbury Room at the Village Hall Tuesday 25 June at 7.30pm.

The format for the evening is the

Chair's report

Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts

Election of Officers and Committee

There will be an opportunity for people to raise any Island queries or matters for discussion

Cheese and wine followed by our guest speaker;

Kevin Cox - Chair of RSPB Council who will speak on the topic 'Making Space for Nature'

Non members are welcome to attend

Wildlife on the Island

The Dippers returned again this year to their nesting place under the railway viaduct. They were spotted flying in and out of the nest feeding their chicks; we assume and hope that the chicks have fledged as they have now departed.

We have also received news that an otter has been sighted recently also near the viaduct. Otters have also been sighted and filmed on the river near Avonwick.



River Avon Viaduct



Balfour Beatty have started their work under the railway viaduct to install scour protection on the bridge piers. The nature of their work involves delivering rocks and concrete sections to the site. They do not anticipate noise disturbance, but you will notice construction traffic around Vicarage Road bridge where the road crosses the railway.

Dates for your diary

30th Anniversary event: Fun Day Saturday 21 September 2024. 11am -4pm

As, part of the 30th Anniversary of the Island the Committee will be compiling a display in the Corridor of the Old School. If anyone has photographs from over the last 30 years of their time using The Island that they would be happy to lend the Committee, please contact Graham or Geraldine (contact details below)

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