

# Brent Island Trust

## Newsletter, October 2020



### Doing the two-step?

It seems to be a case of one step forward and two steps back as we collectively struggle to overcome Covid-19. We had hoped to hold our 2020 Annual Meeting in person, albeit it later than usual, in November. Sadly we have decided that present circumstances make this impossible, and so we are making arrangements to hold the AGM by email and post. Please see below for more information. We sincerely hope that we can meet again in person for the AGM in 2021.

The current restrictions have also forced us to abandon plans for our traditional Christmas Stall, tombola and Carol Singing this year – to my memory the first time we have had to do this since our first fundraising Christmas stall in December 1993. We will miss the extra income this event generates, but fortunately we are in a stable financial position which allows us to absorb this loss for a year. Yes, it is an unhappy state of affairs, but let's resolve to make next year's stall bigger and better than ever.

This is my farewell as your Chairman, as I will be standing down at the AGM after four years in the hotseat – my second term after holding the post in the early days of the Trust. It has once again been great fun, with last year's 25th Anniversary Fair as one of the highlights. I have a number of other new responsibilities, which are demanding of my time, and with my growing years it seems a good time to hand over the baton to younger blood. My thanks to all the Members of the Trust, and particularly our Committee, who have made my task so much easier. I have indicated that I am willing to serve on the Committee if wanted, so I look forward to our continuing friendship.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy A. Pannell".

### Annual General Meeting

As explained above by Guy we'll be using more mundane methods to elect trustees this year. Sadly, we'll miss the now expected selection of cheeses and glass of wine together with the opportunity to catch up with other members face-to-face. Instead we'll be sending you a list of trustees standing for election. The nominee list so far is:

Name	Position
Bridie Kennerley	Committee
David Worrall	Committee
Felicity Ferry	Treasurer
Graham Royle	Chair
Guy Pannell	Committee
John Hoare	Committee
Laurette Guest	Committee
Phil Dean	Secretary
Rob Wills	Committee

If you feel you'd like to join the committee and help with running The Island please let us know by 10<sup>th</sup> November – contact details at the bottom of this newsletter. The role is not arduous and additional support is always welcome!

Following any further nominations we'll send out voting forms, together with a 2019/20 financial statement for your approval, our Chairman's address and a membership statement, within the following few days and would like your votes to be returned for counting by 30<sup>th</sup> November. We'll also be asking for any comments or questions you may have.

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## The Leat

In the last month we have commissioned a significant repair to a section of the leat, near the gate. This had sprung a leak and the ground around it, and particularly the path, had become saturated. The work was carried out in a highly professional manner by a team from Castleford Engineering of Ipplepen. This is the company which rebuilt the weir in 2014, and they are experts in all kinds of engineering involving water. Thank you to our Vice Chairman Graham Royle for co-ordinating this, and to our Secretary Phil Dean for making a successful application to the Parish Council for a grant of £500 towards the £1440 cost. We are fortunate to have the support of the Parish Council in our work and are grateful for their help. We are also hopeful of receiving a significant grant from another source.



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## The Meadow and our next Working Party

Our thanks are due to our member John Severn, who once again was the man who went to mow a meadow, cutting the grass for us with his tractor at the end of August. Covid restrictions meant that the Scouting and Guiding groups weren't able to carry out their usual task of raking up the fallen grass – an essential part of our plan to restore the wildflower diversity to the Meadow. Fortunately the team of volunteers from the EE communications company in Plympton stepped into the breach. About a dozen of them came for their annual working party at the start of September, mercifully just before the rule of six was announced. With help from some of your committee they raked up much of the grass, bashed bracken, cut back brambles and bushes from the paths around The Island and cleaned the display in the linhay. We are grateful for their enthusiasm, hard work and good humour.



John Severn mowing the meadow.



Two photos of the EE team and some Brent Island members.



We have set aside the morning of **Tuesday 3rd November** starting at **10am** for our next Island working party. Do come along if you can spare the time. We have a number of tasks to carry out and we always have fun. Bring along your own gardening gloves and we'll aim to provide the rest of the necessary tools.

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## Moor Life

The latest edition of Moor Life, the newsletter of Dartmoor National Park, features an item entitled "An Island – in South Brent!" which waxes lyrical about the wildlife and pleasures of The Island. The article was penned by our secretary and we wait with baited breath and in eager anticipation for an influx of walkers taking a break from their travels on the moorland. The article can be found at <https://mailchi.mp/dartmoor.gov.uk/moor-life-news-views-and-activities-from-the-moor?e=4051e6ec85>

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Contacts:

Website: [www.brentisland.org.uk](http://www.brentisland.org.uk) Guy Pannell (Chairman) 01364 72275 ;  
Phil Dean (Secretary) 01364 649189, philsue.dean@gmail.com.