Brent Island Trust Newsletter October 2026

Graham's Message: Dear Islanders, Where is Autumn? It really doesn't seem to have arrived just yet! Although there has been a drop in temperature, most of the trees are still hanging onto their leaves and the colours of Autumn are not yet very visible. As always, now is definitely a good time to visit The Island. It is looking green and well cared for,especially after the recent working party with members from EE giving us their time and efforts. See more below. We do have another working party planned for Saturday 7th November, please do come along if you are available. Also planned is our annual Christmas Stall, to be held in the Aune Room of The Old School as part of their "Birthday Weekend" to celebrate the recent work to upgrade the buildings. Please come along to support Brent Island and the Old School community. Hopefully see you there!

Removing tree trunk from the weir





On Thursday 20 August Will Cooper & his colleague came to the Island to remove the large tree trunk which lodged itself on the weir during one of the storms that we experienced earlier in the year.
Thank you, to John Severn, for giving up his time to mow the meadow.

EE Working Party



On Tuesday 16 September, we had a working party morning, and we were joined by a group of nine volunteers from EE who came to assist with necessary maintenance tasks on the Island including the raking of the meadow, bashing the bracken as well as cutting back overhanging vegetation and filling in holes made by our canines friends. Two froglets were relocated from the meadow to the riverbank and a wasps nest was also discovered, visitors to the Island were duly warned of the presence of the nest.



Bat-ing and Moth-ing on The Island

On the evening of 11th September we were treated to a break in the poor weather and went ahead with our second annual event to see and monitor bats and moths. Unfortunately, as the light faded the temperature dropped and a heavy dew formed on the ground which put off much of our hoped-for wildlife. However, we did see both Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle bats as well Large Yellow Underwing, Square-spot Rustic and Light Emerald. This was below our hopes and expectations so we'll take a look at the timing of next year's event and move it to a date more favourable to seeing wildlife. Thanks to Ken Neal for bringing along his bat detector and infra-red camera and to Mike Goss and Phil Dean for setting up their moth traps.

Forthcoming Events:

Working Party: Saturday 7 November 10am

Christmas Stall: Saturday 5 December 9.30am - 12pm in the Old School Community Centre.

We will be taking up our new spot in the Old School Community Centre, we will also have volunteers with collection boxes outside the Village Shop. Featuring a tombola, cakes, mince pies and jam and other items for sale, whilst being serenaded by carol singers, we look forward to seeing you all. If you would like to contribute to the stall, we will have a box in Dame Hannah's Charity Shop for you to leave tombola prizes, from 23 November. Cakes, mince pies and jams can be brought to the stall on the day or contact Graham or Geraldine (details at the end of this newsletter).

Contacts: Website:brentisland.org.uk; Graham Royle (Chair) 01364 72803,grahamroyle@outlook.com
Geraldine Coleman (Secretary) 01364 388477, geraldinemcoleman7@gmail.com