



# Brent Island Trust

## Newsletter, August 2024

### Message from Graham

Dear Members,

Welcome to our August Newsletter. Recent works to secure the railway bridge are nearing an end and hopefully we will see The Island returning to its normal peace and tranquillity! The next month is both exciting and busy with events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the purchase of The Island for the village. There is to be a corridor display in the Old School Community Centre during the month of September and then on Saturday 21st we have planned a Fun Day on The Island. There will be many stands/displays from local organisations, many of them related to local wildlife and the environment. There will be activities for children and plenty of information about The Island and its history. There will be music, hot and cold refreshments, snacks and ice cream to enjoy. I hope that you will all be able to come along and join us. Fingers firmly crossed for good weather!

I would like to ask those who are able, to contact me or any of the committee to volunteer to help out in any way you can. On the day we will need marshals and general helpers to make sure everything goes well and put up tents and signage. In the run up, we will need fliers posting, posters and banners put up in advance. There is a Working Party planned for September 19th (see below) to get The Island prepared, safe and ready and we will also be joined by volunteers from EE on that day. Please do get involved! I look forward to seeing you there. Best wishes, Graham Royle Chair of Brent Island Trust.

"I am sad to report the recent death of John King after a long illness. John was Treasurer of Brent Island Trust for 3 years and was closely involved and committed to the running and development of The Island."



**AGM Review:** There was a good attendance at the Brent Island Trust AGM on Tuesday 25 June. Numbers were up on last year. Kevin Cox, current Chair of RSPB Council, spoke with knowledge and passion on topics ranging from his work in Bolivia in 2008 to establish a protected area for the endangered Blue throated Macaw, to the provision of swift nest boxes in Exeter Cathedral Tower. Kevin also spoke about the work & projects on his own land at Buckfastleigh.

**River Avon Viaduct update:** Balfour Beatty are continuing 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. BB will also be carrying out some remedial work on the weir for us, as well as removing the tree trunk next to the bridge. 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.

### **Working Parties –**

**July:** On Tuesday 30 July a small working party of Phil, John, Felicity and Geraldine met at the Linhay to reinstate the refurbished and repaired noticeboards, ready for the new display from Year 5 pupils from South Brent Primary School.



Thanks to John for stepping in to replace Graham who was otherwise engaged having a knee replaced.

**September:** On **Thursday 19 September** at 10am a working party is planned to prepare The Island for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event on Saturday 21 September. A group of volunteers from EE will be assisting with the raking of the meadow and undertaking other tasks such as tidying pathways, cutting back brambles and filling holes. If you are able to join us on the morning of Thursday 19 September, please meet at The Island at 10am.

**The Brent Island Fun Day - Saturday 21 September** The Fun Day is to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the purchase of The Island for the community and the creation of Brent Island Trust. The event will take place on The Island from 11am to 4pm. Hot / cold drinks and cakes and snacks will be available on The Island but no cooked food or meals.

### **Forthcoming events:**

**Christmas Stall: Saturday 7 December** – Brent Island Stall outside the Village shop 9.30am – 12pm

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