

# Brent Island Trust

## Newsletter, April 2023



## A Message from Graham

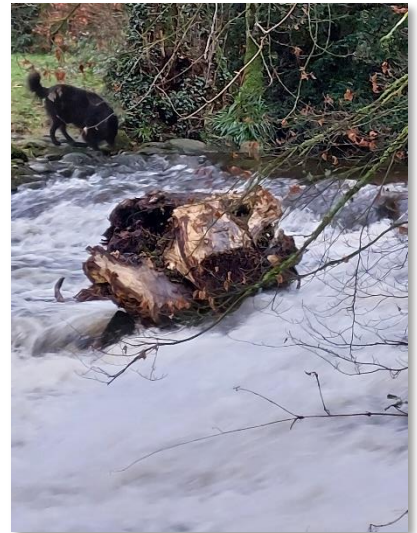
**Dear Members,**

Welcome to our latest Newsletter! At last, it is really Spring, although with typical changeable April weather, and we can see the fresh new green of buds appearing on many of the shrubs and bushes. The larger trees are not quite there yet, but it won't be long before The Island returns to its full splendour. I do think that each season reveals a different side of our Island, each beautiful in its own way, but Spring is perhaps the best with the promise of so much to come. Please do take the time to come and visit and enjoy!

Recent heavy rainfall during March saw the river levels very high once more with the usual problem of branches and trunks being washed downstream. We do have one rather large tree rootball lodged part way down the weir and a tree trunk wedged across one of the bridge arches. Once the water levels drop we will have to see about getting them removed to prevent damage. If we need extra help, I will let you know. The stonework on the weir is showing signs of wear and tear and some repointing needs to be done to prevent the water from washing the stones from its surface. Hopefully, this is a job that we will be able to get done during the Summer when the river level is low.

Our recent annual Easter Egg Trail was very well attended, probably the best ever. It was really heartening to see so many families enjoying themselves on The Island in the sunshine. (See report below)

**Graham Royle (Chair)**



## Island Working Party

We're hoping that our next working party will be on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April and, as usual, starting at 09.30 and finishing no later than 12.30. We have yet to draw up a list of tasks but it will include the usual bramble cutting and hole filling and so you should wear gardening gloves and stout shoes and bring with you, if you have them, a pair of secateurs. We'll provide additional tools. If you are able to come along your help would be much appreciated and we'll be in touch to confirm arrangements.

The last working party on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January saw the sad demise of The Island's rather aged brush cutter which found the task of clearing brambles just a little too much. As we used it no more than once each year we've decided not to buy another one but to rely on our membership for loans. One of our committee members has already offered the use of his but we may well ask you to help when the time comes.

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## Easter Egg Trail – a truly excellent event

The sun beat down for our annual event on 8<sup>th</sup> April. We started off with an ambitious 123 eggs and 12 fruit baskets as rewards for the endeavours of our younger visitors who sought to find twelve letters from clues distributed around The Island and then unscramble them to form seasonal animal life. At one point we ran out of clipboards for the trail – the first time this has happened in living memory. Then, mid-afternoon, a panic call was received to say that we were running out of eggs and more were desperately needed. Our intrepid eggexplorer cleared out the Village Shop of its remaining eggs and also raided the Co-op resulting in eighteen more prizes. But, once again, supplies ran low and so a further foray to the village resulted in six more offerings.

As you can imagine, the occasion was an outstanding success and provided families with the opportunity to eggsplore the Island – some of them for the first time.



Committee members waiting for the clock to strike 10am and to greet the first visitors.



Some of our visitors enjoying sunshine in the meadow.

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## Annual General Meeting

A reminder that our AGM will be on 11th July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will, of course, provide you the opportunity to elect committee members, ask questions and partake of refreshment in the form of cheese & biscuits and wine/soft drinks. As listed in our last newsletter, our guest speaker will be Tim Russell (pictured right) who is the Recreation & Access Projects officer for Dartmoor National Park and who has written a book entitled *The Warden: A Lifetime in Nature*. We look forward to seeing you all in the Stansbury Room.



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## A Final Plea ...

We'd be very grateful if any of you who have yet to renew your Brent Island membership for this year could do so. If you're unsure whether you've already done it or not then you can contact us using the details below.

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## Contacts:

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