

Brent Island Trust

Newsletter, February 2019



CAN YOU HELP BRENT ISLAND TRUST ?

25th Anniversary Celebrations: On Saturday 8th June we will celebrate 25 successful years of Brent Island Trust. We are holding a Silver Jubilee Fair on The Island between 2pm and 5pm that day. A number of outside organisations will be setting up stands, including the Dartmoor National Park Authority, Westcountry Rivers Trust, Devon Wildlife Trust and Devon Blood Bikers. There will be refreshments and games, activities for children and live music. We will need a lot of helpers to make this a success and we are appealing for offers of assistance from members and friends. If you are able to do this please contact Guy or Phil, using the details at the bottom of this newsletter.

New Trustees: We are looking for new trustees to join the committee. There are many interesting activities in the life of a committee member: Christmas Stall, Easter Egg Trail, communicating with the membership, working parties, surveying wildlife on The Island and projects such as the new gate and interpretation board. If you'd like to help you can reach us using the contact details at the bottom of this Newsletter. The committee meets every two months and we'd be delighted if you could help with any of our tasks whether small or large.

Christmas Stall

A big thank you to everyone who contributed and helped with our Christmas Stall in the centre of the village on 1st December. After a night of incessant rain, we were naturally apprehensive about going ahead on the Saturday morning, but conditions improved to a steady drizzle and we were able to set up outside the Village Shop under the cover of a gazebo kindly supplied by committee member Rob Wills. This made a huge difference, both to the comfort of the helpers, and to the protection of the wares for sale and the tombola prizes. We've agreed that a gazebo is a must for the future! Once again, we were delighted with the generosity of our supporters, raising a grand total of £348, all of which goes towards trust funds. The tombola made £140, carol singing £82 and the cakes and gifts an excellent £76. Donations totalled £50. Thanks also to those who fortified us during the morning with gifts of hot sausages and mulled wine.



A new lock on the gate

Our attractive, and effective, new gates now have a smart new lock fitted. This will ensure easier access for people using mobility scooters and wheelchairs to visit The Island. The lock can be operated from either side using a number code, which will be supplied to anyone who needs to take advantage of this facility. If you would like to have the code for this reason, or know anyone who might benefit from having it, please contact our Secretary Phil Dean, whose details are at the foot of this newsletter. Users will be updated if we need to change the code. Our thanks go to South Brent Feoffees for funding this amenity with a grant of £276.



Annual General Meeting 2019

We are delighted that Kevin Bishop, Chief Executive of Dartmoor National Park Authority, has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker at our AGM in the side hall at South Brent Village Hall on Wednesday 26th June at 7.30pm. These are challenging times for National Parks, which are currently undergoing a review of their functions and finance, so Kevin may have some very interesting thoughts about the future. Please make a note in your diaries of this important date in the trust's year.

Tree trunk on weir

Visitors to The Island may have spotted that we have another large tree trunk washed downriver and stuck on the weir. The levels in the river make it impossible to carry out any work to remove this at present, but the aim is to remove it once the flow has reduced. It may be possible to use it to help with repairs to the riverbank on the far side of The Island, where it is being undercut by the river. The winter spates have continued to cause erosion a short distance upstream of the linhay and we have a plan in place, working with the Westcountry Rivers Trust, to strengthen the bank using tree trunks and brush. We have been given permission by Dartmoor National Park Authority to coppice nearby trees for this work and are awaiting consent from Devon County Council.



Tree trunk stuck on the weir



Continuing riverbank erosion near the linhay

November working party

Members enjoyed a successful working party at the end of October, carrying out a number of management tasks. These included updating notices in the Linhay, removing tree roots at the edge of the Meadow, filling in holes dug by dogs, and clearing brambles and other growth from paths. We also mowed and scarified two more areas in the Meadow where we scattered Yellow-rattle seed with the aim of increasing the spread of this plant to suppress the growth of coarse grasses and encourage wild flowers.



The wildlife of South Brent Parish

In the past year three interesting and well illustrated books have been published, recording the birds, the butterflies and the moths found in the parish of South Brent. Our Secretary Phil Dean has been heavily involved in all three, and was personally responsible for producing those on the butterflies and moths. All three attractive publications are available from *artworks* in the village, with the booklet on butterflies priced £3.50 and moths £5. If you are interested in local wildlife these are highly recommended.

Contacts:

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Website: www.brentisland.org.uk