



Welcome to the Brent Island Newsletter!

Dear Members,

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. I hope that you are all keeping well?

I am beginning to think that Spring is very much on its way! There are snowdrops out, buds are appearing on trees and other plants, and birds are starting to look for mates and nesting sites. With this in mind, we have had 12 nesting boxes expertly crafted for us and they will be put in place soon, see later for details!

The river has been in full flow recently due to the high rainfall, but the Island seems to have escaped the worst that has been thrown at it by the many named storms! We are aware that there is a tree trunk wedged against the bridge but it doesn't seem to be causing any damage. If it doesn't get washed down, we will have to try and dislodge it at a future working party. The weir has also held up and the pointing carried out by Balfour Beatty last Autumn has obviously helped. When the river flows have slackened, we will assess whether we need some further work to ensure its strength for the future.

Best wishes to you all, and I hope to see you at our future events.

Graham Royle, Brent Island Trust Chair



Welcome to new Brent Island Trust Committee Member - Frances Hopkins Pask

I'm so pleased to join the Brent Island Trust committee and get the chance to be involved in the management and fundraising initiatives for this wonderful community nature reserve. I've been a local resident of South Brent and Avonwick for 15 years, and along with my husband Ed and our two boys Vin and Fred, I love being part of this unique community. I am a passionate lover of nature and wildlife, and get so much pleasure from watching, noticing and taking care of birds, bees and all the other important beasts with which we share our environment. I'm part of the team of local volunteer water quality samplers that regularly monitor the health of the Avon as part of the West Country Rivers Trust citizen science scheme. Professionally, I'm a Senior Scientist at Plymouth Marine Laboratory, where I undertake research into the role that the oceans play in regulating Earth's climate, and also work on projects focused on improving water quality in both our rivers and our coastal seas.



Spring is on the way – Flowers & fungi found on Brent Island

Snowdrops – *Galanthus*- lift the spirits on a grey day. There are about 20 different species. Flowering of snowdrops is one of the first signs that winter is drawing to an end. The flower has long been viewed as a symbol of hope.



Scarlet elf cap – *Sarcoscypha* – grows on decaying sticks and branches in damp spots and beneath leaf litter.

**Spring working party:
Saturday 1 March 9.30am - 12.30pm**

Tasks will include the filling in of holes made by the canine members, cutting back overhanging branches on paths, flattening mole hills, as well as putting up bird boxes that have been constructed by Paul Edginton and Colin Mayes with a little help from their friends. We are very grateful to them for their support and generosity in offering to make the nest boxes based on the BTO design. They look really great and hopefully will soon be populated by our feathered friends.



12 finished boxes. 8 have holes at the front for birds including blue tits, great tits, nuthatches ; 2 open-fronted for robins; 2 with openings at the side which we hope may be used by treecreepers.



**Island membership Renewal:
Membership subscriptions are due for renewal in April**

Individual £6 / Family £10 / Junior £2

Those who pay by BACS please make payment in the usual way to the Brent Island Account. Bank details:

Account: Brent Island Trust
Sort Code: 30-94-58
Account Number: 00535426

Those who can pay by cash or cheque please forward to Felicity Ferry or any other committee member. Those who pay by standing order do not need to do anything. We thank you all for your

continuing support. Please note that paying by standing order is far easier for all concerned and reduces our administration considerably!

Many thanks, Graham

Dates for Your Diary

Spring Working Party

Saturday 1 March, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Meet at the Island

Easter Egg Trail

Saturday 19th April, 10am - 4pm

The Island

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 8th July, 7.30pm

Stansbury Room, Village Hall

www.brentisland.org.uk

Contacts:

Graham Royle (Chair): 01364 72803; grahamroyle@outlook.com

Geraldine Coleman (Secretary): 01364 388477; geraldinemcoleman7@gmail.com

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