

South Brent Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2025, Issue 85

Any Organisation in South Brent may use the Parish Crest

Chairman's Report

Christmas Lights.

The Christmas Lights were well received by local residents, but there was a technical fault with one of the wall displays causing the lights in Station Road to be off for a period. The feature was removed and the lighting company have agreed a discount for the inconvenience this caused.

A local resident complained to the Council that a set of Christmas Lights had been attached to his property without permission. It was explained that there had been a misunderstanding by Torbay Display and went on to apologise, both in person and in writing, on behalf of the Council for this error. The resident then stated that the lights could stay for this and future years, as 'there were greater problems in the world, than the location of a string of Christmas Lights'.



Hope Wood.

On Saturday 4th January 2025, I attended the naming ceremony and planting of the first 2,500 trees at Hope Wood, off Palstone Lane. This 65 acre woodland will eventually have 25,000 trees.

Front Cover

May 2025

This will be a very busy month. Squeezed between May Day and Spring Bank Holiday on 26th.

Thursday 1st May 2025. Devon County Council elections will take place.

Sunday 11th May (tbc). It is expected the Council will be holding a Civic Service to mark VE Day 80th Anniversary, hosted in The Parish Church of St Petroc and conducted by the Rev'd Prebendary Prof Gina Radford.

Monday 12th May. Annual Parish Meeting (APM) to be held in the side hall of the Village Hall at 7.30pm, to update Parishioners on the activities of the Council over the past year and present the Community Champion and Junior Community Champion Awards.

Monday 12th May. Annual Parish Council Meeting following the APM, at which a new Chairman will be elected as I will step down after four years, as required by our standing orders.

Monday 19th May. Full Council Meeting at 7.30pm in the side hall of the Village Hall.

Councillor Glyn Richards
Chairman

Local Government Re-organisation and Devolution in Devon: Cllr David Hancock, Ward Member for South Brent at South Hams District Council

Good news! Democracy has not been cancelled and elections to Devon County Council will take place as planned in May. What's this, I hear you ask? Well, this has all to do with local government re-organisation. Just before Christmas, the government announced that all district and county councils will be abolished and replaced with new single-tier unitary councils. In response to this announcement elected members at Devon County Council decided that the best thing to do was to cancel this year's election, which they voted to do in early January, a vote carried on party lines with the majority party winning the day.

The argument put forward was that only currently elected members would have sufficient wisdom and knowledge to carry out fundamental reform of local government and new councillors could only be expected to muck things up. Personally, given the state of our potholed roads and the experience of any parent trying to get SEND support for their child, I was cynical about the fated ability of the current crop of ruling councillors, but what do I know? Anyway, the government thought better and declined the county council's request, and the people of Devon will have their say on who they want to guide the process of re-organisation.

But what does it actually mean? Currently, we have a district and a county council, and both have separate areas of responsibility. This creates a pretty confusing landscape. Councillors at both levels often have to re-direct members of the public to each other so that issues can be resolved. Grass on a road, for example, is the responsibility of the county, grass on verge, on the other hand, may well be that of the district. Rubbish and recycling? That's the district, unless you're at a recycling centre, then it's the county. Homelessness? That's the district. Any other support a homeless person may require to stop them being homeless? That's the county.

Having a unitary council will resolve this confusion. It should also mean local government workers can work more efficiently across teams, hopefully making them more effective. But it will come at a cost. Over the next few years, anyone who works in local government will have to think about how this new organisation will work, they'll be doing that on top of everything else they currently do. Others have raised concerns about the level of democratic representation in the new council. We don't know the answer to that, nor much else, at the moment. We don't even know what shape the new authority (or authorities) will take. Devon councils (including Torbay and Plymouth) have been told to figure this out for themselves.

The government wants an update by the end of March with full proposals by the end of November and it's likely that the new authority will come into being in 2028, though elections may happen the year before. I'll try to keep you updated.

Oh, and another thing. We're likely to get an elected mayor at some point. But that's another story...

SBADS – Spring Production

SBADS centenary celebrations continue with our next production: we thought that "A Bunch of Amateurs" could not be more appropriate. The comedy by Ian Hislop & Nick Newman will be directed by Robin Willoughby.

Production dates will be 15th to 17th May 2025.

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steel arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Suffolk village.

And instead of Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians. As acting worlds collide and Jefferson's career implodes, he discovers some truths about himself along with his inner Lear!

Robin Willoughby, Chair, SBADS

Parish Council Provide New Bus Shelter

At the time of publication, Higher Green will see a new Bus shelter being erected on the Plymouth side of the Main Road. Chairman of the Land and Estates Committee says that "this has been done for the Comfort and Safety of our Parishioners, and after 12 months of hard work, it is nice to see it coming to fruition, and one of the first steps in the L and E Committees work in improving conditions for our Village, the other noticeable one being the work done by our weed control employee within the 30 MPH limit area in the village.



Opportunities For You

Could you play an important role in SSB, by providing vital oversight of our charity? As a Trustee, you'll be responsible for governing our charity and directing how it's managed and run.

Some of our existing Trustees will be standing down at our AGM in April, so it's an ideal time to 'pick up the baton' and join the team to help run our strong, diverse and thriving organisation. There will be support and assistance for new Trustees.

We very much welcome applicants from across our community. ***We especially need some-one with finance experience, to act as Treasurer (back-up support is available).***

To learn more about the role of Trustee, please email chair@ssb.org.uk, for an initial chat. You can also find out more via this link: [2025 Invitation and Background Information for Prospective Trustees](#) or via ssb.org.uk.

Trustees can apply at any time, but it would be great to introduce new Trustees at our AGM on 22nd April, so the sooner you apply, the better!

We're also looking for one or more volunteers (not necessarily a Trustee) to take over providing SSB's written communications from April and to do minutes (and agendas, if possible) of Board meetings. Interested? Then please email: news@ssb.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

Hope Wood Aptly Named

At the official unveiling of the name and initial planting of the new Hope Wood in South Brent on 4th Jan, about 300 people came, so that all 2,500 trees were planted in about an hour or so!

It was a really lovely, celebratory community event. If you missed it, or would love to plant some more trees, there are regular planting sessions from 10am on Fridays and Saturdays until the end of March. Full details are on: ssb.org.uk/hope-wood/



PALSTONE PARK RECREATION GROUND

LATEST NEWS

We are pleased that our application to the 'National Lottery Awards 4 All' was successful in receiving £18,000 to improve the entrance steps down into the pavilion and the surrounding paths. It will also help towards hall hire for the Youth club, Brent babies and Chair yoga. We thank the Parish Council for their donation towards this work. We hope that the work will have been completed by the end of February.

We are grateful to Jo Creed (Peter Kelly's daughter) who has been successful in gaining a place in the **LONDON MARATHON 27th APRIL 2025 & will be raising money for the Rec.** A go to fund me page has been set-up if you would like to support her <https://gofund.me/c0e94425> Jo added this note: "I would like to help the Rec purchase more outdoor gym equipment to add to the ones they already have. Please help me help a valuable community asset that can be enjoyed for years to come. If that doesn't sway you, my husband has offered to match a £1,000. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this cause. Jo"

We are also pleased to have **SSB's Tuesday Fair Share 2.30-4pm**. Affordable groceries and household products for residents of South Brent using surplus healthy food that will be different each week. Suggested contribution of £3.50. Refreshments available. Email: tuesdayfairshare@ssb.org.uk

In the coming months we plan to start the process of employing an administrator to deal with the everyday tasks that ensure the smooth running of the Rec. There will be information on our website and around the village in due course www.southbrentrecreationassociation.weebly.com

You can keep up with what is happening at the Rec by looking at our calendar

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r/week/2025/2/24>

To book the hall email Anne nichollsbennie2@gmail.com or phone her on 01364 72223



Please help keep South Brent Old School Community Centre warm, dry and welcoming for another 150 years.

In 2026 the Old School will celebrate 150 years at the heart of the South Brent community.

Through generous personal donations and successful grant applications, trustees have now raised a significant amount of money towards the Rejuvenating the Centre project. This funding will go towards the costs of replacing the roof, complete with solar panels, batteries and much more efficient insulation to ensure that we will be as energy efficient as possible, while improving our environmental impact.

We need your help to secure the future of the Old School and make sure it's open, accessible and welcoming to everyone in the village and beyond, for generations to come.

Here's how you can help:

Donate via Just Giving: www.justgiving.com/page/rejuvenating-the-centre **Or Make a Direct Bank Transfer:** South Brent Old School Community Centre Ltd, Sort Code 30-94-58 Account Number 27720268

Or, if you want to help in person, we do urgently need volunteers to support the manager and trustees in the running of the centre. This might be as simple as setting up a room for an incoming group or more complex – for example helping with the management of contractors or supporting our digital and social media presence. New trustees are also always welcome! Please do help if you can spare a little time.

Thank you for your support.

South Brent Old School Community Centre Trustees, info@theoldschool.org.uk 07707 723637



Brent Island Trust

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 beasties 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.

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

Forthcoming events:



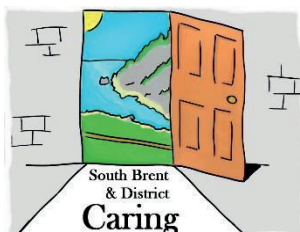
Spring Working Party – Saturday 1 March - Meet at the Island at 9.30am – 12.30pm

Tasks will include the filling in of holes made by the canine members, cutting back over hanging branches on paths, flattening mole hills, as well as the putting up of 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.

Easter Egg Trail: Saturday 19 April, 10am - 4pm at the Island

AGM: Tuesday 8 July - 7.30pm Stansbury Room, Village Hall

Contacts: Website: brentisland.org.uk; Graham Royle (Chair) 01364 72803, grahamroyle@outlook.com Geraldine Coleman (Secretary) 01364 388477, geraldinemcolemant7@gmail.com



South Brent & District Caring – Spring 2025

What's On Every Week

Monday - Friday 9.30-12.30 – The Hub, based in The Old School Community Centre, offers a weekday drop-in from 9.30am-12.30pm, and **our Caring office is open 10-12 for enquires** too.

Mondays - Coffee Morning 10.30am-12noon – free, with donations welcome, you can join us for games, chat, craft & company in the Hub. **Lunch Club 12 noon** – come and share 2 delicious homemade courses and coffee in the Hall. There is a suggested donation of £5 and it's helpful to book on 01364 700282!

Wednesdays - Walk & Talk from 10.30am gather in The Hub for a gentle walk, free and all welcome. **Knitting Group** 3pm-5pm hosted by Sue from Cosy Corner Crafts – friendly knit and natter – develop your skills with wool (and cake!). Children with adults very welcome after school! **Friends Day Wednesday 2pm-4pm** – in the Hall, this group gets together for a chat, games, cake and a song or two!

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays are also our lovely partners **Sustainable South Brent's Drop-In** in The Hub, pop-in and chat to someone about their events & activities.



Did you know that...

In **2024** our volunteers and staff **supported 182 different people** living in South Brent, Rattery, Diptford and North Huish parishes.

Our volunteers provided **477 people with transport to essential appointments** around Devon and a further **747 people with lifts** to our own groups and activities.

Volunteers facilitated **426 befriending sessions**, **61 shopping trips**, numerous social walks around the village, squeezed in **3 trips** and much more!

In **2024** South Brent & District Caring also ran **221 group activities** and our volunteers provided **1252 homemade (and delicious) 2 course meals!**
We would like to thank our wonderful and generous volunteers for all their commitment and support!

Pop in, call 01364 700282 or email info@sbadc.org.uk to get involved.
We'd especially appreciate **more transport volunteers** as requests for this vital service are increasing every year!

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank South Brent Parish Council for their continued funding & support!

Susanne, Lucy, Lisa & Marilyn are available in the South Brent & District Caring office every weekday morning to offer advice, support & help to access services.

Did you know that we can help with ... transport to appointments, visiting for the housebound, a nail cutting service, groups like Saturday Compassionate Café & Wednesday Friends Day, help with forms and much more? If we cannot help you directly, we will find someone who can!

And of course, we also have lots of **volunteering** opportunities available including befriending, transport, dog-walking and helping out at our groups.

For more info visit www.sbadc.org.uk, follow us on Facebook, or visit us at The Old School Community Centre, Totnes Road, South Brent, TQ10 9BP. Get in touch on T - 01364 700282 or E- info@sbadc.org.uk.

What's on in South Brent

Exhibition of Parish Council Spending

Collated by Katharine Johnston, Parish Councillor, in Old School Corridor during March

See how your precept is spent

Drop in and Meet the Parish Council - each Friday

"Do you have any questions about the Parish Council or want any information about what we do, or report any problems that you are experiencing around the village ?

Parishioners will be greeted by a Parish Councillor

Come to the Old School Centre
from 10.00am to 12 noon

Free Knitting Workshops

Every Wednesday in the HUB and
Warm Space in the Moor Room at the
Old School Community Centre
From 3 - 5pm

South Brent Community Fridge

Located at the Old School Community Centre in the Village Centre, it's open to all
Open 24/7, supported by local businesses and manned by volunteers.
New volunteers always welcome - please contact :
fridge@ssb.org.uk



South Brent Feoffees (Charity no. 255283) **WELFARE AND EDUCATION GRANTS**

Education Grants

Grants from South Bent Feoffees are available to support post 18 education, including vocational training and apprenticeships, for residents of South Brent Parish. The deadline for receipt of application forms for support for next year is 31st October

Welfare Grants

South Brent Feoffees has a small grant fund available for individuals and groups, resident in South Brent Parish, to address specific welfare needs. Grants are not income related and are considered throughout the year on a case by case basis

Application forms from:

Tom Maynard –
Clerk to the Trustees
South Brent Feoffees
Luscombe Maye Ltd
6 Fore Street
South Brent. TQ10 9BQ

Or email:- SBFeoffees@outlook.com

See also

<https://stpetrocsandstmarys.org.uk/south-brent-feoffees/>

South Brent Allotments

The allotments at Vicarage Road have plots waiting for new tenants.

If you are interested in renting a plot then please contact Sandra on
contact.vraasb@gmail.com

Our prices per year are extremely reasonable and you do not need to be an experienced gardener as help and advice is available.

Sue Astal-Stain
Chair of South Brent Allotments



Old School Community Centre

Mon: 09:00 to 12:00
Wed: 09:00 to 12:00
Fri: 09:00 to 12:00

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings start at 7:30 pm, at South Brent Village Hall, Station Approach, South Brent, TQ10 9JL

Meetings are open to everyone and there are opportunities for members of the public to raise issues that are not on the agenda before each meeting. The agenda and minutes can be found on the Parish Council noticeboards in South Brent Village (outside the Co-op and next to the Children's Play Park) and the website. If you cannot attend a meeting and have any issues or concerns to raise, please contact the Clerk or one of your Councillors.

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

10 th March	Land and Estates Committee (7.30pm)	28 th April	FULL PARISH COUNCIL
24 th March	FULL PARISH COUNCIL	12 th May	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
31 st March	Finance & HR Committee	19 th May	FULL PARISH COUNCIL

South Brent Parish Council

Cllr. Glyn Richards (Chairman)	01364 - 73622	glyn.richards@southbrent.gov.uk
Ms. Sophie Jones (Parish Council Clerk)	01364 - 701900	clerk@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Katy Armstrong	07570 - 049044	katy.armstrong@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Sue Astal-Stain	07810 - 898777	sue.astal-stain@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. David Butcher	07929 - 239970	david.butcher@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Alastair Childs (Finance & HR Chair)	07801 - 368117	alastair.childs@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Richard Fone (Planning Chair)	07738 - 288647	richard.fone@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Stephen Hanney (L&E Chair)	07929 - 253137	stephen.hanney@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. David Hancock	01364 - 649186	david.hancock@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Katharine Johnston	07719 - 346393	katharine.johnston@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Cathie Pannell	01364 - 72275	cathie.pannell@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Guy Pannell	01364 - 72275	guy.pannell@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Rachael Rafiqi	07808 - 875820	rachel.rafiqi@southbrent.gov.uk

Parish Tree Warden:	Ross & Liz Kennerly	Ross@betulacollective.co.uk
County Councillor	Cllr. Daniel Thomas	Daniel.Thomas@devon.gov.uk
District Councillors	Cllr. David Hancock	Cllr.Hancock@southhams.gov.uk
	Cllr. Guy Pannell	Cllr.Pannell@southhams.gov.uk

Clerk Address: Ms, Sophie Jones, c/o School House, Totnes Road, South Brent. TQ10 9BP



South Brent Parish Council Digital Newsletter

The Parish Council has made the decision to move to a digital newsletter. A smaller number of copies and these will be left at the usual public places in the village centre, e.g. the Toll House, the Village Shop and the Old School Community Centre.

To receive the digital edition of the newsletter you will need to subscribe to updates on the Parish Council website at (or use the adjacent QR code) <https://southbrent.gov.uk/>. The newsletter will also be available on the website.

Summer Newsletter 2025

The next Parish Council newsletter will be published in June 2025. Organisations wishing to submit articles for publication should send them to newsletter@southbrent.gov.uk (in Word) by Sunday 18th May 2025. Articles should be up to half x A4 page size (unless arranged otherwise)