



South Brent Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2026, Issue 89

Any Organisation in South Brent may use the Parish Crest

Brent Roots – New Gen Skilling Up

Last summer saw a brand-new educational programme for South Brent set up at the Old School Community Centre. The scheme is initially aimed at 12-25 year olds in the parish and is taught by local tutors with a wealth of experience in teaching their subjects and working with young people. Vulnerable and SEND participants are welcome.

Headed up by Steph Bradley, who brings more than 30 years of educational leadership, the programme is subsidised by Feoffees meaning that Brent parishioners get low cost or even free places on our weekly term time 10 session courses.

New funding from South Hams District Council this year means that friends of Brent students from surrounding towns and villages can also apply for places.

Courses in English, Creative Writing, Drama, and Woodland Management and Crafts are already up and running. Next term new courses start in Drawing (A Crash Course), Basic Food Growing Skills, Local History Storytelling, Outdoor Leadership Skills, Podcasting, and GCSE Maths preparation.

Brent Roots also run some taster workshops at the *Youth for Christ* youth club at The Rec on Monday evenings. To attend these free fun sessions, young people need to register with the youth club: admin@ivybridge.yfc.co.uk. Coming up on the 16th March is Circus Skills with Elfic.

Enrolments for all courses starting after Easter are now open. **20% discount for enrolling by the 2nd April.** Updated prospectuses will be available soon or can be viewed by scanning the QR code below.

Contact education@theoldschool.org.uk for more information.

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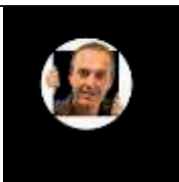
Creative Writing: Old School,
Termtime Thursdays @
5:30pm
Tutor: Harula Ladd, Poet and
Grand Slam winner.



Circus Skills Taster: 16th
March (for youth club
members)
Tutor: Elfic has been
teaching and performing
locally for many years.



Drawing - A Crash Course
Starts Monday 11th May,
7pm @ ARTHOUSE
Tutor: Luke Shepherd, Artist
and award-winning sculptor.



**Scan the QR code to view
our prospectus,** and to
download and complete the
enrolment form. New
Courses start after Easter.



News from Hope Wood

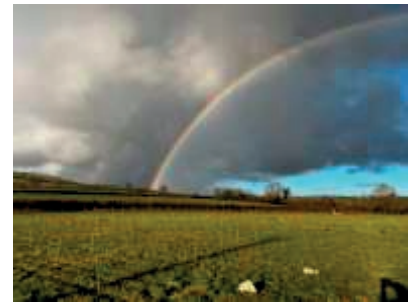


This ambitious nature restoration project, right on the edge of the village, is into its final creation phase.

The site extends from the A38 across to Exeter Road. Last winter around 12,000 trees were planted, mainly in the field between the A38 and Portford Lane. That was an impressive community achievement, and this winter we're planting over 12,000 more, most of them in the field beside Exeter Road.

The aim is to create as "natural" a wood as possible, so over 20 Devon native species of tree and shrub are going in, with everything from oak, alder and yew to hawthorn and dogwood.

As at mid-February 7,000 trees have been planted, so there's still plenty of opportunity for you to come and plant a few yourself. They will be a lasting legacy to the community of South Brent, helping to create a beautiful area for people to enjoy as well as boosting the abundance and diversity of plants and animals locally. The whole two-year project works out at just over eight trees per man, woman and child in the parish. Have you done yours yet?



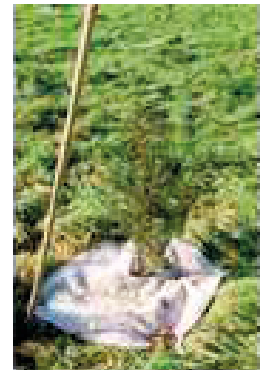
There are planned **planting sessions throughout March, from 10.30am to 3.00pm** on:

Fridays, 6, 13, 20 and 27
Saturdays, 14 and 28
plus more to be announced

Tools and gloves are provided and you will be shown exactly how to do it.

Hope Wood is owned by **South Hams District Council**, trees have been donated by **The Woodland Trust** and planting sessions are organised by **ParkLife South West**, but it is us, the good folk of South Brent, who plant most of the trees.

Enquiries to: office@parklifesw.org.uk





PALSTONE PARK RECREATION GROUND

LATEST NEWS

Our current projects include creating a NEW OUTDOOR GAMES AREA to include table tennis and other fun activities for all ages. In the long term we want to improve the skate park. These projects will be developed in stages as we both achieve funding and carry out further consultations.

As we actively pursue grants it is good when local people support projects as it shows local commitment. Thank you to everyone who has already shown their support both through Facebook appeal and belonging to the lottery and Friends of the Rec

Details of activities and all the ways to support the facility for now and future generations are on our website www.southbrentrecreationassociation.weebly.com

A special THANK YOU to Rosemary Rooks who donated £1200 toward providing a water fountain in memory of her husband Bob..

A friendly Request Responsible Dog Ownership is WELCOME at Palstone Park Recreation Ground (The REC) Our local park is a **SHARED SPACE** for dogs, families, and the wider community. Responsible dog ownership helps keep our park safe, welcoming, and enjoyable for everyone. Dog owners can help by:• Keeping dogs on a lead where required and under control at all times. By staying aware and considerate, we can all play a part in creating positive experiences for dogs and people alike. Thank you for doing your part.

Rec contacts: Anne Nicholls nichollsbennie2@gmail.com 01364 72223 & Peter Kelly peterkelly@spxservices.co.uk 07836270576

We hope to soon welcome a new member to our team details will be posted on the website



Energy Fair South Brent

Saturday 7 March, 10.00 – 1.00

South Brent Old School Community Centre

Hosted by [Sustainable South Brent](#), [Sustainable South Hams](#) and [South Dartmoor Community Energy](#)



Drop-in for expert practical and technical energy advice from a range of local organisations;
Practical ideas on energy efficiency and reducing energy costs.

Access to expert, tailored advice on retrofit and renewable energy options from local energy installation companies.

Free impartial advice and information on government and other grants and funding from [South Dartmoor Community Energy](#).

Refreshments available

Children's Activities

Create your very own mini Solar Scarecrow to take home! Workshops starting at **10:15am & 11:15am**.

Find out how we can make electricity from the sun and store it for light at night. Children must have a responsible adult on site at all times, so please ask yours to check out the Energy Fair while you get creative! **FREE!**, but limited places – book a place to avoid disappointment via www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mini-solar-scarecrow-workshops-for-children-at-south-brent-energy-fair-tickets-1981721961734, or use this QR code



More info at [South Brent Energy Fair](#).

SSB Wildlife Talk

Friday 20 March, 7.30pm

South Brent Old School Centre

Devon's World-class Hedges



Rob Wolton will talk about the origins and history of our hedges, about their wildlife, and about the many ways they benefit farmers and us all. He will cover their management, from steeping to flail trimming, concluding with the challenges that lie ahead. Living on the family farm in West Devon, Rob has been closely involved with hedges for over 30 years at both national and local levels and is chair of the Devon Hedge Group. He is the author of the recently-published book **Hedges** in the Bloomsbury Wildlife series.



Great success for January's litter pick

On 25 January our diligent team of 13 adults and 6 wonderful children collected no fewer than 10 full sacks of litter from around the village before returning to the Old School Centre for a well-earned cuppa and cake. Great work everyone!

Next Litter Picks: **Sundays 29 March & 31 May, 2.00-4.00pm, meeting at the Old School Centre.** Look out for more details.

Enquiries to: rubbish@ssb.org.uk



Repair Café South Brent



What do lamps, CD players, electric fires, toasters, kettles...all have in common? They have all been brought and mended (well, most of them) at the SSB Repair Cafe for free! Not bad, eh? So, before Spring fever has you throwing your broken items into the bin and adding to landfill, bring them to our volunteer repairers on **Saturday 14th March, 9:30-11:45, at the Old School Centre.** Hope to see you there!

And there will be more Repair Cafés on 9 May, 11 July and 12 September.

Announcing Sustainable South Brent's AGM

Reserve the date: 14th April 2026, from 7.30pm

At the Old School Community Centre

Review of the Year – Projects Overview – Elections

Refreshments and snacks available

Brent Island Trust



Damage caused by Storms Bram, Goretti, and Ingrid

In the December newsletter we reported that the strong winds and torrential rain of Storm Bram had caused several trees to become

potential hazards around the Island, these were subsequently dealt with.

However, Storm Bram was closely followed by Storm Goretti and Storm Ingrid.

These storms caused further damage and sadly a large beech tree was lost at the top of the Island.



Spring Working party



The weather was kind to us for the spring working party on The Island and we worked successfully through everything we set out to achieve. All 14 bird nest boxes were cleared out in preparation for new tenants this spring ; mole hills were used to fill holes dug by dogs ; brash was dragged from the entrance path to bolster the riverbank repairs behind the linhay ; the spindle tree protection was reinforced although this will need complete replacement soon ; all paths were cleared ; the hole just outside the gate was filled to prevent dogs' paws becoming trapped in it.

Membership: Island membership Renewal: Thank you to those members who have paid their subscriptions for this year.

Subscriptions are due for those who don't pay by standing order (our preferred method) at the following rates: 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 need to pay by cash or cheque please forward to Felicity Ferry or other members of the Committee. Those who pay by standing order do not need to do anything. We thank you all for your continuing support.

Forthcoming Events

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

Families will be welcomed to Brent Island on Easter Saturday (4th April) for South Brent's traditional Easter Egg Trail.

"After such a wet and windy winter we are hoping there will be plenty of signs of Spring on The Island, with flowers in abundance and the trees breaking into leaf" says Brent Island Trust Chair Graham Royle.

"We have been fortunate with the weather for our Easter Egg Trail in recent years, with more than 150 youngsters taking part. We hope the sun shines again so families can enjoy the beauty of Brent Island and its wildlife as they hunt for clues on the trail. If the weather is fine feel free to bring a picnic."

The event runs from 10am to 4pm on Brent Island, which is down Millswood Lane behind St. Petroc's Church. Entry is £2, with the prize of a chocolate egg or a fruit basket for every entrant.

Brent Island is a three acre area of riverbank, meadow and woodland bought by public subscription in 1994 for the benefit of wildlife and the people of South Brent.

AGM: Tuesday 30 June 7.30pm Village Hall

Contacts: Website: brentisland.org.uk; Graham Royle (Chair) 01364 72803, grahamroyle@outlook.com
Geraldine Coleman (Secretary) 01364 388477, geraldinemcoleman7@gmail.com

What's on in South Brent

Speak to Parish Councillor

"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



LLOYDS BANK

**Old School Community
Centre.**

**Every other Monday
09:45 and 11:15**



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](mailto:SBFfeoffees@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

16 th March	FULL PARISH COUNCIL	11 th May	FULL PARISH COUNCIL
20 th April	FULL PARISH COUNCIL	08 th June	Land and Estates
11 th May	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	08 th June	Christmas Lights

South Brent Parish Council

Cllr. Alastair Childs (Chairman)	07801 - 368117	alastair.childs@southbrent.gov.uk
Ms. Sophie Jones (Parish Council Clerk)	01364 - 701900	clerk@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Sue Astal-Stain	07810 - 898777	sue.astal-stain@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Richard Fone	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 (Finance & HR Chair)	07808 - 875820	rachel.rafiqi@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Glyn Richards (Planning Chair)	01364 - 73622	glyn.richards@southbrent.gov.uk

Parish Tree Warden:	Ross Kennerly	Ross@betulacollective.co.uk
County Councillor	Cllr. Daniel Thomas	Daniel.Thomas@devon.gov.uk
District Councillors	Cllr. David Hancock	01364 - 649186
	Cllr. Guy Pannell	01364 - 72255
		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 2026

The next Parish Council newsletter will be published in June 2026. Organisations wishing to submit articles for publication should send them to stephen.hanney@southbrent.gov.uk (in Word) by Sunday 24th May 2026.

Articles should be up to half x A4 page size (unless arranged otherwise)