



## Summer holiday events



Photo: Wide Horizons

# Volunteering with the Box Moor Trust

We are always on the lookout for new members of our thriving volunteer group, so if you have a few hours to spare during the week we're sure there will be something for you.

Our conservation volunteers meet every other Tuesday and undertake a variety of tasks and projects on the land under the expert guidance of our estate team. Work could include hedge laying, pond clearance, scrub clearance and cutting. Where necessary, appropriate training may be offered. If you have particular areas of interest, there may be opportunities to get involved in specific projects. For example, our river fly monitoring group are collecting valuable data on the improving health and ecology of the Bulbourne since the recent chalk stream restoration work.

We are also keen to recruit volunteers to help with the delivery of our popular Forest Schools initiative. This innovative approach to education uses the natural resources



Forest Schools volunteers are needed

of the woodland to stimulate creative, imaginative activities and enables children to develop confidence through hands-on learning in an outdoor environment. Sessions take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the school year. If you think volunteering with the Trust might be for you, please get in touch at [carolineevans@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:carolineevans@boxmoortrust.org.uk) to arrange to pop in for a chat.

## Farewell Lucy

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Lucy Flower at the end of May, who has moved to Warwickshire to be closer to family. With her extensive wildlife knowledge, skill as a photographer and engaging writing style, Lucy has been a regular contributor to this newsletter and also maintained an informative and entertaining online blog focusing on the nature of the Trust estate. She has been an extremely valued volunteer and wildlife monitor for the Trust, and will be sorely missed. We wish her much happiness and good fortune for the future.



One of Lucy's amazing wildlife photos showing butterfly eggs adhered to a stem

If you would like to help us fill the big gap in wildlife monitoring that Lucy has left then please contact the office at [admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk)

# Summer Newsletter

Your land, your heritage, your future

For more news visit – [www.boxmoortrust.org.uk](http://www.boxmoortrust.org.uk)

The Box Moor Trust

Photo: John Morris



## Bringing back the Bulbourne: next phase

Vegetation is now re-establishing itself along the river margins

The overall purpose of the Bulbourne project was to restore a 1km stretch of the river at Station and Bulbourne Moors; this was carried out in 2016 and the results have been startling, with a huge increase in aquatic life being seen. As part of these works we identified two existing wet, low lying areas that could be enhanced for wildlife if they were deepened and enlarged (by removing spoil) to create scrapes. The spoil taken out of the scrapes will be moved to other parts of the site; some may need to be removed completely.

The aim is to recreate areas, typical of water meadows, that are in relatively close proximity to the river and have the potential to hold water of varying depths at different times of year. 'Scrapes' are particularly valuable wetland areas for wildlife and by providing these areas we are hoping to improve the diversity of species that the moors can support. The two scrapes have been located in areas of the site which are currently low lying and already hold water during

wet years. The reason for this is that we will have to remove less spoil in these areas to connect the features to the groundwater table. As these areas already hold water, we will not fundamentally be changing the current appearance, but the areas will be slightly bigger and will hold water for longer periods. The scrapes will offer another aspect to the site and will attract a variety of wildlife which the public will be able to appreciate when enjoying the moors for years to come.

Photo: Allen Beechey



January 2017

## Boxmoor Rangers

We have recently launched our new-look monthly wildlife and nature group, which is for children aged 3 and over. The group meets on the third Saturday of every month with the aim of motivating and educating young people to enjoy wildlife and the countryside so that they understand the importance of preserving the natural environment for future generations. We have three age groups:

- **Mini Rangers**  
for 3-7 year olds, meet at the Old Barn, Westbrook Hay, from 1.30-2.30pm and attend with their parents
- **Junior Rangers**  
for 8-11 year olds, meet at the Old Barn, Westbrook Hay, from 10am-12.30pm
- **Youth Conservation Rangers**  
for ages 11 and over, meet at the Box Moor Trust Centre, London Road, from 10am-12.30pm

There is a charge of £1 per child and membership is essential as there is a limited number of spaces available. For information on how to register, email: [education@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:education@boxmoortrust.org.uk)

## Gadespring visitor agreements

**Gadespring wildlife and heritage site is unique in being completely cut off from regular access by the canal and the river. The fresh artesian water, which is pumped from the middle of the site, encourages special plants and invertebrates such as shrimps and dragon fly larvae, which do not survive easily in the nitrogen and phosphate affected canal and river. As such Gadespring provides a rare haven for birds, mammals and amphibians.**

Whilst the four acre site is there for the benefit of the residents of Hemel Hempstead and Bovingdon, its uniqueness would be destroyed if there were to be full open access. Also, the infrastructure of concrete sided watercress beds and steep banks surrounded by water represents a variety of hazards, especially hidden as they are when vegetation is at its most prolific, which is a further reason for having a few simple rules for everyone's safety and enjoyment.

After much hard work by our Conservation Volunteers and investment by the Trust, we have a bird hide which looks on to a



Photo: David Warriner

'scrape' with a regular supply of fresh water from the aquifer. A gate has been installed with arrangements so that responsible nature lovers and photographers can have access to the hide by becoming signatories to our visitor agreement.

If this would be of interest to you, please contact [admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk) or ring the office on 01442 253300.

## Living History on the Moor

### 2nd & 3rd September

Over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd September, Blackbirds Moor will host a fascinating historical event, comprising a 'living history' encampment, combat displays and demonstrations of medieval archery and gunnery. Staged by The Medieval Siege Society, which has over 20 years experience of staging re-enactment events,

the activities will feature on daily life and warfare in the 14th and 15th centuries, with particular focus on the Wars of the Roses. We anticipate some first-class entertainment, together with an opportunity to learn more about our heritage. Keep an eye on our website and local advertising for further information.



Photo: Matt Crosby



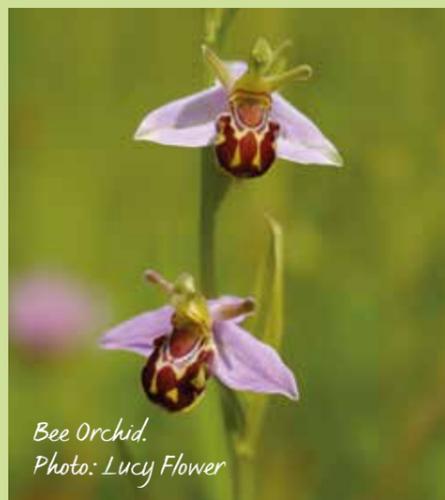
Photo: Barnet Museum



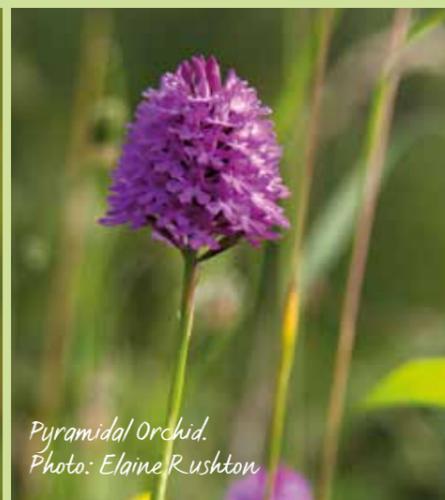
Photo: Matt Crosby

## A Good Year for Orchids

What a great summer this has been for orchids! We have had Bee orchids in Overbourne (Westbrook Hay), Southern Marsh orchid on Fishery Moor, and spectacular displays of Common spotted and Pyramidal at Bovingdon Brickworks, Roughdown Common, Sheethanger and on Bovingdon Reach at Westbrook Hay.



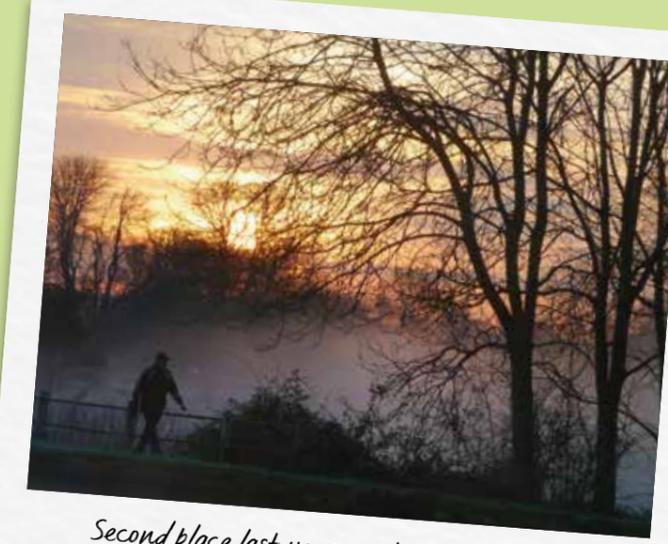
Bee Orchid.  
Photo: Lucy Flower



Pyramidal Orchid.  
Photo: Elaine Rushton

## Calendar photo Competition

With the August 11th closing date fast approaching, this is your final reminder about our annual photographic competition to find images for our 2018 calendar. Twelve images will be chosen – all photographers submitting a winning image will win a cash prize, with first place earning £100, £75 for second, £50 for third and £10 each for the other seven selected. Entry is free, and up to ten photos may be entered. All images must be taken on Box Moor Trust land, and the theme this year is, 'The Box Moor Trust: A Living Landscape'. See our website to download an entry form.



Second place last year: misty morning view towards Station Moor by Susan Brown