

# Spring 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: Melissa Ma*

*Potten End School pupils were excited to meet the Mayor*

## If you go down to the woods...

On Wednesday 7th March, the Trust was pleased to welcome The Worshipful The Mayor of the Borough of Dacorum, Councillor David Collins, who came to observe a Forest School teaching session in progress. Under the guidance of Education Officer Yvonne Masters and her team of volunteers, pupils from Potten End School, many of whom live within our Area of Benefit, enjoyed watching a puppet show, following which they made their own puppets from natural materials from the woodland environment. Trustee Peter Phillips and Education Officer Helen Harrison were on hand to provide some background to the Forest Schools concept and explain the thinking behind it. The Mayor rounded off his visit with refreshments and a brief tour of the Box Moor Trust Centre in London Road.

The Box Moor Trust has been delivering Forest School opportunities to local schools for over 10 years. A concept that originated in Denmark, it is a unique educational approach that provides the children with the opportunity to experience a woodland setting on a regular basis. They can develop confidence, self-esteem and learning in a positive, hands-on environment. Forest School offers an outdoor classroom where rules are minimal and easy to understand, allowing risk-taking in a controlled environment. There is no right or wrong way to do things at Forest School and the children are encouraged to be independent and to reach their full potential at their own pace.

The Trust receives partial funding from Natural England, which enables us to offer Forest School provision to local schools for their Reception classes for an entire academic year.

**Did you  
know?**

The Box Moor Trust is now on  and  @BoxMoorTrust  @boxmoortrust

# Annual Public Meeting

Wednesday 25th April at The Box Moor Trust Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RE

Trustees and staff look forward to talking to you about ongoing and future projects, and to hear your views and ideas. There is an afternoon drop-in session for those who cannot make the evening, but the formal part of the meeting will take place during the evening session. Please arrive in good time so that we can get you comfortably seated.

1pm-4pm Drop-in session  
7pm-8.30pm Formal meeting



The Box Moor Trust Centre

# Community Grants



The Friends of Halsey Field secured a grant in 2016 for provision of an interpretation board

Opportunities to apply for grant funding are two-fold this year, and the application window is now open for both.

### Capital Projects

Applications for sums up to £2,500 are invited from not-for-profit organisations within the Trust's Area of Benefit (Hemel Hempstead and Bovingdon) to assist with one-off purchases of equipment or for other capital projects. Closing date: 30th June 2018.

### Supporting the Arts

A separate fund has been put aside specifically for one-off music or arts events that will involve local performers or artists. Grants can be for a maximum of £500 towards costs associated with events offering free or affordable access for local audiences. Closing date: 31st May 2018 (for this summer) or 31st May 2019 (for next year).

Full details and application forms are on our website

# Red Walk update

The longest and perhaps most challenging of our four colour-coded walks, red walk has been updated, with easily visible way markers along the route and a new leaflet incorporating a clearer map. Starting at Heath Park, red walk crosses the river valley to explore the chalk slopes and woods of Roughdown and Sheethanger Commons and covers approximately 6km. Copies of the leaflet are available from the Box Moor Trust Centre or can be downloaded from our website.



# New Faces

**We are delighted to welcome some new staff members to the Trust, who will be fulfilling a range of roles.**

With our long-serving Administration Manager, Jean Sniders, stepping aside from admin duties to concentrate on finance, **Jo Rough** will be taking on the role in a part-time capacity from the end of May. Jo comes from a background as Events Manager at the National Maritime Museum, followed by administrative posts at Rennie Grove Hospice and Lockers Park School.

**Melissa Ma**, who has joined us as part-time Events, Profile & Arts Officer, is bringing her valuable experience in marketing and publicity to help us in promoting awareness of the Box Moor Trust to all our beneficiaries. Melissa has a marketing background; her speciality is in communications and helping organisations engage better with their audiences. She said, "I love the outdoors and I'm passionate about conservation so it's very exciting to be part of the Box Moor Trust team".

**Mike Wilson's** role as Deputy Estate Manager will be to support Estate Manager Peter Samson by leading and overseeing the current team of rangers, as well as taking over the leading of volunteers. He comes to us from Maydencroft Ltd, where he was a Trainee Contracts Manager. He attended Aberystwyth University and gained a BSc in countryside management.

We are also very lucky to have secured the services of **Jessica Tearle** as our new Seasonal Ranger. Her role will be to interact with visitors and concentrate on the presentation of the busiest areas, such as Blackbirds and Station Moors. She also attended Aberystwyth University, where she gained a BSc in countryside management. Jessica will be with us for six months from the beginning of April.

## Gordon Beningfield exhibition

*14th-16th September 2018*

**In September, the Trust will be hosting a prestigious exhibition featuring the art of the late Gordon Beningfield.**

A well-known local artist, Gordon's love of the countryside and wildlife found expression in his wealth of paintings and drawings. 2018 is the twentieth anniversary of Gordon's untimely death at the age of 61, and a series of exhibitions is being held in the local area in commemoration. The exhibition at The Box Moor Trust Centre will be free to attend – look out for further details in our summer issue.



## Volunteering Event: 2nd June

If you have been thinking about getting involved with helping out at the Trust as a volunteer, then pop down and see us at the volunteer centre in Marlowes on Saturday 2nd June. In celebration of National Volunteer Week, we will have our marquee there between 10am and 2pm and would be delighted to chat to you about volunteering opportunities with the Trust in any one of a large range of activities. Volunteering is an ideal way for the whole family to gain fresh air and exercise while helping us to manage our special sites. Refreshments will be available in The Roundhouse.

## A few more diary dates...

### Gadespring Open Days

on the last Sunday of the month, 11am - 2pm

No need to book, just pop in to the cress beds in Old Fishery Lane and have a guided tour with a volunteer.

### Family Volunteering Day

on Saturday 5th May, 11am - 3pm

Help us keep access across the Trust Estate clear. To book please email: [education@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:education@boxmoortrust.org.uk)

### Family History Walk

(as part of the Chilterns Society Walking Festival) on Wednesday 30th May, 10.30am

Discover the history of the Box Moor Trust. Book through:

[www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest](http://www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest)  
Suggested donation: £2.50.

### Moths, Bats and Glow Worms

on Friday 6th July at Gadespring, Old Fishery Lane, HH at 9pm.

An evening talk and walk with bat detectors. Places limited – book via [admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk). Suggested donation: £2.50 per adult. Children welcome.

# Lambing weekend

*14th and 15th April*



*Charolais Norfolk Horn cross lamb with mum*

Spring is here at last, bringing new life to the Trust with the birth of this year's crop of baby lambs. Bring the family along to see them and to learn about how lambing is managed at the Box Moor Trust. The weekend will include lambing walk trail, craft activities, visits to the lamb pens at Snooks End, etc. Please wear appropriate footwear for the weather conditions. Times: 11am to 3pm. Refreshments and limited parking at the Box Moor Trust Centre in London Road (HP1 2RE) with further parking available just along the road at Moor End Nursery School. Suggested donation: £2.50 per adult.

## *Calendar Photo Competition*

You still have a few months to get out on the estate with your camera and capture some images for our annual calendar photographic competition, which closes on Saturday 11th August. The theme is "The Box Moor Trust: Colours of all Seasons", which you may interpret however you choose. All photos must be of, or on, Box Moor Trust land. Entry is free, maximum 10 entries per person. There are cash prizes for all the winners, including £100 for first place. Full details and entry forms can be downloaded from our website at [www.boxmoortrust.org.uk](http://www.boxmoortrust.org.uk)



*Photo: Andrew Fox - Won third place last year*

**Contact Us**

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