

Spring Newsletter

New life at the Trust



This very cute little boy was the first Belted Galloway calf of 2019 to make an appearance. Born on 10th March, he is the first of nine expected new additions to the herd – as we go to press, we have 5 calves: 2 steers, 3 heifers.

Estate Manager Peter Samson said, "Calving and lambing is always a stressful time, but we have a competent and dedicated team of staff and volunteers on hand to ensure that all goes smoothly."

The Box Moor Trust has not always kept its own stock, in fact in the 400 year history it is only within the last 50 years that the Trust's own animals have been seen on the moors. In the 1980s to combat falling numbers of graziers' animals on the moor, the Trust introduced Belted Galloway cattle. These cattle are a hardy, slow maturing breed from the Scottish Borders that suit the poor grazing available on the estate. Their striking white belt set against their black body has made them a firm favourite with locals and travellers along the A41.

Photo: Elaine Rushton



Annual Public Meeting

7pm on Wednesday 24th April
at The Box Moor Trust Centre,
London Road, Hemel Hempstead,
HP1 2RE

Trustees and staff would like to invite The Trust's beneficiaries to our annual public meeting, where we will be presenting an update on our work and forthcoming projects. There will be an opportunity to chat to us about your views and ideas over a glass of wine or fruit juice. We look forward to meeting you there.



(Photo: Melissa Ma)

Grant Funding for Community Projects

Grant applications for sums up to £2,500 are invited from eligible not-for-profit organisations within the Trust's Area of Benefit (Hemel Hempstead and Bovingdon) for one-off capital purchases associated with community projects. The window for applications is open between 1st April and 30th June 2019. Full details and application forms are on our website, or request by email to: admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk

Last year, Waterways Experiences were awarded a grant of £2,500 towards the cost of purchasing a new engine for their boat "Close Shave". A registered charity, Waterways Experiences' mission is to promote well-being by providing affordable canal boat trips particularly

for the disadvantaged. They operate three widebeam boats from a beautifully landscaped boatyard on the Grand Union Canal in Red Lion Lane, Hemel Hempstead. During 2017 their three boats made over 480 day trips resulting in around 5500 people having a great day out. They have no paid employees – 170 volunteers from the Hemel Hempstead area give freely of their time to make the project a success.

Our photo shows Box Moor Trustee Peter Phillips and Admin Officer Elaine Rushton presenting the cheque to Richard Tregoning (Volunteer Crew and Member of Fundraising/Marketing Team) and Rick Hogger (Volunteer Skipper and Head of Maintenance).



*2018 meeting was well attended
(Photo Melissa Ma)*

Calendar Photo Competition

There's still time to enter this year's competition – closing date is not until 3rd August. The theme, "Unusual Viewpoints", can be interpreted however you choose. All photos must be taken of, or from, Box Moor Trust land and twelve will be chosen to feature in the Trust's 2020 calendar. There will be cash prizes for all the winners, including £100 for first place, £75 for second and £50 for third. See our website for full details and entry form.



*One of last year's winning images
by Ian Waterfield*

Bard at the Barn

Friday 19th July, 7-9pm



We are excited to announce a new event for 2019 – a production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing* staged by Drama Impact, a professional theatre company based in Tring, Herts. The play will be performed in the open air on the paddock behind the Old Barn, Westbrook Hay amid the tranquil Hertfordshire countryside. Audience members are invited to bring their

own fold-up chairs or blankets to sit on, and are welcome to bring picnics/refreshments to enjoy during the performance. Gazebos will be erected around the perimeter in case of wet weather. Parking and toilets are available on site.

Drama Impact was formed in 2014 and, as well as performing in theatres and open-air venues with Shakespearean and modern plays, they deliver performances and high impact workshops of GCSE plays into secondary education. The company revolves around ten or more actors and is led by artistic director and founder David Houston, who has appeared in film and television as well as on stage throughout the UK. The performances are suitable for all of the family and the audience is always encouraged to join in with pre-show workshops, ensuring a fantastic experience for all involved.

Could there be a better way to spend a leisurely summer evening? Tickets will be priced at £12 and will be available to purchase online via Eventbrite. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook profile for details in the near future.

New outlet for our Norfolk Horn Wool

It is now even easier to buy our beautiful rare breed Norfolk Horn wool. Sunnyside Rural Trust is now stocking it in their farm shop at Hemel Food Garden, Two Waters Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9BY (behind K2 Indian Restaurant). Open hours: Monday to Saturday, 11am to 3pm.



Consultation: proposed deregistration and exchange of common land

Thank you to those who took time to complete the consultation questionnaire regarding the proposed deregistration and exchange of common land.

An important part of the process, the results have demonstrated significant support for the Trust's proposal. The next step will be for Trustees to make a formal application to the Inspectorate, which will happen within the next few weeks. Details of the consultation are still on our website; please go to www.boxmoortrust.org.uk

The application process will involve a further Public Notice and contact with key local and national organisations in accordance with Commons legislation. We will, of course, keep our beneficiaries apprised of progress.

Bridge Work

Recently, the Trust commissioned structural engineers to carry out safety inspections on the bridges on Bulbourne, Harding's and Station Moors. The three bridges all showed signs of deterioration to the structures and the surfaces. Following the engineers' report, repair work commenced in March and is ongoing. Please be careful and take note of the warning signs when passing through these areas.



(Photo: Melissa Ma)

Spring Walk and Talk:

Thursday 2nd May,
2-4pm

Come and join us on 2nd May to enjoy a gentle stroll through Hay Wood, where we hope to show you a lovely display of bluebells carpeting the woodland. Aimed specifically at the older, less sprightly visitor, we will be finishing the afternoon with refreshments in the Old Barn. There is a small charge of £3.00 per adult.

To book please email:
education@boxmoortrust.org.uk
(Booking essential)



Bluebells in Hay Wood
(Photo: Ellie Ward)

Gadespring: *a wildlife oasis*

These lovely old former cress beds continue to yield a wealth of wildlife sightings and the bird hide is proving popular for bird watchers and photographers. The number of bird species spotted from the hide during 2018 was 53, including water rail and reed bunting (pictured). The kingfishers, of course, are always a popular draw and they are frequent visitors to the scrape. An unexpected visitor was this beautiful Roe deer, photographed right outside the hide by a surprised Andrew Brown!

The Box Moor Trust conservation volunteers hold monthly open days on the last Sunday of the month, where you can have a guided tour of this fascinating site. On Sunday 26th May, the open day will incorporate a family pond dip and children's activities. Opening times are 10am to 2pm. No need to book – just pop in. Access is from Old Fishery Lane near to the canal bridge. There is no parking on site, but Gadespring is a short walk from Camelot Rugby Club's car park in Chaulden Lane.



Reed Bunting
(Photo: Derrick Dunks)



Roe Deer
(Photo: Andrew Brown)



Water Rail
(Photo: Nigel Cox)

Contact Us

The Box Moor Trust Centre, London Road
Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RE
Tel: 01442 253300 Reg. Charity No. 206142

