



Artisans Sought for Autumn Festival

The dates of our 2019 Autumn Festival are 12th & 13th October. With the emphasis on local crafts and produce, especially those that are environmentally friendly or adopt a sustainable ethos, we are seeking artisans and other stallholders to join us. The Festival attracts local families and can get very busy; it is the ideal place to promote your product and gain exposure for your brand.

This year, we will have two large marquees and we're offering table space in those, alternatively if you have your own gazebo and would like outside space, we can accommodate this too. You can attend on one, or both, days – it is up to you. The cost for space is £30 per day, there is no charge if you are a charity/not for profit organisation. If you would like to attend the festival or would like to find out more, please email melissama@boxmoortrust.org.uk



LOTCEndorsement

The Trust's education & community team received a glowing endorsement from the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom following their biennial inspection in June. The report referred to "An excellent environmental education centre run by the Trust with good systems in place both for the quality of sessions delivered and safety on site during them. The centre has continued to develop and improve its provision through both new and exciting areas and the activities on offer."

A 'Glowing' report for wildlife evening!

Our annual 'Moths, Bats and Glow worms' walk took place on a warm summer evening at the beginning of July and was attended by 35 people, keen to learn more about the wildlife in evidence as daylight fades. Bat detectors crackled busily with the echolocation calls of Noctule, Daubenton's and Pipistrelle bats as the group set off along the canal towpath, led by Trustee Dennis Furnell and Lindsay Stronge of the Herts & Middx Bat Group. As the sky darkened, the glow worms were visible in the grass – tiny pinpricks of luminescent green, signalling to prospective mates. The count (11) was slightly lower than in recent years, but still indicated a healthy and stable population. The evening finished with a look at what had been caught in the moth trap, with expert Roger Prue on hand to identify the species. Thanks to all who attended this fascinating event.



Glow worm (*Lampyris noctiluca*)

Accolade for Volunteer Management

The Trust was delighted to receive a 'Highly Commended' from Volunteering Herts CIC in their 2019 Excellence in Volunteer Management Awards in June.

Now in its 11th year, the award is very special as nominations can only be made by volunteers. The idea is to champion organisations who demonstrate quality in their volunteer management. To be eligible, organisations must demonstrate a basic level of good practice as demonstrated by achieving the Hertfordshire Valuing Volunteer Management 6 Point Promise.

Volunteering Herts CIC is a partnership of Volunteer Centres working in local districts and together across Hertfordshire. They provide unique services in communities, a source of independent information and advice about volunteering for local people and voluntary and community organisations.

The Box Moor Trust

Your land, your heritage, your future

Summer Newsletter

Countryside therapy for the elderly

It is widely documented that the role of nature has a very positive effect on us humans. We all know what a bit of fresh air in the countryside can do to lift the spirits, so recently The Box Moor Trust teamed up with Co-op Funeralcare and invited members of The Heather Club up to the Old Barn in Westbrook Hay.

The Heather Club, based at Carey Baptist Church in Hemel Hempstead, provides for older people with short-term memory loss and those who may be developing a dementia illness such as Alzheimer's disease or Vascular dementia. The club also gives relatives and carers relief from their continuous caring role.

The morning started with some background to the history of the Box Moor Trust courtesy of Education & Community Manager Caroline Evans, followed by a talk from local herbalist, Lucy Blunden, on the uses of common herbs. There was an opportunity for some tea tastings and then the group went on a gentle stroll along the wheelchair-friendly boardwalk towards Hay Wood, where Lucy pointed out the wild flowers growing nearby and provided some fascinating facts about their uses. Everyone enjoyed their day at the Old Barn in its idyllic countryside setting, and the Trust's rare breed cattle and sheep in the fields nearby brought smiles of delight to a few faces.

Kim Davies, Funeral Arranger from Co-op Funeralcare based at the Hemel Hempstead Marlowes branch, who sponsored the event said, "We take our role in the Community very seriously so it was a pleasure to introduce The Box Moor Trust and their dedicated team to members of The Heather Club. Nature's role in bereavement and lifting our spirits in general is so important



View from the boardwalk

and we have this wonderful resource right on our doorstep. To see how our guests responded to the open space, tastes, smells, plants and animals was really touching and great fun too."

Anthony Donovan, Manager at The Heather Club added, "We were very pleased to be invited to The Old Barn through Kim Davies. The outing for the club proved to be a great success for the club members and supporting volunteers. I was impressed with the considerate way we were welcomed by the staff of Box Moor Trust. It was clear to me from the facial expressions and what

many members said it was a very enjoyable outing in the fresh air with the impressive views. Also the volunteers and staff said it was the best outing we have had this year. I was especially pleased that member's interest was maintained during the whole visit."





Summer Events Diary

Our Education & Community team are running a series of sessions for youngsters over the summer holidays.

**Wednesday 24th July
Family Well-Being Walk & Outdoor Yoga Session**

(In association with Boxmoor Yoga)
Session 1 at 10am, session 2 at 10:30am. £2.50 per person, payable in advance, book at: education@boxmoortrust.org.uk

**Wednesday 31st July
Pre-History Workshop
with Wendy Morrison of Chilterns AONB**

10am-12 noon. Children's activities for 7+yrs. Suggested donation £2.50 per child. Drop in session, no booking necessary.

**Thursday 1st August
Family Pond Dip at
The Old Barn**

10am-12 noon. £2.50 suggested donation per child. Booking at: education@boxmoortrust.org.uk. Booking slots: 10am, 10:30am, 11am & 11:30am.

**Wednesday 7th August
Family Summer Stroll**

10am & 1pm. Guided walk with a ranger on the Trust estate, suitable for all ages. Sorry, no pushchairs. Suggested donation £2.50 per person. Book at: education@boxmoortrust.org.uk.

**Thursday 8th August
The Magical Woods**

10am-2pm. Follow the fairy trail from the Old Barn; make a potion and have a wickedly wizardy time in the woods. 5yrs+ Suggested donation £2.50 per child. Drop in session, no booking necessary.

**Wednesday 14th August
Gadespring Family Session**

11am-3pm. Guided walks, pond dipping, bird hide use, invertebrate hunt & crafts. Suggested donation £2.50 per child. Drop in session, no booking necessary.

**Thursday 15th August
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

1pm-4pm Blackbirds Moor. Family litter pick & crafts. Suggested donation £2.50 per child (all ages). Drop in session, no booking necessary.

**Wednesday 21st August
Brilliant Beastsies**

10am-12 noon. Hunt for minibeasts and meadow sweep for butterflies. Crafts in the Old Barn. Suggested donation £2.50 per child. Drop in session, no booking necessary.

**Thursday 22nd August
Summer Story Session**

10am-12 noon. Follow story trails, write your own woodland story, visit our story teller in the woods and enjoy crafts at the Old Barn. 5yrs+. Suggested donation £2.50 per child. Drop in session, no booking necessary.

Legacy boost for Water Vole Project



The Trust's project to bring back 'Ratty', the iconic water vole from Wind in the Willows, will appeal to young and old.

The water vole disappeared locally 40 years ago. Sadly, release of mink from fur farms sealed their downfall. We are working with many fishing clubs and agencies to eliminate the mink all along the valley and the recent arrival of otters, which don't like mink, is helping. The Box Moor Trust owns valuable wildlife habitat and banks of waterways ideal for this project, which will bring in 300 captive-bred young voles. The voles will be reared by a nationally-known expert and supplied individually in special boxes. They will then be fed for a week before being released into the natural environment. We will be looking to involve local volunteers and schoolchildren to help with the project.

Funding is coming from a variety of sources, including grants from Affinity Water and the Canal and River Trust as well as by public donation and bequests, including one of £1500 from the late Sheila Jessop (Jackman), an artist who lived in Boxmoor for over 50 years.

Landscape and the natural world were Sheila's particular interest and she and her late husband Richard Jackman bought a small plot of land at Frithsden in 1970 where, over the years, they planted thousands of trees and established a wood.

Sheila trained as a painter and sculptor, exhibiting her work in local and regional exhibitions. She was very active in the life of Hemel Hempstead, with an enthusiasm for many local issues and environmental campaigns. She and Richard arrived in Boxmoor on their narrow boat home in the 1950s, later building a house on a New Town plot in Boxmoor. They had a wooden ex-working narrow boat butty, which they converted themselves in Birmingham and which can be seen in a photo that hangs on the wall in the Fishery Inn today.

Following her death in 2012, her family held a very successful exhibition in the Peter Ingram Gallery at Frogmore Mill, from which two paintings depicting horses on the moor were donated to the Box Moor Trust. All funds raised at the exhibition were donated to local environmental organisations and included the sum given to the Trust for a wildlife enhancement project. Sheila and Richard would have regularly seen water voles near their mooring by the Fishery Inn, so it is entirely appropriate that this legacy should go towards the reintroduction of 'Ratty'!

If you would like to volunteer to help with this project, which takes place for a week soon, or you would like to make a donation towards the costs then please contact the Trust.



Busy start to the year for volunteers

Our amazing team of volunteers have been busy with a myriad of tasks during the first half of the year, helping our estate staff to keep the Trust land in good order.

During February and March they were at Bovingdon Brickworks site, clearing ash to prevent the dells from turning into woodland (in accordance with the management plan). The ash was then used to construct "berms" to help prevent erosion of river banks and to create changes in water flow. Tasks in April and May included algae removal from the scrape at Gadespring and clearance of overgrown vegetation. Volunteers also 'road tested' the Trust's four colour coded walk routes for rights of way assessment. Work during the summer is a continuous round of litter picking, grass cutting, strimming and general maintenance on the amenity areas of Blackbirds, Station, Hardings and Fishery moors and Heath Park. The area behind the Old Barn was tidied, with new flower beds created and shingle laid between. In addition, Howe's Retreat livestock barn was cleaned out ready for the cattle to retreat to during the winter months.

Help for a feathered friend

Assistant Estate Manager Mike Wilson came to the aid of a disorientated Harris hawk recently, which was reported to the Trust office by a concerned member of the public. The hawk, clearly not a wild bird, was caught by its jesses (tethers) in a hawthorn bush on the moor near Two Waters. Fortunately, the bird proved to be very amenable to being rescued and, with the help of his hedge-laying gauntlets, Mike was able to retrieve it safely. As the owner had reported his hawk (named George) missing a couple of weeks earlier, a quick phone call to the Independent Bird Register quoting the ring number resulted in us being able to reunite him with his avian friend.

Photo Competition Closing on the 3rd of August

There's still time to enter this year's competition – but only just! 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. 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.



Aerial shot of Carter's Fair by Lee Davison