

## Grant helps ensure the show can go on!

When Covid-19 threatened to jeopardise the plans of one of our art grants recipients, a bit of creative ingenuity meant that they were able to continue their work in providing theatre-based activities for their members. Herts Inclusive Theatre (HIT) uses the arts and wellbeing practices to build confidence, develop skills and give participants and their families memorable, enjoyable life experiences where everyone is encouraged, valued, supported and has their part to play. Led by experienced practitioners, their workshops are open to all and are especially welcoming to those with special needs. They were awarded a Box Moor Trust grant of £500 to help fund the staging of a performance of Pinocchio at the Old Town Theatre, drawing participants and audience from the Trust's Area of Benefit. When the performance had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, the grant was re-purposed for use in providing a programme of summer online activities instead. Seventeen individual workshops for children, young people and adults were provided over a five-week period, benefitting almost 50 youngsters and adults.

HIT Director Caroline Stevens said, "This supported our work during the Covid-19 situation, and enabled us to provide activities for disabled and vulnerable participants when they needed it the most."

A pre-Covid HIT live performance



## Monochrome magic wins the day

1st place Steve Wiles

With nearly 100 images in our calendar photo competition this year it was a challenge to select only 12, but we think we have come up with a winning formula of stunning shots reflecting different areas of the Trust land as well as different seasons.

It's clear from the posts and messages we have received that being able to get out and walk on Trust land during the long months of lockdown has been of enormous importance, and many of you took your cameras out with you. The theme "Enjoying the Moors" attracted entries covering all aspects of the Trust, from landscapes, wildlife and nature to livestock. We just wanted to see what it is that you love about the Box Moor Trust.

The 12 finalists were posted on our Facebook site to be put to the public vote to determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. The winning shot, scoring 251 votes, was this

beautifully backlit image taken on Station Moor by Steve Wiles. Another monochrome took 2nd place for Adrian Jones, who picked up 189 votes for his atmospheric shot of a dog walker on a misty morning at Harding's Moor. In 3rd place with 131 votes was a dramatic sunset over the Bulbourne by David Atkinson.

Congratulations to all the winners and finalists. **Copies of the 2021 calendar are available to buy from the Trust website at £6.00 + £1.50 p&p.**



2nd place Adrian Jones

## 2020 Grants

The Trust is pleased to announce that the following grants have now been approved under its annual programme of support for community projects within the area of benefit:

- 1st Apsley Scouts:** £2,500 for adaptations to meeting hut to make it Covid-secure.
- Camelot Netball Club:** £1,500 for purchase of waterproof and padded branded jackets
- Community Action Dacorum:** £2,000 for purchase of computer equipment
- Dacorum Dolphins:** £500 for purchase of floats, swim toys and wire mesh storage box
- Dacorum Talking Newspaper:** £2,500 for purchase of computer equipment and memory sticks

**Friends of Collett:** £2,440 for establishment of vegetable patch and shed and development of nature trail

**Hemel Hempstead Town Youth Football Club:** £2,500 for IT equipment and website construction

**South Hill School PTA:** £2,500 for construction of an outdoor nurture classroom

**Sunnyside Rural Trust:** £2,500 for purchase of bakery equipment

In addition, £6,000 was awarded to Dacorum Community Trust for distribution by them to deserving causes during 2021.

The Trust has renewed its commitment to Community Action Dacorum's vital 'Community Transport' minibus scheme, with an annual contribution of £2,500 guaranteed for another three years.

## The Box Moor Trust

Your land, your heritage, your future

# Autumn Newsletter

## Trustee election 21st October

### Don't miss your chance to vote!

The Box Moor Trust is governed by a Board of twelve Trustees. There are six vacancies which are to be filled by election. If you live inside the Trust's Area of Benefit and are on DBC's electoral register then you are entitled to vote. Ballot packs are now being sent out and you will have until 21st October to cast your vote.

**See inside for more details and to meet your candidates.**



## Livestock Worrying

**We regret to report that worrying of livestock by dogs is still a big problem for us, with our sheep in particular bearing the brunt of some serious attacks in recent months.**

We very much welcome responsible dog owners on the land, but would respectfully remind everyone to please keep your dogs on leads in areas where there may be farm animals (the exception to this is if you are being approached by cattle, when it is safer for you to let your dog off the lead). You can check which fields are currently being grazed by visiting [www.boxmoortrust.org.uk/stock-map/](http://www.boxmoortrust.org.uk/stock-map/). Remember: livestock worrying is a criminal offence.



## Contact Us

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



# Make Your Vote Count

**Over the summer, many of you will have seen the billboard on London Road, or the adverts on the back of local buses, advertising that the Box Moor Trust is looking for new Trustees. The message certainly reached many people and generated a lot of interest.**

We sent out over 30 nomination packs and we are very pleased to announce that we have 11 very strong candidates who have decided to stand for election and compete for your votes.

The Box Moor Trust is governed by a Board of twelve Trustees. There are six vacancies which are to be filled by election. Residents on the Dacorum Borough Council's electoral register and living in the Trust's Area of Benefit are entitled to vote for up to 6 candidates. The Area of Benefit basically covers the whole of Hemel Hempstead, Bovington and parts of Bourne End and Flaunden.

**See our website for more details on each candidate**

## Meet your candidates:



### Christine Ridley

I have always been passionate about wildlife and environmental issues. Soon after moving back to Hemel, I joined the Dacorum Environmental Forum and since then have been involved in setting up a charity to manage the Halsey Field Local Wildlife

Site in Gadebridge. In 2017 I became a joint warden of Butterfly Conservation's Millhoppers Nature Reserve near Tring and also a committee member of the Friends of Gadebridge Park. I am keen to learn and to enthuse other people about environmental matters, and in 2016 followed a course on 'Ecology, Conservation and Habitat Management' run by the university of Exeter.



### Michael Dunks

I am a keen wildlife photographer and have been happily married for 41 years. I am now retired but after an apprenticeship at Rotax I became an Engineer Surveyor for RSA and Zurich Insurance. I have qualifications in Engineering and Health and Safety.

I have lived in Hemel Hempstead for over 60 years and as a child used to play on most of the areas that are Trust Land. I currently volunteer for Box Moor Trust and previously at College Lakes. In the past, locally I have chaired an infant school PTA and have been a school Governor.



### Graham French

Brought up in Dunstable, I regularly travelled by bus with my mum to shop in Hemel, and later my friends and I would cycle here and fish the canal. From 1975 to 2013, I served as a Police Officer with the Metropolitan Police, engaged in a variety of roles across

London and the UK. In 1998 I moved to Boxmoor, where I continue to live with my wife and our 3 Hungarian Vizslas, with whom we walk across the Trust's land every day. It's here that I meet and speak to lots of people, listening to their thoughts on issues about the Trust that affect us all.



### Susan Mitchell

One of my many skills is working as a complementary therapist, with lots of tools in my box to help people take care and look after themselves. Previous to all the training and ongoing training for therapies, I was the landlady of a public house and prior to this – worked in a

bank. All my occupations have been helping people in one form or another. People and nature are my passion. I am empathic and a very good listener, never judging only guiding where appropriate. Preservation of wildlife and nature are crucial for our children and grandchildren to enjoy, therefore helping to look after and preserve what is around us is so important and I would love to be a part of that ongoing trust.



### Sherief Hassan

I have lived in Hemel Hempstead for over 20 years and have worked in a range of roles: Sales Executive for Xerox Government sector, Events Executive in Health Sector, E-Communications for Business Link South East, film archivist and self-employed documentary editor

and teacher. I have been a school governor and a committee member of the Boxmoor Playhouse as their Child Protection Officer since 2017. I have been a presenter on Radio Dacorum since 2013. I am a current committee member of the Halsey Field Local Wildlife Site. I am an environmental campaigner, and an advocate of circular economic initiatives and environmental education.



### Neil Burton

I have recently moved back from Melbourne, Australia to be closer to ageing family. I have lived within Boxmoor all my life with spells of living abroad. My professional background is in Marketing/Digital Marketing and general management having run my

own company as well as working for large multinationals. I am very sporty and have recently represented Australia at racket sports and love jogging around Trust land. I am passionate about protecting the environment and the special places owned by the Trust. I am married with 2 grown up children.



### Peter Phillips

I am seeking your support to be re-elected as a Trustee having already served for 15 years, the last 10 of which I was Chair of the Finance & Assets Committee. As a retired widower with a background in both finance and law, I am pleased to have

the time to apply to Trust matters on a regular basis. I have lived in Hemel, and enjoyed the Trust, since 1975. I have family in the area and it is my desire to see that the Trust continues for their benefit and, indeed, for all our beneficiaries. There are exciting times ahead for the Trust and I believe I can be a useful part of it.



### Patrick Schneiders

I have recently moved back to Bovington to be closer to where I was brought up. I live with my husband, our dog, two bee hives, and four chickens, where we are building a modern ecologically friendly home for our family. I have been working in

the environmental sector specialising in habitat creation, wildlife enhancement and sustainability for 9 years. I am a member of the institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, and Chartered with the Society for the Environment. I have a degree in Biology and Psychology from Royal Holloway University.



### Julie James

I am 55 years young. I live in Chaulden with my husband and children. I have a long association with the Trust and the area from when my parents took over The Swan Inn back in 1974. My children have attended the Saturday clubs and I have been involved in Forest Schools

through the infant school I work in. Recently I became involved with helping to set up Gadespring for use by local children. This has given me great inspiration to do more to involve children in everything the Trust has to offer. So many people are unaware of what is on their doorstep, the Trust has a wealth of knowledge and expertise to pass on to our children. Conservation, wildlife, farming and history to name but a few subjects. I would like to use my experience in organising events to help the Trust in these areas. The more people that we can get involved the better. I want to let people know more about the great work that the Trust do. How they protect wildlife and fauna. The history of the area, the cress beds, the animals they breed and all the other behind the scenes work that goes on.



### Peter Ablett

I am enthusiastic to have the opportunity of continuing to support the Trust in its mission of demonstrating best practice in managing its resources to the benefit of all local residents, young, not so young and old. I'm determined that everyone can enjoy the natural environment in a

working countryside, where our stock, pastures and flora and fauna are treasured by everyone. I am supportive of policies which enable our caring staff to provide opportunities at BMT for volunteering, learning, relaxing and for maintaining physical and mental well-being and am equipped to play a constructive part in facing the numerous difficult decisions currently confronting Trustees – in terms of finance, changing legislation and government policies.



### Stephen Wilson

My name is Steve Wilson. Hemel Hempstead resident since 1954, I attended Hobbs Hill and Apsley Grammar Schools before obtaining an BSc in Geography and Geology at Reading University and later an MA in Education at London University.

Teaching at Astley Cooper School and Great Baddow High School, Essex, developed my skills in planning, decision-making, teamwork, communication and budget control. My voluntary environmental work currently includes roles as Vice-Chairman of Dacorum Environmental Forum, Secretary of the Friends of Gadebridge Park and membership of Box Moor Trust Education Committee. I am experienced and confident working on projects with planners, local politicians and other stakeholders.