

# Winter Newsletter

## Hedge Planting



**Recently, we have been busy planting two new conservation hedges at Bovington Reach and Sheethanger Common.**

*Photo: Duncan Eriksen*

Some of our lovely volunteers helped with planting a hawthorn hedge at the bottom of Sheethanger Common, a project generously funded by Herts County Council under the late Queen's Green Canopy initiative. Lots of you also kindly donated your time to come along to Bovington Reach at Westbrook Hay to assist with the planting there. The new hedgerow comprises a mix of wild cherry, wild privet, hawthorn and spindle amongst other

native species. The cost of these hedging plants was part-funded by The Woodland Trust as part of their More Hedges scheme. So, a HUGE thank you to all that have helped in creating these two new hedges, which will help to improve habitat connectivity across the estate. Over the last 25 years the Trust has planted miles of hedges and these provide valuable wildlife corridors within our land and beyond our borders.



**Why not submit an entry or two to our 2024 calendar photo competition? This year's theme is "Box Moor Trust: for Community and Conservation" which can be interpreted any way you wish.**

Like to photograph landscapes? We have almost 500 acres of woods, meadows, hills and valleys. Action shots? The Trust hosts two cricket clubs and a rugby club. If wildlife and nature is your preferred subject matter, there is a rich variety of flora and fauna to be found in every corner of the estate.

All photographs must have been taken on, or of, Box Moor Trust land and should be in landscape format (long edges top and bottom) to fit in with the design of the calendar. The closing date is Sunday 6th August 2023. The twelve selected finalists will be put to the public vote on the Box Moor Trust Facebook page to determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. The competition is free to enter and prizes are £100 for first place, £75 for second and £50 for third, with £10 awarded to all other photographers whose images are selected for the calendar.

A link to the entry form can be downloaded from our website.

# Keen on nature? Love photography?



Photo: Iain Nibbsy



## Jubilee trees

You may have seen members of our team planting some more trees across the estate recently. These are all part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' Jubilee planting scheme. A range of species have been planted, including Norway Maple, Honey Locust, English Oak, Kashmir Rowan, Crab Apple and Royal Alder. Look out for details of a Jubilee Tree Walk coming soon...

Photo: Jane Ahern



Photo: Elaine Rushton

## Lambing Weekend

Our popular lambing weekend returns on the weekend of 25th and 26th March at Snooks End, off London Road. Wrap up warm and drop by to see our newest arrivals in the livestock barns and nursery paddock. Other attractions for youngsters will include craft activities and a 'lambing trail' quiz. Some light refreshments will be available. Parking is limited and will be a short walk away, so please come on foot or by public transport if that is at all practical for you. We will be running four sessions across the weekend, each limited to 400 people. Tickets are free but **must** be pre-booked via Eventbrite. Tickets will go live on Friday 3rd March. Donations are welcomed at your discretion.

# Wreath Making Activity

**Thank you to those that attended our December wreath-making event at the Old Barn, Westbrook Hay.**

Attendees first spent some time combing nearby Hay Wood for yew, ivy, holly and other suitable material. They then returned to the warmth of the barn where Senior Ranger Karen demonstrated how to create a ring-shaped base from woven willow wands and then add the greenery and decoration. Everyone went home with their own unique and traditional wreath, just in time for Christmas.



Photo: Elaine Rushton



Photo: Andrew Brookes

## Annual Public Meeting

**7pm on Wednesday 26th April at South Hill Centre, Cemetery Hill, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1JF.**

Trustees and staff would like to invite the Trust's beneficiaries to our annual public meeting where we will be updating you on our work over the last year and sharing news about our forthcoming projects. We look forward to hearing your views and ideas. Light refreshments will be provided. There is limited parking at the venue as well as plentiful parking in the Water Gardens car park, which is close by (parking is free in the evenings).

*Please email [admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk) to notify us of your intention to attend.*

## Meeting space for hire...

**Did you know that we have rooms for hire at our Centre in London Road? Need somewhere for a meeting or community activities? Then keep reading!**

The Trust Centre is taking bookings for 2023 – we have three meeting rooms for hire perfect for meetings and conferences, with ample parking available. All rooms have screens, projectors, and a hearing loop. We can also provide tea and coffee for an additional small fee. Please visit our website for more information.

**Box Moor Boardroom:**

Perfect for 12 attendees

**Gorsefield Room:**

Our community room happily seats 20 -25

**Roughdown Room:**

Can seat up to 60 in a theatre style set up

## Data Capture

**Over the past year we have installed video cameras on the estate to track the timing and successes of some of our key species, Kingfishers and Barn Owls.**

These have been known to breed successfully on the estate and with solar powered video capture we will soon be able to share this on our website for those that wish to bring nature into their home. Monitoring the success of important species such as these is vital to our understanding of the impact of our environmental management and will better

inform how we can improve our practices to benefit the wildlife that makes the estate its home, when we are able to undertake sensitive works in their breeding habitats, and whether they are encountering any problems that we can help them overcome. As we build a picture of how wildlife engages with the Trust estate, we can hope to improve the habitats that will not only benefit these key species but the entire ecosystem that makes our land such a wonderful place to visit.

Photo: Graham Denney

**Easy Donating**

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# Spring Events for 2023

**Our Spring Events are now available to book! All events are ticketed and numbers are limited so get your tickets quickly before they sell out! Visit our website or Eventbrite for more details.**

## Meet the Cows

Visit the cows in their winter home.  
Tuesday 14th February, hourly timeslots from 10:30-3pm. Suitable for all.

## Mindfulness in the Woods

Take a moment to reflect in nature.  
Sunday 26th February, 10am-12pm.  
Suitable for adults & children aged 16+.

## Twilight Amphibians

Find out what lurks beneath the surface of the water. Wednesday 8th March.  
6pm-7:30pm. Suitable for all.

## Lambing Barn Quiet Morning

Tuesday 4th April, drop in any time between 10am and 12pm. A quiet session for anyone who might find our busy lambing weekend overwhelming.

## River Dipping at Gadespring Cressbeds

Half-term fun. Try and catch a fish, learn about larvae. Wednesday 5th April from 10:30am-12pm. All are welcome, recommended for children aged 7+.

## Spring Bat Walk

The bats return for spring! Listen out for their calls as they hunt for food. Friday 14th April, 6:30pm-8pm. Suitable for all.

## Pond Dipping for Adults

Adults only! Find out about the creatures that live in the pond, without the kids for once! Thursday 27th April from 6pm-7:30pm

For tickets and more information visit [www.boxmoortrust.org.uk](http://www.boxmoortrust.org.uk)

**BIG  
NEWS**

## Weekend Volunteering

If you have always liked the idea of volunteering for the Trust but don't have availability during the week, then **WEEKEND VOLUNTEERING** is new for 2023. Sessions will be held on the second Sunday of each month, between 9.30am and 1.30pm. We have plenty of opportunities available including but not limited to farm work, conservation management and community engagement!

If you love the outdoors, have an interest in wildlife and would like to meet like-minded people, then sign-up today. Visit our website for more info.

## Say hello to Sandons Kilsby

This lovely Norfolk Horn ram has recently been bought from Essex. It is important for us to introduce new rams and ewes into our flock from time to time in order to refresh and improve our flock's bloodline. We are proud to be instrumental in continuing to help prevent this rare breed, which has been around since the Middle Ages, from disappearing.



Photo: Jane Ahern

**Contact Us**

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