

# Winter Newsletter



## Working with Corporate Partners

**In December, we welcomed the Finance team from Henkel, who came to support the Trust as part of their volunteering programme, "Agents of Change".**

The team of 12 spent the day planting saplings in Bury Wood. A mix of Beech, Cherry, Hornbeam, Lime and Maple were planted. As they grow, these new trees will absorb and store carbon, help to reduce pollution and provide important habitats for a host of plants and animals. In total, they planted 200 trees and made a generous donation of £3,500 to the Trust. A massive thank you to them all.

*Photo: Matt Shrimpton*

*If you are interested in finding out more about corporate partnerships, please get in touch – we are happy to work with you to find a project that fits with your organisation's core values.*



# Could you be one of our next Trustees?

With the next Box Moor Trustee election due in 2025, now is the perfect time to find out more about what the position involves.

If you care about the vital contribution that the local landscape makes to the quality of life of people living locally, it could be just the role for you – and it is a great way to meet like-minded people whilst giving something back to the community.

The position of Trustee is a voluntary one, and we will be seeking candidates to stand for election for one of the posts on the Board that is due to become vacant. We welcome interest from people of all backgrounds and with diverse skills and life experience. Our Trustees support and shape the work and strategic direction of the Box Moor Trust and, if elected, you could make a significant difference to an important local charity and a cause that matters to you.

If you'd like an informal chat on what the role of Trustee would entail, please feel free to drop us a line at [admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk)

Photo: Graham Denney



## Outdoor learning for local schools

**There is growing evidence to suggest that outdoor learning has positive benefits for children, including improvements in wellbeing, communication skills, motivation and teamwork.**

Our Environmental Awareness & Community team has put together a stimulating programme of learning opportunities for schools within the Trust's area of benefit. Activities cater for Early Years Foundation Stage through to Key Stage 4 and can be linked in with curriculum subjects such as geography, maths, art and environmental studies. Schools can choose from a range of sessions and activities that include river studies, orienteering, natural art, habitats, life cycles, meadow sweeping, bug hunting and shelter building, and more! We also offer 'Wildlife and Waterways' days in partnership with Waterways Experiences, where each class will spend half a day on a canal boat at our Gadespring site, once a working watercress farm and now a micro nature reserve. Sessions are led by one of our knowledgeable and passionate Rangers, helping children to



Photo: Heather Burrows

create a lasting connection with nature whilst learning along the way. Alternatively, for schools who would prefer to organise their own self-led trip, we offer independent use of our equipment and facilities.

We make good use of the diverse habitats of the Trust estate, including the woods and meadows of Westbrook Hay, Bovingdon Clay Pits (a former clay quarry now managed as a conservation area) and Gadespring Cressbeds.

*If you are a teacher and would like further information and details of available dates, visit our website and follow the links to 'Visiting Groups', where you can download the School Visit booklet, or email [environment@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:environment@boxmoortrust.org.uk)*



# Photo competition: entries now open

Photo: Peter Barley

## If you are keen on nature and love photography, why not submit an entry or two to our 2025 calendar photo competition?

This year's theme is "Box Moor Trust: My Favourite Place" which gives you plenty of scope to interpret however you wish. The Trust estate covers almost 500 acres and encompasses a variety of landscapes and habitats, including woodlands, wildflower meadows and a chalk stream, all supporting a wealth of wildlife and nature. The pastures are grazed by sheep, cattle and horses (we even have a few goats at Bovingdon Brickworks!) The land also plays host to two cricket clubs and a rugby club, so lots of potential for some sport photography. And don't forget that we need to see all seasons of the year represented in the calendar!

All photographs must have been taken of, or from, Box Moor Trust land and must be in **landscape orientation** (longest edges top and bottom) to fit in with the design of the calendar. The closing date is **Sunday 4th August 2024**. Entry is free and competitors may submit up to 10 images. **Photos must be in jpg format, minimum resolution 300ppi (pixels per inch) in order to reproduce well in print.**

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. 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.

Enter online via the website (link can be found on Calendar Competition page under 'News & Events') and then send your high-resolution files (preferably via a file sharing site such as WeTransfer or Dropbox) to: [elainerushton@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:elainerushton@boxmoortrust.org.uk)



Photo: Andrew Brookes

## Do you run a community group? Looking for a meeting space?

**The Box Moor Trust Centre is a beautiful oak-framed barn-style building, with three dedicated meeting/event rooms of varying sizes available for hire.**

As part of its charitable aims, the Box Moor Trust offers preferential rates for not-for-profit organisations running meetings or events for people who live in the Trust's Area of Benefit (Hemel Hempstead and Bovingdon).

Maybe you run regular sessions in support of a specific sector of the community, or perhaps you are looking for a one-off venue for a coffee morning? If your group is non-commercial we may be able to help – get in touch with us for more information:  
[admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk)

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# Meet the Cows!

**Saturday 24 February 2024**  
**10:30am – 3pm**

Howe's Retreat, Felden Lane,  
Hemel Hempstead, HP3 0BY

**Our Belted Galloway cattle would like to invite you to visit them in their winter home, the cattle barns at Howes Retreat in Felden Lane.**

See all the cows up close (including the newest additions), learn all about the important role they play in conservation grazing on the Trust estate and ask the rangers any questions you have about our wonderful four-legged friends. There will be refreshments available and a children's activity trail.

This is a bookable event with 4 x 1 hour timeslots throughout the day. To keep things running smoothly please aim to stick to your timeslot. All are welcome. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a guardian and remain supervised throughout the day. Suggested donations are £5.00 per adult and £2.50 per child.

For further details and to book places, visit  
[www.bookwhen.com/boxmoortrust](http://www.bookwhen.com/boxmoortrust)

*Photo: Jane Ahern*

## Supporting nature AND local heritage...

**We're excited to announce some beautiful new items for our online shop.**

Working with a small, ethical manufacturing company based in Buckinghamshire, the Trust has developed a unique range of notebooks, greeting and gift cards using very special locally made 'Meadow Mix' paper, which has inclusions of UK native wildflower and grass seeds embedded in it. Once no longer required, the card or notebook cover can be planted outdoors where the seeds should germinate to produce flowers found on Trust land, including daisy, poppy and myositis.

The artisan 'Meadow Mix' paper is made at Frogmore Paper Mill in Apsley, which is operated by the Apsley Paper Trail, a charitable trust founded to conserve the unique industrial heritage of this historic site in Hemel Hempstead.

The notebooks and cards feature exquisite nature-inspired images by local artist Jeny Willment. We hope to add to the range in due course.



**Contact Us**

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