

# Spring Newsletter



## New Trustees needed

**A further reminder about our forthcoming Trustee election in October.**

*Photo: Lee Buttle*

Are you passionate about preserving and enhancing our local green spaces? Can you bring a skill or life experience that you feel will add value to the Trust? The Box Moor Trust is seeking dedicated new Trustees to stand for election to its Board and help shape its future.

Managed by a Board of up to 12 Trustees, the Trust is run with the help of a small team of dedicated employees and an enthusiastic and highly valued band of volunteers. The role of Trustee can be challenging but there are also many rewards, including:

- Personal satisfaction, both individually and as part of a team;
- Directly influencing and protecting the future of a unique charity;
- Helping to protect and conserve Trust land for the enjoyment of this and future generations;
- Gaining new skills and developing existing ones.

The Trust welcomes prospective applications from all backgrounds and we're actively hoping that our future elected Board will reflect

the rich diversity of our local community. The Box Moor Trust's election process is determined by The Charities (Boxmoor Estate, Hemel Hempstead) Order 2000, "The Scheme".

Anyone who lives within the Trust's Area of Benefit (most of Bovingdon and Hemel Hempstead) and is registered on the electoral roll will be entitled to vote in the Trustee election.

**To find out more about the nomination and the election processes, please scan the QR code below.**







Photo: Elaine Rushton

## Heath Lane and Corner Hall Car Park

**For many years, car parking in Heath Lane between St John's Road and Station Road has continued uncontrolled. Sadly, this car park, intended to encourage and facilitate people driving to visit and walk the moors, has been primarily used by train commuters, abandoned cars and commercial vans.**

This has left very little or no space for those people visiting the moors and the church. A similar issue is present at the Corner Hall car park, close to Hemel Hempstead cricket club.

We have explored a number of ways in which to make these car parks available for everyone. Therefore, to ensure people can more easily visit and enjoy the moors, we have taken the decision to introduce parking control measures at both sites.

With effect from Monday 31st March 2025, parking will remain free of charge but both sites will be **limited to 3 hours**, with no return **within 4 hours**, between **06.30 – 18.30 Monday to Sunday**. We have engaged with National Parking Control (NPC) to monitor the parking and enforce the restrictions.

Vehicles parked in contravention of the restrictions will be subject to a penalty charge issued by NPC, of £100. All of the

money will be kept by NPC. Monitoring of parking will be by means of mobile patrols providing photographic and video evidence. **The Box Moor Trust will not receive any money from the charges levied by NPC.**

We remain committed to providing free parking at all of our sites, ensuring that the land we manage on behalf of our beneficiaries is accessible to all.





## Meet the cows

**Our lovely Belted Galloway cattle were delighted to welcome members of the public to their winter housing at Howe's Retreat on a very cold Saturday in March.**

Visitors were able to see the herd up close and personal as they spend their last few weeks in the cattle sheds before being 'mooved' back onto the moors in the spring.

Four of our Old English goats were also on site and proved to be a popular draw. Staff and volunteers were on hand to answer questions about the role of livestock in conservation grazing, and there was a fun activity for children who had to find the answers to a series of Belted Galloway-related questions. With thanks to the Blue Tangerine Horsebox Café for providing refreshments.



Photos: Elaine Rushton



Photo: Heather Burrows

## Common Frog

*(Rana temporaria)*

**Here's a little amphibian that you are likely to spot easily at this time of the year. During spring, specifically from late January to early May, common frogs migrate to water to breed.**

With its river, pond and wetland habitats, the Trust estate has numerous areas where frogs, toads and newts proliferate. Bovingdon Brickworks, with its seasonal ponds, is one such site – Gadespring is another. This handsome chap was photographed by Heather Burrows, our Senior Ranger for Environment & Community.

Found throughout the UK, common frogs can be identified by their smooth skin and long legs; perfect for hopping. Varying hugely in colour, they will usually have dark spots and stripes and a 'mask' behind the eye.

Tadpoles are faintly speckled golden-brown. Common frogspawn is laid in large clumps at the water surface.

**Easy Donating**

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Photos: Mike Wallbank

## Sunday Work Party

**A huge thank you and well done to all the Duke of Edinburgh volunteers who worked incredibly hard coppicing a large section of willow at Gadespring Cress Beds.**

Coppicing helps us manage our diverse wetland, preventing the willow from taking over whilst also providing a useful and renewable resource. The wood will be used for wreaths, baskets, crafts, and wood chippings for paths. This particular coppicing session was essential to bring the area back under control. In two years, the new growth will provide fresh materials for crafts or even be replanted to create a living screen, just like the one at Preston Hill. Fantastic work, everyone!

## A few diary dates...

### Quiet day at the Lambing Barns for SEN

**24 April 2025, 10:30am-12pm**  
Snooks End, London Road,  
Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RE

This event is aimed at those who might find our busy lambing weekend overwhelming and is set at a smaller capacity for children and adults with SEN to meet the animals. Come along at any time during your timeslot and stay for as long as you like during that time. Please book a ticket per participant due to limited numbers. There is no charge although donations are welcome.



Photo: Elaine Rushton

### Youth Rangers

**3 May 2025, 10am-12:30pm**  
Butterfly Survey, Bovington Brickworks,  
Green Lane, HP3 0NW

Youth Rangers is a drop off session aimed at 8-16 year olds who have a passion for nature and want to learn more about the natural world. 1st Child: £7.00, additional siblings: £3.50

### Mini Rangers

**3 May 2025, 1:30pm-2:30pm**  
Butterfly Survey, Bovington Brickworks,  
Green Lane, HP3 0NW

Come and join us to explore the ever-changing world of nature. These sessions are designed to engage children aged 4-7 and inspire a lifelong love of nature. 1st Child: £5.00, additional siblings: £2.50.



Photo: Brendan Sheridan

### River Dipping

**28 May 2025, 2 sessions**  
**10:30am-11:30am or 1pm-2pm**  
Gadespring Cress Beds,  
Old Fishery Lane, Chaulden

Join us to enjoy river dipping in the side stream at Gadespring. Discover what amazing creatures live in the river and learn about the importance of chalk streams.

There will be a short walk as part of this event. This session is available to children over 5 and adults. Please book a ticket for each person. Suggested donation £5.

### Family Activity Day

**29 May 2025, 2 sessions**  
**10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm**  
The Box Moor Trust Old Barn,  
Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RG

Join our Rangers for fun in the meadows sweeping for insects and at the pond looking for creatures of the water. Aimed at families with children aged 5-18. All ages welcome - children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Adults free to attend and do not need to book a ticket. Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear suitable for walking on uneven ground and muddy fields.

Suggestion donation £5 for 1st child, £2.50 additional siblings.

## Contact Us

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