

Summer Newsletter

Trustee election:

Register now to secure your online vote

‘Herd’ the big news?

The Box Moor Trust is looking for new trustees to represent residents of all parts of Hemel Hempstead and Bovingdon.

Application closing date
Monday 1st September 2025



The Box Moor Trust is governed by a Board of up to 12 Trustees. In accordance with our constitution, the Trust will hold a Trustee Election in October.

The Election will be held over the course of one week, beginning at 8am on Wednesday 8th October 2025 and ending at 8pm on Wednesday 15th October 2025.

Voting will take place online and at the Trust Centre polling station. In order to vote online, you will need to pre-register. If you would like to register to vote online, please visit our website. If viewing digital version, link is: www.boxmoortrust.org.uk/trustee-elections-2025-register-to-vote/

Registration will be open until 30th September 2025. Electors must reside within the Trust's Area of Benefit and be registered on the electoral roll. The Box Moor Trust's 'Area of Benefit' is comprised of the old ward boundaries of Bovingdon and Hemel Hempstead.

*NB: to vote in person, you will **not** need to register online. However, you will need to bring photographic ID + proof of address to the polling station.*





Photo: Ashley Farrell

Dog Attack

We're saddened to report yet another attack on our livestock. This time one of our Old English Goats was injured by a dog off lead at Bovingdon Reach. This is a stark reminder of why the Countryside Code exists: please always keep your dogs on leads around livestock. Our animals are not just part of our conservation work; they are living beings who deserve safety and respect. Let's protect our countryside and its creatures. Please, do your part.

Congratulations to Puddingstone!



Photo: Puddingstone Distillery



Well done to <https://puddingstonedistillery.com> who were awarded 'Made In Hertfordshire' Highly Commended for their stand at this year's Herts County Show and their gin collaboration with Box Moor Trust.

The commendation was presented to them by the Hertfordshire Agricultural Society at the show in May. Made using the juniper on Roughdown Common, this very special gin was a Top 10 Gin 2023 as compiled by gin judge, blogger and gin writer Gin A Ding Ding (Sarah Miller)! The bottle label is inspired by our iconic Belted Galloway cows and £2.00 from every bottle sold goes to The Box Moor Trust.

Meet Martha

Martha joined us in February to gain experience in the conservation industry and quickly became an integral part of our volunteering team. She regularly volunteered for a range of tasks including surveying, essential conservation work and community events.

Here's what Martha has to say about her experience: 'The experience I gained volunteering for Box Moor Trust helped me to secure a job - it added weight to my CV. I was able to evidence specific experiences (such as riverfly and water vole surveying) in my job applications and draw on those experiences in my interview. I really enjoyed, and benefited from, the various opportunities that the Box Moor Trust offers volunteers, from monitoring and practical conservation to community engagement, as well as the chance to meet lots of new people.'

We are pleased to say Martha has been appointed as an Assistant Biodiversity Officer and we wish her all the best in her new role. She will be sadly missed. Well done, Martha.



Otterly amazing...

...Look who made a surprise appearance at our Gadespring Cressbeds! Captured on our trail camera, an otter explores the site under cover of darkness. We're thrilled to see this elusive creature visiting one of our carefully managed habitats — a positive sign for local biodiversity and water health. Huge thanks to our volunteers and conservation team whose hard work helps make moments like this possible.



Advertise Your Business at the Autumn Festival

Join us at this popular community event on Blackbirds Moor on 20th & 21st September and promote your business with a display banner for just £200.

This fun-filled weekend attracts hundreds of visitors of all ages, offering a fantastic opportunity to gain local exposure and show your support for the Box Moor Trust, a respected local charity committed to conserving open space and heritage.

What's Included for £200?

- Your business banner displayed prominently at the event
- Exposure to a large and engaged community audience
- Support for a well-loved local charity

Limited spaces available – reserve now!

Email: admin@boxmoortrust.org.uk

Tel: 01442 253300



Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering

Are you working towards your bronze, silver or gold Duke of Edinburgh Award?

If so, you might be interested to know that you could complete the volunteering section with us here at Box Moor Trust. Opportunities include conservation work, litter picking and supporting with Trust events. For more information, visit our website or scan the QR code shown here.



Boxmoor welcomes Horton's Steam Fair

26th July to 3rd August

Two years after we last saw a traditional steam fair on the moor, we are delighted to announce that Horton's will be bringing the magic of a vintage fair back to Blackbirds Moor this summer.

Horton's Steam fair are the proud owners and operators of some of the finest old-fashioned fairground rides in the country, some dating back to the late 1890s. With traditional fairgrounds being such a significant part of British social history, Horton's skilled team dedicate their time to lovingly restore all their vintage rides to their former glory. Their "Lightning Skid", "Gallopers", "Big Wheel", "Chair O Planes, and "Dodgems" will all be in attendance as well as a selection of children's rides and game stalls.



Easy Donating
Scan Here



Swallow Nest

We're thrilled to report that the swallows at the Old Barn are thriving. At time of going to print, at least three chicks had hatched and were being busily fed by their devoted parents.

Even more exciting — a second pair has also taken up residence at the barn, so it's shaping up to be a bumper year for these incredible birds.

Swallows return to us year after year, raising their broods before making the long journey back to Africa. It's always a joy to watch them swooping over the fields, gathering insects mid-air. We help support them (and many other species!) by leaving some areas of meadow uncut to encourage a healthy population of invertebrates and small mammals — a small action that supports the entire food chain.



Photo: John Sparrow

Diary dates for August

Introduction to Moths: The Box Moor Trust Old Barn, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RG

6 August 2025, 10:00am – 11.30am

Join one of our Trustees to learn about the fascinating world of moths. During this session, you will have the opportunity to see some different species of moth up close. This activity is open to adults and children ages 7+.

Prospective Volunteers Meet and Greet: The Box Moor Trust Old Barn, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RG

11 August, 1.15pm – 2.15pm

Interested in volunteering? Come and meet one of our Rangers who will talk you through what volunteering at the Box Moor Trust is like. You'll be able to see some work our volunteers have carried out and ask any questions you may have.

Nature Photography: Gadespring Cressbeds, Old Fishery Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2BN

13 August, 2 sessions, 4.30pm – 6pm (families), 6.30pm – 8pm (adults)

Join our knowledgeable volunteers to learn how to take good photos of nature, from beetles to frogs. Bring your own camera or mobile phone. Aimed at adults and children aged 8+.

Meadow Sweep and Bug Hunting: Gadespring Cressbeds, Old Fishery Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2BN

18 August, 2 sessions, 10am – 12 noon (for SEN)* or 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Join our Rangers for fun in the meadows sweeping for insects, bug hunting and exploring for creatures who live beneath the logs. Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear suitable for walking on uneven ground and muddy fields.

River Dipping: Gadespring Cressbeds, Old Fishery Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2BN

20 August, 2 sessions, 10.15am – 11.30am (for SEN)* or 1.15pm – 2.30pm

Join us to enjoy river dipping in the side stream at Gadespring. Find out about the amazing creatures that live in the river and learn about the importance of chalk streams. You will be in the water as part of this activity, so wellies or crocs will be required. Followed by a bug hunt to explore for creatures that live beneath the logs.

River Dipping and Bug Hunting: Gadespring Cressbeds, Old Fishery Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2BN

27 August, 2 sessions, 10am – 12 noon (SEN)* or 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Join us to enjoy river dipping in the side stream at Gadespring. Find out about the amazing creatures that live in the river and learn about the importance of chalk streams. You will be in the water as part of this activity, so wellies or crocs will be required.

Pond Dipping: The Box Moor Trust Old Barn, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RG

28 August, 2 sessions, 9.30am – 10.30am (SEN)* or 11am – 12 noon

Join us to enjoy some pond dipping at our Old Barn pond and learn about the fascinating creatures that live in the water.

* The earlier SEN sessions are aimed at those who might find busy events overwhelming, so is set at a smaller capacity.

Contact Us

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Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RE

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