

Autumn Newsletter

Trustee Election 2025 Are 'Ewe' Voting?

This October, the Box Moor Trust is inviting you to help shape the future of our cherished open spaces by voting in the Trustee Election.

If you are registered on the electoral roll and live in Hemel Hempstead or Bovingdon (our Area of Benefit), you're eligible—and it's easy to vote!

How, where and why?

Voting opens at 8am on Wednesday 8th October 2025 and closes at 8pm on Wednesday 15th October 2025. Voting will take place online and at the polling station at Box Moor Trust Centre in London Road, HP1 2RE.

To vote online

You will need to pre-register on our website at: www.boxmoortrust.org.uk/trustee-election-2025/. Registration will be open until 1st October 2025.

To vote in person

You will need to bring with you photo ID showing your address – see the website for details of acceptable documentation.

Why your vote matters

Trustees guide how the estate is managed, from preserving wildlife habitats to running community events and setting strategy. The Box Moor Trust is governed by a Board of up to 12 Trustees, and there are four vacancies on the Board. Ten candidates are standing for election, and you can vote for up to four of those. Please meet your candidates inside....



Meet our Box Moor Trustee Candidates 2025

We are delighted to introduce your Trustee candidates, who are standing for election to the Box Moor Trust Board of Trustees.

Further information about each candidate can be viewed on our website at: www.boxmoortrust.org.uk/trustee-election-2025/trustee-election-2025-candidates/



Alexander Rakita

I'm a Chartered Architect and company director with wide experience in real estate, the built environment, and architectural conservation, both in the UK and internationally. As a local resident, daily dog walker, and keen gardener,

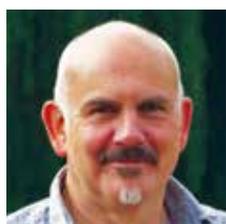
I have a deep love for Box Moor Trust's fields, moors, and woodlands. Walking these landscapes has shown me just how important they are for our community. I believe my professional expertise in planning, management and conservation, combined with my personal enthusiasm and energy, can help the Trust to manage and enhance its assets, ensuring they remain well cared for and cherished by future generations.



Anthony Pooley

As a Senior Manager at Nationwide Building Society, I bring proven expertise in income growth risk management, and operational efficiency, having managed multi-billion-pound portfolio and complex operation teams. Living in Boxmoor

overlooking the canal, I am passionate about preserving the Box Moor Trust's unique heritage and enhancing its vital role for the community. My experience in leading high-performing teams, negotiating with diverse stakeholders, and ensuring regulatory compliance makes me well-suited to contribute to the Trust's financial sustainability and strategic objectives for future generations.



David Catlin

For over 25 years, I've lived next to the Box Moor Trust estate, exploring its moors and footpaths with my dogs. Having recently taken early retirement from my design and space planning business, I'm now eager to engage in

community initiatives. With a pragmatic approach from running my own company alongside experience with FTSE strategic plans, I aim to enhance the Trust's work – particularly in improving accessibility for all. My years in designing public retail spaces have ingrained strong health & safety instincts. If elected, I'm committed to nurturing this cherished open space for our community.



Demetrios Komodromos

I am an Infrastructure and Data Manager with extensive experience in digital transformation, operational efficiency, and risk management. I have led major projects that deliver measurable

improvements in resilience and cost-effectiveness, while ensuring strong organisational policies and compliance. I am driven by a desire to help organisations thrive through strategic thinking, innovation, and a commitment to long-term resilience, while staying true to my values of sustainability and stewardship. As a Trustee, I aim to bring strategic thinking, practical solutions, and a forward-looking approach to help the Box Moor Trust flourish and protect its heritage for future generations.

Regular Donating

If you have enjoyed reading this quarterly newsletter and would like to receive future editions direct to your inbox, for a monthly donation we can email you a copy. Simply scan the QR code opposite.



Kevin Brown

Having lived in Box Moor Trust area for almost five decades, I've grown up immersed in its natural beauty—from rivers to chalk bowls—and had the joy of raising my children with the same experiences. I recognise how rapidly our

environment is changing and believe the Trust must continually evolve to meet these challenges. My commitment to community is reflected in over 20 years of service in policing. I walk my dogs daily across the Trust's land, and I deeply value its role in our wellbeing. I'm standing as a Trustee to help protect and enhance this cherished landscape for future generations.



Lisa Timms

I've lived in Boxmoor with my husband, two boys, and rescue lurcher for four years, and in Hemel since 2009. I'm a creative, empathetic and organised individual, with a passion for turning ideas into meaningful experiences.

Leading the Heath Barn campaign for the past two years has taught me to face challenges with curiosity and openness. I bring experience in creative events, retail, hospitality, logistics and illustration. I believe everyone benefits from a collaborative mindset. I'm an advocate for the role of nature, creativity and community for our mental well being and believe passionately in fostering pride for Boxmoor's special places.



Lynda Mills-Webb

I am a teacher, a scientist, and gardener and I can play a part in making Box Moor Trust a leading local resource in the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, the new Natural History GCSE, the National Education Park, new Climate

Leaders Award and the Nature Recovery Network. Boxmoor Trust can become a key part of this movement, explaining to the community how they manage their estate sustainably and engaging young people in biodiversity mapping, data collection and analysis and by encouraging everyone with a garden to understand its importance in providing a stepping stone in a wildlife corridor.



Matthew Whitbread

As a volunteer of The Box Moor Trust and Butterfly Conservation I am dedicated to looking after our natural spaces, making sure that we create havens for our local communities to enjoy. I hope my ambition, energy and

forward thinking will bring fresh ideas and develop an exciting vision for the role that the Trust can play in our local community. I want The Box Moor Trust to become a destination that brings together people to share time with friends and family, learn to protect and respect nature and give hope and excitement that we can all be proud of.



Robert Bandy

I have lived near to Box Moor Trust land for my whole life and have benefitted from both the spaces and the heritage on offer. I've spent my professional life working for a conservation charity, keeping special places, indoor and outdoor, in good

condition and ensuring that they are enjoyed and shared with as many people as possible. I would love to offer my experience to support the Box Moor Trust, to ensure that it keeps working, that it is sustainable, and that many different people continue to enjoy it into the future.



Toby Chambers-Briggs

I am a Boxmoor local with over a decade of professional experience within financial services and relationship management, hoping to support the Trust where possible with my commercial approach

and skills. Having grown up on a smallholding with numerous animals, I understand the importance of appropriate land and livestock management, to ensure the highest welfare of animals (wild and domestic) and to keep land maintained, fit for purpose and provide the public with spaces to enjoy. As a new father, I want to keep areas managed by the Trust used to their full potential to benefit current and future generations.

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A helping hand for nature from Henkel Ltd

In July, we were delighted to welcome a group of eight volunteers from Henkel Ltd, who came to help our environmental team at Pixies Mere in Pix Farm Lane. The Trust is working to restore the ecological value of the site and improve it for nature. The Henkel volunteers worked alongside our Environmental and Community rangers, Heather and Mike, to stake in hazel faggots at the lake edge. Pre-planted coir rolls were then installed on top, which should quickly establish to provide a natural plant fringe (reed, yellow flag, iris, etc). The aim is to attract insects, dragonflies, damselflies, etc. The volunteers also took a vegetation raft out onto the lake, which will provide welcome surface cover for wildlife. With grateful thanks to the Henkel team for their hard work and financial support for the project.



Photo: Heather Burrows

A beautiful visitor

This beautiful Willow Emerald damselfly was photographed for the first time at Gadespring in mid-August by Trust volunteer Dave Finlayson. The males can be very obliging for photographers as they can perch for long periods in full sight, but it takes patience to get an image this clear.

This species, which is noted for its white wing tip spots and angled wings, has a remarkable story. It is dominant in parts of Europe but started to colonise our southeast coastal areas for the first time in 2009.

The female lays eggs under the bark of 1 cm thick willow branches just above the water. The eggs grow over the winter, and the first nymph instar breaks out and drops into the water in the spring. If branches show lots of equal sized pimples this may be evidence of their presence.

Whilst most damselfly and dragonfly nymphs take 1 to 5 years to mature to adulthood and are exciting to see for those who attend pond dipping sessions, this damselfly can be flying a few weeks after the egg hatches. This speed, along with a succession of mild winters, has allowed them to spread quickly away from the coast. The first one recorded in Herts was in 2015. 10 years later it has found its way to Gadespring and it is already being identified inland right across the southeast and up to Yorkshire. Sometimes new arrivals from the continent are harbingers of a warming climate or are not welcome, such as the Box Moth or Asian Hornet, but this beautiful damselfly, which likes good quality water, is surely a welcome arrival to our ponds and lakes.



Photo: Dave Finlayson

Footpath improvements at Westbrook Hay

If you walk regularly at Westbrook Hay, you will have seen that we are in the process of upgrading the footpaths and walkways. This is to improve access for our beneficiaries, especially at those times of the year when the existing pathways are liable to become very wet and muddy. Of necessity, this has meant that routes and permissive bridleways have occasionally had to be temporarily closed while heavy machinery is operating on the site. We are working hard to minimise disruption and apologise for any inconvenience. Please bear with us – we promise it will be worth the wait!



Photo: Peter Samson

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