

## March, April and May 2026 events in Boston Manor Park (BMP)

### Going public with the findings of the independent evaluation report on the National Heritage Lottery funded *Reconnecting BMP* project

We are pleased to be able to share the high level findings from the Executive Summary from the report by ERS (Nov 2025):

The *Reconnecting Boston Manor Park* project aimed to restore the natural, built, and cultural heritage of Boston Manor Park, improve access and biodiversity, and reconnect the park with its surrounding communities. The project has delivered a transformational change, turning a neglected green space into a vibrant, inclusive, and ecologically rich destination.

#### Project delivery: successes and challenges

The delivery of the project was underpinned by strong governance, adaptive management, and a commitment to community engagement. The Council's Project Board provided effective oversight throughout the capital and operational phases, and the appointment of two on-site project officers - the Natural Park Manager and Education Officer - was pivotal to the project's success. Read key deliveries and impacts [here](#) (takes you to the end of this newsletter).

#### New Stakeholder group for Boston Manor Park:

Thank you to those who have registered an interest in joining the new Stakeholder group. The first meeting is planned for Spring and will include a short presentation from Ealing and Hounslow Community Volunteering Services on the types of structure the new group could form, discussing the main objectives of the group and how we might meet them. A key aim will be securing a sustainable financial future for the park. This includes funding the Park Manager and Education Officer posts which are currently approx 50% self-funded from external bids, activities, hires and corporate donations. Please contact us at [bostonmanorpark@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:bostonmanorpark@hounslow.gov.uk) if you are interested in joining the BMP Stakeholder group.

#### Children and families: Feb half term

Doodling Art workshop with [Mairi McLeod](#), Sat 14 Feb, 1.30-3pm, service yard workshop: celebrate friendship this Valentine's Day- come and make a beautiful piece of art to take

home. Inspired by nature and mindfulness, a doodling workshop with a difference! Open to adults and to children aged 8yrs up (working with an adult- please book for two). £10pp, booking via [Eventbrite](#). ([www.artbymairi.com](http://www.artbymairi.com))

**[Cut the crap! Recycling exhibition in Service Yard workshop](#), Mon 16, Tues 17, Wed 18 Feb, 10-2pm, service yard workshop:** pop in with your children to our hidden workshop space, to inspire them to reduce, re-use and recycle more. This mini display created by [Act for Ealing](#) ([www.actforealing.org](http://www.actforealing.org)) climate change campaigner Enid Barron has toured [Ealing](#) and is now on loan to us for a few days. We also showcase how BMP does its bit! FREE entry, drop-in.

**[Basketball drop-in sessions with SUPA, Mon 16, Tues 17, Wed 18, 10.30-11.30am](#):** 6-12 yr olds, meet on courts under M4, guided by coach Mario and friends for an hour. Drop-in, £3 cash per participant per day.

## Key March, April, May upcoming events!

- Celebrating David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, we have a range of fabulous events for wildlife lovers, culminating in our half term [Nature Festival](#) (Sat 23 May 12-4) and [a showing of his BBC documentary Wild London](#) (Thurs 28 May 2.30-3.30pm, Hub). Learn about hedgehogs, bats, harvest mice, aquatic life in Boston Manor Park and how to help nature in your garden 😊
- **Adventure Clubs** for [toddlers](#) (May), [intrepid explorers](#) (Easter holidays) and [art creators](#) (May half term). (Book soon to avoid disappointment as numbers limited.) See further down newsletter (Holiday Activities) for booking.

## Nature

**[Wilder Woodlands](#), Sat 7 Mar, 2-3pm, meet Vanessa by Walled Garden:** come and explore the woodland as it emerges from its winter slumber- spot wildlife, enjoy mindful moments and fun and easy wildlife activities, and discover our special trees. Suitable for families. FREE and drop-in. Donations to park welcome. See Facebook Event.

**[Discover our lake life: using hydrophones!](#), Sat 21 Mar, 1.30-3pm, meet near lake platform:** come and 'listen' to life underwater using special equipment developed by field sound recordist and filmmaker Richard Carter, observe our aquatic minibeasts and learn about the birds and other animals that live in and around the lake. A very special FREE, drop-in event for all ages (5 yrs up) supported by [CURB](#) (Clean up the River Brent on Facebook). Donations to park welcome. See Facebook Event.

**[Meet our minute Harvest mice in their new home!](#) Sat 4 April, 11-12.30pm, by Hub:** come and meet our retired harvest mice in their new home and learn about this special tiny rodent with an even more special tail! Funded by [London National Park City](#) charity, and supported by the [Ealing Wildlife Group harvest mice team](#) (featured in [Wild London](#)), this project is a unique opportunity to get close to a very rare species that had almost

disappeared from West London. FREE, drop-in, donations to park welcome. See Facebook event.

**[Help our hedgehogs](#), Sat 25 April, 1.30-3pm, Service Yard:** come and learn about Ealing/Hounslow hedgehogs and how we can help them from local expert organisations [Ealing Hedgehog Friends](#) and [WildChiswick](#). This event is supported by [ActforEaling](#). FREE, drop-in, donations to park welcome. See Facebook event.

***Wildlife Friendly Gardening* workshop with the BMP wildlife loving team, Sat 2 May, 11-12.30pm:** inspired by David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (8 May) and his BBC programme [Wild London](#), learn practical, easy ways of supporting wildlife in your garden-make things to take home like wildflower seedballs, bug homes and birdfeeders to get you started right away! Open to children aged 5 yrs up and all adults. Booking via [Eventbrite](#). £5pp.

**Bird Walks and Survey, Sats 7 Mar, 4 Apr, 2 May, 08.30-10am,** meet on the lake platform. Take a leisurely walk around the park to record numbers and species of birds in the park. No experience necessary, but bring binoculars if you have them. FREE. See [Facebook](#) event.

**Bat Walk with detectors, Thurs 2 & Wed 8 April, 7.45pm:** You'll discover some fascinating bat facts, see a real dead bat and detect (then spot) the bats come out to feed! Meet by the picnic tables by the lake. Suggested donation of £2 per person, cash please on the night (to help us buy park resources). See [Facebook](#) for more info.

**[Nature Festival](#), Sat 23 May, from 12-4pm, around Hub:** come and enjoy all things wildlife and nature related (songs with Me-Time Pop Choir, music, local arts and crafts stalls, info stalls from local green/nature groups with activities, petting zoo from Bedfont Lakes). Things to do, buy, experience, watch and learn about! [Weaving with Nature workshop](#) in Boston Manor House during festival. See Facebook event.

**Showing of David Attenborough's BBC documentary [Wild London](#) Thurs 28 May 2.30-3.45pm, Hub:** come and enjoy a brief wildlife talk (10mins) about the West London wildlife projects in the documentary, watch the film, and admire our Wildflower meadow named after Sir David. Free, drop-in. Open to all ages. See [Facebook](#) event. Donations to park welcome. Bring popcorn!

## Wellbeing

**Forest Bathing Mindful Walk sessions with Elizabeth Howard, Sats 7 & 21 Mar, 11 & 25 April, 9 & 23 May, 11-1.30pm:** Qualified Forest Bathing practitioner Ela will be guiding this 2.5 hr session in BMP woodland. Contact [elahoward@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elahoward@hotmail.co.uk) directly for booking and further information. £30pp but 2for1 offer applies on first booking. Limited places.

**Adult Cycle Training (for adults who live, work or study in Hounslow), every Thursday 9.30am (beginners) and 10.30am (improvers), register [here](#):** meet by the green cycle hub container near lake. Helmets and bikes provided. FREE.

**Friday Fitness with Jenny, Fridays, Park Hub Activities Room, 12.30 - 1.15pm.** Gentle exercise for older adults. Only £3 per walk in class. All abilities welcome.

## Toddlers

**Weekly Spring [Toddler Woodland Adventure Club](#), Thursdays 7, 14 & 21 May, 1.15-2.30pm:** Bring your pre-schooler to explore the Park habitats and wildlife with Tash. Sheltered/indoor spaces available and activities will take place both inside and outside. Meet by Hub. £8 per child over 2yrs (accompanying younger siblings are free) per session. Booking via [Eventbrite](#). Limited places.

## Holiday Activities

**Easter Holiday Nature Explorers Club (6-12 year olds) with Tash, Wed 1, Thurs 2, Wed 8 April 10-2pm:** Children can expect fun, outdoor and indoor physical, forest school, nature-based and crafty activities, including a taster street dance lesson at the end Holiday Club on 8<sup>th</sup>! All park facilities will be available. Food not included. £30 pp (or £25 pp for two places or more and siblings discount). Booking via [Eventbrite](#). Places limited.

**Street Dance class with Nick, Wed 8 April, 1.15-2pm, Hub:** join local teacher Nick for a fun and energised street dance class (suitable for ages 6-14). This Easter holiday dance class is free and no booking required. Nick runs regular street dance classes at the Hub during term times on Mondays at 4.20pm. Email Nick [thepack\\_dance@outlook.com](mailto:thepack_dance@outlook.com) to book onto his regular class.

**May half term *Art in the park* holiday Club with Tash, (6-14 year olds), 26, 27 & 28 May, 10.00-12.30pm, Hub:** for children who love to craft or do arty activities, this will be the perfect way to spend a morning with different indoors and outdoors activities each day- mosaic making, clay creature modelling, nature photography with macro lens, tree cookie and stone painting, botanical doodling, elder wand creating and decorating, macrame bracelets weaving and more! £15pp. Booking via [Eventbrite](#). Places limited.

## Gardening and Conservation activities

**Weekly Gardening and Conservation Sessions:**

**Every Tuesday, 10-12.30pm:** meet outside the Service yard/ walled garden. Join Vanessa and carry out a variety of gardening and conservation tasks all around the park. These sessions are physically more active than our Thurs sessions.

**Every Thursday, 1.30-3.30pm:** meet outside the Service yard/ walled garden. Join Vanessa for relaxed, general gardening and growing vegetables. These sessions take place in the walled garden, yard and nearby formal beds and are less physical than Tues sessions.

**Public Volunteering (families welcome), Saturdays 7 & 21 Mar, 25 April, 10.30-12.30pm, 2 May 1.30-3.30pm**, meet by Service Yard. Lots of different Spring tasks to keep everyone busy, including one session contributing to the Great British Spring Clean (21 March)!

**Youth Volunteering (13 yrs up), Saturdays 7 & 21 Mar, 25 April, 10.30-12.30pm, 2 May 1.30-3.30pm and Easter/May half term holiday clubs (one volunteer needed per day, see above for details):** Volunteering specifically for young people (13–18-year-olds) with regular sessions for teenagers looking to meet the D of E award 'Volunteering' requirement and all teenagers wanting to volunteer. Meet promptly by Hub (or Service Yard) – start times can vary, check date and times above. Activities include conservation, gardening and helping run family events/holiday clubs (at other times). Email Tash asap if you are interested or can commit to helping at a holiday club: [bostonmanorpark@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:bostonmanorpark@hounslow.gov.uk)

**Know a teacher?** BMP School Outdoor Workshop Programme 2025/26 and SEND Work Experience and Workshop 2025/26 programme [here](#) and new joint BMP/BMH workshop [here](#). Boston Manor House also offer a workshop programme [here](#). **All** educational workshops can be found on the website [www.bostonmanorhouse.org](http://www.bostonmanorhouse.org) **New ECO workshop launched in Jan 2026!**

## **Corporate team building and volunteering: we'll host your team for an amazing day of giving back and having fun!**

We offer bespoke opportunities year round for teams to spend a day (or just a few hours) in the park, volunteering on meaningful conservation and gardening projects and including team-building and fun activities, such as guided sensory/foraging walks, natural arts and crafting, learning basic survival skills in the park and orienteering challenges. Email Vanessa: [bostonmanorpark@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:bostonmanorpark@hounslow.gov.uk) for details.

## **SPACES TO RENT AT BMP: Classroom, Workshop and Woodland**

As part of helping the park to become financially sustainable, we are hiring out the Education room in the Park Hub building, the Workshop space (by the Service Yard) and the enclosed Woodland play area (by Boston Manor House) for very modest rates during Mondays-Thursdays 9am-4pm only – outside of these hours, bookings (and fees) are taken by the Potting Shed cafe. These spaces are perfect for exercise classes, holiday clubs, arts and crafts classes, birthday parties, group meet-ups. If you would like more information about costs/ availability or to book any spaces, please email [bostonmanorpark@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:bostonmanorpark@hounslow.gov.uk) for the information pack putting 'BMP space hire' in the subject line.



**Know a Scout, Beaver or Cub group?** Night walks, bat detecting and evening exploration/orienteering sessions with Tash available (£3 per child). Sessions can be run in Polish, French or English, from 6yrs up.

### Park Hub 'The Potting Shed' Cafe:

Our café The Potting Shed [thepottingshed.london](http://thepottingshed.london) is open 7 days a week, 9-4pm. Food 9-3pm. Try out the new *2gocup* scheme to avoid using single use cups 😊 New Instagram @pottingshedlondon

### Boston Manor House events:

See [What's on - Boston Manor House](http://www.bostonmanorhouse.org/whats-on) ([www.bostonmanorhouse.org/whats-on](http://www.bostonmanorhouse.org/whats-on)). Spring highlights include:

- *My Country is my home* (about the Polish community in UK) is on until March 2026
- Hansel and Gretel (*The Arts Centre* production) in March- tickets available [here](#) and
- [Weaving with Nature workshop](#) during our Nature Festival on 23 May.

### The Manor kitchen:

The House café is now run by the same team that runs The Potting Shed! Open 10.30-5 daily (except Mondays). Instagram @themanorkitchen

## **Reconnecting Boston Manor Park** project Evaluation Report (ERS Nov 2025)

### Project delivery: successes and challenges

#### Key delivery successes include:

- **On-site staffing:** The embedded presence of the two officers on site created a visible, trusted interface between the park and its users. They were central to the park's transformation, with visitors frequently attributing their positive experiences to the officers' stewardship, responsiveness, programming and skilled facilitation.

- **Capital works:** The physical transformation of the park was extensive and well-executed. Improvements included restoration of the lake, woodland and meadow management, new paths and signage, and the creation of the Potting Shed Café and education hub. These works dramatically improved accessibility, safety, enjoyment, and the legibility of the park's heritage.
- **Activity programme:** A rich and evolving programme of events, learning, and volunteering was delivered across six thematic workstreams. Over 25,700 attendances were recorded, with activities tailored to diverse audiences, including families, schools, SEND groups, and older residents.
- **Partnerships:** The project cultivated strong community and commercial partnerships. The Potting Shed Café, operated by a local social enterprise, and the Junction 2 music festival contributed to the park's vibrancy and financial sustainability. Community and voluntary organisations, and local schools and colleges, engaged and benefited from inclusive programming, while local environmental groups supported conservation efforts.

**Volunteer engagement:** More than 1,500 volunteers contributed over 9,400 hours, supported by a structured training programme. Volunteers reported high satisfaction with their volunteer experience, skills development, and a strong sense of ownership and pride in the park.

## Impacts: Outcomes for Heritage, People, and Communities

The project has delivered substantial and wide-ranging impacts across all Heritage Fund outcome areas (under the 2018-2023 strategy period).

### Heritage Outcomes

- **Natural heritage:** Biodiversity has increased, with new habitats for birds, bats, amphibians, and pollinators. Conservation is now central to park management. The park supports a mosaic of habitats, with increased species richness and improved ecological resilience. Conservation measures that have been implemented included habitat creation, woodland management, and wetland restoration. Species monitoring indicates ecological recovery, while interpretation and programming have deepened public understanding of heritage and sustainability.
- **Landscape and built heritage:** The park's historic landscape has been restored, with improved vistas, path networks, and planting schemes. The Walled Garden has become a focal point for community and wellbeing activities.
- **Cultural and community heritage:** The park now functions as a cultural venue, hosting festivals, performances, and creative workshops. Programming has celebrated local traditions, supported intergenerational engagement, and reinforced the park's role as a shared cultural space.

### People and Community Outcomes

- **Visitor growth:** Annual visits increased from a baseline of 22,000 to an estimated 159,000–169,000 in the final year – an increase exceeding 720%. The park has become a destination for local residents and visitors from across the borough.
- **Use and enjoyment:** 96% of visitors rated their experience as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’. Improved accessibility, safety, and amenities have enabled more diverse and frequent use. The park now supports a wide range of activities, from relaxation and exercise to learning and socialising.
- **Learning and skills:** The education programme achieved over 6,400 attendances, and delivered curriculum-aligned, inclusive workshops. Volunteers and apprentices gained practical skills, confidence, and pathways to further education or employment.
- **Health and wellbeing:** 95% of visitors reported feeling happier and more relaxed after visiting. Activities supported physical activity, mindfulness, and social connection. The park is now widely regarded as a therapeutic and restorative space.
- **Inclusion and access:** The project embedded inclusive practice across all workstreams. SEND groups, older people, and culturally diverse communities were actively engaged. Physical improvements and affordable programming widened participation.
- **Community wellbeing:** The park has become a hub of community life, fostering pride, cohesion, and shared ownership. Volunteers, partners, and residents described the park as central to their sense of place and belonging.

## Self-guided BMP Trails:



**BMP Audio Trail:** download the Echoes app – use this QR code (free download), search for Boston Manor Park on the app (starts near car park) and plug into a mindful walk through the park, listening to poetry, music and the sounds of nature. You might recognise some familiar voices and will finish feeling calm and relaxed in the walled garden. Pick up the walk leaflet outside Hub.

**BMP Activity Trails (self guided, all available to download or pick up in paper form (Trails 2&3 only) outside Hub:**

- Trail 1 (*Nature and Wellbeing*)
- Trail 2 (*Get to know the park!*)
- Trail 3 (*Wonderful Wildlife*)

Download free copies in English and Polish from and [Volunteering in Hounslow Parks | Let's Talk Hounslow](#) (side bar, scroll down the page) and on <https://www.ealingparks.foundation/nature-trails>

### Secret Bird Mosaic Trail

Can you spot our 7 bird mosaics hanging in the woodland (top woodland path, starting near the lake and ending by oak tree by M4 flyover)? You will see a jay, a woodpecker, a sparrow, a magpie, a robin, a starling and a chaffinch. Mosaics were made by the community and Susie John, a local artist. Pick up a leaflet with photos outside Hub to help you spot them!

### Go Orienteering Trails

Can you find all the markers ('controls') hidden around the park? Learn how to navigate and then find and follow three different (easy, medium and hard) orienteering routes around the park. Download the free orienteering maps at [https://www.goorienteering.org.uk/course/boston\\_manor\\_park](https://www.goorienteering.org.uk/course/boston_manor_park)

### Strava Running Club

Boston Manor Park's own running club and running routes (co-created with WE RUN EALING, community based running organisation). See <https://www.strava.com/clubs/1196851> (BMP2023 is Club on Strava).

**Join our BMP outdoor events and volunteering mailing list:** email [bostonmanorpark@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:bostonmanorpark@hounslow.gov.uk) to receive regular updates on all our outdoor events and activities, including family events in school holidays.

Follow and Like our **Facebook page @BMPoutdoorevents**

**Find our school workshop programme 2025-26 [here](#)**