



NEWSLETTER

Issue 38 April 2017

News

2016 AGM

The Friends of Hob Moor (FOHM) held their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 12 October 2016 at West Thorpe Methodist Church. The meeting was attended by 27 members, with apologies received from a further 14 members.

The minutes of last year's meeting were read and agreed. Stephanie Luxton, Chair, presented the report of the FOHM Committee. The important issues stressed in this report were:

- Thanks to Ian Tomlinson for keeping our notice boards up to date
- Thanks to all members who have helped with litter picking during the year
- Thanks to Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward Committee for a grant to fund leaflets and a new bench and the replacement of another bench
- Thanks to Michael Thornton for the work done in discussions with Lidl to replace a notice board

The Accounts were approved by the members and it was agreed that subscriptions should remain at the current level of £2 per annum, £10 for 6 years and £20 for life membership. Alan Greenwood was proposed and agreed to be retained as the independent examiner of FOHM accounts.

The following members were elected as Officers of FOHM:

Stephanie Luxton, Chair

Richard Gray, Treasurer

Michael Thornton, Secretary

The following members were elected as members of the Management Committee for the following two years:

John Wood, Candi Colbourn, Ian Tomlinson, Nancy Marpole, Ann Gray

There was no Any Other Business and the meeting closed.

Hobstone residents

All residents have moved in now and a new leaflet, newsletter and membership form have been posted in every door. It is hoped we may get some interested new members.

Feeding the crows

There is a delicate issue around some people feeding the crows on Hob Moor. The crows are thriving but they catch and kill our smaller rarer birds which we are eager to save.

Skylarks are on the Moor and we certainly hope they nest there this year and we have had

a report of a sighting of a Kingfisher at the beck area near the Green Lane entrance which is encouraging. We do encourage you to use our website to report any bird sightings. We are looking for Meadow Pipits especially. We would therefore be grateful if you could please refrain from feeding the crows.

Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward grant update

It is hoped that by the September newsletter we will have a new bench and notice board at the Hob Stone Estate entrance to the Moor. Watch out for an event announcing an unveiling celebration.

Litter picking

We are very grateful to the people who have come forward for volunteer litter picking. On studying the need for litter collecting we as a group have decided that it is a daily need not a monthly or weekly need. Do you feel the most convenient way of tackling this is through an organised event or having the freedom to go out collecting litter at your convenience? Maybe some of you have noticed that graffiti on the benches has been removed very quickly by the City of York Council for which we are really grateful. We do possess some gloves and some safe wipes that remove "Tag" graffiti that is not paint. Do contact us if you see any that needs removing.

Socials at Cross Keys

Our socials for members and dog walkers at Cross Keys gathered interest and we will be holding more later in the year.

Sunset photo session

6 of us met on a lovely clear evening (except for low cloud just on the horizon that hid the sun for the final moment!). Some of us used our phones and some had proper cameras and even a tripod. The sun setting had some lovely golden and reds in the colours. A brisk walk to the other side of the Moor would have given a view of the Minster shrouded in sunset only the cloud had swallowed the sun up by then, so another event will be arranged.

Hob Moor Historic Stray and Local Nature Reserve Book by Elizabeth A Smith

This book is now out of print and we are appealing if anyone has a copy that they no longer require we would be very grateful if it could be donated to Friends of Hob Moor. It is our intention to set up a borrowing system for anyone interested in reading this very informative and extensively researched book.

Landscaping of the boundary to the Hobstone Estate

We as the Friends of Hob Moor have made our objections clear that we are not happy with the open north side of the estate. There is already evidence of residents accessing the Moor directly from the estate over the fencing. We are in consultation with the City of York Council, and the farmer supporting us for the sake of his cattle. The hedge planting on inspection has been done very badly and inadequately and this is also being addressed. If you are interested you can take a walk across the Moor to see the boundary to the estate

and you will see how we as a Committee are kept very busy watching and looking after the best interests of this nature reserve. We are always grateful for any member to come forward with an offer of practical support whether in the role of a new Committee member, meadow knowledge or litter collecting. Thank you.

Cattle on the Moor

The cattle this year will come on to the Moor at the end of March/early April and could be as many as 100. They will be Belgian Blues, quite distinctive with a bluish tinge.

There will also be Limousin, a French breed usually red (but can be black); a mixture of heifers and bullocks. Their age will be about 6 to 8 months old.

Both breeds are very placid, but they will be nose-y as they like to know what's going on on their patch!

West Bank Park Summer Fair

Please note the fair this year is a few weeks later than usual, being held this year on Sunday 9 July, 1 to 4pm. This is our main event of the year and we want to encourage members to come and say hello to the dedicated team that will be minding our stand that day. Do offer us some feedback also on how you think our "Friends" are doing. As Chair I wish to apologise in advance that I will not be able to attend as my holiday was already booked!

Events

Bug Hotel building Saturday 8 April 10am. Everyone welcome and a great event for children. Bring gardening gloves for protection. Meet amongst the trees on the south side of the Hob Stone estate facing Lidl.

Sunrise on the Moor Sunday 16 April 5.40am. Bring your camera or mobile phone and take photos of the sun rise.

Dawn Chorus with Barry Bishop Saturday 29 April 6.00am. The return of this popular event. Meet by the yellow railings near the tunnel.

Mayfield nature walk Friday 19 May 7pm, lasting approximately an hour and a half. Three local experts will lead a walk around the Mayfield Grove, railway pond and woodland area. Meet at the yellow railings.

History walk with Elizabeth Smith Saturday 10 June 2pm. Meet at the Hob Stone memorial.

Family Picnic: summer on the Moor Saturday 17 June 4.30pm. Meet at the bench near the tarmac path before the rail tunnel.

West Bank Park summer fair Sunday 9 July 1pm to 4pm. We will have an information stand at this popular event, would any members be able to come and help out for some of the afternoon?

Butterfly walk with Tony Fairburn Saturday 22 July 2pm.

Presence on the Moor Saturday 2 September 10am to 12 noon. An opportunity to chat to the Friends of Moor. Meet at the Hob Stone memorial on Little Hob Moor.

AGM Wednesday 18 October 7pm at the Methodist Church Hall, West Thorpe, Dringhouses. Join us for our Guest Speaker Dan Sidley from the Yorkshire Swan and Wildlife Rescue.

We always welcome new members. To join please visit our website www.fohm.org.uk.

Contact Friends of Hob Moor

Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/HobMoorFriends

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/FriendsOfHobMoor/?fref=ts

Visit our website www.fohm.org.uk/contacts

Stephanie Luxton, Chair of Friends of Hob Moor 07761 085091 or 01904 593788

Useful contacts

To report damage etc. urgently on Hob Moor (24 hrs) contact CYC: 01904 625751

To report motor cyclists on Hob Moor contact North Yorkshire Police: 101

To report dog problems:

- If a dog bites a person, call the police and report the incident (101 for a non-emergency, 999 for an emergency)
- If a dog bites another dog, or any issues with people being harassed or intimidated by dogs, contact CYC: 01904 551551

For removal of fly-tipped debris, litter, graffiti etc. contact CYC: 01904 551551

Members updates: If you would like to be kept informed of news and events around Hob Moor we do have an email list. If you haven't been receiving these and would prefer a PDF copy of this newsletter as well as regular reminders of events then send your email address to the Friends of Hob Moor Membership Secretary at candic13@yahoo.co.uk