



# NEWSLETTER

Issue 36 April 2016

Hello from your newly elected Chairperson Stephanie Luxton. I am delighted and honoured to be in this position. I hope to serve Friends of Hob Moor and indeed the local surrounding community through my support where possible with any issues. I will serve the Nature Reserve of Hob Moor as a place of natural outstanding beauty that needs protecting for the good of both people and wildlife.

## News

### **“No man’s land”**

It has been brought to our attention that the piece of land behind houses backing onto the Moor where there is a 6 foot gap before the cattle fence, is being known as "no man's land". Please may we correct this with the local community and state that the land in the gap is in fact City of York Council land and it is not to be touched, cultivated, damaged or any planting by the Council uprooted. The fence is there purely for protection for private fencing from the cattle.

### **City of York Council**

We are frequently in touch with the Council department that oversees Hob Moor and we ask questions regarding the maintenance of the Moor trees, shrubs and boundaries and the cattle; always in the capacity of continuing to learn about the Natural England Stewardship Scheme. The Council is often contacted regarding issues to do with the Moor, and on consulting with them they always seek to carry out works if agreed, but would request that they are given time as they have the restraints of the weather and the correct time of year to do any cutting back or planting of meadow seeds.

### **Litter picking**

Stephanie (Chair) has litter picking equipment from the Council, including gloves and litter grabbers. If you have time and wouldn't mind doing a bit of litter picking on the Moor, please contact Stephanie on 01904 593788 to arrange collecting the equipment. Any litter collected can either be disposed of at home or given to Stephanie. There will be occasional organised litter picks throughout the year; please look out for signs on the notice boards or via our social media.

## **Cattle**

The 10 year Natural England Stewardship Scheme that began on 1 November 2010 states guidelines to tightly control the grazing rights on Hob Moor. Cattle will be kept off North Lane Field. The field gate can be locked to allow the cattle controlled access only. Grazing dates and numbers of cattle will be carefully controlled to regulate the height of the sward to favour skylarks nesting and thistle cutting. The farmer is in close contact with the Council and land management to arrange the suitable date for the cattle to be brought on to the Moor. The numbers can range from 48 to as high as 72 over the summer and whether they are left or moved off depends on the rate of grass growth. In 2015 there were 100 cattle on the Moor, the most ever! This is all part of the Stewardship Scheme, so watch out for the cattle arriving as spring is upon us and our spirits are lifted after a very wet winter.

A note to regular users of the Moor: the cattle arrive still tending to have their winter coats on and are invariably young so will be inquisitive but soon settle down and ignore us and our dogs. We do as Friends of Hob Moor ask that you respect the cattle as they ignore us and please keep dogs under close proximity. Thank you.

## **Disabled access to the Moor**

A radar key will provide access to a variety of facilities in York including disabled toilets and green spaces such as the locked gates at Hob Moor. Keys can be purchased for £3 from the customer centre at West Offices or from the Tourist Information Centre. Once individuals have the key it is theirs to keep.

## **The Flying Scotsman : King's Cross to York**

Hob Moor was an amazing sight around midday on the 25th February. There were more than 60 people and many dogs on the Moor waiting to greet the Flying Scotsman arrive in York from King's Cross.

It was running a bit late due to over enthusiastic photographers on its journey to York. With no smoke or toot- tooting we could easily have missed it as the train glided by. But we all waited and we all saw it. A good day.

## **Photography**

If anyone takes any photos of Hob Moor we would love to see them. Please do bring them to any of our events, for example our attendance on the Moor on 7 May 10am to 12noon, or the stand at West Bank Park Summer Fair on Sunday 26 June 1 to 4pm. Alternatively you can email them to [friendsofhobmoor@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhobmoor@gmail.com).

## **Plans for the year**

Please do look out for the publication of a reprint of our leaflet with updated contact details. You will be able to obtain one from the dispenser at the Tadcaster Road entrance and from local libraries.

Further dispensers will be erected outside the Moor as we had a number of dispensers damaged by cattle. If anyone would be interested in monitoring a dispenser near them that needs replenishing occasionally with leaflets then do please contact us. We would be glad to hear from you.

We as a committee hope to get the notice board repaired and re-installed at the Lidl entrance. The notice boards will have ever changing notices in them through the year so do take a look when out.

You might have already read about a new bench replacement of the one near North Field entrance on the Moor; we'd like to say thank you to the Ward Committee for funding this and the reprint of our leaflets.

## **Walks, talks and events**

**Dawn Chorus with Barry Bishop** Saturday 30 April 6.00am

Meet by the yellow railings near the tunnel.

Contact [friendsofhobmoor@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhobmoor@gmail.com)

**Attendance on the Moor** we will have a presence on the Moor on Saturday 7 May 10am to 12noon.

**Midsummer** Monday 20 June 6.30 to 8.30pm. Bring and share picnic, all welcome.

**Walk around Hob Moor** Monday 20 June 7.00pm.

Contact [stephanie.v.luxton@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.v.luxton@gmail.com)

**West Bank Park summer fair** we will have an information stand on Sunday 26 June 1 to 4pm.

**Butterfly walk with Tony Fairburn** Monday 7 August 2.00pm

Contact [antony.fairburn@gmail.com](mailto:antony.fairburn@gmail.com)

**Bat walk with Clair Merrifield** Saturday 20 August time tbc

Contact [clair.suddaby@gmail.com](mailto:clair.suddaby@gmail.com)

The Friends of Hob Moor always welcome new members. To join please visit our website [www.fohm.org.uk](http://www.fohm.org.uk).

If you require this newsletter in large print please contact [friendsofhobmoor@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhobmoor@gmail.com)

## Contact Friends of Hob Moor

Follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/HobMoorFriends](http://www.twitter.com/HobMoorFriends)

Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/FriendsOfHobMoor/?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfHobMoor/?fref=ts)

Visit our website [www.fohm.org.uk/contacts](http://www.fohm.org.uk/contacts)

Visit us at one of our events

## Useful contacts

**To report damage etc. urgently on Hob Moor (24 hrs) contact York Council:**  
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 harrassed or intimidated by dogs, contact City of York Council: 01904 551551

**For removal of fly-tipped debris, litter, graffiti etc.**

contact City of York Council: 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 [candic13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:candic13@yahoo.co.uk)