

## Hello and welcome

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Michael Thornton, the Friends of Hob Moor Chair, passed away in December. Michael was 69 when he died and had been battling with cancer for just under a year. Dringhouses and Hob Moor have always been an integral part of Michael's life, spending many happy memories both growing up and raising his family in the area. Michael's love for Hob Moor ran deep and it is where you would often find him walking his dogs or appreciating the wildlife, so it was only natural for him to give back by donating his time to its cause.

## Stewardship scheme to be extended for one year ?

In November 2010, York Council applied to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and gained acceptance for a number of the strays and Local Nature Reserves in York, including Hob Moor, onto an Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

The scheme has been the most significant development for Hob Moor since it became a Local Nature Reserve in 2003. It is managed by the Council but Friends of Hob Moor are consulted and have worked with the Council during its implementation over the past ten years.

The scheme pays land managers to manage the land in a certain way for the enhancement or maintenance of existing landscape features, habitats and historical features.

The long term aim for Hob Moor is to improve the quality of the grasslands. This involves:

- Reducing the numbers of thistles and increasing wildflower cover.
- Establishing and maintaining a continuous hedge
- Providing more information about the moor's history and wildlife.

In November of this year, the scheme was due to finish. However, we have been informed that the council has applied to the Rural Payments agency for a one year extension to the Higher Level Stewardship agreement on Hob Moor & Micklegate Stray, which they hope will be confirmed soon. For the management this means it would be 'business as usual' for Hob Moor with weed control, grazing and hay cutting taking place this year.

## Events for 2020

A number of events are currently at the planning stage, but on hold until such time as we have a better idea of how the Coronavirus pandemic affects our activities. Please refer to our facebook page and notice boards for more information.

## Litter

More than two million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day. The cost to the taxpayers for street cleaning is over £1 billion a year. Litter is anything from a crisp packet or cigarette butt to a bag of rubbish. Litter does not clean itself away. It can take years to degrade, causing harm to wildlife and habitats. Food people drop – whether it is half-eaten burgers, chips or apple cores - can attract pigeons and vermin such as rats. If someone drops litter (on public or private land, or in water) they're committing a criminal offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Friends of Hob Moor have equipment which is available to anyone who would like to spend time on the moor collecting litter. Alternatively, everyone is welcome to join our litter picking days.



## FoHM Committee

We met on 29th January and 19th February of this year. Much time was spent discussing how to reorganise the committee and fill vacancies left by Michael Thornton's passing and the resignation of others officers due to changes in their personal circumstances. Consequently, the committee is delighted to inform you that until the Annual General Meeting in October Margaret Silcock is our new chair and Susan Gardner our new Secretary. We also welcome Catherine Djimramadji, who will be exploring ways of raising awareness in local primary schools.

## Climate Change

Although past changes to the earth's climate have occurred naturally, more recent changes are a result of increasing human populations and activities.

Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are needed in order for life on Earth to exist: Trees and plants would not survive without CO<sub>2</sub> as they need it for photosynthesis. The plants in turn provide food for animals and humans and they give out oxygen for animals to breathe. Greenhouse gases also keep the planet warm enough for life to exist. Without them the world would be 33°C colder than it is now and life would not be possible.

However, the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is higher than it would be naturally, and this is changing the world's climate. This means that in general, the planet is getting hotter. But in some places around the world it is also getting wetter; some are getting drier and others are getting windier.

Faster animals and birds can move or migrate to other areas if the conditions in their habitat get worse. But plants can't move at all, so they are particularly vulnerable. So, for the animals and plants on Hob Moor, climate change could be bad news.

For more information, please go to: [www.ypte.org.uk](http://www.ypte.org.uk)

## A New Look

The management committee have agreed to increase the number of editions from two to four per year, but reduce the number of pages per edition, except for the September issue, which will include the annual report. When the Coronavirus crisis has passed, it will also be delivered to households around Hob Moor

For up to date information



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**Research tells us that dog fouling is the issue the public are most concerned about.** It is not only deeply unpleasant, it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizures.

There are estimated to be more than 8 million dogs producing more than 1,000 tonnes of mess every day in the UK alone. While most dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 enables local authorities to issue dog control orders. The penalty for committing an offence under a Dog Control Order is a maximum

of £1,000. Being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.

York council empties and maintains dog waste bins and litter bins. They'll respond within 2 days to reports about bins which are overflowing, damaged, fallen over or vandalised.

You can use an eForm on their website to report a bin problem: [www.york.gov.uk/form/ReportDogWasteAndLitterBins](http://www.york.gov.uk/form/ReportDogWasteAndLitterBins)

There are signs at each entry point to the moor, which can easily be overlooked. Larger signs are needed, which for the time being will be posted on our notice boards, but we are hoping the council will install more prominent signage in the future.

## Don't feed the Crows !

Crows gather in large communal roosts during non-breeding months, particularly near rubbish dumps and shopping centres. Their diet is very diverse. They will eat almost anything, including other birds, fruits, nuts, molluscs, earthworms, seeds, frogs, eggs, nestlings, mice, and carrion.

There's more of them on Hob Moor now that Harewood Whin landfill site has been mothballed. We want to discourage the feeding of crows on the moor to encourage smaller ground nesting birds like Meadow Pipits and Skylarks.

**Please contact us:**

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