

October 2019 Newsletter


Friends of Turn Moss

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 thefriendsofturnmoss@gmail.com

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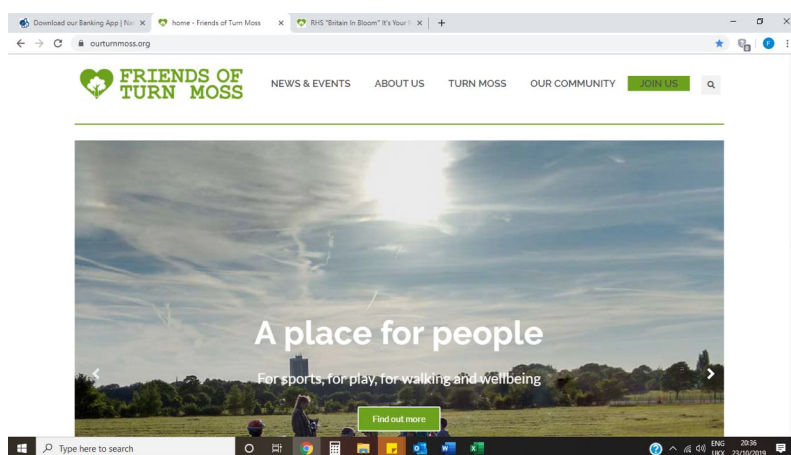
[WWW] <https://ourturnmoss.org>

Dear Friends,

Here is our latest Newsletter to keep you up to date with our activities. We hope you enjoy reading about our latest achievements and events. There has been a lot happening over the past few months as you will read.

Friends of Turn Moss Committee

New Website



Our new website was launched recently and can be accessed through <https://ourturnmoss.org>. It contains lots of useful information as well as events and history.



Upcoming Events

FoTM statistics

We now have over 2,000 followers on our Facebook page, 1,656 who are active on the page. We have 97 signed up members (this does not include Committee members), 11 of whom signed up via the website.

We also have 1,883 followers via Twitter and 174 via Instagram. 13 Councillors and Officials are also included in our mailings to keep them informed of activities.

Vision Document

The link to “Our Vision” document on our website is https://ourturnmoss.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/TurnMoss_Vision_24july2019.pdf. Copies are also available from Chorlton Bookshop. If you would like one dropped off or posted through your letterbox and are local, we are happy to do this. We will soon be consulting members for feedback on Our Turn Moss vision, so we can best represent peoples’ priorities.

FoTM Committee and volunteers out and about.

If you see any of us out working on the fields, or you see our gazebo and flag flying at outside events, on the fields or car park please do come over and say hello. We'd love to chat and hear ideas and feedback on all things Turn Moss.

Annual General Meeting

We held our inaugural Annual General Meeting on 31 July, 7-9 pm at St Ann's Social Club, Chester Road, M32 8LF. This was well attended by our members, thanks to everyone who turned up, also many thanks to all our presenters at the meeting. Councillor Anne Duffield was the Facilitator for the meeting. Update presentations were given by Group Leaders. We also had a guest speaker, Ian Underhill who is our Community Safety Officer, spoke about safety around motorbikes, quadbikes etc..

Motorbikes on Turn Moss

Thanks to keen eyed "Mossers" there have been a few reports of antisocial mororbike/quadbike use on Turn Moss over the summer months. We have forwarded a few of your photos to the relevant team so a big thank you for reporting these incidents. More reports mean we are raising the issue on Turn Moss but we still need to continue reporting. Turn Moss has been highlighted as a problem area and resources have been deployed.

New Signage



Thanks to Manchester City Council and their Neighbourhood Officer Pete, there is now a new directional Turn Moss sign on the Chorlton side of Edge Lane and also one at Ivy Green Road. Hopefully the ones from Trafford will not be long in making their appearance.

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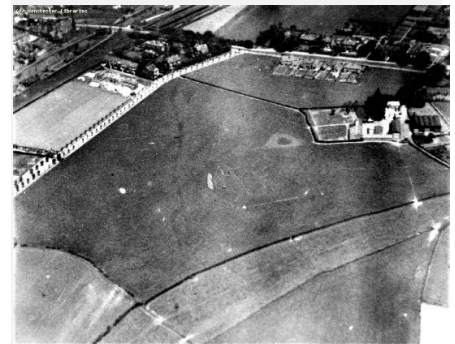
More Important News

A little bit of Turn Moss history

Operational history 1918–19

Following the closure of the Trafford Park Aerodrome (Manchester) in 1918 after only seven years of spasmodic use, Alexandra Park Aerodrome was constructed and opened in May 1918 by the War Department for the assembly, test flying and delivery of aeroplanes for the Royal Air Force (RAF) built in the Manchester area by A. V. Roe & Company.

A Relief Landing Ground was designated at Turn Moss, one nautical mile to the west, in Stretford.



Stretford Grammar & RHS



We were successful in gaining another RHS grant, “It’s your neighbourhood, Britain in Bloom”. We have been awarded support in the Greening Grey Britain 2019 campaign, which aims to help intergenerational groups to work in partnership, to transform grey spaces in their local communities into thriving neighbourhood spaces for people, planet and wildlife.

The RHS will provide hands-on support from a local member of their Community Outreach Team, a qualified horticulturist experienced in training and co-ordinating gardening activities with all ages. The RHS will also provide up to £500 worth of materials and plants to support the project.

During 15-18 July FoTM, Stretford Grammar and the RHS had a great planting session, creating the Cherry Orchard Garden at the top of Turn Moss Road. The pupils worked hard over the 4 days and were very creative. As well as planting they created a bug hotel for the “local residents”. They also had to do presentations on their work. Two of the FoTM Committee were invited along to see their presentations which were very informative as well as being extremely entertaining.

The pupils from Stretford Grammar Gardening Club intend to manage this new “Cherry Tree Garden”. Together we planted year-round colour, with fragrant, pollinator-friendly shrubs & climbers to create a pleasant stopping point.

Tree News



Autumn Cherry flowering in the R.H.S Stretford Grammar Cherry Tree Garden.

During National Tree Week (23rd-1st December) Stretford Grammar, together with the Tree Council and the Friends, will be planting some fruit trees near the Hawthorn Lane car park.

We have just heard that our request for trees from TCV and OVO Energy has been successful. As part of the ‘I dig trees’ initiative we are being supplied with 200 whips to complete the hedge restoration. From January onwards oak, alder, beech, birch, hornbeam, blackthorn, guelder rose, hawthorn, dogwood and goat willow will be added to the planting.

Groundwork

We welcomed Groundwork and their corporate volunteers from Franke UK Ltd to Turn Moss fields in August. They worked along the Domesday hedge nr Sally's Pond Field, clearing the tall grasses away from the base of the young City of Trees whips we planted in the spring (to restore the hedge line). With the grasses cleared from around the base it gives the little new trees the best chance to survive. Next season they'll be strong enough to fend for themselves, all of them look very healthy.

Groundwork and Franke also did a Bioblitz. This helps us monitor the site and judge whether changes have improved the number and range of species on the site. The volunteers photographed and ID'd any species they found. The results really show the difference having wider margins and no-mow areas can bring, it improves the biodiversity but does not encroach on the pitches.

The team used the iSpot app, which is brilliant and very simple to use, upload a photo and the app suggests what species it may. In the first hour they had seen 3 frogs, 1 vole (not photographed!), damselfly, ladybird, beetle, green necked parakeet.

Here is the full species list and a link to further photos (on iNaturalist)

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/andykite....>

No-Mow Field (Sally's Pond Field)

Large Yellow Underwing Moth x2

Common Candy Striped Spider x2

Common Red Soldier Beetle x1

European Toad x1

Smoky Wainscot Moths x2

Alder Leaf Beetle x1

Meadow Brown Butterfly x1

Common Blue Damselfly x2

Syrphus Hoverfly x1

Cuckooflower x1

Buff-tailed bumblebee x1

Chocolate Arion Slug x5

European Common Frog x5

White-lipped Snail x1

Seven-spotted ladybird x3

Garden Snail x1

Mammal Nest x1 (and mammal squeaks!)

Mitopus Morio Spider x1

Vole x1

Mouse x1

Earthworms x20

Area Near Pitches (Mown)

About 20 earthworms

A few tiny mites.

Thanks to Friends of Turn Mossers Anne and Geraldine for surprising the volunteers with some nice treats on the day, perfect timing as we had cake left over from our AGM the previous evening. A happy day all round, thanks again to Groundwork and Franke Ltd, hopefully in 2020 we get to host them again, they worked so hard and the results here on the fields are enjoyed by so many.

RHS Britain in Bloom

Hot from the press! We have just heard Turn Moss has been awarded 'Improving' by the RHS Britain in Bloom judges. Well done everyone and thanks to all our volunteers who have helped make this happen.

