

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – July 2019 AGM Chairman's report

Membership:

2018 ended with 84 members subscribed, the same as last year.

In order to widen involvement in the woods the Friends have delivered 500 leaflets inviting new members and active volunteers. This has given us 11 new members to date, plus 4 new volunteers, and the offer of marketing help.

Additional help came from a team of 12 volunteers from Lockheed Martin in Havant, who visited us in March and helped to clear areas in the north wood.

Environment:

We are hoping to get a local expert to conduct a bat survey in the wood.

We will also be working to enhance and preserve the pond and reed bed.

Maintenance:

The arborist from Norse has carried out tree works on behalf of the council, and further work will take place this year.

England Coast path

There is no news from Natural England on the progress of this path, but we will hear more about this topic under "motions". With regard to SWUP, the accounts were restated in a new format. The committee agreed that there was no need for a Special Meeting.

Vandalism:

We have unfortunately suffered vandalism this year – 2 fences to the west, one kissing gate, one fence to the east, and the notice board window has been smashed on 2 occasions. All have been reported to the Police.

NBN access:

In order to provide safe access for volunteers to enter the north wood and to protect the wood from intruders it has been necessary to erect a fence. This was welcomed by the Council as protecting their property.

Hedge project:

With over 350m of hedge planted over the last 3 years, watering and supporting the plants over the hot summers has been hard work. We have been helped by the Emsworth Tree Wardens, both physically and with the supply of saplings. The recent rains in June have been most welcome. Further work will be done on the hedge along the south path next winter.

Thanks:

Thanks are due to all the Committee, to David Linington for his continued maintenance of the website and to Pam Ewing for providing workday refreshments.

In summary, I would like to say that it is an interesting job running the group. Organising 12 workdays a year in all weathers, taking compliments and criticism equally, holding 12

committee meetings, producing monthly web updates, and 3 newsletters, collecting subscriptions. But I wouldn't change it.

But the real work has been done by the volunteers who turn out in all weathers picking up litter, clearing away dog poo and worse, clearing paths and planting saplings.

Volunteers - the Friends salute you.