



PRESS RELEASE August 20 2016

Emsworth's Nore Barn Woods – Friends celebrate project completion by the shore

Friends of Nore Barn Woods in Emsworth will be celebrating the successful completion of the last stage of their Shore Conservation Project on Thursday September 8th 2016. A ceremony will mark the end of the final section of the work that has been going on since 2009. During that time the community group has raised the funds to complete an ambitious shore protection scheme to safeguard the shore path and woodland that was being undermined by high tides.

The woods lie about 15 mins walk west along the shore from Emsworth and are used by hundreds of people daily. Walkers, joggers, birdwatchers and others have high regard for this woodland and its paths. Although owned by Havant Borough Council, it is the Friends of Nore Barn Woods who do the day-to-day management of the woodland and it is their volunteers that keep the area so attractive and safe.

Mike Thomas, Project Coordinator of the Friends of Nore Barn Woods, said: "Thanks to a lot of local support we have considerably improved the situation along the south shore of the woods. It is good to see that a line of oaks is now protected and the well-used path is no longer being undermined by the sea. The final phase of a specially constructed revetment was completed a few months ago and that is what we are celebrating. The local community has been very supportive and many local organisations have helped with raising the money for the work. We want to thank them all on September 8th."

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods have overseen the completion of the final stretch of a long-lasting, block-covered bank to match those nearby. This design seems to withstand the ravages of high spring tides and inclement weather. Owners of the woodland, Havant Borough Council, are not allowed to use public money for this work because their funds have to be reserved for coastal damage that threatens homes and businesses.

The Director and Harbour Master of Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Richard Craven, will be a key guest at the celebration event and will say a few words about the work of the Friends of Nore Barn Woods and the joint venture that included the East Solent Coastal Partnership and Havant Borough Council.

Chairman of the Friends of Nore Barn Woods, Roy Ewing, said: "We are very grateful for the support from many local organisations. We have some early plans for future projects, so watch this space."

To help at any of the monthly work parties on a Saturday morning please contact Roy Ewing on 01243 370705. Further information is on the website www.norebarnwoods.org.uk

Donors to the cost of the final phase of work included: Chichester Harbour Conservancy, The Coates Charitable Trust, The Friends of Chichester Harbour, I-gas, Chichester Harbour Trust, Hampshire County Council. The Solent Protection Society.

*For more details, please contact Maggie Gebbett 01243 699517 or maggie_gebbett@yahoo.co.uk after August 28th or Mike Thomas on **01243 373467** or mobile **07771 640714***

All details are on the website at www.norebarnwoods.org.uk