

## The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – July 2026 AGM Chairman's report

### Welcome:

Welcome to our 24<sup>th</sup> AGM. There's been a lot going on in the past 12 months.

### England Coast Path

Work for the ECP is now complete. Whilst the Path generally provides a great opportunity to get people outside, there is concern that the gates that have replaced the kissing-gates will allow access for bikes, motor-bikes and horses to unauthorised areas, resulting in anti-social behaviour. We have been talking with the ECP Project Manager about these problems.

### Anti-social behaviour:

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a problem in the wood, with 16 fires last year. We have had 5 to date in 2026. The Friends have cleared up after these incidents.

Even more seriously, 2 people have suffered dog bites, including one volunteer during a workday. We can but request that visitors keep their dogs under control and "restrained", as required by the Byelaws.

### Environmental:

We have been busy planting blackthorn hedging on the west side of the wood.

In 2023 we purchased 15 Common Spotted Orchid bulbs. These were planted out in Nov 2024 and we are pleased to report that 8 bulbs flowered this year. There was a great display of bluebells too, from the planting we did 20 years ago

Our application to become a Local Nature Reserve has been turned down by HBC.

### The pond:

The Chichester Wildfowlers have returned to help with digging out the pond, and reeds have been cut. Our thanks go to Dave Gattrell and the Wildfowlers. These improvements to the pond have resulted in a pair of Kingfishers being seen on the September workday.

### Workdays:

11 Saturday workdays have been held this year, averaging 13 attendees.

Tasks have included clearing paths, glades, building dead hedges and laying logwalks through the mud.

### Membership:

2025 ended with 82 members subscribed, a slight decrease over the previous year.

We regret to report that 5 of our members died this year, Brenda Cottis, Chad Chadha, Richard Galloway, Inge Suhrbier, and Peter Perchard.

### Management Plan

A Management Plan has now been signed by HBC.

Several actions were agreed in spite of the uncertainty wrought by government-imposed Local Government Reorganisation, due for completion in 2028. Unfortunately HBC will be reducing the help they give to FONBW, which will have a negative impact on biodiversity. Picnic table Many of you ask about the future of the vandalised picnic table. Havant Borough Council, the owner, will examine whether they have the resources to repair. Whereas the Friends have previously conducted repairs to the table, HBC informs us that Health & Safety legislation regrettably now prevents us.

### Museum

From 18 July – 30 August, discover the Hidden World of Nore Barn Woods at Emsworth Museum. A display has been created by Paul, whom we thank.

### School

The Friends have also supported Emsworth Primary School in renovating their wildlife garden.

### The future

We shall be continuing workdays, restarting on September 12th.

But there will also be more major projects:

- We shall be erecting 2 more signs to deter cyclists etc.
- A new main Nore Barn Woods sign is wanted, so the Friends have offered to fund that.
- And we are hoping to have a major project to resurface the paths around the outside of the wood.

### Thanks:

Thanks are due to all members and volunteers for their continued support, and to the Committee, especially Hugh who has helped with newsletters and the monthly report on the noticeboard.

Val Cameron is not seeking re-election, so thank you Val for your service on the Committee. Thanks are also due to David Linington for his continued maintenance of the website and to Pam Ewing for providing workday refreshments, and her treasurership..