

FRIENDS OF NORE BARN WOODS
Press release

Date: 25 October 2011: for immediate release

New bluebells in the woods

Fourteen people spent a pleasant couple of hours planting English bluebell bulbs in Nore Barn Woods, which are about a mile west of the centre of Emsworth. The idea is to encourage the regrowth of these native Spring favourites in one or two of the shady clearings. The 1500 bulbs planted by the Friends of Nore Barn Woods (FONBW) were paid for by the Tree Council supported by the local Tree Wardens.

Chairman Bruce Darby led the group who did their best to set the bulbs deep enough. Later on nettles were strimmed and a field-drainage ditch cleaned out ready for Autumn rain. Some work was carried out on the central path cutting back brambles. The group meets once month on a Saturday morning as a working party to maintain the woods. New members are welcome.

Bluebells are native to the woods but need encouragement to survive in this well-used woodland environment. The group will monitor the progress of the flowers over the next few years. The six acres of oak and hawthorn woodland is popular with dog-walkers and joggers, while the foreshore is a birdwatchers' paradise particularly in Autumn.

An issue being pursued by this community group is strengthening the harbour shore of Nore Barn Woods where high tides are threatening to undermine some of the oak trees and other parts of the woods. Such work is expensive and the group is in talks with Havant Borough Council, who own the woods. The plan is to work together on some remedial action as soon as possible.

Any future members can find more information at www.norebarnwoods.org.uk



Photo caption: Some of the Friends of Nore Barn Woods, Emsworth, poised for action to plant 1500 bluebell bulbs to enhance the natural beauty of the area in Spring.

Information for Editors: The Friends of Nore Barn Woods is a voluntary community organisation. Members usually live locally and undertake to help with work parties in maintaining the character of Nore Barn Woods. The Group is currently seeking support in maintaining the shoreline in its present position.

In the past few years the Friends of Nore Barn Woods have:

- Created open glades to allow in more light, to increase habitat diversity.
- Planted over 300 tree and hedge saplings to replace dead and dying growth.
- Encouraged Havant Borough Council to improve the paths.
- Worked with the local police to minimise vandalism.
- Raised grants of over £14000 for resurfacing the Wayfarers Walk
- Provided an information board and notice board

The Friends are affiliated to The British [Trust for Conservation Volunteers](#) and work closely with the owner of the woods, Havant Borough Council.

The Havant & District Tree Wardens are part of a national initiative to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. There are nationally about 8,500 Tree Wardens volunteering in 135 networks.