

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – June 2015 AGM Chairman's report

Emsworth show:

The Friends had a stall at the show in August 2014, but torrential rain reduced the number of visitors.

Shore project:

The Shoreline Conservation project was completed in September 2014. The bank has been reprofiled, strengthened and coated with interlocking concrete Armorloc blocks to ensure that the woods are protected for the future. Thanks are due to 10 grant bodies and over 100 individual donors for raising over £45000. An opening ceremony was held on 17th Oct.

Membership:

2014 ended with 113 members paid up – our highest membership.

Hedge project:

In conjunction with the Tree Council and using Lottery funding, volunteers have coppiced some 70m of the hedge along the Wayfarers Walk, and replanted with a fruiting hedgerow mix of saplings.

Charity:

The Friends have now been registered as a charity with the Charity Commission – charity 1161720, but the Commissioners have advised us that we need to upgrade our constitution – hence the motion at this AGM.

Slow worms:

A project has commenced to relocate some Slow Worms to the woods, from the Interbridges development site in Emsworth. These legless lizards require very little “maintenance”, but we will be improving habitats for them, particularly round the edge of the woods, funded by a contribution from the developers.

Friends of Chichester Harbour:

The Friends have signed up for Associate Membership.

Committee:

Thanks are due to all the Committee, particularly those retiring – Paul Bowers, Valerie Bowers, and Siún Cranny.

Website:

Thanks are due to David Linington for maintaining the website.

Summary:

In summary, I am pleased to report that the Friends have had their most successful year since formation in 2002, and we look forward to new conservation challenges in 2015.