

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – Sept 2020 AGM Chairman's report

Since our last AGM in July 2019 we have been affected by the Covid-19 lockdown. This has resulted in the loss of 4 workdays. Despite that, an average of 10 volunteers have attended 8 planned workdays and additional informal days on the hedges.

Membership:

2019 ended with 96 members subscribed, up from 84 last year.

Financial

Following legal advice the SWUP funds have been transferred to "restricted fund" status.

Environment:

A static bat detector was placed in Nore Barn Woods in July 2019 by Nik Knight, the Hampshire Bat recorder. At least eight bat species were recorded including the rare western barbastelle.

In September, the Hampshire Conservation Volunteers visited to help dig out the pond. This semi-saline lagoon is a rare feature around the Harbour, and it is visited by egrets, ducks, an occasional kingfisher and reed warblers

Vandalism:

Lockdown has led to an upsurge in anti-social behaviour within the wood, including 16 bonfires in 3 months. The notice board window has been smashed on 2 occasions. The picnic table has suffered from barbecue damage. The Friends have cleared up and repaired after all incidents.

Hedge project:

Hedges have been planted in the south and west of the wood. We have been helped by the Emsworth Tree Wardens, both physically and with the supply of saplings. With over 350m of hedge planted over the last 3 years, watering and supporting the plants over the hot summers has been hard work.

Thanks:

Thanks are due to all the Committee, including Susie Hamblen and John Jury, who are stepping down after 6 and 5 years' service.

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