

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – Aug 2021 AGM Chairman's report

Our last AGM was held in September 2020. Owing to Covid restrictions this was a closed session, with documents posted on the website and voting taking place by email.

Since then we have only been able to hold 4 workdays owing to Covid lockdown rules. This has severely affected our operations in the wood.

Lockdown has also led to an upsurge in anti-social behaviour within the wood, including 35 bonfires in 6 months. We have had support from Police Community Support Officers patrolling the area. Individual volunteers from the Friends have cleared up and repaired any damage after all incidents.

The pond:

In May, 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. Invading Hemlock Water Dropwort plants have been dug out of the reedbed. Dave Gattrell (co-owner of Peter Pond in Emsworth) has offered to advise on future pond maintenance.

Other conservation work:

A new Open Spaces officer with Havant Borough Council has frozen major work in the wood (hopefully temporarily). With reduced support from the Council, it has been left to volunteers to coppice several areas in accordance with the Plan agreed with the Forestry Commission.

We have continued to maintain and extend the hedges along in the south and west boundaries of the wood.

Membership:

2020 ended with 87 members subscribed.

Thanks:

Thanks are due to all members and volunteers for their continued support, and to the Committee.

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