

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – July 2023 AGM Chairman's report

Welcome:

Welcome to the AGM in our 21st year of existence. Formed in 2002, we have been doing regular workdays and a number of major projects, raising over £100K in the process. In 2015 we became a registered charity, and we hope to continue to provide these services for many years to come.

The pond:

A major project in the last year has been the restoration of the pond. With the help of the Chichester Wildfowlers, digging out of the pond has continued, and reeds have been cut, opening up a fine view of the pond. A mallard nesting box has been installed. One major tree which was shading the pond was felled by tree surgeons in September.

Anti-social behaviour:

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a problem in the wood, reaching a peak of 43 bonfires in 2021. We have had 11 to date in 2023. The Friends have cleared up and repaired any damage after all incidents. The Friends have also replaced the top of the picnic table, with timber from Norse.

Other conservation work:

Coppicing work has been carried out in the north east of the wood by tree surgeons. The Friends have done final clearance of these areas to allow more light in, which will support more wild flowers.

We have continued to maintain and extend the hedges along the south and west boundaries of the wood, and planted 30 hazel trees to fill in blank areas.

4 bat boxes were kindly donated by a local resident, Jon Webb, and these have been installed around the wood.

General:

In October we welcomed a group of 11 volunteers from Lockheed Martin, and they cleared large areas of the north wood.

We also carried out a people count on Easter Sunday and May day, reaching a total of 280 people passing through the open grass area and 42 dogs within one hour.

Membership:

2022 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.