

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – July 2024 AGM Chairman's report

Welcome:

Welcome to our 22nd AGM.

Challenges

The storms of April caused a lot of damage in the woods, killing undergrowth and ripping up paths. A memorial bench was cut in half, and we are helping to get the bench repaired on behalf of the owner. The heavy rains have dug a trench on the foreshore, and with no support from the authorities we are hoping to do some work ourselves in the next few days.

Anti-social behaviour:

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a problem in the wood, with 19 fires last year. We have had 6 to date in 2024. The Friends have cleared up after these incidents.

Environmental:

We have been busy planting hazel saplings, blackthorn hedging and wood anemones. We have also purchased a small number of Common Spotted Orchid bulbs.

Bat recorders have been placed in the fields.

The pond:

The Chichester Wildfowlers have returned to help with digging out the pond, and reeds have been cut, thanks to Dave Gattrell.

Workdays:

11 Saturday workdays have been held this year, averaging 13 attendees.

Tasks have included clearing paths, glades, and the Wayfarers Walk, cutting hedges, and laying logwalks through the mud.

In October we welcomed a group of 7 volunteers from "Positive Pathways" and they cleared large areas of the north wood.

Membership:

2023 ended with 88 members subscribed, a slight increase over the previous year.

Management Plan

A Management Plan has been compiled at the request of HBC. This has been with HBC for approval since February.

Local Nature Reserve

The Committee have also compiled a document to help with their LNR application. This has been with HBC since April for acknowledgement.

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.

Last year we welcomed Paul as a new committee member, and he has been most useful in setting up an Instagram account (that's social media for the uninitiated) to publicise our activities.

This year we are saying goodbye to Clare, as she is leaving the committee after serving since 2015 (but will still be here for workdays).