

## The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – July 2025 AGM Chairman's report

### Welcome:

Welcome to our 23rd AGM.

### Challenges

The storms of April caused a lot of damage in the woods. A memorial bench was cut in half, and we liaised with the Men's Shed in Ensworth to get it repaired.. The heavy rains also dug a trench on the foreshore, and with no support from the authorities the Friends buckled down and filled in the trench.

### England Coast Path

Unfortunately there is no progress to report on this.

### Anti-social behaviour:

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a problem in the wood, with 11 fires last year. We have had 5 to date in 2025. The Friends have cleared up after these incidents.

### Environmental:

We have been busy planting blackthorn hedging on the west side of the wood. In 2023 we purchased 15 Common Spotted Orchid bulbs. These were planted out in Nov 2024 and we are pleased to report that 8 bulbs flowered this year.

### 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, and laying logwalks through the mud.

### Membership:

2024 ended with 86 members subscribed, a slight decrease over the previous year.

### Management Plan

A Management Plan has been submitted to HBC at their request.

### Local Nature Reserve

After the Management Plan has been accepted by HBC, the intention is to apply for the woods to become a Local Nature Reserve.

This will establish a legacy for the woods and safeguard them for the broader Havant community for the long term.

### Personnel changes

Barry King-Smith had to step down after 4 years on the Committee. Luckily Hugh Mudford was willing to be co-opted. We regret to report that 2 of our members died this year, Roger Chaddock and Mike Thomas. Mike was on the committee for 6 years and was responsible for major fund raising.

### 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.