

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – July 2017 AGM Chairman's report

Charity:

The Friends are now registered as a charity with the Charity Commission – charity number 1161720. In the last 10 years we have raised over £90000 in grants, all of which has been spent on the woods.

Membership:

2016 ended with 84 members subscribed.

Shore project:

Phase 3 of the Shore Conservation project (which cost us £17.5K) was unfortunately damaged by storm Angus. Thanks are due to Mike Thomas for following through to get repairs done by ESCP.

The Conservation Volunteers

I would like to thank TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) for their help in erecting a fence along the Wayfarers Walk to protect the hedge. In January and February the Friends planted 425 saplings in the hedge (supplied by CHC and HBC, to whom we are thankful). TCV also provided a new notice board as part of their Solent Way project, and a publicity banner.

Environment

We have planted 8 disease resistant elms and monitored Slow Worm activity, finding only one. On a more positive note we have managed to encourage orchids to return by managing the scrub. A new Management Plan for the woods is being prepared by an ex Forestry Commission person.

Norse

I regret having to report that the previous strong support from HBC has almost disappeared now that the service has been contracted to Norse. We are working hard to improve things, but many maintenance tasks are being done slowly if not at all.

Solent Way

The newly published provisional route for the Natural England "Round England Path" shows the path as following the Solent Way through Nore Barn Woods. The Friends have been supporting the community-led project to improve the bridge and its approaches, but recent changes to the design may force a rethink.

Website:

We thank David Linington for his continued maintenance of the website.

Committee:

Thanks are also due to all the Committee, and to Pam for providing workday refreshments.

Workdays:

Thanks go our regular band of over a dozen volunteers who turn up in all weathers to keep the woods in fine shape and this has enabled us to improve other areas such as the Selangor copse and the reed bed.

Summary:

In summary, I am pleased to report that the Friends have had another successful year, and we look forward to new conservation challenges in 2018.