

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods – July 2016 AGM Chairman's report

Charity:

The Friends are now registered as a charity with the Charity Commission – charity number 1161720. This has enabled us to claim Gift Aid from HMRC and to access grants more easily. In the last 10 years we have raised over £85000 in grants, all of which has been spent on the woods. At the 2015 AGM we upgraded our constitution.

Membership:

2015 ended with 90 members subscribed.

Bruce Darby

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Bruce Darby in September last year. Bruce founded the Friends in 2002, and was Chairman until 2014, so we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Shore project:

Work has now finished on Phase 3 of the Shore Conservation project (extending the Armorloc protection 20m Eastward) to complete the protection of the south flank of the wood. The work was carried out by contractors Colas and was totally funded by grants raised by FONBW. Thanks are due to Mike Thomas for leading this project.

Hedge project:

Two workdays have been held in conjunction with TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) to erect a fence along the Wayfarers Walk to protect future hedge planting. The project will be continued in September with the coppicing of over-mature hedge hawthorns and replanting, plus completion of the fence.

Website:

David Linington maintains the website, and we must thank him for his continued work.

Committee:

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

Workdays:

Thanks to 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 2017. It is generally agreed that the woods are in great shape at the moment, and we aim to keep it that way.