

## AGM 2016 – SECRETARY’S REPORT

Since the last AGM we have again had eleven full Committee meeting’s. FC representative(s) have been at all of them and we are very grateful to Rachel Riley for her vital role as liaison person and to Jim Lyon for attending nearly every meeting.

FoTF have continued our involvement in the ongoing campaign to keep our forests in public ownership which, despite the lack of any real progress from the government, is not something we are going to leave alone. Obviously recently the many changes that have befallen our leaders have had an effect on progress with yet another change of persons in charge of the relevant departments but we have written to all of them and invited some to visit the area to re-inforce our views on the subject. Both Anne and Alan have attended meetings during the last 12 months for which we are grateful to them giving up their time to do so.

Conservation Group – This last 12 months has seen an increase in the numbers attending and we have visited some new sites and ramped up the work at others. It is pleasing to see that we have attracted some younger members, and have received expressions of interest from yet more for the coming months. As ever I’m grateful to Neal & Rachel of the FC for their participation, and especially to our regular worker who turn up month after month eager to get working.

The Arboretum Group has seen some changes over the last 12 months with the departure of Mike & Sheila, but work continues apace and you will hear more about it from Owen who has taken over leadership of the group.

The last 12 months have seen many changes on the digital side of our presence, with much increased use of Facebook and twitter to give out information. The website was re coded as it was becoming obvious that many people were accessing from handheld devices , and the old style pages were not very friendly for a smaller display.

My job as secretary involves the sending out of many messages, and I’m indebted to Alan as membership office for the updated lists for contacts etc. and his success at taking over from Sheila the financial side of the group.

And on that note, I hand over to Owen for his report on the happenings at Lynford Arboretum, followed by our chairs report on the last 12 months of the group.