

AGM 2017 – SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last AGM we have again had eleven full Committee meetings. FC representative(s) have been at all of them and we are very grateful to Rachel Riley for continuing her vital role as liaison person, and to Tristram for continuing the local FC management support for the group.

FoTF have continued our involvement in the ongoing campaign to retain the PFE in public ownership, but the meetings are few and far between these days with bigger things on the horizon for the government, never the less our thanks go to Alan and Anne for keeping the flag flying at any opportunity.

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 (than most of us anyway) members. As ever I'm grateful to Neal & Rachel of the FC for their participation, and especially to our regular workers who turn up month after month eager to get working.

The Arboretum Group continues in good health and was the recipient of an award this year, more of that later from Anne.

The social media presence of Friends has greatly increased over the last 12 months, and we are making more and more use of those channels of communication, but our newsletter will continue to be published although we have moved the publication dates slightly to what we feel is a better period for information to be included, and I'm personally grateful to SPC for their assistance with tidying up my efforts in setting the document out so that it all makes sense and looks right.

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. on a regular basis.

When I took over as secretary more than 20 years ago, never in my wildest dreams did I ever think it would lead to an invitation to Buckingham Palace, but that came to pass this year as a result of the Queens Award of Voluntary Service, but again more of that from Anne.

On that note I close my report and hand over.