

## AGM 2019 – SECRETARY’S REPORT

Since the last AGM in 2018, we have had 11 committee meetings , all of which have had at least one member of Forestry England present – With Rachel Riley changing posts last year, we are grateful to Owen Manson for taking on the role of liaison person between ourselves and FE.

Our newsletter continues to be published twice a year, with the next one out in November – we changed the dates so that we could include an AGM report in future. We have made the decision to still continue with the hard copy version as we have a number of members who are not able to access online, and it gives us something to hand out to visitors to the site here, and further afield.

The website has undergone an overhaul this year to make it more friendly for portable devices, and a vast amount of heritage information was added as a result of the High Lodge Heritage Trail Project on this site. It was very rewarding that some of the volunteers who helped with the Trail project have now become members of Friends and volunteers for us in various roles.

Conservation Group – This last 12 months has again seen an increase in the numbers attending and we have visited some new sites, and we are grateful to Andy Pallas Clark for sorting out the tasks for us to undertake

My job as secretary involves the sending out of many messages, and I’m indebted to Alan as membership officer for the updated lists for contacts etc. on a regular basis.

We will shortly get to the election of officers for the committee of Friends, and we currently have a vacancy on the committee at the moment which can be filled by any current member who has been so for 2 years, so if anyone wishes to be considered, please indicate to the chair.

Finally , I have to say a very personal thanks to my fellow committee members for covering for me at the beginning of the year during my unplanned, and very sudden absence from the scene, in as much as that all of the committee meetings were still minuted, lots of information sent out, the newsletter went out on time and the conservation group was organised for 5 months and refreshments delivered to them, none of which would have happened without their for which I am truly grateful.

On that note I close my report and hand over....