

Haresdown and Knowstone Moors Management Association Annual Report 2017

A payment was made to Knowstone Parish Council for their 'ownership' of part of the moors. Payments were also made to commoners with rights to the moor and the other owners.

A successful controlled burn took place in March on Haresdown and Knowstone Inner and Outer Moors. The vegetation is now growing back and the moors are looking exceptionally well.

As of yet this year the curlew has not been heard on the moors. It was recorded at the last AGM that it has been five years since they were last heard on the moor. It is felt that increasing number of badgers is to blame in part for eating their eggs along with other ground nesting birds and hedgehogs. Ensuring there is diversity in the wildlife on the moors is something that the Association is keen to achieve.

As part of our stewardship agreement with Natural England, cattle will be grazing the moors from May until September. You may see them on the road leading up to the picnic site. They are supposed to be there and the cattle grids are in place to ensure they do not wander onto the link road or into the villages. Gates should be shut at all time to prevent straying. The Association has raised concerns with the Parish Council over flytipping in the stone depot nearest the picnic site especially with the cattle being able to access this area. We would ask that parishioners are vigilant and report any fly-tipping to the Parish Council in order to prevent cattle and other wildlife eating poisonous garden waste or other items discarded in the layby.

John Stanbury (Chairman)