



# The Friends of Duchess Wood

## Report to Duchess Wood LNR Committee 17th November 2015



*Pete Minting, our  
speaker at the AGM.*

1. **The Annual General Meeting of FODW** was held on Wednesday 28th October in the Sports Centre of Lomond School. The previous executive committee members were re-elected and the office bearers remain the same. The accounts were approved. The formal part of the AGM was followed by an excellent talk by Pete Minting, Scottish Project Officer of the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust.

2. **A preliminary draft 5-year Management Plan for the Wood** for the period 1st October 2016 – 30 September 2021 has been drawn up by FODW for consideration by the DWLNRC.

3. **The “A Wood of Our Own” Forum of the Forestry Commission and the Community Woodlands Association held at Duchess Wood with FODW.**



Duchess Wood was selected for this event, held on 1st September. FODW was asked to assist with its organisation.

There were speakers (including from the FODW) and discussion in the morning and tours of Duchess Wood in the afternoon, after a buffet lunch. The successful event attracted participants from different parts of the west of Scotland and the Wood was much admired.

4. **Lomond School public orienteering event.** This first event of its kind was held in Duchess Wood and was very well organised by Lomond School and was popular with the public. FODW will leave it to Lomond School to report in more detail, but FODW congratulates the school for its initiative.



**Navy trainees assist FODW.** FODW was grateful to the Faslane Base for the help of more than 20 Navy trainees who joined FODW members for a full day's work deepening ditches, clearing the insides of culverts, re-proofing the woodwork of the information hub and digging test-holes for water retention. This work was carried out on 13th October.

6. **Regular maintenance.** FODW has continued with its regular maintenance work, clearing litter, cutting back unwanted growth, making repairs, etc.

7. **Logs.** FODW has been storing lengths of timber in its rented garage to dry. These are now being sawn regularly into logs for sale as firewood, and donations being sought for bags or trailer loads.
  
8. **Vandalism.** Over a weekend in late September the map board at the car park was uprooted and the frame and map smashed – it was also dragged up to the Pony Field. Three other waymarkers were pulled out and thrown away. Picnic tables were damaged by knives and one also suffered fire damage. The waymarkers have been repositioned and work is in hand to repair the map board and tables. The police were contacted and they offered the thought that a recent heavier police presence in the town centre might have moved anti-social behaviour out to the town fringes.