



The Friends of Duchess Wood

Report to Duchess Wood LNR Committee 16th February 2016

1. **Maintenance.** FODW has continued with its regular maintenance work, clearing litter, cutting back unwanted growth, making repairs, etc. Work on ditches and culverts has featured and progress has been made in getting holly over-growth under control in the southern part of the Wood.
2. **Storms.** To date the Wood has weathered the storms well. The work done over the past five months by FODW (assisted by Navy volunteers and Community Payback) on ditches and culverts has proved its value since these have coped with heavy rain. (The one area which may need some attention regarding improved drainage is to the west of where Lomond School holds its Forest Nursery, as well as the path to it.) No trees fallen on or beside paths to date, and FODW has cleared small branches fallen onto the paths.
3. **The draft draft 5-year Management Plan for the Wood** for the period 1st October 2016 – 30 September 2021, drawn up by FODW, was considered by the DWLNRC at its November meeting and a further revision is being prepared to take into account suggested changes.
4. **Buglife event.** Buglife is the conservation charity for invertebrates. Its Scottish officer held four very successful 'bug-hunts' two years ago. A follow-up is planned for 16th April this year as part of the John Muir week. FODW hopes to mount a visitor count and recruitment event over the same weekend.
5. **FODW has revised its membership leaflet** and has incorporated descriptive material from its general leaflet which is being discontinued. A further leaflet highlighting the **top ten things to see in the Wood** is being prepared and the **flower walk leaflet** will be reprinted in time for the spring flowers coming into bloom.
6. FODW has been heavily involved in the sub-committee taking forward the **WIAT grant application**, and the possibility of a trial thinning exercise in the lower part of the Wood.
7. **Liaison with Lomond School** on a number of initiatives has been taken forward.
8. Our entire stock of **firewood** has now been sold.
9. The FODW **spring newsletter** is being prepared and should be circulated in March.