

# Friends of Duchess Wood

## Friends of Duchess Wood report to Duchess Wood LNR Committee 22 May 2018

1. It has been very quiet over the winter period with several work parties being stood down due to adverse weather conditions, but it's still been possible to progress some maintenance tasks. The Community Payback team has been busy refurbishing tables and benches..
2. Community liaison and representation. FODW continued its normal role of engagement with and representation of the local community. FODW has also liaised with local press, community councils and other local organisations.
3. Grants. We are delighted that the bid for a "Woodlands in and around Towns" (WIAT) grant has finally been submitted along with our woodland management plan and is now under consideration. by the Forestry Commission. If accepted the next stage will be submission of specific costed proposals for work. The application to the A&BC Supporting Communities fund for a grant to return the section of path from the car park to the pony field to an all abilities surface was unsuccessful.
4. The successful "Top Dogs Day Out" event held at the end of March attracted some thirty dogs and their owners. It is intended to hold another event at the same time in 2019.
5. We intend taking a more active role in Citizen Science projects going forward; particularly in the Bat Conservation Trust, Buglife, Plantlife and Butterfly and Moths Conservation Trust areas. We also will commission our new bat-detection equipment over the next few weeks and we will also hold another information day/visitor count over the summer.
6. FODW Annual General Meeting. The FODW AGM for the year 2017-18 will be held on Wednesday 24th October 2018. This will be held in the Helensburgh Parish Church Halls.

Martin Grafton, Secretary, 8th May 2018