



Report from the Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW)
to the
Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee (DWLNRC)
meeting on 18th February 2014

1. Routine

FODW have continued to carry out routine actions since the last meeting of the DWLNRC, such as **monthly work parties, fencing repairs, culvert clearing and litter control.**

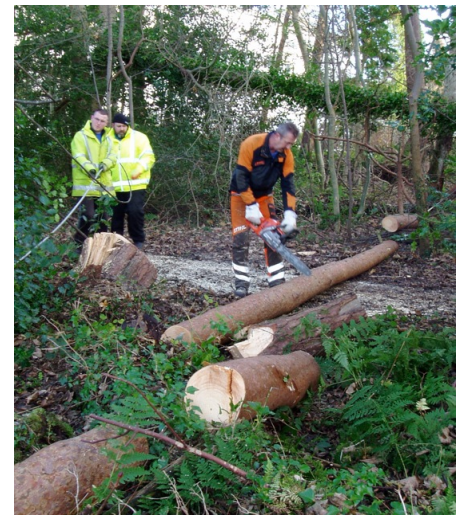


2. Garage for tools, equipment and other storage

We are pleased to report that FODW has obtained (at preferential rent) the use of one of the Strathclyde Court garages in which to store tools, equipment, materials, etc. The equipment includes a newly purchased trolley for transporting heavy items.

3. Clearance of storm damage.

After a storm, FODW checks for fallen trees or branches over paths. Our first task is to enable pedestrian access. Subsequently we remove debris from the path sides. If appropriate we saw fallen boughs for logs. However, some fallen trees are too large for FODW to handle. In the storms of late 2013, two large trees fell across a path and we were grateful for the rapid response by Tom Murphy to our request for assistance. The A&BC team doing the work were both efficient and pleasant and, although we thanked them at the time, we would be pleased if the DWLNRC could add to that appreciation.



4. Finance

- (a) **Argyll & Bute Third Sector grant.** FODW are spending the awarded sum plus the same from our own funds. Spend on prepared wood for repairs (£200) will be completed soon. Spend allocated to wood preservative, materials and stationery is in hand. £200 on a charcoal burning course.
- (b) **CSV Action Earth Grant.** Raised by FODW and mostly spent.
- (c) **Babcock.** They have agreed to produce two information boards for FODW.
- (d) **Woodland Trust.** An application for free trees was submitted by FODW for spring planting and it has been confirmed that we will receive 30 native tree saplings for FODW to plant.

5. Litter bins. The task of litter removal matters for amenity and health reasons. The public have become increasingly conscientious about using the bins provided. Our own clear-ups supplement that. Bin emptying by A&BC is fundamental and we have frequently recorded our praise for the reliability of that essential service. We hope that, following discussions, some recent gaps in that service have been rectified.

6. Other. A number of activities are being planned for the first six months of the year, many of which will be run as events associated with the John Muir Festival. The Green Gym has begun eight weeks of work in the Wood and discussions have been held with the Community Payback team about the support they may be able to give this year.