



Friends of Duchess Wood

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC039527

Members' update

Dear member

As quite a lot of activities which will be of interest to all members are being planned for the next four months or so, I thought you would appreciate a brief update. A number of these events are being run as part of the events programme supporting the opening of the John Muir Way, which will run from Dunbar to Helensburgh, and be launched over the week of 21-26 April.

On 26 April, the John Muir Way walk will reach Helensburgh, with an afternoon programme of events, and will then return to Balloch for an evening fireworks display and ceilidh. That afternoon also, the Friends of Loch Lomond and the Helensburgh and District Access Trust are planning a walk from Helensburgh to Balloch with a time-travelling meeting between John Muir and Tom Weir on Gouk Hill. Not all of the events have been confirmed yet, but we will confirm the programme as soon as possible, hopefully in the spring newsletter which will be published in the normal way.

10 February	Helensburgh Green Gym in Duchess Wood on Mondays (11.00-14.00 for 8 weeks) – see posters on gates.
16 - 18 or 27 April	Walking Theatre Company in a John Muir-themed performance (date to be decided)
Easter weekend (20/21 April)	Easter scavenger hunt - similar to last year's event (date to be decided)
3-4 May	Rook count in pine wood rookery
24 May	Launch of self-guided flower walk based on Alison Rutherford's walk last year (lower wood) and guided visit by Plantlife Scotland (upper wood)
28 May	Visit by Buglife (The Invertebrate Conservation Trust) to explore the insect life of the Wood

During this period, we also hope to organise a musical tour of the Wood and we will carry out more bat observations. We plan to install new information boards near the original stone commemorating the opening of Duchess Wood as a LNR. We have a number of maintenance activities planned, and the monthly work parties will continue as normal.

Stewart Campbell
Chair, FODW, 10.2.14