



**Report from the Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW)**  
to the  
**Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee (DWLNRC)**  
meeting on 20th May 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, and litter control.**

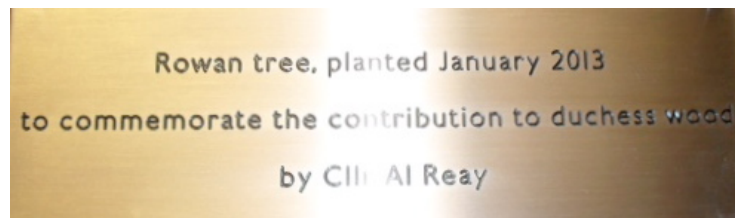
**2. Clearance work by FODW**

- (a) Continued cutting and clearing fallen trees/branches after winter storms.
- (b) Continued rhododendron control work.
- (c) Continued culvert clearing and one new culvert.



**3. Additions to Wood**

- (a) Memorial plaque to Cllr. Al Reay completed and will be erected beside the rowan tree planted by his widow.



- (b) 30 native trees planted.
- (c) Waymarking posts for flower walk and main paths received ready for siting.



**4. Steps to Thurgood Bridge**

Work on the steps to Thurgood Bridge (both sides of stream) has progressed, thanks to the Community Payback Team.

This has been a bigger job than it appears because the original construction was based on soil which retained damp and rotted the retaining boards of wood.

Rectification has required excavating the original materials and replacing them with loose stones through which the water will drain, followed by a top dressing of whin dust, compacted.

New retaining boards have been inserted, with a protective slat at the top of each which can be replaced easily if worn.

## 5. Events



### ***Easter scavenger hunt***

This repeated the successful formula used last year. We can provide details at the DWLNRC meeting if requested. See photo left.

### ***John Muir celebration by the Walking Theatre***

On April 27th the Walking Theatre, funded by A&BC and FODW, provided their third performance in the Wood. See photo right and Helensburgh Advertiser for a report.



## ***Future events***

At the time of preparing this report, there are three future events planned. They are :

**4 May.** Rook count in the Scots pine wood rookery at the south-eastern part of the Wood will start at 14.00. Meet at the Strathclyde Court garages.

**24 May.** Launch of the self-guided flower walk based on Alison Rutherford's walk last year (lower Wood). Meet Duchess Wood car park, 11.00. This will be followed by a guided visit by Plantlife Scotland (upper Wood).

**28th May.** Visit by Buglife (The Invertebrate Conservation Trust). Start time : 14.00. Meet at the Duchess Wood car park.

## 6. Grants

- (a) ***Argyll & Bute Third Sector grant.*** FODW have spent the awarded sum which included a matched amount from our own funds. This included prepared wood for repairs, wood preservative, materials and stationery.
- (b) ***CSV Action Earth Grant.*** A grant for £500 will be applied for once a final decision has been taken.
- (c) ***Babcock.*** A letter has been sent to the A&BC planners questioning the need for a costly planning application for the two information boards which Babcock have agreed to supply. No response yet.
- (d) ***Woodland Trust.*** The trees arrived and have been planted by FODW.