

Year of Stories – [Keeping Duns Blooming Marvellous](#) overcomes Storm Arwen in a creative, fun and educational way, by Lorraine Turnbull, volunteer Beautiful Scotland judge

This is the story of a large cherry tree that had nestled in a neglected spot at the edge of beautiful village. It was sad and lonely, no-one ever came to see it and admire its strength. One stormy night, Arwen the wicked wind, who hated trees, blew through the village and felled this once mighty tree.



The villagers awoke to find the devastation that Arwen had caused and, although sad, they decided to re-awake the Green Man, the spirit of the tree to create a fairy tale landscape for children to enjoy where once the cherry tree had stood. The Green Man, who was also the keeper of the environment, would protect the site and make sure that the evil Arwen would not return.



A local woodsman set about carving the cherry tree trunk into a fantastic imaginary world, with story book characters and fairy doors, overseen by a wise owl. However, in his hard work to create this masterpiece, he discovered that the cherry wood was not strong enough as it had been sick for a long time. He tried hard but was only able to carve the wise owl.

Luckily an old and gnarled forester happened by, with a young and straight sacred ilex which was also a casualty of Arwen. The woodsman jumped with joy when he realised he could at last create his masterpiece and make the villagers and their children happy again.



The villagers were indeed very happy to have this marvellous replacement for their old cherry tree. So happy in fact that they decided to create a wonderful wildlife haven around their sacred holly sculpture.

Local Brownie children painted stone charms to place where the cherry tree had once stood, and created a small pond for real wildlife and wrote about the magical creatures that could be found. The Gruffalo and his friends, the snake, the mouse, the owl and the fox also made an appearance – although it remains to be seen whether they are real or not and whether they inhabit this spot.



The villagers help the children to protect and care for the area, and they made a story board telling visitors the tale of the spot and how the good forces of biodiversity and community spirit overcame the threats of Arwen.



With the Green Man, the owl, and Gruffalo and his friends, they all lived happily ever after.