

NEWS IN BRIEF

1. BIRCH and SCRUB REMOVAL – we are aware of mixed reactions to the recent scrub clearance on the old commercial peat workings. A lot of work was done in a very short space of time which was a bit of a culture shock.

Clearing the birch saplings is not new. Previously the scrub was cleared slowly and painstakingly by hand by members of FoLM and other volunteers. When funding became available from the Green Stimulus Fund administered by Scottish Natural Heritage to have the work done quickly and professionally, East Dunbartonshire Council took advantage of this.

Anyone who has known the Moss for 50 years or more will remember that the bog used to extend much further than pre the latest clearance. This operation has restored the area previously lost to encroaching birch saplings. The benefit of the regenerating moss can already be seen on the bog area.

Maps showing the areas cleared can be found on our website www.friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk, where you will also find statements from FoLM and EDC.

2. DEER AND OTHER WILDLIFE – earlier this year a visitor to the Moss contacted us to say she was dismayed to see an unleashed dog chasing deer and we are sorry to hear of this. You may also have noted the request for dogs to be on the leash during the current season of ground nesting birds from March to August. It is lovely to see young active dogs having a good run around, but it would be better for it not to happen on the nature reserve where other animals and birds have their habitat.

3. DAMS – the three small dams we mentioned in our last Newsletter have now been installed in the north woodland. It is hoped that these will create small woodland pools.



Photo meadow cranesbill July 2015

4. THE BOG SOUTH OF THE RAILWAY LINE – rehabilitation of the part of Lenzie Moss that lies on the south side of the railway line started on March 9. Four hectares of scrub have been cleared and 40 dams are to be installed. A bit of history – as you may know, the raised peat bog originally extended over to the south of the railway line and the railway simply cut a swathe through it. The peat to the south was not cut commercially in the 20th century, unlike the peat to the north.

Membership

We are very grateful for your support, which is vital to us in our work of protecting this outstanding local greenspace; so please continue your membership, and persuade others to become Friends of Lenzie Moss too.

Annual Membership fees are:

- **Single, retired or unwaged £7**
- **Family £12**

Subscriptions cover the year 1st April until 31st March the following year. For this you will receive twice-yearly Newsletters, and will be notified of events and activities concerning the Moss. (A reduced fee applies for anyone joining mid-year.)

Committee Members

Chairperson: Christine Morrison
email cmorrison@fsmail.net

Secretary & Vice Chair: Kate Brown
email kate_sanford@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Paul Dudman
email paul.dudman1@ntlworld.com

Membership Secretary: Joan Christie
tel. 0141 776 6859
email joancraigchristi@aol.com

Newsletter: Anna Illingworth
tel. 0141 776 1560

Committee: Iain Christie tel. 0141 776 6859
David Lee tel. 0141 776 4634

Website: www.friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk
FoLM email: friendsoflenziemoss@gmail.com

Members wishing to join the committee are always welcome.

friends of Lenzie Moss

Summer 2015

The Friends of Lenzie Moss is a voluntary association dedicated to conserving the Moss for the benefit of present and future generations by all possible means: through education, liaison with official bodies, and appropriate environmental management.



Highlights of Chairperson's Report at the AGM 2 June 2015

Highlights of Chairperson's Report at the AGM 2 June 2015

Christine Morrison (chairperson) highlighted the educational work of FoLM, including:

- attending a volunteer roadshow at Lenzie Academy, where nearly 30 pupils showed an interest. We are currently planning activities for them;
- taking a party of Lenzie Academy teachers round the Moss for their "Health and Wellbeing" day
- encouraging Merlwood Nursery children in their fun and learning activities on the Moss through their forest kindergarten. Regrettably this may be under threat from dog dirt.

She also brought us up to date on:

- the proposed EDC Local Development Plan, the outcome of which appears to be favouring protection of our Local Nature Reserve from damaging development;
- our issues relating to the rebuilding of Lenzie Moss Primary School: access to the Moss, potential hydrology changes, effect of light pollution from the new sports pitches on wildlife, and upgrading of pathway/s over the Moss.

Finally:

She thanked the Mugdock Rangers and volunteers, Jackie Gillespie of EDC, and the other FoLM committee members, for all their invaluable support and hard work. She hoped that other members of FoLM would feel encouraged to join the Committee to help with all the varied activities, and to look after this valued community asset for our children and grandchildren.



Photo wild orchids July 2015

Rangers' Report

(Fiona Burns)

Practical work: over 6 work days a total of 62 Lenzie Moss conservation volunteers have turned up in all weathers to help out. The main focus has been to re-vegetate the "peat mound" by covering it with heather seed, using birch scrub to protect it. In addition, other volunteer groups, including Duke of Edinburgh candidates, Prince's Trust, Morgan Stanley, Clyde & Kelvin College and Mugdock conservation volunteers have joined in practical tasks such as path resurfacing and repairs, and removal of birch scrub and invasive species such as knotweed. Temporary measures are being taken to discourage dog owners from letting their dogs run free during the wildlife breeding season (this in response to concerns from visitors).

Events in partnership with FoLM have included: making Harry Potter birch brooms, and birch garlands, Natural Art on the Moss, Furry Animal Toy Trail, Evening Birdsong Walk, and Wildflower Planting.

Education: Lenzie Moss provides ideal opportunities for outdoor learning. P2 from Lenzie Primary made two visits to the Moss, in winter and in spring, to investigate wildlife changes. P5/6 from Lenzie Moss Primary raised £160 through a sponsored silence to buy wildflower plants, then planted them in a grassland area beyond Heather Drive.

Fiona said "We would not be able to do any of this without our close working partnerships with FoLM and Jackie Gillespie, Streetscene Project Officer with East Dunbartonshire Council."

See full reports on our website www.friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk or contact a committee member for a hard copy.

What is important about Lenzie Moss?

At the Open Meeting following our AGM on 2nd June, guest speakers Andrew McBride (Peatland Action Manager with Scottish Natural Heritage) and Jackie Gillespie (Streetscene Project Officer with East Dunbartonshire Council) spoke on the theme of the importance of Lenzie Moss.

Andrew explained the global context of peatlands: largely found in the temperate zone, but also in tropical areas such as Indonesia, where much of it is under forest. 3% of global land area is covered in peatland, totalling one third of the carbon bound in soil. Most peatland in Europe is in the North. 10% of the UK's land area is peatland, and there are about 1.7 million hectares of peat in Scotland. Lowland raised bogs such as Lenzie Moss are particularly important as they are rare. Blanket bog is more extensive, and the third type of peat – fens peat - forms more slowly.

The Scottish climate, with its high rainfall and low temperatures, encourages peatland to form. The Scottish Government is currently interested in peatland, partly towards meeting their target to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Hence restoring peat is important. The current target is 20,000 hectares between 2013 to 2028. A Peatlands Plan will be published, identifying action to restore peatland, but also integration into people's everyday lives. Peatland is important for flood management and for increasing biodiversity, with rare plants and insects such as sundew and Emperor Moth thriving on peatlands.

Looking at peat cores can show the history of peat, with glacial inwash of particular interest. This occurs where silt is pushed down rivers into basins. The different colours occurring in the core indicate different sources.

Trees on bogs need to be removed to keep the water table high, although it is recognised that bog woodland can be a viable part of a stable bog. Peat cutting is not necessarily a significant problem, provided sustainable methods are used, eg traditional hand cutting.

Commercial peat cutting can strip all vegetation, and it is planned that by 2030 this will cease.

The EU Habitats Directive, if used effectively, gives protection to Special Areas of Conservation, and ongoing education is important. Much of the peatland in Ireland has been decimated, with peat mainly being converted into energy generation. Some of the damaged areas may be restored, but not all, and countries such as Latvia and Estonia have similar issues.

The Peatland Action Plan is working to restore Scotland's peatlands, with over 100 projects restoring and reprofiling peat throughout Scotland. The programme is also working with community groups, raising awareness, and advising on the use of bogs as a community resource. As part of this, Scottish Natural Heritage has been collaborating closely with East Dunbartonshire Council in the regeneration of Lenzie Moss.

Jackie went on to outline important ongoing work on Lenzie Moss, including:

- Scrub removal by contractors under licence from the Forestry Commission
- Upkeep of the boardwalk
- Ditch blocking and water monitoring
- Peat depth survey
- Work on Lenzie Moss South, with permission from the owners, Caledonian Properties, to remove scrub and install dams for ditch blocking, creating the perfect habitat for damselflies, dragonflies and palmate newt.

Bog rosemary, a rare plant, is seen on Lenzie Moss, with one patch growing naturally, and at a few other sites of translocation. It has also been recorded on Lenzie Moss South. In addition, small colonies of the locally rare green hairstreak butterfly are found on Lenzie Moss, but encroaching birch destroys one of its food plants – the blaeberry.

Fuller versions of both the above talks are on the FoLM website friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk