

NEWS IN BRIEF

- **In February** additional heather seeds were planted on the peat mound by the boardwalk. Eventually the heather will bind the peat and stabilise the mound, thereby preventing further degradation of the peat and release of CO₂.
- **In March** the volunteers undertook a litter pick. Additional hands are always welcome to keep the Moss free of litter. The next litter pick day will be advertised in the notice boards.
- **The peat bunds** have now been levelled and the ditches dammed.
- **Deer** are still on the Moss as recently spotted by one of our members while walking in the woodland area.
- **In October 2015** we responded to EDC's Active Travel Strategy in relation to their proposal to create a core path through the nature reserve from Lenzie Station carpark along the existing path in the south woods, and then create a new path over the uncut part of the bog to link up to Crosshill Rd. See our Chairperson's AGM report for more details on this.
- **In May** this year we took Primary 6 pupils from Lenzie Primary school on a guided walk round the Moss during their Health Week. We talked about the history of the Moss, how the bog was formed and the current conservation work, as well as the flora and fauna to be found on the Moss. They were very interested in the dams and all of them wanted to walk across one of the larger ones, which they managed without any of them falling in! They had a competition to spot the new bird and bat boxes and were keen to spot the remains of railway sleepers along the old mineral railway.
- **Why I volunteer** (quotations from our volunteers):
 - "I love doing something for nature and most of our volunteering is centred around that"
 - "I like working outdoors and seeing some progress as a result of our efforts"
 - "I enjoy walking and cycling round the Moss and am happy to put some effort back into it"
 - "it's nice to work with a group of like-minded people"
 - "when is the next volunteer day?!"

- **Date for your diary** - Harry Potter Broom Making Friday 14 October 1 – 3pm. Follow signs on the Moss. Booking not required but children must be accompanied by adults. Donations welcome.



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

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Members wishing to join the committee are always welcome.

friends of Lenzie Moss

Summer 2016

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.

AGM 2016

At the AGM meeting on 22 June we took the opportunity to present Anna Illingworth with flowers as a thank you on her retirement from the committee, for her invaluable contribution to the work of FoLM.

Anna joined FoLM in 1989 when Bea Rae got together a group of supporters to protect the Moss from housing development. She has been an enthusiastic supporter of FoLM ever since: taking groups of residents round the Moss on history walks; joining in conservation days removing the birch scrub by hand; attending our volunteer roadshow at Lenzie Academy; writing articles for our Newsletter; preparing updates for our website; and offering her advice on all matters relating to FoLM. In particular, she has given us

her talent of meticulous attention to grammar and syntax in the production of our Newsletters. We're happy to say that Anna will remain a member of FoLM and she has offered to continue to review the Newsletters for us.

We all rely on members like Anna to contribute to the running of FoLM, which acts as an essential liaison group with EDC to conserve the Moss as a Local Nature Reserve. If you would like to join other members of the committee in maintaining this link get in touch with any of the committee members. We welcome all members and have scope for all talents.



Anna with some of FoLM's committee after the AGM: David, Kate, Christine, Paul.

You will find a separate copy of the AGM minutes within this newsletter.

Butterfly talk after the AGM

After the AGM we were pleased to welcome Scott Donaldson, a member of the Glasgow & South West Scotland branch of Butterfly Conservation Scotland, a keen enthusiast, whose passion for the subject was obvious. He spoke about the threat to butterflies, including the fact that 70% of British species have declined in numbers, mainly due to urbanisation and habitat fragmentation. Butterflies play an important part in sustainable ecosystems, particularly as a food source for birds, and are a useful indicator of environmental change.

There is, however, some good news, with some species increasing in number in Scotland, including the Small Blue, which has been successfully introduced in Ayrshire after an absence of 30 years. There are 35 species of butterfly in south west Scotland, with many to be found in the Lenzie area, including the Green Hairstreak on Lenzie Moss. Further information on butterflies is available at <http://www.southwestscotland-butterflies.org.uk/>



Orange tip butterfly seen on Lenzie Moss in Spring on the edge of the woodland



New notice board

We received a generous donation of our new notice board located at the top of Heather Drive. This was donated by Sanctuary Housing and Cruden Building & Renewal Ltd through their Community Benefit Fund, and they also arranged for it to be erected. It is larger than the one it replaced and now gives us the opportunity to change some of the contents each month and keep it fresh and interesting. If you have ideas for what you would like to see on the notice board, let us know.



We were fortunate to be awarded a grant of £500 by Action Earth for the construction of bat boxes and bird boxes. At an open day last year at the top of Heather Drive, adult volunteers and children assembled the box kits. The boxes were then located in the trees on the Moss by the Mugdock Rangers. Next time you're on the Moss see if you can spot them.

Bird boxes are excellent substitutes for the holes found in old trees. In young woodlands and gardens there may be



plenty of food for small birds, but nowhere for hole-nesting birds to nest.

Bats often live in close proximity to us, using our gardens and open spaces as an important source of food, water and shelter. These small and fascinating creatures are a sign of a green and healthy environment. What's good for bats will also be good for people. As their natural habitats become more scarce, we hope that the Moss will play a part in securing a future for bats.

