

## Activities on the Moss 2014

We are currently working on our 2014 programme of activities. These normally start about Easter. Possible ones are a butterfly walk, a dawn chorus walk, a minibeast hunt, a "Then and Now" history walk, a flora and fauna walk, birch weaving and birch broom making. There will be further details on our website [www.friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk](http://www.friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk) once we have finalised the programme. The activities will also be included in the Mugdock Country Park 2014 activity brochure when it's published. You will be able to obtain this in due course from Mugdock (tel. 0141 956 6586; website [www.mugdock-country-park.gov.uk](http://www.mugdock-country-park.gov.uk).)

If you have ideas for activities yourself don't hesitate to let us know.

Upcoming conservation dates are 8 February and 29 March. Check our website and Facebook page for future dates. Now that most of the birch has been removed from the old peat workings, the work of the conservation volunteers is shifting to other tasks in the management plan. There are still some smaller areas of birch scrub to remove, together with invasive plant species. Volunteers will continue to maintain the paths.

Conservation days normally take place on a Saturday, and help would be welcome from 10.45am to 12pm. Why not come along and give a hand? No specific skills are required and there is a place for volunteers of all levels of fitness and ability. We meet at the Moss end of the north side train station car park.

## Update on proposed housing developments

Further to our recent note to you about the progress of the emerging Local Development Plan, East Dunbartonshire Council has now reached the end of its consultation period with respect to the Main Issues Report (MIR).

The next step will be for the Council to consider all the representations and resolve as far as possible any contentious issues. A report of the consultation will be published early in 2014 with a draft Local Development Plan in April 2015. There will then be a further period of consultation before the Final Plan goes before the Scottish Government for assent. Dates for the next steps are uncertain at the moment because of the slippage in the timetable, but we will keep you informed.

## Boardwalk

You may have noticed work being undertaken on the boardwalk recently. The work entails restoring it to its

original level – it's been happily sinking in places for quite a while! – laying down additional anti-slip safety netting on its surface and creating new passing places. Funding for this has been provided by the Green Stimulus Peatland Restoration Project and organised by East Dunbartonshire Council. This is a welcome add-on to our earlier work of installing anti-slip panels and, when finished, should now make the whole of the boardwalk safe in bad weather conditions.

## Website

We would like to thank George Paterson, one of our members, for updating our website, which now features several pages instead of just one. We will continue to add photos and news to the website, including our Facebook page. By "liking" the Facebook page you will receive updates on events and news items as soon as they become available.

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

### Committee Members

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To place an article on our web page or Newsletter, please contact Anna Illingworth in the first instance, tel. 0141 776 1560.

# friends of Lenzie Moss

Winter 2013/14

*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.*



*View over the old peat workings from the former rifle range*

## Green for go as peatland projects are on stream

### Vital work to preserve and safeguard Scotland's peatlands is part of a £1.7 million Scottish Government scheme to bring benefits to habitats and species.

The Green Stimulus Peatland Restoration Project, administered by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), aims to reduce carbon emissions by restoring degraded examples of the habitat. It began in November 2012 and has seen restoration at 11 sites across Scotland.

Works have included the placing of dams to protect peatlands. One site, Portmoak Moss in Perth and Kinross, has 48 of the structures: ditch damming; sophisticated water measurement tools; and tree felling.

Speaking on World Environment Day after a visit to a raised bog at Langlands Moss in Lanarkshire, Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, said: "Scotland's peatlands are internationally important and cover around 20% of Scotland. They provide a support for our economy, culture and environment, and supply highly valued habitats for wildlife."

He continued: "Restoring peat-forming habitats which have been drained or damaged will help ensure that these peatlands and bogs, rather than becoming sources of greenhouse gases, as they can be when deteriorating, are returned to good condition and to being vital carbon sinks, locking in many millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and other damaging gases. As set out in the draft Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP2), peatlands will play an increasing role in helping us to mitigate the effects of climate change."

The Green Stimulus Peatland Restoration Project will fund work over the next two years with the aim of helping on-the-ground peatland restoration.

Susan Davies, SNH's Director of Policy and Advice, stressed: "This project helps secure this vital work at our important peatland sites. Many of these are in urgent need of restoration to return them to a condition which fulfils their potential for biodiversity, carbon capture and other interests. This innovative project is making a difference to Scotland's peatlands, and will help deliver innovative and fresh techniques to preserving these rare habitats."

*SNH press release of 5 June 2013.*

## New Dams for Lenzie Moss



One new dam under construction 02/10/2013

The Green Stimulus Fund has recently provided additional funding for Lenzie Moss to install 4 new dams on the northern edge of the old peat workings to help with rehydrating the bog and alleviating water run-off into the north woodland towards Blackthorn Avenue. The area immediately behind the dams is already showing signs of water retention within the bog. A further 2 dams are shortly to be installed to capture additional leakage and these are to be funded by East Dunbartonshire Council. Walrags are being installed to monitor water levels. Our thanks go to Jackie Gillespie, EDC's Neighbourhood Services Strategy Officer, for applying for this funding.



One completed new dam on a recent frosty day

## Green Hairstreak Butterfly

**Butterflies are far less common now than they were 50 years ago. Since the 1940s, 97% of wildflower meadows have been destroyed, along with much downland, ancient woodland and peatbogs.**

One wet Sunday in August a couple of FoLM members joined a Butterfly Walk through Merkland Local Nature Reserve. Despite the rain several species appeared, including the beautiful peacock. This led us to wonder about butterflies on Lenzie Moss, and gave rise to the article below concerning a local rarity – the Green Hairstreak butterfly.

Lenzie Moss is currently the only site in the Glasgow area where the Green Hairstreak can be seen.

Despite the bright green appearance of this small butterfly, it is often difficult to spot. The upper sides of its wings are brown, but this is rarely seen since the Green Hairstreak always closes its wings when not in flight. The green undersides are a vivid iridescent metallic green, often edged in tan brown with white spots forming a faint white 'streak' on the hind wings. The extent of the white marking is highly variable and on some individuals almost absent.

Males and females look similar and are most readily told apart by their behaviour: rival males may be seen in a spiralling flight close to shrubs, while the less conspicuous

females are more often encountered while laying eggs. The female lays eggs singly on flower buds or shoots of nearby food plants in early summer. They are pale green when first laid, but darken after a few days. The eggs hatch after a week or two. The green and yellow larvae drop to the ground to pupate in late summer. They then hibernate over winter as pupae with the adult butterflies emerging in late spring. Hibernating as pupae distinguishes them from other hairstreaks in the British Isles, which hibernate as eggs.

It prefers warm, sheltered sites near woodland, particularly birch, close to shrubs that its caterpillars feed on. One such shrub is blaeberry, of which we have a lot on the Moss.

Emergence of the adult butterfly varies depending on temperature but on a warm, still day in May, June or early July, it may be possible to spot a colony of these butterflies along the northern edge of the old peat workings on the Moss.

For this information we gratefully acknowledge Butterfly Conservation Scotland at [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org), Steven Cheshire of British Butterflies at [www.britishbutterflies.co.uk](http://www.britishbutterflies.co.uk), and UK Butterflies at [www.ukbutterflies.co.uk](http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk)



Green hairstreak butterfly, copyright Jim Black