

NEWS IN BRIEF

1. PATHS - You may have noticed the additional infill on part of the pathways round the Moss. The Mugdock Rangers and their volunteers have been undertaking this to help prevent puddling where the path has sunk. See also (7) below).

2. BIRCH and SCRUB REMOVAL – on the conservation day on 18 October the volunteers were involved in removing more birch saplings from the bog to prevent drying out of the peat, and in removing scrub from the grassland areas to encourage wild flowers to grow in due course.

3. WEED WIPE - A weed wipe has been done over the whole area of the cut bog and the uncut peat. This consists of running a glove soaked in Glyphosate (a non-residual herbicide) over the leaves of young birch seedlings and re-growth. It effectively disrupts photosynthesis by destroying the chlorophyll present in the leaves and the plant starves. The future management prescription will be to weed wipe all new scrub which will seed in from the mature trees surrounding the peat bog. This will keep the peat bog free of scrub, will increase wetting of the peat bog and will be much easier, less damaging and quicker to do than hand pulling scrub.

4. DAMS - Two more dams have been installed in the uncut peat area to the west of the boardwalk. A further three are to be installed. This will help in preventing the northerly run-off.

5. BIKES - there is still a problem with bikes on the peat mound, which is causing erosion and drying out of the peat. To help with this, volunteers have planted heather seeds on the mound to bind the peat, covering the seeds and young plants with brushwood for protection.

6. NEW LENZIE MOSS PRIMARY SCHOOL - one of our members has been continuing to attend the latest round of consultation meetings with regard to the new Lenzie Moss Primary School, to ensure that due consideration is given to the sensitivity of the site in relation to the Moss, and to its hydrology.

7. PATH ACCESS - we have also participated in discussions to consider the robustness of the paths on the Moss vis-à-vis children accessing the new school over the Moss. This includes maintaining public access from Myrtle Avenue on to the Moss through the school.

8. BEA'S PATH – we are pleased to note that the sign for Bea's Path has now been re-installed on the new lamp post between the Moss and Laburnum Gardens.

9. HARRY POTTER BROOM ACTIVITY – there was a very good turnout for our traditional Harry Potter broom making on 11 October. This is always popular with children.

10. DOG POO – this is still a problem. In spite of notices, dog poo bags, and bins, some dog owners still don't pick up after their dogs. We have consulted with Lenzie's Community Wardens who will patrol the Moss as often as their time permits. Unfortunately, offenders have to be caught in the act before any action can be taken! A polite reminder to offenders from you wouldn't go amiss if you spot them.

11. PALING – you will have noticed the paling fence round a part of the bog near the boardwalk. This has been put up to protect the flora in this section from trampling by dogs.

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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friends of Lenzie Moss

Winter 2014/15

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.



Picture: nationally rare Bog Rosemary on Lenzie Moss

Peat depth survey

On 27 February 2014 the countryside ranger service carried out a peat depth survey to examine the residual peat depths over the area from which peat was extracted commercially in the 20th century.

Site number	Peat depths (metres)
1	3.19
2	4.79
3	5.08
4	1.39
5	3.87
6	4.18
7	5.64
8	4.79
9	2.51
10	3.97
11	4.84
12	4.6
13	3.28
14	2.76
15	2.33



Acknowledgement and thanks are given to the Green Stimulus Fund for funding this project.

We hope to extend the survey to the unexcavated bog immediately to the south of the railway line as a comparison.

Dates for your diary

Conservation Days (10.45 am onwards)

Saturday 17 January
Saturday 21 February
Saturday 21 March

Have fun, get fit, enjoy a day out in the fresh air and enhance the biodiversity of Lenzie Moss. Wear wellies. Follow signs from the moss end of Lenzie Railway Station car park. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Free

Other Activities in 2015

We are currently planning other activities for 2015

and these will appear as soon as available on our website and in the Mugdock Rangers' publicity. If you have enjoyed particular activities in the past and would like to see them repeated, let us know.

A new one we are investigating is a Wetland Walk and Talk, with either a member of Scottish Natural Heritage or with our local environmental officer. To attend any of the activities contact:

East Dunbartonshire & Mugdock Country Park
Ranger Service
Tel: 0141 956 6586
Email: rangers@mugdock.org

History of Lenzie Moss

Lenzie Moss as we know it comprises three different natural domains: birch woodland, wild grassland and raised peat bog. The latter is its most important feature, being one of the few remaining raised bogs in central Scotland, and as such, of international significance.

It came into being thousands of years ago, at the end of the last ice age. As the ice retreated, meltwater formed large pools in natural hollows, one of which became Lenzie Moss. Its only source of fresh water since then has been rain, which is lacking in the nutrients normally introduced by inflowing streams. Thus, only plants which can tolerate moist, acidic and nutrient-poor habitats can thrive here, - such as sphagnum mosses and insect-eating plants like sundew. At first they colonised the perimeter, gradually encroaching over the pool as the centuries passed, until they filled it completely like a sponge, their dead remains forming a deep layer of peat below. Eventually this vegetation rose above the level of the surrounding land, forming a dome shape, hence the official designation raised-bog wetland. (The name Lenzie probably comes from a Gaelic word meaning a boggy plain.)

We first hear of its human history in 1226, when the canons of Cambuskenneth Abbey were granted permission to remove peat from the Moss. Later, the freemen of Kirkintilloch enjoyed the same right, and became known as the "Peat Lords". Then in the 17th century several landowners were ordered to allow access to it across their properties, and a certain Walter Rankin was recorded as having repeatedly set fire to the peat - a not uncommon occurrence even now!

With a rising local population in the 19th century, uses were found for various parts of the site. An old municipal rubbish dump in the north-east corner used to yield up bottles and pieces of crockery, but is now buried under vegetation. An artificial mound was built at the west end of the bog as a rifle range target for volunteer soldiers, and spent bullets still sometimes surface there. Also, sheep were grazed on the Moss, keeping at bay invasive trees and shrubs.



Peat removal made little impact until, after World War 2, large-scale peat extraction brought a dramatic change: the ensuing baulks and ditches have levelled the original dome shape. You can still see some of the sleepers of the narrow-gauge railway which carried the peat from the bog to the peat-processing plant, the ruins of which stand to the north side of the railway path (see above). From there the shredded peat was transported away via a railway siding, evidence of which is still visible too. This operation ceased in the 1960's as the use of peat in horticulture became frowned upon.

The amenity value of the area was first recognised officially in 1898, but nothing happened until the Friends of Lenzie Moss started up in 1985. The group came into prominence when we helped defeat a housing proposal in 1990, under the energetic leadership of Beatrice Rae, who continued to head FoLM until her sudden death in 1999. The original right-of-way path has now been named in her memory (see the signs at each end - "Bea's path"). We were always aware of what needed to be done to conserve the Moss properly, so our efforts finally led to East Dunbartonshire Council establishing Lenzie Moss as a Local Nature Reserve in 2009. Since then the Council, aided by the Rangers, FoLM, and many others, are restoring, managing and interpreting the Moss as an irreplaceable community asset. Thanks are due to the late Joe Fisher for much of the historical information here.

For a more detailed history of Lenzie Moss, see our website www.friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk