

NEWS IN BRIEF

BUND REMOVAL Habitat restorers have now cut back the additional birch scrub and work started in December on levelling the bunds. For those members who weren't able to receive our earlier email about this we enclose an explanatory note.

BOGHEAD PLAYING FIELD. The playing field adjacent to Lenzie Moss is being drained to make a drier surface for games. The hydrology of the Moss won't be affected.

LENDLEASE In June three of our committee members met with East Dunbartonshire Council and two representatives of LendLease, the company project-managing the building of the new Lenzie Moss Primary School. The purpose was to confirm that the building project would have no detrimental effect on the Moss in terms of hydrology, light pollution and inappropriate path development. The response: the hydrology should not be affected; the lights would be positioned so as to cause very little pollution; and the pathways are still under review. We have asked to be kept informed of any proposed changes to the existing pathways, both over the LNR and the wider Moss.

HARRY POTTER There was another successful Harry Potter Broom day in October, overseen by the Mugdock Rangers.

WILD FLOWER PLANTING Alongside the wild flower planting by Lenzie Moss Primary School at the top of Heather Drive, we received a grant for planting out a further batch of flowers, which we undertook with the Mugdock Rangers and volunteers. 360 plants were planted in total.

NEW NOTICE BOARD We await at the time of writing a new notice board on the Moss at the top of Heather Drive. We applied for a grant from Crudens Community Benefit Fund for this. Crudens also very kindly offered to deliver and install the board for us. It is larger than the original one so it should be able to accommodate more information about the Moss. The original one is due to be re-sited on Bea's Path facing the entrance from Hawthorn Ave.

TEA WITH THE PROVOST Earlier this year, the FoLM committee was invited by Anne Jarvis to "Tea with The Provost" in recognition of the work done by its members. We duly attended this on 24 August. Each ED Councillor had nominated a voluntary group for recognition and it was very interesting to hear about other voluntary work being carried out in East Dunbartonshire.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION To bring us into the 21st century we hope in future to communicate with you about specific items of interest by email. This will keep you abreast more timely of happenings in relation to the Moss. If you haven't supplied us with an email address we will let you have a paper copy. You won't be deluged with emails, and of course, we will still be producing our Newsletter.

WEBSITE We have also started off another page on our website to include items of interest in connection with peat bogs generally, so do have a look.

HEATHER DELIGHT The heather on the Moss this year, particularly by the boardwalk, was spectacular. We hope you managed to get round to see it. Fabulous colour. Many comments on this from visitors to the Moss. Photos are on our website.



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

Winter 2015/16

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.

What is a Local Nature Reserve?

We know what we enjoy about Lenzie Moss on a personal level, but do we know what its designation as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) actually means?

Under the Countryside Act 1949 the purpose of LNRs was set out as being threefold: 1) study and research, 2) preservation, or 3) both.

Over the years, peoples' general awareness and expectations of the environment and the natural heritage have changed, as indeed have the mechanisms for fulfilling these expectations and integrating them with social and economic priorities. In 1994, the importance of LNRs was strengthened by their inclusion in Objective 16 of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and by the recognition of their role in protecting local natural heritage interests within National Planning Policy Guideline 14 – Natural Heritage (Scottish Office, 1999).

Government policy also recognises that society needs to act more sustainably, and promoting the aims of LNRs encourages people to understand their local environment.

Therefore a LNR has now become a protected area of land designated by a local authority because of its special natural interest and/or educational value. The authority's aim is to stimulate local interest and effort in wildlife conservation, to provide public enjoyment and education,

and to give opportunities for local scientific and natural history investigation, as well as the peaceful contemplation of nature. It also has a responsibility to preserve the flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest in the area.

As part of local distinctiveness LNRs can be a valuable part of local landscape character and give a locality its "sense of place". Indeed, it may be the LNR habitat and/or landform, alongside cultural attributes, which give a local landscape its distinctive qualities. As a result, protecting and managing a site as an LNR may have the added benefit of safeguarding and enhancing distinctive local landscapes.

Thus, LNRs help to:

- preserve the flora, fauna and distinctive landscape of an area.
- enrich individuals' quality of life and build more sustainable communities.
- offer benefits for people's health, both physically as somewhere to walk or play, and mentally as somewhere to unwind and enjoy the quietness of nature.
- offer local communities, through involvement in the development and management of LNRs, help to shape their own local natural heritage.

Acknowledgement: Scottish Natural Heritage LNR Guidance Notes. Read more at www.snh.org.uk



In this issue we look at some of the community activities enjoyed on Lenzie Moss.



Water testing

In 2014 Primary 6s and 7s at Lenzie Moss Primary School embarked on a survival week, imagining that they had been on a flight which had made an emergency landing on an unknown island. They had to source clean water and find scientific ways to test whether it was salt- and germ- free! They did this through filtration, pH testing and pond dipping on Lenzie Moss, in Boghead Wood and at the marina. They also looked for signs of life using a Water Quality Card provided by the Mugdock Rangers. The results showed that water quality in these places was very good and sometimes even excellent. A lot of fun was had - even if some of the

pupils were a bit dubious about the mud involved at the start.

"After you looked closely for a few minutes you realised that all the beasties in your tray were a little bit different and you could identify what they were." (JB)

"We found water spiders and I didn't know you could get water spiders." (MM)

"I found a diving bug that breathed through its bottom and lots of other different creatures that I didn't know about!" (RM)



LendLease volunteers

LendLease volunteers helping to clear some of the small birch saplings round the edge of the old peat workings in October this year.

LendLease is project-managing the new Lenzie Moss Primary School. Part of its ethos is to get involved with local communities. FoLM had met representatives of the company in June – News in Brief on page 4. Subsequently, one of our committee members took them on a guided walk around the Moss and then arranged for them to liaise with the Mugdock Rangers to agree on their contribution to conservation work on the Moss.

Merlwood nursery at play

In 2015 Merlwood Nursery started a Forest Kindergarten for their children on Lenzie Moss. "The children enjoy the open-ended resources, especially the trees, mud, stones, sticks and a plethora of bugs and slugs. With this hands-on exploring the children are improving their learning capacity and developing their problem-solving skills. The children are enjoying the benefits of playing outdoors, which makes positive improvements to their health and wellbeing." Gillian Cochrane, Merlwood Nursery



New seat for the Moss

Peace and quiet enjoying the view. This is the new seat which we arranged to be installed in October this year. You'll find it near the boardwalk at the start of the east-west mineral railway, overlooking the Moss towards the Campsie Fells. The rustic wood was donated by McArthur's Sawmills and the uprights were recycled from wood taken out of the playpark at Mugdock. Grateful thanks for the construction go to the Conservation Volunteers, Paul from FoLM, and Alan, one of the Mugdock Rangers who oversaw the project.



Feedback from Project Ability re a recent walk their group had on Lenzie Moss

"Our walking group took the bus from Buchanan Street bus station and in a short time reached Lenzie, and one of several entrances to the Moss where they were met by one of the 'Friends of Lenzie Moss'. This was really useful as although the path is clear and easy to follow, having someone who can provide historical knowledge and indicate points of interest is always a great enhancement to a walk, so many thanks to Paul for giving his time and such interesting information." You can see the group's beautiful photos of the flora on Lenzie Moss on their website. www.project-ability.co.uk/blog/walking-group-week-15-lenzie-moss



Dirty hands all round!

In May this year the pupils at Lenzie Moss Primary School planted out the wild flowers they had raised £160 for through their sponsored silence. Along with the Mugdock Rangers, we helped them plant: marsh violet, ragged robin, cowslip, devils-bit scabious, greater birds-foot trefoil, and fritillary. Well done to all. Each pupil received a packet of wild flower seeds for their own gardens, courtesy of BioDiversityScotland's Nature Festival. There are more photos on our website.