

friends of Lenzie Moss

Winter 2018/19

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.

ALL ABOUT FUNGI



BRACKET FUNGI

Photographed on birch trees at the end of Heath Avenue, October 2017. Very hard to the touch. Pure white underbelly.



ALL ABOUT FUNGI

AT OUR AGM ON 25 JUNE, we were treated to a fascinating talk about fungi, given by **Graeme Walker** of the **Clyde and Argyll Fungus Group**.

Many of us would not know either the names of specific fungi or the difference between edible ones and poisonous ones. Graeme stressed that expert identification is essential.

Edible fungi attract a very specialised group of collectors, but there is also great enthusiasm among those who just love to go out on fungi hunts to look at them. Children are no less enthusiastic about searching out fungi either, and indeed, are great at locating very small species.

He showed us a beautiful array of slides of different types of fungi, with magical names such as slime moulds, ascomycetes (spores produced internally), basidiomycetes (spores produced externally), rusts and smuts, jellies, fingers, not forgetting yeasts and mildew – accompanied by lots of detail about fungi, both in general and about each of the particular types.

SUBSEQUENTLY, ON 29 SEPTEMBER, 13 of us joined **Alan McBride**, from the **Mugdock Rangers**, for a “Fungus Amungus” walk on Lenzie Moss, and we were in for a treat. Alan gave us an introductory talk about what fungi were, including the different types: their uses, their life cycle, where to find them.

Bogs are not generally conducive to fungal growth, apart from a few specialised species. On Lenzie Moss therefore, we needed to look in the drier areas of woodland to see them.

We explored the south woodland area and found numerous examples of fungi. Some were very visible, such as the bracket fungi on trees, but others, particularly those on the ground, were more elusive and easy to miss if you weren't looking carefully. We managed to identify most the fungi we found with the help of Alan's extensive knowledge and his identification guides.

FACTS ABOUT FUNGI

- Fungi are in a biological class of their own, neither animal nor plant.
- They are closer to animals than plants - their cell wall is composed primarily of chitin, a substance found in the exoskeletons of insects, and crab and lobster shells.
- They are eukaryotic organisms i.e. organisms whose cells have a nucleus enclosed within membranes.
- There are 1.5 million species of fungi worldwide, with 15,000 in the U.K. They have been around for about 1 billion years.
- They are responsible for global recycling of nutrients, carbon sequestration, and even prevention of desertification in some drought-prone regions.
- We rely on them for drugs (penicillium, statins), food, synthesis of biofuels, and cleaning up the environment through bioremediation.
- Fungal pathogens can also wreak havoc by devastating crops and wild plants.
- Like animals, humans and most bacteria, all fungi are heterotrophs i.e. organisms that cannot manufacture their own food by carbon fixation, and therefore derive their intake of nutrition from other sources of organic carbon, mainly plant or animal matter.
- They cause decay by releasing enzymes which break down compounds in their food so it can be absorbed by their cells. Some fungi are symbiotic with their host i.e. they co-exist. Others are parasitic i.e. they eventually destroy their host.
- When we see a fungus, what we are seeing is the fruiting body. The mycelium – the fundamental building block of the fungus – is underground. The fruiting body is responsible for reproduction, which it does by producing microscopic spores, which are dispersed either on the wind, or by shooting them out in explosive bursts. Whenever a spore germinates on a new host, it starts to grow by producing further mycelium.

For more about fungi, visit:

<https://stateoftheworldsfungi.org/2018/reports>

FUNGI FOUND ON LENZIE MOSS 29 SEPTEMBER 2018

We've put the full descriptions of these fungi, plus more photos that we don't have room for here, on our website www.friendsoflenziemoss.com under the PHOTOS tab



Tar spot fungus (*rhytisma acerinum*):
found on a sycamore tree shortly after entering the railway path..... [read more](#)



Birch bracket fungus (*piptoporus betulinus*):
This fungus is one of the largest found on Lenzie Moss..... [read more](#)



Fly agaric fungus (*amanita muscaria*):
This fungus reaches a diameter of about 20cm. Poisonous, hallucinogenic if watered down..... [read more](#)



Turkey tail polypore fungus (*trametes versicolor*):
Because of its shape and many varied colours, its common name is turkey tail..... [read more](#)



Tinder fungus (*Fomes Fomentarius*):
This fungus produces very large fruiting bodies shaped like a horse's hoof..... [read more](#)



Polyporus varius:
Typically fruiting on small hardwood sticks and decaying branches..... [read more](#)

FUNGI CONTINUED



Brown roll-rim fungus (*paxillus involutus*):

This fungus' mycelium wraps itself round the roots of a tree rather than invading the trunk..... [read more](#)



Bonnet cap (*mycena garariculata*):

The fungi grow mostly in clusters on the well-decayed stumps of trees from spring to autumn..... [read more](#)

OTHER NEWS

Recent conservation work: More boardwalk/path repairs carried out; 4 leaning/snapped trees along railway path removed.

Resignation: We're very sorry to lose the support of David Lee who has had to resign from FoLM's committee because of ill health. Thank you David for all your service over the past few years. David diligently kept the notice boards up to date and regularly contributed to producing the newsletters, as well as giving his inciteful advice at meetings.

Wild flower planting:



Receiving instructions from Maggie



On with the planting

On October 6 a group of volunteers - 20 beavers & cubs with their parents, 2 boys from the Boys Brigade, 2 French students, and 3 conservation volunteers - turned up to plant wild flowers on the Moss to add to the wild flower meadow started by pupils of Lenzie Moss Primary School in 2015.

The flowers were provided by means of a Grant for £500 from the "Volunteering Matters Action Earth" campaign, which is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage. There was also support from Streetscene Technical Support at EDC, including guidance from Maggie Ferguson of the Mugdock Rangers.

"Volunteering Matters Action Earth" is supporting about 170 projects in Scotland in 2018 with grant awards of up to £500. The grants are aimed at groups who support and encourage volunteers to create and improve places for wildlife, and we are very grateful for their financial assistance.

THANK YOU to everyone who turned up to help.

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.