

FRIENDS OF LENZIE MOSS

REPORTS FOR THE AGM OF 14 JUNE 2022

1. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (C. Morrison)

Although during the past year we have still been in the midst of the pandemic, when we might have expected things to be quiet, it's been quite a busy year email wise.

Our main event of course has been the discovery of the fossorial water voles and the work being done on the nature reserve to enhance their habitat, including bunds and water sources. We have reported quite fully on this in our newsletters and via email. There is a dedicated walk on the Moss later this month, led by Starling Learning, to learn more about the voles and their habitat. However, it's not been all good news in relation to the voles. In spite of the fact that they and their habitat are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) a member unfortunately encountered a dead vole which appeared to have been killed by another animal. In addition, we also had to enlist the support of Wildlife Crime officers in Police Scotland as a result of the use of machinery and further tree felling on adjacent land where water voles had also been discovered.

Other events included the ever popular Fungus Amungus, which also led us to research the Wood Wide Web – always a pleasure to explore a new topic - plus butterfly events in May and June this year. We are currently trying to organise a post COP26 climate change walk in conjunction with Lenzie Community Council to raise awareness of the value of peat bogs for carbon storage. You will all know the invaluable work carried out by EDC in re-wetting the degraded part of the bog through the installation of dams and clearance of birch saplings, and we're keen to support the community council in their climate change activities.

Members have been very active this last year in sending in their photos and videos of sights on the Moss, including the deer, the water voles, and the wild flowers, and we love receiving these, so thank you, and keep them coming.

Members have also been very vigilant in looking after the Moss, for which we are very grateful, reporting problems – deer being chased by dogs (in spite of requests to keep dogs on a leash during the ground nesting bird season March to August); the presence of quadbikes (again in spite of a notice to advise that these vehicles are banned being unsuitable for the pathways); illegal waste dumping; tree felling on adjacent land; inappropriate use of our notice boards by other organisations; and replacing the brushwood barrier that someone had removed at the top of heather Drive –the barrier was there to protect the water vole habitat. So thank you to them.

We were also very interested to receive emails from a couple of other visitors to the Moss, one of whose interest lay in investigating the invertebrate life there, and the other in preparing a detailed history of commercial peat excavation during the last century. It's so interesting to learn of people's enthusiasms. We'll report more on these 2 items in our next newsletter.

We will continue to follow up on the EDC Active Travel Strategy in so far as it affects the pathways on the Moss; the footfall counter showing the use of the Moss; progress on the boardwalk replacement.

My thanks go to,

- the other committee members, and Anna Illingworth who contributes to our newsletters
- Jackie Gillespie of EDC's Streetscene team,
- the Mugdock Rangers Maggie Ferguson, Alan McBride and Stuart McFarlane
- and the Lenzie Moss volunteers

for all their invaluable work over the past 12 months, and to our members for their continuing support.

Lenzie Moss needs us all.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT (P. Dudman)

Our income and expenditure has remained similar to previous years, although this year with the addition of a grant received for bird boxes from EDC.

Our income from subscriptions and donations has remained at the same level as the previous year, at £408. Our total income including the grant was £801, with expenditure being £767 giving a small surplus of £34.

The highest cost item on expenditure is newsletters, with the website fees the only other major item of expenditure in a normal year. We feel that these costs are still reasonable based on our income. Website fees have been creeping up though, and we have been advised of further above inflation price increases coming. The value of keeping the website will need to be considered at some point in the future, and we would welcome help from any member knowledgeable in this to get in touch with the committee.

The grant for bird boxes allowed us to purchase boxes for many different species of birds, and the countryside rangers have put these up at no cost to us. Many thanks to them for this.

The final point I would like to raise is the bequest recently received from the estate of David Lee. Davis was a long standing member and committee member, and has left us £3607. The committee are considering suitable uses for this bequest.

We would welcome any ideas that members have for this generous bequest. Please forward these to friendsoflenziemoss@gmail.com

3. REPORT FROM THE COUNTYSIDE RANGERS (M. Ferguson)

Over the past year the boardwalk has taken up the majority the time I've spent on Lenzie Moss. It is such a well used resource and greatly appreciated by those who use it.

Boardwalk tasks include -

Carrying out fortnightly safety checks of the boardwalk

Responding to reports of problems with the boardwalk - a couple of locals who walk the boardwalk every day have my contact details and let me know if there are problems

Undertaking regular repairs which include replacing rotted deck boards, nailing down loose boards, replacing rotted side pieces, shoring up small collapsed sections, stapling down worn through mesh netting and screwing down loose fibredecking.

On a couple of occasions I've undertaken larger jobs involving lifting sections of boardwalk to replace the rotted stringers underneath that hold the deck boards in place.

When working on the boardwalk lots of people stop to offer thanks for the work being carried out and to let me know how much they appreciate the moss and the boardwalk. Over this past year there have been no negative comments only positive ones. Many people comment on how much the paths meant to them especially during lockdown.

With the help of Stuart (ranger) we put up the FoLM bird boxes in the woodlands, there are 8 hole nester boxes, 2 wren boxes, 2 tree creeper boxes, 4 open fronted boxes and 1 woodpecker box. There are still 3 larger boxes to go up and we have decided on locations for these.

Other maintenance jobs carried out include, litter picking, felling unsafe trees near the path and replacing a broken board on a bridge.

A couple of rhododendron bushes have been reported to me and I found a third one the other day, these will be removed in the autumn.

There have also been a couple of sightings of Japanese knotweed in the woods that run alongside the railway line. Stuart will herbicide these in the autumn.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

There were no objections to the appointment of the following committee members either at the AGM, or in advance of the AGM from non-attending members.

Chairperson – Paul Dudman

Treasurer – Katherine Kelsey

Secretary, including membership – Christine Morrison

Event and PR secretary - Emily Henderson

Joan and Ian Christie will remain as ordinary committee members