

Friends of Lenzie Moss 2017-2018

When I started to think about the past twelve months, my first thoughts were that this has been a quiet year. But, looking over my emails, I realised that we have been quite active on several fronts. So I would like to go over some of the things that have been happening, in the categories of consultations, events, maintenance and other news.

Consultations

In September, we met with a consultant working for EDC on the proposed cycle path from Lenzie to Bishopbriggs that may use the south woods path. We believe we successfully conveyed our concerns and since then have been gathering views via Facebook and our email. Views so far are mixed.

On the subject of paths, we are involved in the discussions about a path into Lenzie Meadow school, but this is not progressing very fast.

In March, committee members attended the consultation on the Blackthorne Grove development, as private individuals, to gain a better understanding of the potential impact this may have. We were given assurances that the development is not have any impact on hydrology beyond it's limits, and these are not within the Lenzie Moss site.

We have been involved in meetings and discussions with the EDC Tales and Trails project.

“Trails and Tales is an arts and heritage learning programme which will engage artists with communities to explore their local history and heritage.

Each of the creative projects featured on this web site will generate research, conversations and creative responses to learning to inform the design and creation of a series of outdoors sculptural arts and heritage trails, across 11 local communities (towns and villages) in East Dunbartonshire.” The Lenzie Moss proposal is for 2 or 3 peat stack sculptures to be located in woodland sites or Bea's path, away from the peat bog.

Lastly, we have been consulted on proposals for forest schools. Forest School is the name of a specific ethos – a way of working with people in an outdoor natural space for an extended period of time, often a full year. At this time one has been approved by EDC, at a site near the old peat works. Our concerns remain over aspects of these proposals, and we will be monitoring any effect on the Moss.

Events

When we were asked to publicise the Lenzie sensory art walk, members attended this to find out more. While the walk was to consult on art works around the station area and so of less interest to the Friends, the walk itself was very interesting. Proceeding at a very slow pace, we were asked at point to stop at points and focus on one particular sense, then discuss what we experienced. A very relaxing way to spend time on the Moss, and appreciate it using all of your senses.

We have held fewer events for the public in the past twelve months, in part due to the more limited availability of the countryside rangers. The Harry Potter brooms event was run and the rangers ran three conservation volunteer work days, which are detailed in their report. One ongoing discussion for the committee is whether we can fund the necessary insurance required for us to host walks and talks without the presence of the rangers.

We have taken Lenzie Moss to groups outwith Lenzie, with Christine now having a slideshow available that she has presented to groups such as the Parkinson's Support Group.

Another group running conservation events on the Moss has been Butterfly Conservation Scotland, who held two work days last year.

Maintenance

The boardwalk is deteriorating, and we are concerned about its lifespan. There have been several repairs carried out in the past year and more can be expected. We are still hopeful that grant funding can be found for a replacement.

The conservation work has mainly focussed on path repairs, with a rubbish clearing event also taking place. We must thank those members of the public who regularly pick up rubbish for the generally litter free state of the paths.

Report from Jackie Gillespie

- An application for SRDP funding for boardwalk upgrade has been made.
- A brief for weed wiping of all small scrub over total open peat bog areas has been sent out. This work should be carried out at In July to August this year.
- Lenzie Meadows Nursery have been given permission for a Forest School site near the peat processing plant area.
- EDC will apply for £2,000 for paths for a grant for ultritrec material to upgrade path sections around the Moss.

Other news

Our website and Facebook pages continue to be well used. We now have over 400 followers on the Facebook page.

We are aware of ongoing issues with vandalism and antisocial behaviour from a small number of people using the Moss. There has been quad bike usage of the paths and grass areas around Heather Drive, and we encourage members to dial 101 if any quad bike is seen on the Moss. We have had some vandalism to the noticeboards, in terms of graffiti, and this will be dealt with over the summer period.

We have been consulted on the herbs and flowers of Lenzie Moss by Billington's, who have created their own gin which will include botanicals common on the Moss, cranberries and blueberries. Lenzie Moss is mentioned on the label !

We were saddened to hear in August of the death of Paul Harte. Paul was an enthusiastic member of the conservation volunteers, and a good friend to Lenzie Moss.

We are in need of additional committee members. No particular skills are required, but ideally we would like a member with the enthusiasm to run events, one to take

over as membership secretary, and another to look after our web and Facebook resources. Please consider helping out with these roles or as a normal committee member. The committee meets three times a year, and the duties are not extensive. I can vouch that it is very interesting voluntary work and key to the ongoing protection of Lenzie Moss.

I would like to thank Jackie Gillespie for her continued support. Jackie has worked tirelessly to obtain funding for improvement works and does all she can to ensure the conservation of the Moss.

We continue to receive excellent support from the Countryside Ranger Service, who do so much of the background work that keeps the Moss in such good condition.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee and all the volunteers for their work through the year, and our members for your ongoing support. When we are representing the interests of our group, the numbers of members we have is an important factor.

Paul Dudman, Chair, June 2018