

Chairperson's Report for 2024.

Last year my report focused on the end of the improvement works on the Moss. We can now enjoy the excellent new paths and wide boardwalk, but there was also significant work carried out to support regeneration of the bog. While LNR status gives a level of protection, future development is an ongoing concern as the local development cycle comes around.

Last year I described the challenges that the committee was facing, in terms of its need for more members. We are still a very active group, but we have a very small committee. Over recent years our membership has not declined, but our committee numbers have dwindled. We now have only three active members.

The committee decided that we needed to review how the group is run, given our limited resources. Much of our available time was taken up with membership and subscription matters, and responding to enquiries. We felt we had little time left over to organise events and become more involved in community contact.

To help streamline the running of the group, we decided on several changes to how we do things:

1. Simplify the subscription to a household membership, and trial a two year period.
2. Move the newsletter to an email format (with the option of returning to a printed one at some point if appropriate).
3. Continue to make our priority the response to any threat to the protection of the Moss, be that through responses to consultations, contact with the council, and any reports of damage to the Moss.
4. Support activities underway with local organisations such as the schools.
5. When possible, run events, and support requests for talks, meetings etc.
6. Put on hold activities such as updating the website.

We continue to be active in the community, and the following is intended to give an overview of what we have been up to.

We have been working with Lenzie Meadow school on a number of activities, including guided walks for their eco club, and talks on the Moss to all the primary 5 pupils. We also have a planned guided walk for the Scouts planned for September this year.

We have purchased two new hand carved elm seats that have replaced two existing benches that were decaying. We hope to add some perching benches to complete the rest stops in the circular path.

There have been five guided walks this year:

- Marvellous Minibeasts of the Moss, 30th June 2023.
- The Marvellous Moss, 9th September.
- Fungi – a beginner's guide. 7 October.
- Dawn Chorus, 2nd May 2024.

- Water Voles, 16 May, led by Starling Learning

We attempted to organise a peat core event, but our two existing contacts are no longer able to do this. We have since been in contact with Peatland Action to find out if they can help.

In June we attended an art event that took place on the Moss. This was the a celebration of the summer solstice by Corpores Infames, part of the Glasgow International Festival of Contemporary Art. They invited their audience to witness a boggy dance inspired by ancient rituals to mark the season's change. After inviting the audience to enjoy a benediction of balm, they led them along the south woods path accompanied by meditative chanting, pausing for incantations at various places on the way.

In summary, we continue to be busy with the work that we hope members would want us to do. We aim to keep the Moss well used, but in a way that continues to preserve it.

We have been involved in meetings with EDC on future conservation works; responded to requests for practical conservation ideas; liaised on events (such as the art event); given help in support of local youth groups; responded to requests for talks; helped to find volunteers for a butterfly transect; and dealt with reports of trees down, knotweed, dumped garden waste, and broken boards on the new boardwalk.

Unfortunately this winter there were no conservation volunteer events organised by EDC. While this was in main due to the new paths not needing attention, these events have proven popular in the past. We have a list of people willing to help on future events and hope that these can be started again. We intend to identify a suitable project that our volunteers could start on for 2025.

I would like to thank our members for their ongoing support. Many of you have been members for a long time, and over the years we have been able to make our voices heard when required. Any members not wanting to join the committee, but willing to help out with an activity, please do get in touch !

Finally I would like to pass on our thanks to Jackie Gillespie at EDC and the countryside rangers at Mugdock for their ongoing support for Lenzie Moss. We owe much to them in the excellent state that we now find the Moss to be in, and in ensuring that the Moss is protected for the future. I would also like to thank Christine Morrison and Katherine Kelsey for all their work in the past year.

P Dudman.
June 2024