

Dogwalkers on Lenzie Moss earlier this year.



Dragonfly Talk

On July 9 and 10 we were very pleased to welcome Jonathan Willet who gave a talk on dragonflies, accompanied by a field trip on the Moss. Jonathan was brought up in Lenzie and we were interested to see how his interest in wildlife had developed from his early days. Here is his wildlife biography:

"My interest in nature began gudding in the Luggie Water for fish and snails. I always had a strong attraction to water and this maybe explains why I always used to fall in! When at Lenzie Academy I vividly remember a field trip to Lenzie Moss with my Biology Teacher, Mr Walkinshaw. I mainly remember it was sunny and we saw sundew; I may have seen my first dragonfly there. I went to Uni and got a BSc in Zoology at Glasgow and then an MSc in Ecology and Aberdeen. When at Aberdeen my awareness and interest in Scottish wildlife really took off. My career as a naturalist started in earnest when I started volunteering at Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve after University. After that two seasons at Aigas Field Centre near Inverness really built up my skills and knowledge. I then worked as a countryside ranger and education officer until I got the job as Stirling Council's Biodiversity Officer in 2000. Since then I have worked as a Biodiversity Officer for the last five years in a job-share post at Highland Council. In 2008 I became the first beardless chairman of the Highland Biological Recording Group (HBRG) and in 2011 the Chairman of Biological Recording in Scotland (BRISC). My self-employed work time is spent as a tour guide, guide trainer, ecological consultant, lecturer etc. There is never a dull (or is that just spare) moment.

Since my time at Beinn Eighe I have been really interested in dragonflies and both professionally and personally it is probably what I am best known for. I have run field trips for the British Dragonfly Society for eight years and have run identification training courses for the last five years. I have even managed to get some (paid!) work surveying dragonflies, something I would never have thought possible back in my volunteering days. When asked why I like dragonflies so much, I guess it is to do with being near water but also that they fly on warm, sunny days. Sitting by a pond in the sun watching dragonflies zooming about is just about as good as it gets."

Membership

Please support this important greenspace by becoming a Friend of Lenzie Moss, thus helping us carry on the work of protecting this area to the benefit of the local community. You can join (or renew your membership) by contacting our Membership Secretary. Why not tell your friends and neighbours about it too?

Annual Membership Fees are:

- Retired or Unwaged £7
- Single £7
- Family £12

Subscriptions cover the year April 1 until March 31 the following year. For this you will receive twice-yearly Newsletters and will be kept informed of events and activities concerning the Moss.

Committee Members

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To place an article on our web page or Newsletter, please contact Anna Illingworth in the first instance, tel. 0141 776 1560.

friends of Lenzie Moss

Summer 2011



**Chairman Paul
Dudman on
the Moss**

Chairperson's report 2011

With the formal status of Local Nature Reserve being achieved in late 2009, the focus for the Friends in the past 12 months has been promoting activities on the Moss and supporting the management plan activities. These include fundraising, promotion and communicating with bodies such as East Dunbartonshire & Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service, East Dunbartonshire Council and Scottish Natural Heritage.

I would like to give you a review of the activities, and also the issues that the committee are currently looking at.

(Continued on page 2)

(Chairman's Report continued)

Activities

Two broad sections:-

1. Walks and talks on various subjects
2. Conservation work supporting the Rangers.

1) In 2010 we received a grant from SNH to print leaflets on our activities. These were passed out to every primary age pupil in Lenzie, as well as other local places. Together with the Mugdock website this promotion was very successful, with every event fully subscribed.

June -

History walk, with input on management and wildlife from Stuart Macfarlane of the Rangers. Eighteen people attended.

August -

Bug hunting for children, with birch felling for adults. More than 40 people took part.

August -

We had a stall at the Canal Festival, and it was surprising how many people did not know about Lenzie Moss, highlighting the value of attending this event to reach new people.

September -

Harry Potter birch broom event: felling birch and making good use of the wood. Over 60 people attended - with Hallowe'en in mind!

All the events in 2010 were well attended, with numbers having to be restricted for some. In total there were 190 attendees, with around one third being children and up to half being first-time visitors to the Moss.

2011 started with a walk in April, due to be from Auchinloch through the Moss. The Gadloch flood interrupted that, but an alternative walk was made around the Moss. This event is a good way of showing newcomers the Moss. Last year, for example, we had a bus load from Lennoxton.

In May, we enjoyed a Ranger-led talk on birdsong, with Fiona Morton taking us around the Moss on a very wet election day evening. After the rain stopped we did manage to hear many of the Moss's birds, such as willow warbler, chaffinches, robins and blackbirds.

We had a "Then and Now" walk on the Moss on 7 June to explore the historical aspects of the Moss and the current conservation work. This was led by Christine Morrison and Stuart McFarlane. Christine also took two classes from Lenzie Primary on this walk during their Health Week in May.

2) The other focus of our activities is the continuing attack on the birch trees and saplings, which are extracting too

much water from the Moss. As they are removed, the original Moss plants and animals will be able to spread and thrive. The work needs to be carried out in winter, which can mean bad weather, but we have had good turnouts on most days (20 people), and a real difference has been made. The view from the boardwalk towards Lenzie is now unobstructed by birch, a huge improvement from two years ago. Any time that you can give to help with this ongoing work is welcomed. It is good fun and very rewarding.

Committee Work

The committee meets around five times a year, in addition to the AGM. At present we are discussing a range of issues, such as:

1. Naming of the right of way: Bea's Path
2. Signage on the Moss. We want to keep the Moss a wild place and have resisted proposals for memorials, yet supported introduction of new Council signage. It's a fine balance.
3. Benches. We have one, and intend to place a second to allow people to have a rest on the 2km circuit path.
4. Bins. The Moss is generally good with respect to litter, but this is in part due to the work of walkers who regularly pick up litter and take it home. A new pole-mounted bin will be fitted soon at the station for evaluation.
5. Non-slip covering on the boardwalk.

Communication

FoLM is now on Facebook. We have had a website for some time, but the Facebook facility is an effective way of communicating events to people. We have yet to see how many people sign up to receiving news feeds from us, but we are moving with the times here! We also have a new email address that we will use for future newsletters etc. This can be accessed by any of the committee members. Our email address is friendsoflenziemoss@gmail.com

What does next year hold for us ?

I see the next 12 months as a continuation of what we have been doing. It is probably fair to say that the grants we have previously received will be more difficult to come by, but we hope to be successful this year in obtaining a grant from the Council for improvements to the boardwalk. The Council have not replaced the Greenspace Officer, and Lesley Scott previously did a huge amount of work in obtaining the LNR status. We continue to receive excellent support from the Ranger Service, who are key to all the events in which we are involved. I would like to thank them, our committee and all the volunteers for their work throughout the year.

Paul Dudman



On 12 February we were honoured to have Jo Swinson MP join the volunteers on Lenzie Moss, to lend a hand with birch clearing. These pictures show Jo hard at work, and some of those present including Alan McBride (Ranger in charge), and Councillors Jarvis and Geekie who came to see what we were about!

On Monday 16th May, 2011, Kristine Morrison, from friends of Lenzie Moss, took us on a walk round the Moss. First of all she cut into the moss to look at the old Pete bog. She gave us lots of interesting information. Kristine told us the train was filled with Pete and then taken to where it was needed. Next, we went into little paths and it was very muddy so we were lucky we had our wellies with us. Kristine showed us a dam that some of the friends of Lenzie Moss made. We really enjoyed walking back and forth across the dam. It was like a balance beam. Overall we had a fantastic time and learned many interesting things about Lenzie Moss.

Gemma Mercer
Eloise Milliken
Alicia Binning
P7

Ross P3

Health Week

2011

I thought the moss walk was my favourite because when we just walked past the boardwalk there was a big ditch, I was being silly and I went in it. I quickly jumped on to the bank of the ditch. My shoes were still stuck in the ditch. My shoes were so so so dirty. I felt sad but then Helena's mum came to me and said, well at least you had a big adventure then Ross.

dirty shoe
06.05.11

Health Week

During Lenzie Primary School's Health Week in May, Christine Morrison, one of our members, led Primary 3s and Primary 7s on a walk around Lenzie Moss to look at the old peat processing plant and the conservation work on the Moss. Above are a couple of the contributions about the walk from the children.

We are currently looking for two more committee members. If you are willing to give of your time we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please phone Paul Dudman on 0141 776 0721 or email him at paul.dudman@ntlworld.com