

Events

All events are free

Raised Bog Conservation Days, Lenzie Moss, 2011

These will all be on Saturdays, 10.45 am – 2.30 pm, on the following dates:- 15 January, 12 February, 19 March (plus cleanup, see below), 8 October, 12 November, 3 December.

Have fun, get fit, enjoy a day out in the fresh air and help enhance the biodiversity of Lenzie Moss. Wear old clothes, wellies or strong footwear, and waterproofs if you have them. All equipment and training will be provided. Bring a packed lunch if you plan to stay all day. Meet at the end of Lenzie Railway Station car park. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Conservation and Cleanup:

Sat. 19 March, 10.45 am – 2.30 pm

Help us lift the litter and give Lenzie Moss a good spring clean. Help the Ranger Service to restore this rare raised bog by cutting back the invading birch from the wetland. Meet at the Moss end of Lenzie Station car park. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Walk – Auchinloch to Boghead via Lenzie Moss:

Wed. 6 April, 11.20 am

An hour-long, Ranger-led walk following mainly level, established paths. Return minibus transport is available between Lennoxton and Auchinloch. For more information and to book: 0141 956 6586, rangers@mugdock.org

Evening Song:

Thurs. 5 May, 7 pm – 8.30 pm Wheelchair accessible.

Join a local bird expert to wander round Lenzie Moss and hear the evening birdsong. Booking essential
0141 956 6586 rangers@mugdock.org

Then and Now on Lenzie Moss:

Tues. 7 June, 7 pm – 8.30 pm

Enjoy a lovely walk round the Moss and learn about its history, present management and wildlife. Meet at the Moss end of Lenzie Station car park.

Dragonfly ID Day:

Sun. 10 July, 10 am – 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm – 4pm

Join Jonathan Willet from the British Dragonfly Society to learn about the Moss's dragonfly species, and how to identify larvae and adults. Booking essential
0141 956 6586 rangers@mugdock.org

Creepy Crawlies and Conservation:

Tues. 2 Aug, 2 pm – 3.30 pm

A "taster" in practical conservation for parents, while your children hunt for minibeasts nearby with a Ranger. Meet at the Moss end of Lenzie Station car park and follow the

signs. Join in any time; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Fungal Foray:

Sun. 25 Sept, 2 pm – 3.30 pm

Ranger-led autumnal walk. Find out about the mushrooms and fungi that pop up at this time of year. Meet at the Moss end of Lenzie Station car park.

Build a Birch Broom – Harry Potter Style!:

Fri. 14 Oct, 1.30 – 3.30 pm

Birch trees and saplings are being removed from Lenzie Moss to help restore the bog areas. So let's put the birch to good use and make a broom for sweeping leaves or flying to Hogwarts! Join in any time. Follow the signs from the end of Lenzie Station car park.

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, or by downloading a subscription form from the website (www.friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk). 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 1st April until 31st March 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

Winter 2010/11



ACTIVITIES UPDATE

2010 was the International Year of Biodiversity, and thanks to a grant from SNH we were able to fund a series of events. In the Summer newsletter we reported on the walks and talks on subjects such as birds, herbalism and the off-road walking route to Kirkintilloch.

The events in the second half of the year included a history walk, a family fun day, and a 'build a birch broom' afternoon.

The history walk was led by Anna Illingworth. Anna's encyclopaedic knowledge of the Moss was put to good use, and the Countryside Rangers contributed with additional information on the local wildlife.

The family fun day in August combined bug hunting for the children with birch bashing for the adults. With excellent

weather, the large number of people who turned out made a significant contribution to removing birch trees from the area close to the boardwalk.

Our Harry Potter birch broom event was another opportunity to fell birch and make good use of the wood. Over sixty people attended this event, proving the ongoing popularity of witches and broomsticks at Halloween.

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

Friends of Lenzie Moss would like to thank East Dunbartonshire & Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service for their invaluable support to the events that take place on the Moss. We are planning more information walks for 2011 and would encourage all Friends to make the most of these very enjoyable events.

Inside this edition... Bird Survey, Conservation Volunteers, Events



History Walk

Conservation Volunteers

Work to restore and improve the habitats on Lenzie Moss is ongoing, but we would like it to go faster! In order to achieve this, we would like to increase the size of our conservation volunteer group. Removing invasive birch trees from the Moss is currently the priority task for restoring the boggy areas to their former glory, and as can be seen from the Station end of the boardwalk, a sizeable dent has already been made in the encroaching trees.

The conservation volunteers meet regularly, and everyone is welcome to come along and lend an extra pair of hands. No previous experience is required, and all equipment and training will be provided by FoLM and the East Dunbartonshire & Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service. If you would like to play your part in restoring Lenzie Moss, please contact Paul Dudman paul.dudman1@ntlworld.com for further details.

Lenzie Moss Bird Survey

25th of November 2010

With just 7% of Scotland's raised bog habitats remaining, Lenzie Moss is an area of great ecological importance. Home to a wide variety of birdlife, the reserve's raised bog provides the ideal habitat for moorland and wetland specialists such as reed bunting, kestrel and snipe, whilst the woodland plays host to a cast of largely arboreal species, including tits, finches and various thrush species.

Today's bird survey took place on a cold, bright November morning, beginning at a frosty Heather Drive and heading first of all into the birch woods. Here were almost immediately sighted three pink bullfinch, betrayed by their soft, down-slurred whistling calls. These blunt-headed fruit-eaters were once the scourge of gardeners and considered a pest species because of their tendency to strip fruit trees bare. Nowadays there are approximately 160,000 breeding pairs in the UK and their striking plumage makes them a welcome sight in most parks and woodlands. Other species present in the birch wood at Lenzie Moss included blue tit, chaffinch and woodpigeon.



Bullfinch

Moving beyond the woods and out past the football pitches, a small flock of blackbirds were spotted feeding on a berry bush. During the winter months, the UK sees an influx of around ten million blackbirds from northern Europe, taking advantage of our (comparatively!) mild winter weather and luxury bumper berry crop. Several other species join in this winter migration, including the so-called 'winter thrushes' (the redwing and fieldfare), as well as the beautiful much sought-after waxwing. This year and last have both seen huge numbers of waxwing visiting the UK, giving rise to the phrase, 'waxwing winter'. Keep an eye out for these gregarious starling-sized birds in supermarket car-parks, which they're well known to frequent.



Waxwing

Onto the boardwalk and heading out onto the moss itself, the sun is at such a horrendous angle it's difficult to make out anything that might be flying past! Up flushed a flock of around ten reed bunting from long grass just beside the path. These finches are a typically wetland species, and as such are vulnerable to habitat drainage. Lenzie Moss is therefore an important refuge for reed buntings, the males of which can be identified by their striking black cap and bib.

Open expanses of moorland and grassland provide refuge for many small mammal species, and therefore make excellent hunting grounds for birds of prey. Today, a male kestrel was showing well on Lenzie Moss, flying low and direct with a freshly caught vole. Overhead at the same time, a buzzard was executing slow circles, scanning the ground below for prey.

The final stretch from the boardwalk back to Heather Drive saw a flock of around thirty goldfinch feeding on the kernels pried out of larch cones with their tweezer-like beaks. These colourful finches are known collectively as a 'charm', and it's easy to see why. Their distinctive tinkling calls, along with their gaudy colours, make them attractive visitors to parks and gardens. You can attract goldfinch to your garden by growing teasels, the seeds of which are a favourite food, or by putting out nyjer seed, which is available from most garden centres.



Goldfinch

November is the best time of year to spot migrating geese, which are usually to be heard before they are seen moving in long skeins between grazing and roosting spots. The area around Lenzie Moss sees numbers of Greylag and Pink-footed geese visiting from Iceland and Greenland, so keep an ear open for their yelping calls. Early in the morning and late in the evening are the best times to spot geese in flight, but they can be seen grazing and loafing around in nearby flooded fields. Happy birding! **Fiona Morton**

Lenzie Moss Bird Survey 25th of November 2010

- Buzzard x 1
- Kestrel x 1
- Black-headed Gull x 1
- Woodpigeon x 6
- Wren x 6
- Blackbird x 11
- Blue Tit x 10
- Long-tailed Tit x 7
- Magpie x 5
- Jackdaw x 7
- Rook x 19
- Carrion Crow x 6
- House Sparrow x 3
- Chaffinch x 13
- Redpoll x 2
- Goldfinch x 33
- Bullfinch x 3
- Reed Bunting x 10

Also: Roe Deer x 6



Friends of Lenzie Moss and Scottish Wildlife Trust

Some of you may already know that a small part of FoLM's budget goes to group membership of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Why? Well, for this we receive a regular magazine (which lists their forthcoming events, often contains articles about peat bogs, and makes us aware of Lenzie Moss's place in the wider Scottish scene). We can call on SWT when we need their advice or support.

Thus we had advance notice of a recent talk they organised, by Steve Jackson (Senior Ecologist with EnviroCentre, and Ecological Clerk of Works), entitled "Road Construction and Wildlife Conservation." You may be interested to hear about some of the works undertaken to protect wildlife along the route of the new Kirkintilloch relief road; some factors are common to Lenzie Moss:-

As a 130-metre section of the road was to pass unavoidably across the middle of Millersneuk wetland, a new area of wetland 10 times the size of the original was created. Provision was made for wide tunnels below the road, to enable safe passage for otters, water voles and other creatures. Also here, and at other danger spots, fences were erected along the sides of the road to keep animals safely off.

4000 trees were felled, BUT – 20,000 new trees are to be planted. Many of those removed were alien species anyway, such as sycamore, but the new trees are all native to Scotland, such as oak and rowan. It is anticipated that half of them should survive to maturity.

Several sections of the Bothlin burn were re-aligned; the new design has helped to improve the water quality and habitats for mammals, such as water voles and otters.



Water Vole

Most of the rampant Japanese knotweed has been destroyed, and control of it will continue into the future. Several new ponds have been created, bird and bat boxes have been installed, and 21 different species of wildflowers have been planted.

Did you know...?

Lenzie Moss is not just a fantastic local nature reserve; it is also the name of an unsigned Glasgow band with a digital album called 'Kelvin British Summertime' to be released in the new year. If you want to find out more about them, search for them on 'my space'.



Birch Broomsticks

The children of Holy Family Nursery Class all made broomsticks with the help of Maggie and Neil from East Dunbartonshire and Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service. They used birch trees cut from Lenzie Moss and all enjoyed flying home from nursery that day.

Litter Cleanup

Lenzie Moss recently benefited from a clean up of litter. East Dunbartonshire and Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service together with one of their volunteer groups and local community service volunteers cleaned hot spots throughout the Moss and lifted a substantial number of bottles and cans as well as a garden seat, a pair of loppers, a saw, a road cone and other less usual items. As well as being an eyesore, discarded items' such as broken bottles and even empty crisp packets can be dangerous to wildlife. Many small mammals are lost each year from drowning in discarded crisp packets and bottles and many wildlife injuries could be prevented if the countryside was free from broken glass.

The volunteers also pruned back overhanging branches on the footpath around the Moss, cleaned ditches and replaced broken slats and put in place a section of wire mesh on the boardwalk.

A volunteer writes...

Being a local nature-lover, it is important for me to have wild places on my doorstep. Working from home, I can wander around the Moss at lunchtime, feeling privileged to be in such a rare environment. Why preserve it? Apart from their aesthetic beauty and biodiversity, peat bogs are extremely important as carbon sinks, so can be economically vital towards tackling global warming. The volunteer work, including birch bashing and damming streams to re-flood and help restore this rare wee raised-bog wetland, is therefore something we should be proud of and continue to work towards. *George Paterson*

Wire Mesh

A 10m section of wire mesh has been attached to the railway end of the boardwalk, which can be slippery in wet or frosty weather. Please let the Ranger Service know whether you would like the mesh attached along the full length of the boardwalk or not. Contact 0141 956 6586 rangers@mugdock.org. To date we have received 12 comments: 3 negative, 9 positive and 1 maybe.