

## **East Dunbartonshire & Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service**

### **Report to Friends of Lenzie Moss AGM June 2015**

#### CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Lenzie Moss conservation volunteers meet 6 times throughout the winter months from October to March. Over the 6 work days we have had 62 volunteers turning up in all weather to help out. This number is slightly down on last year; however still very good.

The main focus for the work days has been to re-vegetate the eroded bare peat mound by covering it with heather seed. Posts have been made from birch scrub to cover the area, making it inaccessible to motorbikes and quad bikes. The eroded peat area had been increased by this activity and by making it inaccessible to motorised vehicles it is hoped that the heather seed will be allowed to germinate and grow. Other parts of the birch scrub were used to delineate access on foot as well as provide a light covering of twigs to stop the seed being blown away. There is a small section still to be seeded, which will be carried out at the end of this year when heather seed becomes available.

In addition to the work on the peat mound, volunteers have been busy with path resurfacing and repairs, and birch scrub removal.

Other groups working on practical conservation tasks throughout the year have included Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates, Prince's Trust, Morgan Stanley, Clyde and Kelvin College, Mugdock conservation volunteers (Sat., Mon. and mid-week groups).

#### EVENTS

In partnership with FoLM we have tried to provide a varied programme of events over the past year to appeal to a wide audience. They have included the ever popular Harry Potter birch brooms which still attracts over 60 people, birch garlands, Natural Art on the Moss, Furry Animal Toy Trail, Evening Birdsong walk and

wildflower planting. All of these are aimed at attracting as many people as possible to Lenzie Moss, both local and further afield, to promote how special Lenzie Moss LNR is.

## EDUCATION

Lenzie Moss provides ideal opportunities for outdoor learning for schools and uniformed groups. The ranger service continues to support groups wishing to use the Moss for environmental education purposes. Earlier this year P2 from Lenzie Primary School visited the Moss twice, once in winter, then in spring, to investigate living things and life cycles. More recently Lenzie Moss Primary's P5/6 fundraised to buy wildflower plants. Last week, despite the heavy horizontal rain, they planted them in a grassland area beside Heather Drive. Having met them, I was surprised to hear they had fundraised through a sponsored silence. The wildflowers, as well as looking pretty, will greatly benefit bees and butterflies.

Although the above are the ranger service's main areas of work at Lenzie Moss, we also carry out invasive species control such as spraying knotweed, minor boardwalk maintenance, promotion of events, and temporary signage. In the next week or two we hope to install temporary signage asking people to have their dog on a lead or under close control, to help stop breeding wildlife from being disturbed by dogs running free. This is in response to concerns from visitors.

We would not be able to do any of this without our close partnerships working with FoLM and Jackie Gillespie, Neighbourhood Services Strategy Officer.