



Walk & Talk with Children on the Moss

Children on Lenzie Moss Primary School at the old peat processing plant

talk about how the raised peat bog was formed and look at the conservation work being done to re-hydrate the bog via the construction of the dams and removal of the birch saplings. We talked about how peat held a lot of carbon and this tapped into work the children had already covered at school on climate change.

During the walk we looked at some of the plants growing in the all 3 areas of the Moss – cotton grass and sphagnum moss in the primary bog, lichen, ferns and blaeberry bushes in the woodland and wild flowers in the grassland – and some of the children got to experience making a fizzy antiseptic “soup” by rubbing birch leaves and water together between their hands.

As ever, it’s refreshing to see a familiar landscape through children’s eyes and listen to their questions and chat.

This year we joined the local schools’ Health Week again by taking children from Lenzie Primary and Lenzie Moss Primary out for a walk round the Moss. There were 212 children in total, in 7 groups, from the classes of P5, P6 & P7.

We had fun exploring the old peat firing range used in the 19th century by the No. 10 Company of the Dunbartonshire Rifle Volunteers and many of the children found some of the old bullets. The children got the chance to handle the dry peat here and also discover how wet it can be in parts too! (*Only one pair of wellies needed rescuing*).

We went to look at the old peat processing plant and adjacent railway platform where the original siding used to run, parallel to the main railway line and running into what is now the north side car park up to roughly where the station bridge is today. This year the Moss was too wet to look for the remains of the railway sleepers under the old narrow gauge railway that was used to take the cut peat from the peat workings to be bagged and shredded at the processing plant.

While we were at the peat trenches we had the chance to

Committee Members

Our membership continues to be stable, with new members making up for those leaving. The committee are an enthusiastic group but would welcome some new faces. There’s not much involved; we had four meetings in 2011 and we are looking for help in some important areas. Have you a skill with websites, financial expertise, or have you time to put information leaflets into our notice boards at the Moss? If so please contact Chairperson Paul Dudman (paul.dudman1@ntlworld.com). We can only continue our good work with an active membership. Although Lenzie Moss has LNR status, pressures from developers continue on the greenbelt within Lenzie. Your support is as important as ever.

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

Chairperson: Paul Dudman.
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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 2012

The Friends of Lenzie Moss is a voluntary association dedicated to conserving the Moss for the benefit of present and future generations by all possible means: through education, liaison with official bodies, and appropriate environmental management.

Summer grasses on
the grassland area
of Lenzie Moss

Highlights of Chairpersons Report AGM 2012

Paul Dudman

(For the full text of his report, see our website www.friendsof LENZIE MOSS.org.uk, or contact a FoLM committee member (see back page) for a printed copy)

ACTIVITIES

- A monthly series of walks and talks have included: Dragonflies, Creepy Crawlies, Fungi, Making of Birch Brooms, Bird Song, and Medicine of the Moss.

We have also led walks for local primary schools, and organised a ride for East Dunbartonshire's Cycle Cooperative.

Conservation and maintenance work has continued, such as birch clearing and installation of a new bench.

- Final agreement has been reached with East Dunbartonshire Council to have the section of path from Laburnum Gardens to the railway path formally named "Bea's Path". Beatrice Rae played a key role in advancing the process which led to the Moss being eventually established as a Local Nature Reserve (see the History section of our website, or contact Anna Illingworth, for further information about this).

- Grant funding was acquired to lay non-slip strips on the boardwalk. These appear to have caused difficulties for one disabled person, but a solution is being sought.

- We continue to enjoy excellent support from the East Dunbartonshire & Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service and their volunteer force, which we very much appreciate.



PROTECTING LENZIE MOSS

- Earlier this year a situation arose which gives us concern: residents reporting on approaches made by Lenzie Rugby Club led us to discover that the Club have made a proposal for inclusion in the next Local Plan to rezone part of their land adjoining the Moss for development. The area in question is considered by many to be part of the Moss, - the rough land bounded by the rear of Lenzie Moss school, the north section of woodland, and the north edge of the bog. This area is owned by the rugby club, but is currently designated greenbelt. We will continue to monitor the situation with regard to protecting the future of the Moss. Ed. Note: the following motion was approved at the AGM by 35 votes to 1 "We, the members of Friends of Lenzie Moss, support the committee of Friends of Lenzie Moss in engaging in the local planning process to conserve and protect Lenzie Moss, including any proposal to re-draw the existing greenbelt boundary".

Further information will be forthcoming once East Dunbartonshire Council publish the Main Issues Report in September.

MEMBERSHIP

- Please encourage your friends to join FoLM. We would welcome more members onto our committee too.

PUBLICITY

- We are promoting Lenzie Moss through "cyberspace"! As well as our (recently upgraded) website, we are on Facebook and visiteastdunbartonshirenow.co.uk, a new tourism website.

Peat Core Boring

On Sunday 22nd July, 16 of us were treated to a fascinating demonstration of history as revealed from the depths of Lenzie Moss. With the help of a few stalwarts in the group, Dr. Richard Tipping, a palaeoecologist from Stirling University, drove a metal tube down into the ground near the boardwalk, then opened the tube to explain how the development of climate and land use through the ages can be traced from the resulting core of peat and earth. Amazingly, the soil at the foot of the core 2 metres below the surface dates back to 500 BC!

Scientific study of pollen grains through the various levels of a core shows which trees and other vegetation were predominant at which times: one researcher has proved that trees were being cut down in our area centuries before the Romans arrived to build the Antonine Wall, so our Iron Age ancestors were already progressing into farming then. Deeper coring is carried out with more complex machinery, delving back many thousands of years.

Rangers' Report

Conservation

The conservation volunteer group attracted 63 people over 7 winter working days and continued work on:

- the Management Plan, concentrating on maintaining and enhancing the primary bog area.
- The group installed a number of anti-slip strips on the boardwalk, to make it safer in icy and wet weather.
- A conservable amount of heavy work along the paths and boardwalk to prevent water pooling on them.
- Regularly cutting back overhanging vegetation from around the path networks, removing fallen trees and attacking 3 areas of Japanese knotweed.

Many other groups have helped with conservation tasks at Lenzie Moss, including Mugdock Conservation Volunteers, Community Service Volunteers, and people from the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince's Trust schemes.

Education – an outdoor classroom

The Ranger Service continues to use Lenzie Moss as an "outdoor classroom". With woodland, grassland and the bog

itself, it provides scope for many environmental education topics covered in the school curriculum. First Lenzie Guides learned about nocturnal animals on a night-time walk around the Moss. Merlwood Nursery and Lenzie Moss Primary School have taken inspiration from the Moss, and the latter has been developing its school grounds with wildlife in mind.

Events

East Dunbartonshire and Mugdock Country Park Ranger service has continued to lead a stimulating and popular series of events over the summer. From estimating the age of peat to learning about medicinal plants, there was something for everyone. Interesting events coming up in the future include:

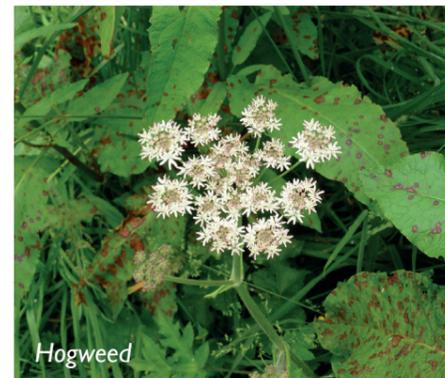
Bats about Lenzie;

7th September 7.45pm – 9.15pm (booking essential)

Build a Birch Broom

Harry Potter Style! Lenzie; 19th October 1.30pm – 3.30pm
For more information and to book, phone 0141 956 6585

The many splendid colours of Lenzie Moss



Hogweed



Sea Pea



Leafy Hawkweed



Tansy



Orange Hawkweed