

Peatlands given a major boost by UK Minister

- 08/02/13

UK Government Environment Ministers have issued a statement of intent to conserve peatlands in the UK. In a letter to the IUCN* UK Peatland Programme (5 February 2013), the four nation Ministers set out a framework for action aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural capital of peatlands, recognising their importance for biodiversity, water and climate change. Clifton Bain, Director of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme said:

"For too long the benefits of peatlands in their natural state have been ignored and as a consequence many are in a damaged and deteriorating state. This strong Government message heralds a new era where the value of peatlands as natural capital, for water, carbon and biodiversity, is recognised.

This letter is a welcome statement of Government commitment towards peatlands and sends a clear signal to public bodies, the private sector and local partnerships of the need to work together to conserve and restore this important ecosystem, with its wonderful peatland wildlife."

*International Union for Conservation of Nature.
www.iucg.org.

Update on proposed development EDC

East Dunbartonshire Council met recently with the Scottish Government to try to resolve the challenge they face in meeting their affordable homes target, given the lack of funding and non-green belt land available. You will recall that there is a proposal to build houses on the Rugby Club pitches and resite the 'club's clubhouse and pitch(es) onto the part of Lenzie Moss adjacent to Lenzie Moss Primary School.

There will be further news on this in September when EDC publish their Main Issues Report as part of the emerging Local Development Plan.

To keep abreast of developments as they arise, add yourself to the Council's mailing list for their Local Development Plan Newsletter. Either email "development@eastdunbarton.gov.uk or telephone 0141 578 8600.

Quotes on Lenzie Moss:

"Why we love Lenzie Moss"

"The Moss is one of the few remaining raised bogs in central Scotland and is a rare habitat of international significance."

"Local school children not only have a wonderful countryside playground on their doorstep, but wa great outdoor classroom for history, environment, wildlife, ecology and conservation."

"The Moss and its surrounding woods and grassland contain many beautiful wild flowers, including orchids, sundew and bog rosemary (nationally rare)."

Membership

We are very grateful for your support, which is vital to us in our work of protecting this outstanding local greenspace; so please continue your membership, and persuade others to become Friends of Lenzie Moss too.

Annual Membership fees are:

- Retired or unwaged £7.00
- Single £7.00
- Family £12.00

Subscriptions cover the year 1st April until 31st March the following year. For this you will receive twice-yearly Newsletters, and will be notified of events and activities concerning the Moss. (A reduced fee applies for anyone joining mid-year.)

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friends of Lenzie Moss

Summer 2013

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.

Lenzie Moss Ditch Dip, June 9, 2013

Lenzie Moss harbours a veritable plethora of fascinating invertebrate life. This month's ditch-dipping event sought to introduce members of the public to some of the wonderful aquatic minibeasts which lurk in the Moss's blocked drainage ditches.

Although the recent spell of warm weather was perfect for dusting off the barbecue and pulling on the flip-flops, it was not such good news for any attempt at ditch-dipping. The water level was so low that it would have felt more like muck-dredging and so a last minute change of plan was in order. Fortunately, Lenzie Moss is home to a great variety of terrestrial invertebrates and conditions were perfect for a spot of sweep-netting.

Our young minibeast detectives managed to net a host of tiny creatures, including spiders, beetles, frog-hoppers, flies and even a big green caterpillar! They also caught sight of colourful butterflies and dragonflies in flight over the long grass and learnt about how small creatures use camouflage to remain hidden from view.

So despite the weather, a good time was had by all. It just goes to show that it will take more than a bit of sunshine to put us off minibeast hunting of any sort!


Fiona Morton, Countryside Ranger

Picture: Andrew and Grace sweep netting on Lenzie Moss




Scottish Natural Heritage visit to Lenzie Moss

On 18 April Scottish Natural Heritage held a seminar in Lenzie on Community Wetlands, focusing on Lenzie Moss. The seminar gave the attendees an opportunity to share experiences of their work in conserving lowland raised bogs elsewhere, and also to learn more about wetland ecology. The day included a walk around Lenzie Moss to see its features and learn more about the conservation work being carried out.

The dam at the eastern end of the Moss is now overflowing, compared to 2 years ago when even children could walk across it in the dry, showing that the bog is now rehydrating successfully. 



 This view shows the tremendous amount of birch clearing recently undertaken on the old peat workings. This was funded by a grant from the Green Stimulus Peat Restoration Project. Ongoing conservation work will revolve around preventing regrowth, essential to encourage the bog to rehydrate.

Highlights of Chairman's Report AGM 2013

- A wide diversity of users continue to enjoy Lenzie Moss Nature Reserve, which is cared for by many people: East Dunbartonshire & Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service work closely with Friends of Lenzie Moss and many volunteers. We held monthly events up till October, followed by conservation volunteer work days during the winter months. One highlight was a peat core boring demonstration, revealing plant material from 2000 years ago! Another was a massive cleanup jointly with Lenzie Fairtrade Group.
- In April, Scottish Natural Heritage's choice of Lenzie Moss for its "Sharing Good Practice on Wetlands" event brought us welcome publicity, emphasising the significance of this rare habitat.
- We have been taking part in meetings and discussions concerning Lenzie Rugby Club's application, including attending meetings of the recently-formed Save Lenzie Moss group. LRC propose housing on their present pitches, and new pitches and clubhouse on the rough grassland behind Lenzie Moss Primary School, which is widely regarded as part of the Moss. The Council's Local Plan is not yet finalised, but we are concerned about the impact of this development on the nature reserve. In the coming year we will carry on with the popular programme of events, and continue to engage in the planning process as it affects the Moss.
- Please consider joining our committee, even for a limited time; fresh faces are always welcome, and duties are not onerous.
- Thanks are due to the Ranger Service, our committee, and all the volunteers, for their hard work throughout the past year. We also appreciate the support of Jackie Gillespie (E.D. Council) in promoting Lenzie Moss, and Scottish Natural Heritage for providing the funds for works currently under way.

Highlights of Rangers' Report AGM 2013

- A welcome increase in the number of conservation volunteers, augmented at times by others such as community service volunteers and Duke of Edinburgh scheme trainees, has enabled us to accomplish various tasks on Lenzie Moss: clearing birch scrub from the primary bog, removing non-native plants, installing anti-slip panels on the boardwalk (FoLM having secured a grant to buy these), and maintaining the paths (over a one-year period a people-counter recorded 51,760 passes over one section of path!).
- Some popular events of last year were: Building a Birch Broom (attended by about 60 people), which incidentally offers us a chance to explain the importance of removing the birch to help restore the bog, Bats about Lenzie, and Creepy Crawlies and Conservation. Some of these events are soon to be repeated, plus a new one in December: Make a Christmas Birch Wreath.
A list of the remaining events on Lenzie Moss during the rest of this year can be found on the Rangers' website, rangers@mugdock.org, or by phoning them for a leaflet at 0141-956-6586
- As well as promoting the Moss for recreation, and discouraging dog fouling, we continue to assist schools and nurseries in using the Moss as an outdoor classroom, enabling children to learn at first hand about its ecology and history.
- The Ranger Service would like to thank the Friends of Lenzie Moss for the effort they put into promoting Lenzie Moss for wildlife and for people to enjoy.

The full text of both the above reports can be found on our website www.friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk, or by contacting any member of the FoLM committee for a paper copy.