

### NEWS IN BRIEF

EDC recently conducted a consultation over their proposal to build 6 affordable homes for elderly people to rent on the site of the old garages in Blackthorn Grove, adjacent to Lenzie Moss. This included establishing an all-weather path along the edge of the development from Laburnum Grove to Lenzie Meadow School. There were some concerns over the subsequent lack of parking spaces, access difficulties during the building phase, potential flooding and whether the street lighting would affect wildlife on the Moss. You can read full details on the EDC website. We will see if there are to be any changes when the Planning Application is submitted.



### Proposed Blackthorn Housing Development

### RAILWAY PATH LATEST

“Public consultation will be carried out when the project is approved for construction phase; this will not be progressed in 2018/19.” EDC response 27/6/18

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Fungal Foray autumn
- Harry Potter broom making October

### SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

- MAY - cuckoo heard again in the north woods and also sighted there
- MAY - Tree creeper seen on the tree with the art installation in the north woods.

### 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:

- Single, retired or unwaged £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 notified of events and activities concerning the Moss. (A reduced fee applies for anyone joining mid-year.)

#### Committee Members

- Chairperson:** Paul Dudman  
email paul.dudman1@ntlworld.com
- Secretary & Vice Chair:** Kate Brown  
email kate\_sanford@hotmail.com
- Treasurer:** Christine Morrison  
email cmorrison199@gmail.com
- Committee:** Joan & Iain Christie tel. 0141 776 6859  
David Lee tel. 0141 776 4634

- Website:** www.friendsof LENZIE MOSS .org.uk  
**FoLM email:** friendsof LENZIE MOSS @gmail.com  
Members wishing to join the committee are always welcome.

 **Susan Calman** @SusanCalman Follow

2nd January is a traditional family day for us. Off to Lenzie for a long walk on Lenzie Moss. No matter the weather we do it every year. It's another great day for it.



2:34 am - 2 Jan 2018

# friends of Lenzie Moss

Summer 2018

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.



### HOW TO COLLECT BIRCH SAP AND WHAT IT'S USED FOR

Blog from Laura Preston, Falls of Clyde Ranger

Reserves Manager for South Scotland, Steve Blow, has been experimenting with collecting birch sap from silver birch trees. Birch tapping involves drilling a hole into the side of a tree and guiding the flow of sap into a suitable container. Drilling a hole in a tree and bleeding it for 24 hours

requires a healthy specimen with a minimum trunk diameter of 25cm. The tree should also have a couple of years' rest from the last time it was tapped. The hole should be about one metre from the ground, drilled at a slightly upward angle and about 3cm deep.

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## HOW TO COLLECT BIRCH SAP AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

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If the tree is ready, sap will pour out as soon as the drill is halfway in. If no sap appears then stop drilling, plug the wound and try another tree. If you are successful then you can leave it for a day and come back to collect the spoils. It is important to always plug the hole though, as the sap can run for several days and the tree may not survive. If you have read anything about collecting birch sap, you will know most people recommend you have a spile. This is a tapered metal tube with a hole at one end, a spout at the other, and a hook to hang a bucket. Once you have drilled the hole you tap the spile into place. If the tree is ready, sap will pour out as soon as the drill is halfway in. If no sap appears, stop drilling, plug the wound and try another tree. If you are successful, you can leave it for a day and come back to collect the spoils. It is important to always plug the and hang the bucket to collect the sap. As you

can see from the photo (page 1), we went for the cheaper option of using a short section of hose and a demijohn (although any container will do).

If you tap at the right time, your tree could produce 5 litres in one day. The sap is just like water in its consistency and you can drink it straight from the tree. It tastes very much like water with a hint of woody sweetness. We tapped our trees right at the end of the tapping season. The best time to harvest the sap is in the month before the leaves appear, generally starting around the second week of March. Once you have your sap, it won't stay fresh for long. There are a few ways you can use it: drinking it 'neat' as a tonic, reducing it down to make birch sap syrup, making birch sap wine."

(Reproduced with permission from the Scottish Wildlife Trust)

## WORKING FOR US.....



*In December 2017 the Beavers worked hard helping with path repairs.*



*In July 2018 eight Morgan Stanley volunteers gave their time as part of the company's global volunteering month to carry out path repairs. With guidance from the Ranger Service and a Mugdock volunteer, the group repaired several sections of the boardwalk, and raised the level of part of the gravel path in the north wood where it is prone to flooding in winter. They worked extremely hard to break up and wheelbarrow the recycled surfacing material on a very hot day.*

## AGM 2018

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**(including reports from Jackie Gillespie , Street Scene Officer at EDC, and the Mugdock Rangers)**

The full text of these can be seen on our website

### Consultations

FoLM has been engaged in consultations with EDC relating to the proposed cycle route from Lenzie to Bishopbriggs along the path through the south woods (see update on page 4), plus the proposed path to Lenzie Meadow School.

Members of the committee also attended the proposed Blackthorn Grove development (see page 4).

We had discussions with EDC relating to the Tales and Trails project to install 2 or 3 small peat stack sculptures in woodland sites or Bea's path, though our views on these were mixed.

### Events

There were successful events consisting of a sensory walk around art works at the station area; a Harry Potter broom-making day; and a minibeast hunt. It's a pity that the dusk chorus walk and the guided walk were not well attended and this perhaps raises the question of whether the charge to attend discouraged people. We also presented our slide show "A walk around Lenzie Moss" to the Parkinson's Support Group in Bishopbriggs.

### Conservation

The Rangers and volunteers made 18 conservation visits during the year. Path improvements again took up the lion's share of activity, and this in spite of work by the volunteers grinding to a halt earlier in the year because of the unexpected snow falls.

The remaining work involved boardwalk repairs, dams, litter picks, and vegetation strimming. We hope that grant funding will be available to replace the boardwalk.

Particular thanks go to those members of the public who regularly pick up rubbish.

Our thanks also go to the volunteers who regularly turn up to undertake conservation work, including the Scouts and Beavers, and Butterfly Conservation Scotland's Bog Squad. New volunteers are always welcome.

### Finally

- we now have over 400 followers on the Facebook page
- antisocial behaviour still a problem
- Thanks to Jackie and the Rangers for sterling support and interest, and to all committee members
- We understand that EDC has given permission for Lenzie Meadows Nursery to run a Forest School near the peat processing plant area

**The AGM was followed** by a fascinating talk about fungi from specialist Graeme Walker of the Clyde & Argyll Fungus Group. More of this in our next issue.

