

friends of Lenzie Moss

Summer 2020

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 has been our saviour in the lockdown, and if we can give back let us know.”
New Member, April 2020**

CORONAVIRUS

Over the past few months we've all had a change to our lives, some more than others. We have had to adapt to different patterns of behaviour – and we all know how much effort this takes sometimes - but at the same time it gives us a chance to count our blessings.

Having Lenzie Moss on our doorstep allows us to enjoy a beautiful walk, one of the most basic and simple pleasures in life, taking time to admire the views and maybe catch sight of wildlife.

Perhaps the past few months have also given us a sense of appreciation and a slower pace of life, reminding ourselves not to let life rush away.

COMMENTS & PHOTOS WE HAVE RECEIVED OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS

"I have been out chasing birds - mostly by ear and sometimes only by ear. But I have managed to catch the odd willow warbler on camera - but they are very good at hiding, which is frustrating. I really enjoy seeing tree creepers too. Of course there are many other birds to be seen - e.g. robins, various tits and, I think, other warblers. Along with birds I have enjoyed trying to capture the deer - what beautiful creatures they are! I also came across the 3rd peat stack, tucked away on the south of the Moss, and quite near the one by the south end of the board walk. The weather has been glorious so walks round the Moss have been delightful. Keep safe, and keep your distance!"

Katherine 22 April
(see photos below)



Tree Creeper



Willow Warbler

"I was on the Moss on Saturday and saw at least 10 green hairstreak butterflies in about 5 minutes, so they are making a strong comeback in my opinion. Clearing the area of birch to make a glade where there is now plenty of blaeberry obviously helped - plus the exceptionally good spring weather must have also helped."

George 29 April

"Picking my way this afternoon along the rough path bordering the bog within the rim of the south woods, I heard an unearthly sound high above me: two loud musical tones, as of string instruments tuning up in preparation for a performance. After much staring upwards, I eventually located the source: branches of tall birch trees rubbing together in two places, due to the strong wind then blowing!"

Anna 20 April

"I've found people on the Moss quite well behaved really. I think there were some misunderstandings early on, but it's now quite reasonable in the main. What I'm seeing now is people exploring to find different routes - in fact I'm mostly going through the woods parallel to the railway line, rather than following the main path."

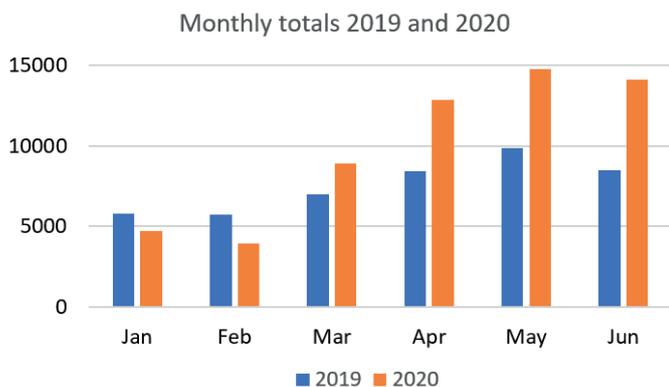
Tom 30 April



Roe Deer

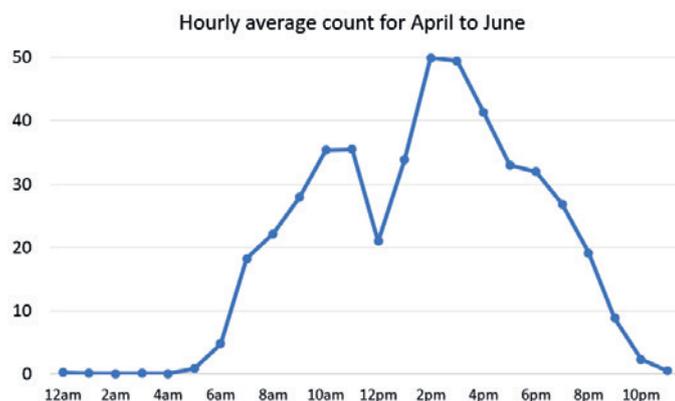
FOOTFALL COUNTER ON BEA'S PATH BETWEEN FERN AVENUE AND HAWTHORN AVENUE

We last reported on the footfall counter in the winter issue of 2019/2020. The average monthly count for 2019 was over 6000. The figures for 2020 showed lower counts for January and February, at around 5000 and 4000 respectively. However, as the country moved into lockdown the Moss was noticeably busier, with May giving a count of nearly 15000. The comparison between 2019 and 2020 is shown in this graph.



We also now have data on the type of count. For April to June the average daily pedestrian count was 420 and the bicycle count 19. There were a further 24 on average that were not able to be classified.

The busiest times on the Moss are late morning and the afternoon. However, a noticeable drop occurs over the 12pm to 1pm period. The graph below shows the average hourly figures for April to June, but the trend was observed across 2019 and 2020.



EXERCISE

Poem by FoLM member, the late
Hugh Searle, written Christmas 2014

*Unto us this place is given
A place to explore
Sit walk run*

*Over this sun-blessed blue sky bog
Where mothers fathers children dogs
Stride and skip along the boardwalk way
Saying "Happy Christmas Day"*

*A place whose deep black pool holed long grass tangled
Heather spotted sapling sprouting ground
Lay time bound time worn and man resistant
Until first the peat diggers came
And then the builders of the boardwalk
Opening ink-black anonymous fen
Into a friendly place for all who wish to say
"Happy Christmas Day"*

THE LATE HUGH SEARLE

Hugh was a former prison chaplain and Church of England clergyman. In 2016, he moved to Lenzie with his wife Lilo to live with his daughter Rachel. Hugh cherished the outdoors and was a keen walker all his life, including reaching the summit of Ben Nevis, Buachaille Etive Mor and Goat Fell in his mid-70s. Sudden illness subsequently reduced his mobility considerably.

From earlier visits to Lenzie he had loved the Moss. Even later confined to a wheelchair, it remained a source of great inspiration and comfort to him in his final years. He relished having access to some unspoilt wildness so close to home where he might spot a deer, hear birdsong, catch the breeze and maybe even some sun – and all in close proximity to two of his great passions – rugby and hills!

We are happy to print contributions from FoLM members, so if you have a poem about the Moss or a particular reminiscence, send it in to us.

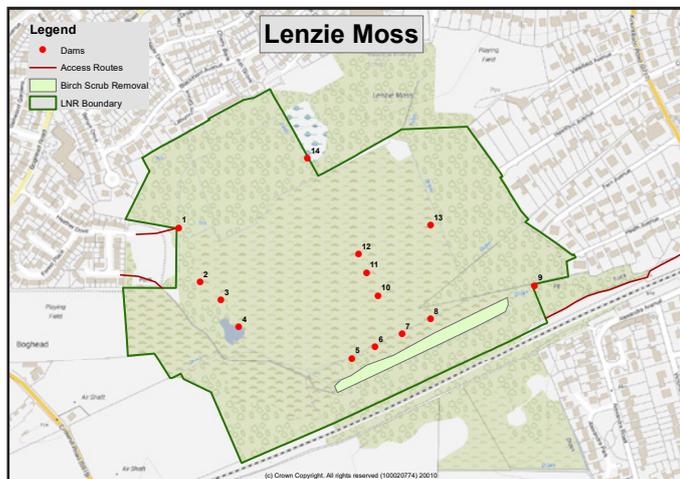
NEWS IN BRIEF

FURTHER PEAT RESTORATION WORKS

In February this year we emailed you about the further peatland restoration work on the Moss. The work was commissioned by EDC and was undertaken and funded by Scottish Natural Heritage as part of the U.K.'s rehabilitation of worked raised peat bogs, which are priority habitats under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

The works will increase the Moss's capacity to capture carbon and to retain water.

The map below shows the location of the dams and the area of birch removal.



CONSERVATION

Towards the end of 2019 a group of volunteers from LDA Design, Glasgow, spent 2 days volunteering on the Moss with the Rangers. They carried out boardwalk repairs, mainly replacing broken slats; took down an old post and wire fence; and cut heather patches in mature heather to promote age diversity. The cut heather was then anchored onto bare patches on the peat mound to give the seed from the cut plants a chance to re-heather the mound.



BOARDWALK



June 2020 – the boardwalk passable again.

AGM 2020

As you know, we weren't able to have our usual AGM in June this year, and as an alternative option we circulated the relevant reports to members. There were no questions from members on the reports, so we have now entered these into our records on an informal basis. The existing office bearers will continue until the 2021 AGM.

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

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Committee: Joan & Iain Christie
Katherine Kelsey

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Members wishing to join the committee are always welcome.