

## 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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**Vice Chair:** Anna Illingworth tel: 0141 776 1560

**Secretary:** Kate Sanford  
E mail: kate\_sanford@hotmail.com

**Treasurer:** Christine Morrison  
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**Membership Secretary:** Joan Christie tel: 0141 776 6859  
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**Newsletter:** Anna Illingworth tel: 0141 776 1560

**Committee Member:** Ian Christie tel: 0141 776 6859

**Website:** www.friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk

To place an article on our web page or Newsletter, please contact Anna Illingworth in the first instance, tel. 0141 776 1560.

## Fungal foray

## IT'S YOUR MOSS

Lenzie Moss is a Local Nature Reserve, and the Friends of Lenzie Moss play an important role in managing the future of the reserve. If you have any ideas for improvements we would love to hear from you at: friendsoflenziemoss@gmail.com

# friends of Lenzie Moss

Winter 2011/2012

*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.*

## The Boardwalk

**Lenzie Moss Conservation Volunteers were busy on Saturday 8 October installing anti-slip strips to part of the boardwalk over the Moss.**

The boardwalk has been very well used since its installation and has proved invaluable for people to cross the primary bog area and so complete the circular walk round the Moss. However, the boardwalk is liable to become slippery in wet or icy weather and it was decided to try and improve the surface. The Mugdock Rangers had previously run trials of wire mesh and non-slip paint to protect the boardwalk but were not entirely satisfied with either of these.

The current solution is to install special anti-slip strips which have been used successfully elsewhere and this is now a project in progress. Feedback so far has been very positive.

We have to say a big thank you to East Dunbartonshire Council Community Grant Scheme and the Community Service Volunteers Action Earth Scheme (supported by Scottish Natural Heritage) for the grants to enable us to do this. We also have to give a big thank you to the Conservation Volunteers who undertook the work under the guidance of the Mugdock Rangers.

As further grants become available, we hope to extend the strips to cover more of the boardwalk. We are also looking to level out the boardwalk where it has become uneven – an occupational hazard with a bog!

We hope that the anti-slip strips will be an improvement and enable visitors to continue to enjoy their walks throughout the winter period.



# Hello Friends

## Lenzie Moss needs your help!

Lenzie Moss Conservation Volunteers are always keen to welcome new recruits. If you enjoy Lenzie Moss then please come along to the volunteer days to help out. No previous experience is needed: there will be a ranger there to explain what to do. The volunteer days run from 10.45am to 2.30pm, with a break for lunch. However any time that you can give to helping out is greatly appreciated. Even an hour can make a huge difference! For more information contact Fiona at the ranger service on 0141 956 6586 or email: rangers@mugdock.org

2012 will be Lenzie Moss Conservation Volunteers' third year of doing a great job working on the many practical conservation tasks on the Moss. The group was set up initially by Friends of Lenzie Moss and East Dunbartonshire & Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service to help fulfil many of the long-term objectives of the Management Plan. The main objective is to start the recovery of the bog ecosystem. The first step towards this is a combination of damming the ditches and removing invasive birch to increase water levels. The group meets six times over the year, mainly in the winter months, and so far they have made a huge impact by removing invasive birch trees from the south-west section of the Moss.

### Reasons for you to join Lenzie Moss Conservation Group.

- Get out in the fresh air.
- Meet new people.
- Help conserve and protect this fragile and disappearing habitat.
- Enjoy the scenery.
- Exercise without knowing it!
- Enjoy wildlife on your doorstep.

### What do the group do?

- Clear invasive birch scrub from the primary bog near the boardwalk, where there has been no peat extraction.
- Clear invasive birch scrub and trees from the compartments where peat has been cut.

- Remove non-native beech and sycamore saplings in the woodland.
- Remove/ control invasive garden escapees from the woodland, grassland and bog.
- Maintain the boardwalk and improve it by affixing non-slip strips acquired by FoLM through grant funding.

### What are the benefits of this work?

- Birch trees/scrub draw water from the bog and shade out mosses and other bog plants, so by removing the birch the bog will become wetter and allow more bog plants to grow.
- Retention of water in the Moss will reduce run-off and reduce the risk of flooding surrounding areas.
- When the water levels drop, the exposed areas of the bog oxidise and become less acidic. Bog plants like the ground to be acidic.
- Fluctuations in water levels allow seeds of non-bog plants to germinate on drier areas. Keeping the water levels stable near the surface of the bog will give bog species the advantage to recolonise.
- Stop invasive and non-native species from out-competing native plants.
- Maintain access over the boardwalk.
- As the bog begins to recover and retain more water, the sphagnum moss species and unusual bog plants will thrive as will all the animals that use the bog habitat.

### 2012 CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 21st January**  
**Saturday 25th February**  
**Saturday 24th March**

Meet at the Moss end of Lenzie station car park at 10.45am or follow the signs to the work area.

**Hope to see you there!**

# Activities Update



**Since our summer Newsletter, we have had our summer Creepy Crawlies and Conservation day in August, a Fungal Foray walk in September and the Conservation Volunteers days in October, November and December.**

On the August conservation day, parents got their hands dirty with a taster in practical conservation work, while their children had a fun time hunting for mini-beasts nearby with a Ranger.

On the Fungal Forays walk, Ranger Alan McBride guided us around the wide range of fungi that are present in autumn. He highlighted how important it is to stop and take some time to look at what is actually in front of our eyes! This is the case with many aspects of the Moss, and a common theme in our walks. Taking the time, with an expert to guide us, leads to new experiences in familiar surroundings. This time, we found many varieties of fungi including Russulas, Boletus and Waxcaps. Come along to a walk this year and learn something about your local area.

Around thirty members of ED's Cycle Co-op visited Lenzie Moss in October to hear a talk on the history of the Moss. They had cycled from Kirkintilloch, and the many youngsters present were glad to reach the flat paths on the Moss after

cycling up Christine's Way. ED's Cycle Co-op has a good selection of route maps including the cycle around the Moss - [http://edscyclecoop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/EDsCycleCoop\\_Lenzie\\_Moss\\_RouteCard.pdf](http://edscyclecoop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/EDsCycleCoop_Lenzie_Moss_RouteCard.pdf) Events planned for 2012 include our favourites: History of Lenzie Moss, Harry Potter Broomsticks, and an April walk. At the time of going to press, we also hope to include a bat-spotting evening, a birdsong walk, a herbalist walk and a peat-coring day. An events leaflet with full details will be forwarded to members in the spring.

