

friends of Lenzie MOSS

Summer 2019

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.



PEAT STACKS

**Three sculptural works on
Lenzie Moss.**

These are part of “Trails and Tales” by
Toby Paterson, Simon Whatley &
Dug MacLeod.

They are made of Black Basalt Aggregate
Concrete (cast in collaboration with
Gabion Designed Concrete Surfaces).
The objects’ form is based on traditional
peat stacks. Together they plot a route
round the Moss.

Continued on page 2

PEAT STACKS continued

They refer to the historic use of peat bogs as a resource, including the 20th century attempts to industrialize peat extraction from Lenzie Moss.

The stacks remind us of contemporary concerns regarding the conservation of unique natural sites, such as Lenzie Moss, and their vital environmental role as 'carbon sinks'. This is represented by the suspension of a carbon black pigment in the concrete from which the 'stacks' are cast.

Trails and Tales is an arts and heritage learning programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Creative Scotland, which has engaged local and international artists with communities to explore local history and heritage.

<http://www.trailsandtales.org.>



LENZIE MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THE MOSS

By Jonathan Macdonald (student teacher)

In March this year, as part of a social sciences project, I helped a primary 1 class at Lenzie Meadow Primary School to learn about their local area, including Lenzie Moss.

I created a project to engage the children's interest, and to teach them valuable skills, using a combination of experiences and outcomes from a number of curricular areas. In this case, the subjects were '**people, place and environment**' in social science, and '**biodiversity**' in science, and the skills the children developed involved **enquiry and investigation, organising data, and discussing the understanding gained**. Additionally, their skills included tally marking and creating descriptive, annotated diagrams.

The children focused on two topics:

- food chains
- identifying plants

I introduced the children to important plants on Lenzie Moss, including heather, mosses, bog rosemary, (plant-like) lichens, and the abundant birch trees, mentioning other inhabitants of the Moss such as the green hairstreak butterfly and roe deer. Using information and photographs, the children created their own food chains based on their new understanding of 'producers', 'consumers', 'predators' and 'prey'. The peat of the Moss was enthusiastically discussed as well.

As part of an outdoor lesson, I introduced the children to some of the local plants on the Moss near to the school. We discussed how to identify and find the differences between these plants, after which the children worked in groups to tally-mark what they found. They were then encouraged to discuss their findings. While some counts differed, all the groups were able to show evidence of sorting the plants based on their description.

I would like to thank The Friends of Lenzie Moss for providing a lot of background information about the flora and fauna on Lenzie Moss, which got the children off to a flying start.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – AGM 17 June 2019

Paul's report looked at the last 12 months and covered,

- **EVENTS** on the Moss – Marvellous Minibeasts, Fungus Amungus, Harry Potter broom making
- **OTHER EVENTS** – wild flower planting, litter clear-up in March, helping Lenzie Meadow School with the P2's project on the Moss
- **CONSERVATION** – ongoing path repairs, repairs to the boardwalk, vandalism to the notice boards, a couple of fires during the dry spell in May
- **EDC DISCUSSIONS** – the new people counter, potential changes to the paths over the Moss, art-form peat stacks
- **PUBLICITY** – FoLM has produced a brochure summarising who the Friends of Lenzie Moss are and what we do (copy enclosed with this newsletter)
- **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN** – the next Local Development Plan is now underway. We will be following this for any impact on the Moss
- **COMMITTEE MEMBERS** – sadly David Lee died on 31 December 2018, following his retirement from the committee last year. Kate Brown has retired as a committee member after many years'

service, though she remains a member of FoLM. Joan Christie has also given up her long-time role as membership secretary, though she and husband Ian remain as committee members. We welcome Katherine Kelsey who has joined the committee to take over David's role looking after the notice boards. Many thanks go to all of them. The committee's time is now spread very thinly. We urgently need a replacement for Joan to be our membership secretary. Please get in touch to find out what's involved and hopefully volunteer

- **SAD TO REPORT** the death of Molly Fisher. Molly was the widow of the late Joe Fisher who was a leading light in FoLM for many years
- **HEARTFELT THANKS** go to the tireless efforts of Jackie Gillespie at EDC on behalf of Lenzie Moss, and to the great support of the Mugdock Rangers and their volunteers in activities and conservation work.

The full report is on our website, along with the Rangers' detailed report of their activities on the Moss over the past 12 months.

MOTHS IN A BEARSDEN GARDEN

The AGM was followed by a wonderful talk by Richard Sutcliffe, Research Manager For Natural History, Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, about his passion for moths. This started as a hobby in 1985, at which time he made a moth trap for his garden. He showed us slides of the moths that he had attracted, mentioning other visitors such as beetles, wasps, ladybirds and caddis flies. For those of us unknowledgeable about moths, it was truly amazing to see the beautiful and myriad markings of these delightful creatures. We also had a chance to

see live moths that had just arrived in his moth trap (these were to be released later that evening!) The talk reminded us about our own moth trap which we had in a garden in Heath Avenue in 2004, the results of which showed 94 different moths visiting the garden. The moths were identified for us by John Knowler. We have put some of the photos on our Facebook page, together with John Knowler's notes, and a press release from Scottish Natural Heritage about the decline of moths in the U.K.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- Look out for our new notice board on the railway path at the entrance to the Moss from the station car park. The contractor for the extensive road works and parking changes at Lenzie Station, R J MacLeod, donated this to us as part of their community contribution. The old notice board, together with the one at the entrance to the Moss from Hawthorn Avenue, is being removed.
- We are also delighted to welcome a new bench along the railway path. It has a sociable layout, so we hope it will present an opportunity to chat with fellow users. This was donated by close family friends of David Lee and installed by Maggie and Malcom from Mugdock



- Planning for the next Local Development Plan (LDP) is now underway. We will be reviewing it as it progresses, to see if there are any proposals that may impact on Lenzie Moss. We should have an opportunity to see which development sites are being proposed when the draft Main Issues Report is publicised for consultation in the summer. Sign up yourself for EDC's newsletters on the LDP by emailing development.plan@eastdunbarton.gov.uk or call 0300 123 4510
- We have no further news to report about EDC's proposed changes to the railway path. We understand that the public consultation is still on hold.
- EDC have halted the proposal for radical changes to Bea's Path and will undertake improvements more in keeping with a nature reserve.
- The litter clean up on March 23 by 45 people from Lenzie Beavers/Cubs/Scouts, Friends of Lenzie Moss, members of public, Mugdock Rangers and their Conservation Volunteers, was a great success. Intensive litter sweeps were carried out on the main part of the Moss, and more so on that part of the bog south of the railway line just off the Ladies Mile. Over 40 bags of litter, plus road signs, a fire extinguisher, two rusty buckets, an old tent, and a traffic cone were removed to the Mavis Valley Transfer Station, where a great deal of it was



sorted into the various recycling bins. Thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday to help with such a worthwhile cause.



Photos courtesy of Graham Hamilton

- Activities on the Moss – see website for Harry Potter Broom making 6 October, Fungus Amungus 13 October, both well worth attending. Book via Mugdock Rangers 0141 956 6100

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: Christine Morrison

email cmorrison199@gmail.com

Treasurer: Paul Dudman

email paul.dudman1@ntlworld.com

Committee: Joan & Iain Christie

Katherine Kelsey

Website: www.friendsoflenziemoss.org.uk

FoLM email: friendsoflenziemoss@gmail.com

Members wishing to join the committee are always welcome.