

friends of Lenzie MOSS

Summer 2021

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.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Coronavirus has continued to exert its influence on our activities over the past 12 months. We have again had to forego our AGM in June, and activities on the Moss continue to be reduced to emergency work only.

However, things have not been static. Looking back over the past 12 months:

- walking round the Moss has continued at a high level as you'll see from the footfall counter data on page 3
- EDC has enlarged the drainage channels along Bea's Path and along the path in the north woods
- we made representations to EDC about a developer request to build on part of the Moss at the top of Heather Drive – Site 46 in the Local Development Plan 2
- we reported in January on the tree felling on the area of the Moss adjacent to Lenzie Meadow School and liaised with Forestry Scotland about the permissibility of this.
- we obtained more bird boxes with the help of a grant and look forward to seeing these occupied at some point

- we also had opportunities to participate in online sessions with Butterfly Conservation Scotland
- we're pleased to note further interest from Lenzie Meadow School in using the Moss as a learning tool for their pupils, and to have met the children from the nursery unit taking part in one of their regular walks on the Moss
- and we've seen our first children's activity on the Moss in June, a minibeast hunt led by Alan McBride of the Mugdock Rangers

You'll see further reports from EDC's Streetscene Technical Support team and the Mugdock Rangers on page 2, together with our Treasurer's report on page 4.

Our grateful thanks go to the Streetscene Technical Support team and the Mugdock Rangers for their unstinting enthusiasm and support, and I wish to thank personally the FoLM committee for their support over the past 12 months, and also Anna Illingworth for her invaluable help with our newsletters.

We look forward to the next 12 months with optimism.

Christine Morrison

Report from the EDC Streetscene Technical Support team

Fossorial water voles have been identified by ecological company, Starling Learning, while carrying out a breeding bird survey at Lenzie Moss for EDC. Fossorial water voles are happily living at Heather Drive Open Space. This is a very exciting discovery for both the Friends of Lenzie Moss and Streetscene Technical Support EDC.

Fossorial water voles are a phenomenon seen in Easterhouse, Glasgow where water voles have forsaken their usual watery environment for one of a land based nature.

Water voles and their habitat are fully protected. Streetscene Technical Support is in discussion with the Glasgow Water Vole Project and Nature Scot in order to provide a fully enhanced habitat for these endangered mammals. Their location near houses is of concern as local residents may mistake these herbivorous mammals for rats. However, water voles are harmless and carry no diseases that can be transmitted to humans.

A weed wipe of small birch seedlings and scrub invading the peat bog areas has been carried out. This is in accordance with Lowland Raised Peat Bog management and will both prevent the bog further drying out and maintain the diverse range of peatland plants and animals found at Lenzie Moss.

We would like to remind users that Lenzie Moss is a Local Nature Reserve with the lowland peat bog area being a European Priority Habitat. For this reason we would request that access should be only on the main paths and boardwalks and that dogs, for reasons of wildlife and nesting bird disturbance, be kept under full control.

Jackie Gillespie

Ed. note: we hope to have a feature on the fossorial water voles in our next issue.

Report from the Mugdock Rangers

As rangers, most of our day, pre-Covid, involved working with groups of volunteers, or leading groups interested in environmental education or recreation, both at Mugdock Country Park and in the greenspaces of East Dunbartonshire. Restrictions during the lockdowns meant we had to get used to a lot more lone working. We were also required to work from home which was a good opportunity to write up, for example, invasive species survey reports; plan and put together new interpretation panels; and update risk assessments.

Out of doors, the rangers were kept busy trying to keep on top of tasks that would normally be carried out by groups of conservation volunteers, as well as deal with increased litter and anti-social behaviour in specific locations. Huge numbers of folk getting out and about in their local area put a lot of pressure on the path networks close to big populations. One result of this was the collapse of a couple of long sections of Lenzie Moss's boardwalk. Luckily we had enough wood in storage to allow us to replace the rotten wood on the underside of the boardwalk and renew the broken treads.

The second larger repair was the replacement and lengthening of the boardwalk spur which leads on to the mineral railway path. We were greatly helped in both these projects by neighbours allowing us to store wood and tools in their garden.

The rangers check and repair the circular path round the Moss regularly and locals let us know if there are any problems with it. It has great character and completes the delightful loop around the Moss.

The rangers enjoy working on Lenzie Moss as it really is a really special place.

Maggie Ferguson

Active Travel Discussion



You may be interested to join in EDC's Active Travel Discussion which takes place online on 4 September 2021 between 10am and 11am.

The Council's aim is to help more people benefit from keeping active as part of their everyday journeys and exercise, and the discussion will enable local residents to say what they like about the current travel network, and suggest other ideas for keeping active while on the move. These ideas will contribute to delivering the Local Transport Strategy 2020-2025, and be considered when drafting the next Active Travel Strategy.

We have a particular interest in this because one of the proposals in the Local Transport Strategy 2020-25 could directly affect our enjoyment of Lenzie Moss. This is the proposal to create a cycle route from Lenzie Station to Westerhill through Lenzie Moss, along the path parallel to the railway line. It could entail a radical change to the physical appearance and usage of the path in order to accommodate cyclists, as well as creating a solid path over an uncut part of the bog.

You may recall that this was the subject of considerable objection after the initial survey in 2015, both on aesthetic grounds and on the potential danger to pedestrians from fast moving cycles in a shared space. The project didn't go ahead at the time because of land ownership issues further along the proposed route, but we will keep a watching brief on this.

To join the discussion or get more information visit:
www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/active-travel-discussion

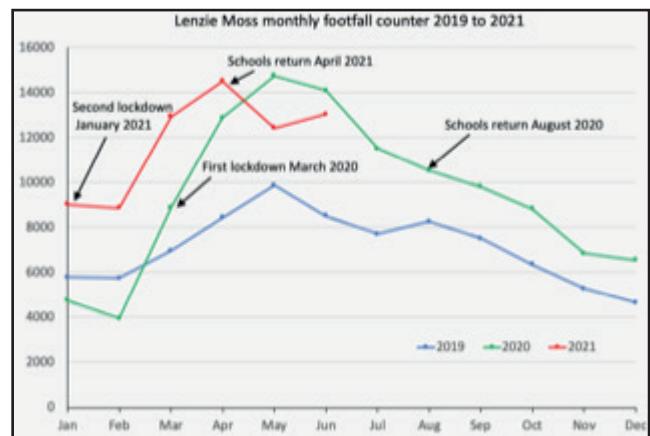
Footfall Counter Update

In the months April to June 2021 the daily average footfalls were,

395 pedestrians 23 cyclists 21 unknowns

For the same period last year the daily average figures were,

420 pedestrians 19 cyclists 24 unknowns



This data is actively connected with EDC's Active Travel Research. We hope therefore that the preponderance of pedestrians using Bea's Path will have a bearing on the proposed change of usage to the railway path.

Enlarged drainage ditch north woods



Report from our Treasurer

The past year has been a relatively quiet period for us, as events were curtailed and meetings put on hold. Our membership numbers grew as more people walked on the Moss and became interested in helping to protect it. Total income for the year at £419 compares to the previous year's income of £358. Expenditure was also reduced as we printed fewer newsletters and instead emailed these to many members. Website fees are similar to previous years, but are increasing at a level above inflation. We ended up with a surplus of £101, which helped to improve the overall balance after a deficit of £172 in the previous financial year. Our balance of £969 is more in line with previous years.

Paul Dudman

Frog Spawn Rescue

Stuart McFarlane of the Countryside Ranger Service rescued 4 big buckets of frogspawn from the marshy grassland area just off Bea's Path at Fern Avenue.

All were safely moved to open water areas on the Moss.



Minibeast Hunt -report from Alan McBride

The turnout was low but I think that this may be due to a lot of people being away on holiday at the moment and a certain number of people who currently don't want to attend events due to the continuing risk of Covid.

Those who did attend had a great time in the warm sunshine, finding plenty of grassland beasties such as grasshoppers, butterflies, moths, caterpillars, lacewing and leaf hoppers.

Tree felling on the Moss 2020



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.