

NEWS IN BRIEF

Comments from Lend Lease volunteers after their conservation day

"the passion and concern that FoLM have for the Moss is very clear, and I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the team that is protecting this beautiful site for future generations to enjoy";

"I really enjoyed my first Community Day project. It was satisfying to help a project close to a community's heart, and we were made to feel very welcome. It also made for a very good teambuilding exercise for our own benefit. I look forward to doing something similar next year";

"an enjoyable and satisfying day. I felt we were making a positive contribution to a unique natural area";

"the effort that goes into ensuring the Moss can be enjoyed by the Lenzie locals is evident when you speak to FoLM and the Ranger Service, and I was delighted, in some small way, to assist with their efforts. Lend Lease have been carrying out Community Day projects for 20 years, and we love to find a project close to our site, so we know we are helping the local community".



Harry Potter succeeds again

Another ever-popular Harry Potter broom-making day was held on Friday 14th October when 60 adults and children turned up to enjoy the fun. The children of Cleddens Learning and Childcare Centre in Bishopbriggs also enjoyed their own broom making session on the Moss with Maggie from the Mugdock Rangers.

Repair of seat on the boardwalk

We're delighted to see that the seat on the boardwalk has now been repaired.



Our members

We are sorry to report that a long-standing member, Dr. David Primrose, has died. Although latterly a Consultant Psychiatrist in the field of mental deficiency, he was also a qualified Chartered Accountant and Bachelor of Law. His legal knowledge helped to defeat a house-building proposal affecting Lenzie Moss back in 1990. From then on, he continued to support FoLM in many ways, such as participating in birch and litter clearances.

Ranger moves on to a new career

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Fiona Burns, one of the Mugdock Rangers who has been closely involved with Lenzie Moss over many years. She is now undertaking training for a change of career and we wish her every success. Thank you Fiona for all your hard work and enthusiasm.

EDC Local Development Plan (LDP) update

In September, the Reporters from the Scottish Government published their Examination Report on EDC's draft LDP. You may recall that the draft LDP had excluded the housebuilding proposals that could have affected Lenzie Moss, namely on the Rugby Club land and on the land at the top of Heather Drive/ Boghead Rd. Prior to the examination there were further representations from the developers to have the sites included but, after due consideration, the Reporters were not persuaded to do so. The proposed housing on the site of the old garages in Blackthorn Grove remains included. The LDP is now with the Scottish Government for ratification. The full report can be seen on EDC's website.

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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Members wishing to join the committee are always welcome.

friends of Lenzie MOSS

Winter 2016-17

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.

Path maintenance at the end of Heath Avenue and in the north woods

Outdoor Education students from Glasgow Kelvin College, working towards their John Muir award, toiled hard in February 2016 this year to improve the pathway through the north woods. The path at the western end was much prone to flooding, and it has now been built up to help keep it dry underfoot. The students wheelbarrowed Toptrek from the deposit at the top of Heather Drive and this was then tamped down on to the path. The work was overseen by one of the Mugdock Rangers.

On November 19th further repairs were made to the path connecting Heath Avenue to Bea's Path by the Mugdock

Rangers and volunteers, including scouts from the Glasgow 183rd Troop in Bearsden. Thanks to all.

Future input from the Rangers is now to be curtailed because of EDC financial constraints, so please help to plug the gap by joining in future conservation work – and encourage friends and neighbours too – so that we can keep Lenzie Moss as our fantastic local amenity. The next conservation dates for 2017 are 21st January (task to be confirmed) and 18th March (litter clear-up).





Beaver Scouts and families planting wild flowers

More wild flower planting at the top of Heather Drive

On 15th October 10 Beaver Scouts and families joined the Mugdock Rangers to plant a further batch of wild flowers in the grassy area to the left of the pathway leading from the top of Heather Drive to the boardwalk. The weather wasn't particularly kind for them, so well done Beaver Scouts and families.



Lotus pedunculatus
(Greater bird's foot trefoil)



Lychnis flos-cuculi
(Ragged robin)



Lythrum salicaria
(Purple loosestrife)



Succisa pratensis
(Devil's bit scabious)

As we know from experience, it's hard going when you have 500 plant plugs to dig in! A number of plants were still left after the day's efforts, and these were planted during the Conservation Day on 19th November. A big thank you to the Beaver Scouts, the 183rd Scout Troop from Bearsden, and other volunteers, for their labours on that day.

We would like to thank Action Earth for awarding us a grant of £500, which went towards the cost of the plants. We look forward to the display next summer.

The plants were:

Pipistrelle Bats increase in Scotland

In our last Newsletter we mentioned the new bat boxes installed on Lenzie Moss. Some further facts about bats...

A 2015 report undertaken by the Bat Conservation Trust using data from the National Bat Monitoring Programme indicated that the common pipistrelle bat population has increased in Scotland by 47% since 2009. Over the previous century bat populations had declined substantially.

Contributory factors towards the increase are put down to legal protection for bats, fewer roosts lost to development, and less harmful timber treatment chemicals in roof voids.

The common pipistrelle is one of the smallest British bat species. Head to tail it measures between 5.8 and 8.8 cm, its wingspan from 18 to 25 cm, and its weight between 3.5 and 8.5 g. It can be found in many habitats, including woodland edge, hedgerows, tree lines, gardens, parks, and near open water where there are many insects. A healthy bat population indicates a healthy plant and insect environment. A pipistrelle can consume 3,000 midges in one night.

In winter bats hibernate and emerge in March/April to feed. In May/June, females form maternity colonies where they give birth to a single young. For the first 3 or 4 weeks the young are fed solely on their mother's milk. After about 4 weeks they are able to fly, and at 6 weeks they are able to forage for themselves. September brings the mating season, and hibernation starts again about November.

Bats are long-lived creatures. They are intelligent, have complex social lives, and are the only mammals capable of powered flight. While flying, they emit a series of high-pitched sounds and listen to the returning echoes to produce a picture of their surroundings. This enables them to avoid obstacles while flying and to catch tiny insects, even in complete darkness. If you've ever been lucky enough to watch bats just after sunset swooping through the air catching insects, you'll know what superb masters of navigation they are.

There is still a need to improve survey coverage, according to SNH, to achieve a better understanding of all 9 or 10 species of bat in Scotland. If you would like to find out more about bats and perhaps sign up to the National Bat Monitoring Programme, contact the Bat Conservation Trust – www.bats.org.uk "It's fun, it's different, it's important".

Acknowledgements: Scottish Natural Heritage and the Bat Conservation Trust

