

NEWS IN BRIEF

RECENT ACTIVITIES

- The minibeast hunt event was very well attended with over 40 people.
- The Harry Potter broom event attracted between 30 and 40 children, together with their parents.

SNAILS

We appear to have garnered a collection of gourmet snails who have recently been enjoying the paper and ink of our notices in the notice board by the station carpark. Our last 2 notices were found hanging in shreds with a couple of very large snails "resting" inside the board. We have now invested in a laminator to protect future notices.

RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS

Spotted recently, treecreepers in the woods adjacent to the railway line. These are small, brown, almost mouse-like birds with a habit of running up (rarely down) tree trunks. Although they are relatively common, their quiet unobtrusive manners mean they often go undetected. Treecreepers have strong legs and feet, with long, deeply curved claws, stiffened tail feathers (which are used for support) and a fine down-curved bill. They mostly search for insects hidden under bark or in little crevices in the trunk.

Also seen over the open bog were fieldfares and redwings, similar in appearance to thrushes. They are migratory birds that are typically winter visitors from Scandinavia. They are seen on farmland with large hedges, scrub and woodland laden with berries. In late winter they will feed on grassland and field margins.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Conservation dates 2018: Jan 20th and Feb 17th, between 10.45am and 2.45pm. Follow the signs from the station car park.



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 2017-18
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.



In September late flowering devil's bit scabious provided great colour in the wild flower meadow at the top of Heather Drive, and food for the myriad of bees seen getting an autumn feed. Their rounded and nodding, purple-blue flower heads can generally be found in damp meadows and marshes, and along woodland rides and riverbanks. They are in bloom between July and October, and their pincushion-like flower heads attract a wide variety of butterflies and bees. They are also the food plant for the declining Marsh Fritillary Butterfly which is classified as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Some of the wild flowers in our meadow are still taking time to establish, but this one has got off to a good start.

THE BOG SQUAD

In September the 'Bog Squad' came to Lenzie Moss to undertake a day of invasive birch scrub clearance. The Bog Squad team is a volunteer task force, created by **Butterfly Conservation Scotland** to carry out rehabilitation works on damaged peatlands across Scotland's central belt, with funding from Scottish Natural Heritage's Peatland Action project.

The edges of Lenzie Moss are somewhat drier than the interior and are vulnerable to invasive birch seedlings continuing to spread in. If left unattended, these small trees can begin to suck vital water resources away from the Moss. By hand-pulling seedlings the birch can be kept at bay, to protect the Moss and its important peat carbon store from drying out. On the day a great effort from the volunteers meant that around 1.5 hectares of seedlings were cleared from the Moss.

The volunteers also had an excellent day of nature-spotting with plenty of caterpillars found, including the spectacular Emperor and Drinker Moths. Both of these species rely on wet and boggy sites such as Lenzie Moss to provide important habitat for them. Volunteers also found the beautiful and nationally scarce bog specialist plant Bog Rosemary still flowering despite the autumnal feel to the weather.

The Bog Squad holds regular work parties across central Scotland. For more information on its activities see <http://bogsquad.weebly.com/> or contact David Hill at dhill@butterfly-conservation.org



Bog Rosemary



Drinker Moth Caterpillar



Emperor Moth Caterpillar

CHANGES TO PATHS OVER THE MOSS

THE RAILWAY PATH

In August you may have noticed a surveyor working along the path that runs on the Moss alongside the railway line, and then blue marks left on some of the trees. We understand that the two are linked i.e. the markings were there to provide theodolite markers for the surveyor.

EDC, as part of their Active Travel Strategy, wish to create a cycle path between Lenzie Station and Westerhill Rd., using the existing path on the Moss alongside the railway line. This will entail upgrading the path. The proposal would also include extending the path across the uncut part of the peat at the western end of the Moss, across the adjacent field, over Crosshill Rd. by the bridge, and finally to Westerhill Rd. in Bishopbriggs. It would then connect in to cycle lanes along the new road, the ultimate aim being to enable individuals to cycle more safely to Glasgow from Lenzie.

The Council issued a draft proposal for this in 2015 and we made representation at that time to express our concerns over it in so far as it related to Lenzie Moss. Our concerns were:

- the implications of a shared space between cyclists and pedestrian users,
- potential disturbance to wildlife,
- the change from a rural path to a thoroughfare.

When, in August this year, it seemed that the Council were progressing the project, we met with them to clarify the current position and to reiterate our original concerns.

We also asked them to fully consider alternative routes to provide cyclists with safe off-road travel.

We now understand that they are undertaking a further feasibility study and that this will be available for consultation. We also understand that there are some difficulties over land purchase to complete the project, and this has meant the project being on hold for the time being.

We will let you have details of the Council's proposal as soon as we have them, and we will be looking for your views on them.

NEW PATH FROM LENZIE MEADOW SCHOOL TO BEA'S PATH

Again, under their Active Travel Strategy, the Council is looking to provide a linking path from Lenzie Meadow School to Bea's Path. With the closure of Lenzie Primary School there is now a greater need to provide a proper path to replace the current muddy one, so that all children can travel to the new school on foot or by bike.

Although the proposed path would not be on the Nature Reserve, we are concerned that it should not affect either the ambience of the Moss or its wildlife.

We understand that access to the land has not yet been agreed with the present land owner, but we are linked in to the process, and will be meeting the Council at the design stage in due course to discuss their more detailed proposals.

