

Newsletter

Spring 2021 Volume 17 Issue 1

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AUTUMN 2020

For the first time last Autumn the main fields in Cammo were cut and baled. This has been a huge success. The cutting and baling let lots more light onto the ground and this spring there is masses of germination happening. This effect has been increased by the big

areas of the fields that were harrowed and seeded with wildflower. As a result we expect there to be more wildflower in the fields this year than ever before. During the summer more of the bales will be broken up to help mulch the field trees.



It turns out that the bales are extremely popular with young children as climbing frames and they have also been variously used for picnicking on, sunbathing on and leaning on for distanced chats.



WINTER

Winter brought snow - which was also fun for some!



CHRISTMAS

The Friends of Cammo decorated a tree for the Cramond Kirk Christmas Tree Festival and put up Happy Christmas banners at the main entrances to the park.



We also put out a Facebook post after Christmas telling people they could bring their old Christmas trees to the park for us to create habitat piles with. We had to start saying no to people once we got to 500 trees! The idea caught on in a big way and enabled us to have lots of conversations about habitat and carbon, which was great.



The trees have been distributed around the park as habitat piles, barriers and protection for young trees.



The Thaw



With the thaw, the lake revealed itself once more and was a big hit with children and dogs alike. Plans to create a wetland and boardwalk here are progressing.



The project is about to be presented to Edinburgh Council for planning.

Assuming it gets the go-ahead, we are hoping it might start this year.

Simon (seen here) and Nick surveyed the area.



PARK USE

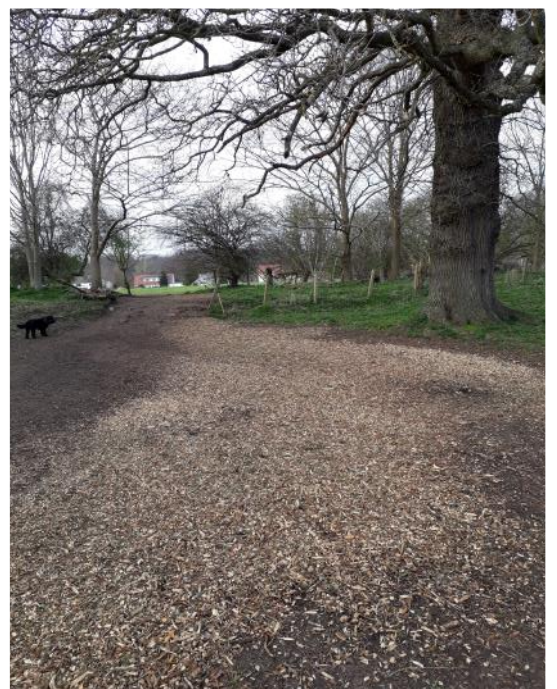
Lockdown has resulted in a massive increase in the number of people using the park. The park has been a great resource for people unable to exercise or enjoy themselves in other ways. It has also resulted in more pressure on the park. Paths have been made muddier than ever, there are lots of fires being lit and large amounts of litter left, particularly after parties held in the increasingly barren area used by the Forest Kindergarten.



The Friends are trying to combat these effects by putting woodchip down on muddy paths, picking up litter and bringing deadwood into the park to replace what is being burnt.



Given that the pressures on the park are likely to continue because of all the new housing, the Friends hope to minimise the negative impacts in the future by doing some more planting to protect areas of the estate and putting up signs pointing out that fires are not permitted in a Local Nature Reserve.



Other News

Most meetings and activities were cancelled because of coronavirus restrictions although the Committee has held a few socially distanced meetings in the park and via Zoom. A general meeting including AGM was held on 3rd March via Zoom. Minutes of the meeting and the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts can be found on our website.

We welcome Gill Harris who has joined as a Trustee and committee member.

The Friends of Cammo worked with the council to complete and install an information panel about hedgerow flowers and one about Cammo House. Seven fingerpost direction signs were also installed.

Butterfly Conservation asked for volunteers to record on a transect in Cammo that was defined in the past but has not been recorded for a while. Dorothy Lyle, Michael Roe, David Kyles and Simon Metcalfe have volunteered to resurrect it and post recordings on the app iRecord.

Committee members and other volunteers continued to work individually or in small groups to maintain and improve the park, including picking litter.

After Forest Kindergarten staff vacate the Lodge, the Council intends to seek an operator for a short-term trial of running a café from the Lodge, before any decision is made about a longer lease. Alongside any new use, we want the Lodge to function again as a visitor centre (preferably open longer hours) and a meeting space.

The containers that will act as a base for the Forest Kindergarten are now in place at the North car park. The staff and children will start using them in the near future.

Other events will be notified on our Facebook page and website, and by email to members.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/friendsofcammo>

Website: <http://www.friendsofcammo.org>

New Year 2021 - a poem by Harry Taylor (written on 1st January 2021)

*Welcome, twenty twenty-one,
A new year, that has just begun.
It carries hope and expectations
That millions will receive vaccinations.*

*We say goodbye to twenty-twenty,
A year remembered by all and gentry,
As a year quite unlike any other,
When Covid-19 caused all the bother.*

*Let's hope within this brand new year
Inoculations will give some cheer,
And Covid-19 will be given the boot,
Destroyed for ever, right to its root.*

*With that thought in mind, I wish for you,
Lots of sunshine and skies of blue,
Good health, happiness and good cheer,
But most of all - Happy New Year.*

MEMBERSHIP

Once again, it is time to make your annual payment to Friends of Cammo. For those with a standing order in place, no action is required. Others will receive information about how to renew membership, and the alternative payment methods. Prompt payment is much appreciated.