



Friends of Cammo
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC 033394

Newsletter

Spring 2019 Volume 15 Issue 1

Email: friendsofcammo@yahoo.co.uk

3 March 2018



Do you remember the beginning of March last year when *the Beast from the East* swept through the country?

What a contrast with this year!

P.S. Look out for the first swallows around 19th April!

3 March 2019



Website

Our new website is up and running! Many thanks are due to Connor Coull, Ryan Gregson and Lewis

Trundle of The Royal High School for all their hours of hard work putting this

together for us. Please check it out at (www.friendsofcammo.org) The more people who look at it, the easier it will be to find with Google. On this site you will find, amongst other things, past copies of the Newsletter as well as upcoming events.



21st Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held on 6th March and was preceded by a demonstration of the new website.

Main points:

It was noted that Marcel Crolla had not been able to take up his role on the Committee. The existing three office bearers and two other committee members were re-elected.

The Treasurer, Lynn Whitehead, said that we ended 2018 with £3,000 general funds and that all grant money had been spent.

Shay Dean reported that during the year to March we gained 46 new members taking the total to 182 households, though 17 have not paid so will now be removed from the membership list. A box of forms has been installed near the park gate.

Nick Bengé gave an update on environmental matters (also reported in this newsletter.)

David Kyles, the Ranger, sent in a report in which it was noted that the spate of anti-social behaviour in the park seems to have been greatly reduced after a strong police intervention.

Simon Gillam and Nick reported on the estate regeneration and the latest wildflower project (see Nick's report for details.)

Environmental Report

By Nick Bengé

All the young field trees and hedgerows are thriving. Many of them now have no need of further care but there are still some that need the tree shelters and stakes. We continue to have thriving populations of song birds, owls, buzzards, rabbits, foxes badgers and, in the canal, breeding frogs and toads.

The Bee Group

The bees will be coming back to Cammo in mid-April. Rachel Doughty, a local bee-keeping enthusiast, has agreed to lead the Bee Group and over 10 volunteers have stepped forward to look after a small community of hives that are to be trialled in the walled garden at Cammo. Rachel says that we have to be mindful that bees are still wild and can decide to leave when they choose. It is the responsibility of a beekeeper to look for signs of swarming and it will be their job to ensure that they guide these bees to achieve their full potential. That potential is not just for honey but to facilitate the vital pollination service that they provide. The only way a colony of bees will survive is if we create an ideal environment for them where they have enough flowers and trees locally to sustain them throughout their active period from March to October, to store the honey and pollen that they need to see them through the Winter.

The Friends have put up an enclosure in the walled garden in readiness for the new bee hive. This should be an ideal location as it is warm and sheltered and honey bees love snowdrops and willows.



Upcoming Events

There will be a large-scale wildflower planting on **Sunday 28th April**. Meet at the Lodge at 10:30 am. Bring a trowel and gloves. We need all the help we can get as there will be 1000 plants to put in. Soup and jammy dodgers may feature!



Leave the park better than you find it!

We would like to appeal to all our members to help us keep Cammo Park natural and beautiful. One way of doing this is just to leave the park a tiny bit better when you leave it than it was when you went in! Pick up one (or more if you can) piece of litter. Put a stick that a dog has left on the ground back under the young field trees. This helps the trees grow and thrive. Take a stick out of the canal, or clear a branch off a path. Our wildlife and our park users will benefit and if enough of us do this, we will have always have a beautiful, thriving, natural park.



Year at a Glance 2018

Our activities in 2018 included:

- Planted 115 trees and shrubs – bringing the total planted to date to about 2,400.
- Replaced 130 tree shelters with mesh for extra protection.
- Prepared ground for new wildflower areas in South, Home and North fields.
- Put up jackdaw boxes and starling boxes.
- Stone Pine from Portugal planted in the Pinetum.
- Regular litter picks were carried out.
- Debris was removed from Cammo Canal.
- The annual barbeque was organised but had to be cancelled the day before owing to heavy rain.
- New self-guided walk leaflets were produced.
- Hosted the Botanical Society of Scotland Bioblitz at Cammo.
- Regeneration priorities for Cammo Estate were agreed with Council staff and the Community Council.
- There was a concerted membership drive resulting in higher membership and increased subscriptions and donations.
- Gift Aid and Data Protection consents were obtained from members.
- Regular open meetings were held with illustrated talks.
- The Lodge was staffed on Sunday afternoons.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 7 April Litter pick. Help tidy up Cammo for Summer (equipment supplied) Meet at the Lodge at 10.00am

Sunday 28 April Wildflower planting Meet at the Lodge at 10.30am

Tuesday 4 June Meeting in the Lodge 7.30pm Open to all

Sunday 11 August Summer Event! (Please note: Not a Barbeque this year. Look out for posters and information on Facebook and the website)

Tuesday 3 September Meeting in Lodge 7.30pm Open to all

Sunday 10 November Litter pick. Help tidy up Cammo for Winter (equipment supplied). Meet at the Lodge at 10.00am

Tuesday 3 December Meeting in Lodge 7.30pm Open to all

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

To accompany some great photos taken by Marian Scott, we share some lovely verses sent in by Anon!



Cammo through the Seasons

Spring

Trees wake up, new buds unfold
welcoming the end of winter's cold.
Wildlife emerges to greet the sun.
The seasonal cycle has again begun.
Birds are gathering twigs and moss
to line their nests with comfy floss.
Aquatic plants within the canal
begin to thrive and grow so tall.
Daffodils line woodland walks
with yellow heads on slender stalks.
And fields that once were frozen hard
become green with tender shooting sward.

Summer

The trees are clothed in leaves of green,
some light, some dark, some in-between.
Honey bees flit from flower to flower
collecting nectar 'til very late hour.
The fields are green with youngish grass
and the canal reflects its banks, like glass.
Birds are busy feeding chicks,
which try their wings with flightless flicks.
As evening draws the day to close,
deer and rabbits, with scenting nose,
emerge to graze on pastures new,
beneath a sky of darkening hue.

Anon

Snapshot of Cammo

In Spring, when weather begins to fine
the park is busy - a very sure sign
that open fields and woodland walks
are welcomed by the numerous folks.

In Summer, days are long and warm,
attracting those of the outdoor form
like joggers, walkers and family clans
who love the freedom of open lands.

In Autumn, daylight begins to short
but colourful trees make this resort
a place of beauty to wander through
and enjoyed by more than just a few.

In Winter, snow is on the ground
and various animal tracks abound.
The days are short, frosty and cold
but Cammo Park will always hold
a special place within my heart
that age and time will never part.

Anon

