



# Newsletter

**Autumn 2019**

Email: [friendsofcammo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:friendsofcammo@yahoo.co.uk)

## April-September News



**June** Unprecedented rainfall and the Bughtlin Burn at Cammo almost burst its banks. The water was up on the base of the bridge and wouldn't have needed much more to be over the top. Climate change and all the new developments will make these events increasingly likely .



### August - Summer Event

For the second year running, the Summer Event had to be cancelled due to bad weather. So much time and effort goes into the organisation of this event, which has been such fun and so successful in previous years, that after much consideration, it has reluctantly been decided to ditch the outdoor summer event and replace it with an indoor "winter social" for Friends of Cammo members and their guests. More details to follow.

### Friends of Cammo Website

Here is the new QR code. The Royal High School pupils who set up our website have moved on (to fab careers in IT, we suspect!) and have passed on the support of the Friends of Cammo website to a new group, whom we are looking forward to meeting soon.



### Forest Kindergarten

Last year, groups of nursery-aged children came to Cammo Park to participate in Forest Kindergarten, which is a programme that offers young children frequent, regular play opportunities outdoors in a natural setting, often woodland, in almost all weathers throughout the year.

<https://www.owlsotland.org/local-options/forest-kindergarten>

This year there are two new groups in the park from Monday to Thursday (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) from East Craigs and Clermiston Primary Schools. They are still making some use of the Lodge but the plan is that they have a base in the new carpark in North Field which is currently under construction.

# Environmental Report

By Nick Bengé

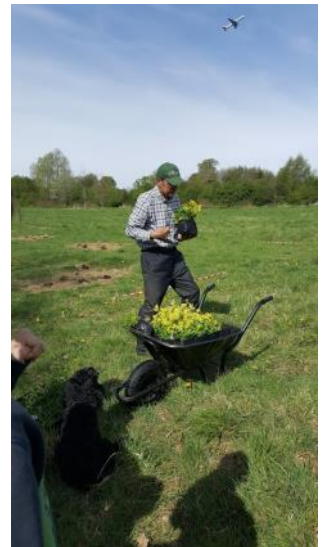
## Deadwood

For the past month, tree surgeons, Special Branch, have been bringing logs, brash and woodchips into Cammo for distribution in the park. The wood chip is being used to cover the ground in woodland areas and will be used over the winter to mulch around young trees. It also helps protect the soil from compaction and helps stop the Forest Kindergarten children from getting too muddy. The logs and brash are used in the woodlands to create habitat piles.



## Wildflower

The end of April saw a large-scale planting of various wildflower plugs and the sowing of yellow rattle. On a beautiful day with blue sky and bright sunshine, approximately 40 Friends of Cammo plus 20 or so student volunteers turned out to help with the task. The yellow rattle knocks back the grass which allows the wildflowers to establish.



I am pleased to report that it was a great success with almost 100% establishment. We have more wildflower plugs to plant over the winter.

# Environmental Report continued

## Hedgerows

As well as more wildflower, we will also be planting some hedgerow species around the new car park at the top of North Field, around the veteran oak in the middle of North Field and along a short section of the path in South Park. Hedgerows provide excellent cover for birds and other small animals and add interest to the park.

## Car Park and Pathwork

With the money received from the sale of the old farmhouse, the Council commissioned the construction of a new car park and gate system at the top of North Field. In addition, old paths are being upgraded and some new paths are being created (along the canal and in Low Meadow.) The boundary fences and parts of the boundary walls are also being replaced.

## Wildlife

The Cammo buzzards raised two young this year after not nesting last year. We continue to have resident rabbits, roe deer, foxes and tawny owls.

This year there were huge numbers of butterflies, especially painted ladies, plus quite a lot of cinnabar moth caterpillars on the ragwort.



Red Admiral on ragwort




Painted Lady



Peacock Butterfly

## Interpretation

Simon Gillam and Peter Scott have been working away for some time on new signs and way-markers for Cammo. These are nearing completion and should be ready to put up in the near future. They include one about the story of Cammo House and one about the hedgerows, which uses some beautiful painting by Lyn Campbell. There will also be finger posts  and way-marking signs for the 3 self-guided walks that the Friends have produced.

## Two more lovely verses about the seasons in Cammo park from our Anonymous poet:



### Autumn

The leaves are red, gold, brown and yellow,  
And fields are misted, the sky is mellow.  
Rainbows appear, the air is cooler,  
Sunsets bring an array of colour.  
Fallen leaves spread carpets of gold  
On ground which now is often cold,  
As Autumn storms bring wind and rain  
To muddy the paths - beware again!  
Squirrels gather nuts to put in store  
Or bury in ground of frosted hoar,  
While foxes, voles and wee field mice  
Prepare for wintery days of ice.



### Winter

Nights are long and days are weary,  
Plants are wet, dripping and dreary.  
Snow has fallen, the fields are white,  
Reflecting upwards the gloomy light.  
The canal is frozen, all covered in ice,  
Winter sets in with a grip like a vice.  
Visitors are scare, but still there are some  
Dog-walkers, with fingers and toes so numb.  
While their dogs cavort and chase each other  
Oblivious to the freezing and frosty weather.  
But lo, behold! - a stirring in the ground  
As snowdrops emerge and spring is found.



## Dates for Your Diary

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

**Winter Wildflower planting:** Meet at the Lodge (Date and Time to be advised)

**Tuesday 3 December: Meeting** in the Lodge 7.30pm Open to all

\* \* \*

**Wednesday 4 March 2020: Meeting** in Lodge 7.30pm Open to all (including AGM)

**Sunday 5 April 2020: Spring Litter pick.**

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