

Newsletter

Spring 2022

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Rus in Urbe
Friends of Cammo
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC 033394

Spring Roundup

A lot has been going on in the park since our last newsletter.

Christmas Trees

As in January 2021, people again brought their old Christmas trees to the park and these were placed around the young trees that had been planted in previous years. The Christmas trees help trap the leaves of the young oaks once they fall, keep people from compacting the ground around the young trees and they are also great habitat for small creatures like wrens and voles.

In this picture of Home Field, you can see four of the Friends' initiatives, including the Christmas trees.



On the right-hand side you can see the “Jubilee” Hedgerow, on the left is part of the extensive hedgerow planting done by a contractor and in the middle, one of the woodchip paths.

In and Around the Park

The Jubilee Hedgerow

We reckoned you don't have to be a monarchist to want to plant a tree but any excuse will do! "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" - a Woodland Trust initiative - was a good enough reason to get planting, and with help from a kind donation of £300, around 50 volunteers turned out on 23rd January to plant a hedgerow at the bottom of Home Field. 100 holly, 40 yew and 20 oak were planted.



At the same time, we planted up the triangle on the corner of South Field, mainly birch and dog rose but also four live Christmas trees.



In and Around the Park

Hedgerow Planting

Glendale, a contractor, planted 2,600 trees on the margins of South, Home and North fields. Species included hawthorn, willow, alder, hazel, oak, blackthorn and holly. The planting was done very poorly and much has had to be replanted, but in the end the trees will be OK and will turn into lovely, native hedgerows.

Large quantities of wildflower seed have been sown by the Friends into the cut turf areas and turf banks.

The Wetland

Almost every winter, an area of South Field floods forming a lovely “lake”. It seemed obvious to make this a permanent feature of the park and this idea was approved by the Council.



The wetland excavation started on Monday 21st March and the bulk of the digging was finished by 30th.



A meandering stream was cut to take water from the canal down to the main pool with overspill taken into the burn.



It was exciting when the water was released and the stream started running down to the pool. The big pool filled up quickly but we had some issues with large numbers of field drains which had to be plugged. Once this was done, the water level came up.





Once the water level came up, planting began with marsh marigold, water cress, brooklime and water mint going into the stream and bog bean, Scirpus, reed sweet grass, flag iris and other plants going into the main pool.

The larch boardwalk will be installed soon.

More wildflower seed has also been sown into the spoil bank and cut areas of turf.

Here is Nick starting the planting. A while back Harry and Sheena of the Friends of Cammo very kindly nominated Nick for a British Citizen's Award. Their nomination was successful and Nick was invited to House of Lords to collect the award at a ceremony (which was postponed from January because of Covid) on 24th March. Alas, he was unable to attend because of his commitment to overseeing the excavation of the wetland! Nevertheless, he has been honoured with this award.



The Main Entrance to Cammo

The main entrance was resurfaced, partially with funds from the Friends. This has been a great success with the camber preventing flooding and the new surface not having ruts for puddles to form and freeze over in winter.

Environmental Report

Habitat piles continue to be created with both stone and wood from Special Branch.

Some more of the hay bales have been broken up for mulch.

Talks are ongoing with Forest Kindergarten and Forest Schools about the impact the classes have on the park. The projects are great for the children but do have some impact on the environment in the park. FK and FS are looking at finding ways to ameliorate this.

A General meeting of the Friends of Cammo was held outside on Sunday 5th December 2021 which included Christmas refreshments.

The AGM of the Friends of Cammo was held at Turnhouse GC on 2nd March. The current Committee members were re-elected.

A Cramond and Barnton Community litter pick took place on Sunday 3rd April concentrating on the road bordering the park to the north.

Dates for Your Diary

- General meetings of the Friends of Cammo are scheduled to be held on Wednesdays 1st June (provisionally in the woodland behind Cammo House) and 7th September at Turnhouse GC, both starting at 7:30pm.
- A 'Picnic in the Park' event is being planned for the summer. Details will be announced soon.