



# Newsletter

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

During the spring and summer, Cammo continued to be a haven for everyone who wanted to walk, run, jog, cycle, play or just get out into the “Rus in Urbe”.

Since the Spring newsletter we have, as usual been looking after the park in conjunction with David Kyles of the council. We pick litter up, fill in holes in the paths that dogs dig, remove wood from the canal and replace young trees that get knocked over or die. A local tree surgeon brings in woodchip which we put on path entrances to make them less muddy and we create habitat piles with the logs they bring in too. We also set tasks for, and supervise, various volunteer groups (The Green Team and the Dirty Weekenders) who help with the work in the park. Recently they have been cutting the mesh off the bales, spreading woodchip and Type One and cutting back the wildflower.

The orchard produced lots of fruit again this year, particularly apples, and Simon handed some out as part of a Gate Day that we recently held to encourage people to join the Friends.



The Cammo bees had another successful summer with 32 cartons of honeycomb being produced. Interestingly, this year's honey smelled and tasted different from last year's but was equally gorgeous. We are unique in Scotland in having hives in a public park that produce honey. This is entirely down to our wonderful bee-keeper, Rachel Doughty.

Once again there was plenty of wildflower in the park that the bees use to collect nectar and pollen.



Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society (EAFS) continue to explore Cammo, visiting most Mondays. Recent work at the Steading, the ruin to the left behind the Stables previously referred to as the Piggery, included clearing the Byre. The information sheet displayed in the nearby panel has been updated. Work at the north wall of the Walled Garden has revealed flues used to heat the wall, and inside the Walled Garden the outline of the greenhouse has been identified next the wall.

EAFS are also undertaking an Oral History project based on Cammo. They would welcome contact from anyone who has early memories of Cammo Estate and maybe of the Maitland-Tennents.

For Doors Open day on 26th September EAFS organised hourly guided walks to show their work at Cammo and displayed some of the artefacts found. The EAFS 50th anniversary exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh, which runs from 1st October to 15th January, includes Cammo exhibits.

The Forest Kindergarten classes now have two containers up next to the North carpark. They also continue to use the Lodge and have applied to use it as a centre for the project. The Friends have also requested permission to restart our Sunday opening of the Lodge as Covid restrictions are easing.

The Council plans to resurface (tarmac) the Lodge entrance before Christmas. There were a number of falls on black ice that formed here last Christmas and New Year so this is very welcome. There are also plans to consolidate the stables and, in the longer term, the walls of the walled garden.



Speckled wood

A group of 4 volunteers (Dorothy Lyle, Michael Roe, Simon Metcalfe and David Kyles) have been operating a rota to record butterflies each week. Butterfly Conservation Scotland has defined a transect around the perimeter of Cammo and the volunteers record what they see in each section of the transect. The results are entered into the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and so this important bit of citizen science helps to build a local and national picture of how different species of butterfly are faring.

Possibly due to the cold and late Spring, it was a poor season for Vanessids with only a few Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks and Comma spotted. As regards the white butterflies, quite a few Orange-tips were seen earlier in the season with Small Whites and Green-veined Whites later in the seasons. Speckled Woods are on the increase and a Small Skipper was spotted in the park.



Small skipper

We intend to repeat the recording each year.

The three big fields have just been cut and baled again. This is done to reduce the height of the field grass and to increase floral diversity in the fields.

The bales are great for children to play on but also host lots of animals and insects.



The photos show a wasps' nest deep in one of last year's bales that badgers have dug up and eaten.



# Upcoming Cammo Projects

## Planned Wet Meadow and new Burn in South Field



The project to construct a wet meadow and boardwalk in South Field has moved on. (See last newsletter, Spring 2021) The council has found funding for this project and it is now in the process of going to planning. If it gets planning permission, then the idea is to carry out the project this winter. Overall the idea is for a large shallow pool to be dug in South Field where flooding occurs every winter. A new burn will also be created down the field from what is currently the buried pipe that takes water from the canal pond.

## Jubilee Hedgerow

A short hedgerow of oak, yew and holly will be planted this winter across the bottom of Home Field. This is nominally a part of the Woodland Trust's "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" initiative, 2022 being the year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As long as we can source the trees we need, then we aim to plant the hedgerow on January 23rd 2022. If you would like to help plant this hedgerow, put the date in your diary and we will confirm nearer the time.

## Other Hedgerow Planting

The council is funding some other hedgerow planting in Cammo which should also take place this winter. This will be carried out by the council's framework contractor, Glendale. It will include stripping turf to facilitate the planting around the field margins. Species will include hawthorn, willow, guelder and dog rose, and other native hedgerow plants.

## Dates for your Diary

We are hoping to have a December meeting with the usual mulled wine and mince pies and other Christmas attractions but not in the Lodge and not outside in the evening as it will be dark. Our current plan is to hold an afternoon meeting in a marquee in the park, on **Sunday 5th December at 2pm**.

**Our next AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7.30 in Cammo Lodge.** Any other events will be dependent on Covid conditions; dates will be announced on Facebook, website and by email to members.

## *Fascinating Facts about Cammo Estate* courtesy of Harry Taylor

In 1780 the building of the existing wall round the Walled Garden commenced. Stone was brought in from Hailes and other stone came from Craiggrook quarry. Brick for the south and west elevations of each wall was carted in from Restalrig. "Bee boles" were built into the south wall of the Walled Garden near the main entrance gateway. These bee boles were a form of bee hive, consisting of rectangular open holes constructed in the wall into which old rope was stuffed for the bees to use as a hive. The boles originally had wooden doors on the north side of the wall, but were left open on the south side. These bee boles are still visible today.