

# Newsletter

Autumn 2018 Volume 14 Issue 2

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## 6 month Roundup



### April

On Sunday 24 April 130 trees and shrubs were planted in front of the new house. Eleven volunteers turned out and planted hawthorn, gean, downy birch, crab apple, alder, sallow willow, hazel.



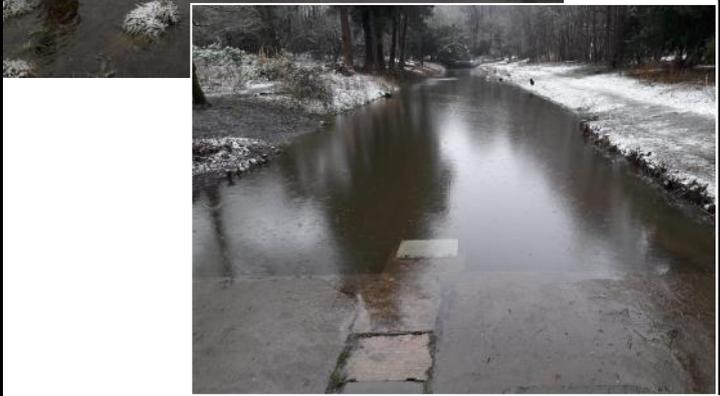
After some initial resistance to the new route to North Field, the new path is being used by almost everyone. The Council shifted the path to prevent people from walking under the mature oak tree.



Large parts of Cammo were under water after the snowmelt in April and the burn and canal were brim-full. The area we want to make a wetland in South Park was a foot deep in places.



These photos were taken in September



## June

In June a large Turkey Oak fell and blocked the path below the stables for some time before being cleared by the Council arborist squad. A large branch fell and blocked the path towards the car park from the main gate, taped off and soon cleared. Other damaged trees next to the path to the stables (ash, horse chestnut and hawthorn) were cleared to the side of the path. An elm growing in the wall of the walled garden failed, bringing down a section of wall.

## July

Committee members Nick and Michael hosted a visit from the Edinburgh Natural History Society on the 17th July.

## August

Alas, the annual Barbeque, 'B in the Park', was cancelled this year due to a very bad weather forecast which proved to be 100% correct as Sunday 12th August proved to be a day of heavy downpours.



The Bioblitz on 19th was almost a washout too as regards public participation, but the Botanical Society of Scotland members participating seemed interested in their findings (plants and fungi and pond-dipping later) though they have not sent us a report yet.

## September

The Council has plans to make more use of the Lodge and we may see a Forest Kindergarten starting up there later this month. That should be fun!

## Last Volunteer Day of the year

Help tidy up Cammo for winter at a **Litter Pick** on **Sunday 10th November** Meet at **The Lodge at 10:00 a.m.** (Equipment will be provided.)

## Natural History

The park continues to be home to a wide variety of animals and plants including buzzards, sparrow hawks, tawny and barn owls, roe deer, badgers, foxes, rabbits and even dung beetles - and the spectacularly-named 'dog's vomit' fungus. All the young trees we have planted are thriving and the wildflower areas continue to provide pollen and nectar for large numbers of bumblebees and honeybees.

## Cammo Estate Regeneration Plan

The single large HLF bid that the council was planning has fallen by the wayside because the grants have changed. The Council now plans to use the money from the sale of the farm to help fund and apply for grants for a series of smaller projects. The exact range and scope of these projects is still to be decided.

## Friends of Cammo Website

We are delighted to report that the Royal High School has undertaken the design, development and on-going maintenance of a website for Friends of Cammo. Pupils Lewis Trundle, Ryan Gregson and Connor Coull, with the supervision of Head of Computer Science Wendy Reith, hope to have a website ready for the end of November 2018.

The aim is to provide information about Cammo Estate, including history, wildlife, maps, walks, QR code links, events, newsletters, general information, orienteering, and information for and about the members of Friends of Cammo and the work they do on the estate. It will also represent the Friends of Cammo organisation, assisting a shift from Facebook and targeting a wider audience, especially a younger community and families with children.

Friends of Cammo committee member, Shay Dean, has instigated and co-ordinated this project and is working with the pupils at regular meetings to discuss the content and layout and provide information and photographs. We thank Shay very much for all her hard work on this.

## Lodge Volunteers

We are grateful to Joanna Morris and her team of volunteers who open the Lodge for visitors on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 pm. We would like to recruit a few more volunteers so that each person is only asked to do a session every 2-3 months. Full briefing will be given and volunteers do not need to be experts on Cammo - the answers to many questions asked by visitors will be found in the booklet A Short History of Cammo Estate. If you think you might be interested, please contact Joanna on 339 6461 or email her at: joannamorris43@gmail.com