

# Improvements To War Memorial

One of Cam's most important open spaces is Hopton Green, and a very important part of this is the War Memorial, which is the focal point for the Parish's Annual Remembrance Service. It was brought to the Council's attention that, with increasing years, some of those wishing to pay their respects at the service were having difficulty in negotiating the steps up to the Memorial. Due to the way in which the area was constructed in various stages, the steps are a little uneven, which is difficult to change. After much consideration, and bearing in mind the need to preserve this sensitive area, it was decided to install a handrail up the centre of the steps to make it easier and safer for people to get up to the Memorial from the Green. At the same time, improvements were made to the access from Hopton Road. This should make it easier for all to take part in the Annual Service and, at the same time, provide an easier route across the Green, avoiding the steep grassy banks.



## From the Chair

We have been delivering our Cam Parish Council newsletter to nearly every house in the parish for several years now. But... We don't know how much of it you read (or if you read any of it at all!) Which items have you found most interesting or helpful? Are there things which you think we ought to include, for example, would you like to hear from or about other organisations in the village? If people are going to trudge the streets delivering the newsletter regularly (and thanks are due to the

volunteers and the local ATC who have helped the councillors with this task this month) we need to know that it's all been worth the effort. So if you have any thoughts on how we could make the Cam Parish Council newsletter better and more useful to the residents of Cam, please let us know. You can drop a note to the shop, or email [clerk@camparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@camparishcouncil.gov.uk), or speak to any of your 16 Parish Councillors (contact details available from the Council Shop).

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U = Upper Ward, L = Lower ward,  
W = Woodfield Ward, C = Central Ward

For more information on anything in this Newsletter, or on the work of the Parish Council in general, please contact the Parish Clerk, Sue Hanman, on 01453 548884, email [clerk@camparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@camparishcouncil.gov.uk) or call in at the Council Shop at 22 High Street (open 10am – 1pm Monday – Thursday)

# cam

parish newsletter

2009 Issue 4

Cam Parish Council · Cam Council Shop · 22 High Street · Cam · Glos · GL11 5LE

[www.camparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.camparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Focus on the work of the Recreation & Leisure Committee

This Committee is responsible for the following in Cam:

- Play and recreational facilities
- Allotments
- Open spaces owned by the Parish Council, including seats, bins etc on them

It works extremely hard to provide recreational opportunities for all ages in the village and to ensure that open spaces are well maintained and accessible. Some recent examples are:

## Good News for Play!

### Woodfield – New Play Area

The Parish Council has been successful in bidding for funding under the Government's Playbuilder programme to refurbish and extend the play area at Hadley Road in Woodfields, one of only 2 schemes in Stroud District and 12 in the County to be granted the funding. The final scheme should be confirmed very soon, but is likely to be very much like the picture above. The Playbuilder fund will meet at least 80% of the cost, hopefully 90%, with the remainder to come from existing Parish Council funds. It is hoped that the new area will be available for use by February 2010.



## In this edition

- Recreation & Leisure Focus
- Good News for Play
- Plans for the Future
- Allotments
- Improvements to War Memorial
- From the Chair

## Jubilee Field – New Ball Games Area

A short while ago, the Council was approached by some young people who use the field, asking if they could have a basketball hoop. We had been planning for a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) on the site, but these are very expensive so it was something very much for the future. However, after talking with the young people, we realised that what they were really looking for was a more informal area, where they could play ball games and practice their skills, preferably in any weather. Talks with suppliers revealed that such an area could be provided for a much more realistic price, and thus within a few weeks, we have been able to put in a hard surfaced area with steel goal mouth and basketball hoop – it even has provision for cricket practice with stumps marked on one of the panels.



## Jubilee Field – Fun And Fitness not just for the Young

These days we are only too well aware of the benefits of keeping active, whatever our age. But this is not always as easy as it sounds! Gym membership is expensive and not always an easy or attractive option – but now all of us can exercise for free in the open air and in beautiful surroundings! The Parish Council has recently installed an ‘outdoor gym’ at the far end of the Jubilee Field – a bit of a walk around the field to reach but that’s all part of the exercise routine, and it does mean that it is not easily overlooked by younger fitter users of the field! There are a total of 8 items of ‘gym-style’ equipment, designed for use in the outdoors by anyone over the age of around 8 years. So far we have received very positive reactions from all users of the equipment – mostly (but not only) those of more mature years, and ranging from those seeking a quite vigorous workout to those taking advantage of the opportunity whilst walking their dogs – it’s something that all the family can enjoy together. Give it a go – and let us know what you think!



## Plans for the Future

The council is very keen to support recreational opportunities for all members of the community and has various plans being considered:

- More equipment for younger children at the Jubilee Field – a need identified to us by parents and carers visiting the area
- A shelter at Woodfields
- A ‘zip-wire’ at the Jubilee Field
- An all weather sports pitch suitable for all sports, including hockey (subject to being able to find funding)
- New changing rooms at the jubilee Field (again subject to funding)

If there is anything more that YOU would like to see, please do get in touch – we might not be able to make it happen immediately, but we will certainly give it serious consideration.

## Allotments

‘Grow your way to 5-a-day’ seems to be the motto of more and more families in Cam; so much so that we now have quite a waiting list for our allotments. For those not in the know, Cam Parish Council has four allotment sites: at Ashmead Green and Upthorpe in Upper Cam, and at Westend and Woodfield Road, in Woodfield. Until recently we had a total of around 60 plots, but with increasing demand we decided to ask if some plot holders would perhaps like a smaller plot and when some people agreed this would suit them better we split some of the plots into two smaller ones which meant we were able to offer more, smaller plots to some of those on the waiting list. However, we still have 24 people waiting for an allotment, so we are making plans for another allotment site. This will be on land owned by the parish council at Ashmead, currently being rented out to a local farmer for grazing (which should make for nicely manured soil!) Our intention, when we have got all the necessary permissions, is to provide at least 20 more plots, but this won’t be for several months yet.



In the meantime most of our allotments are looking well tended and full of fruit and vegetables to reward all the hard work through winter and spring. Allotment holders - please remember allotments are for growing edible produce only, and that we ask that you get approval from the parish council before putting up any sheds or other constructions on your allotment. If you are an allotment holder who is finding a full-sized plot too much and would like to split it, or you hold more than one allotment and would like to give one up for the benefit of other members of the community, then please contact the clerk to discuss it.

On the other hand, is your garden too big and you can’t cope with it? Or have you no garden, but would love to get out there with your fork and watering can? Do you think there is any mileage in the suggestion of a garden share scheme, where the former are matched up with the latter for their mutual benefit? Let us know your thoughts on this innovative scheme which is running in some parts of the country. Let’s see how many people in Cam can ‘grow their own’!