

# cam

## parish newsletter

Issue 3 · Summer 2006

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

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

## Let it snow...!!

Snowy and icy weather may seem a long way off, but it really won't be long until Winter is upon us again.

Although we have been lucky enough not to have heavy snow falls or extremely icy conditions over the last few years, they are always a possibility, and if they happen, the Highways Department will need all the help it can get to keep our roads open.

The Parish has an appointed 'Snow Warden', who will liaise with the Highways department on problems and do all he can to deal with the local situation. However, since a local farmer ceased operations, what we no longer have is a snow plough operator for the Parish. This is someone who has a tractor and is willing to have a snow plough fitted and to operate the equipment when needed.

Full training in the use of the equipment and so on will be provided by the County Council and payment will be made for assistance given. If any of our local farmers (or anyone else who happens to have a suitable vehicle) would be interested in taking on this important role, please contact the Parish Clerk.



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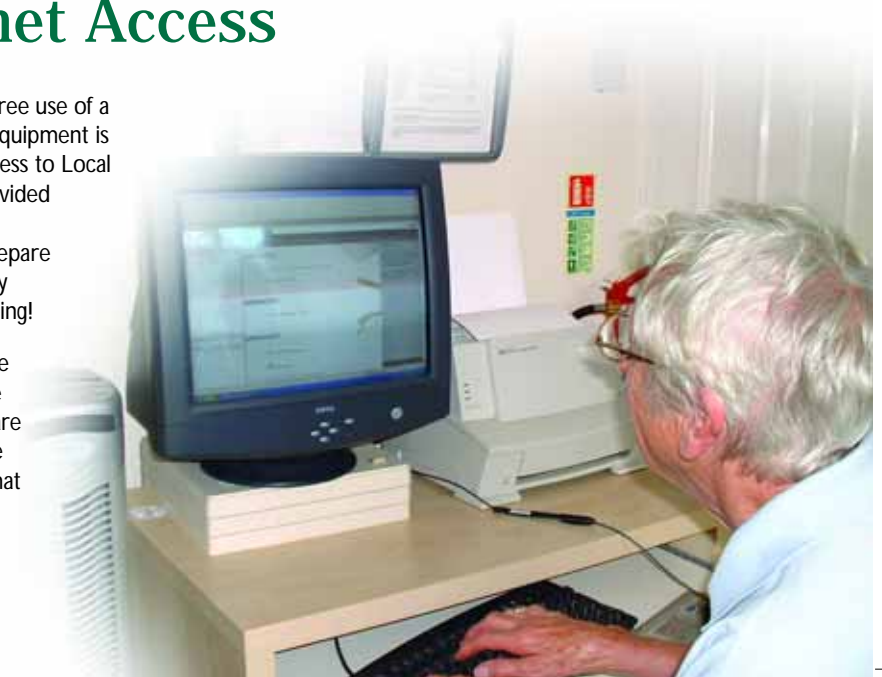
## Boundary Hedges

One of the most frequent topics of complaint at this time of year is overgrown hedges and the problems that these cause, usually to pedestrians but also sometimes to traffic. We know that some householders may not be aware that their hedges or other vegetation overhanging their boundaries are causing problems (some people rarely walk past their own boundaries), so appeal to everyone to just check and, if necessary, trim things back to allow free passage along pavements, footpaths and highways. It is worth noting that, if this is not done after a warning has been given, the Highway Authority has the power to undertake the work itself and bill the householder, which, as administrative costs are added, is likely to be considerably more expensive than getting the work done yourself.

## Computer and Internet Access

The Parish Council is pleased to once again be able to offer free use of a computer, with broadband internet, to local residents. The equipment is provided by Stroud District Council, in order to improve access to Local Government services, but may be used for any purpose (provided that it is decent and lawful!). This might include use of the computer's word processing programme to write letters, prepare CVs etc, use of the internet to find information on almost any topic under the sun, booking a holiday or even on-line shopping!

At the moment, pre-booking is not necessary – just call at the Council Shop during normal opening hours, or telephone the Clerk to discuss an appointment outside these times if they are not convenient. Some help with use of the equipment can be given, and if more extensive advice is needed, it is possible that this may be able to be arranged – please discuss your needs with the Clerk.



# Summer Holiday Fun

The long school summer holiday is now at an end, to the great relief of many parents – and if they are honest probably also to many increasingly bored youngsters! This year's holiday has included two very interesting events, which have helped provide local young people with new and different activities to occupy their time.

## Scratch 'n' Sk8 Festival

Cam Skate Park played host to Cam and Dursley's first ever Scratch 'n' sk8 festival over the summer. The idea that you have to be an established band to play festivals was blown straight out of the water for 4 days in late July. With a main stage showcasing an array of bands and solo artists ranging from the regionally acclaimed right through to bands just starting out on their journey to stardom, the event had plenty to offer. In addition to the main stage, tucked neatly beside the skate park full of young people demonstrating that gnarly tricks are not strictly reserved for the pros, was the Scratch DJ tent. Over the duration of the event DJs from all over the country came a few at a time and relentlessly dropped tune after tune on the eager crowd who in turn, showed no let-up on kickflips, tailgrabs and grinds.



No festival is complete without stalls offering people a slight reprieve from the sometimes unique music, and this one was no exception. With Henna Tattooing, felt making, inflatable quasar, human table football and much more on offer for the 250 plus young people, boredom was never an option. With the weather playing its role to perfection, the festival went down really well with both young people and organisers alike. Feedback was positive and the atmosphere was superb.

The success of the event was however by no means luck. The festival, headed up by Youth Worker Danny James, was an example of community collaboration of the highest level. Cam and Dursley Youth Partnership (CDYP) – a partnership of young person centred agencies in and around Cam and Dursley- was key in developing the event, whilst active support from Cam Parish Council, Dursley Police Station and Stroud District Community Safety gave the festival the most solid of foundations. Support from local shops, residents, young people and at the last minute, an outdoor stage borrowed from the pub, ensured that the Scratch 'n' Sk8 festival, designed by the community, performed by members of the community, for the benefit of the young people within the community was an out and out success.

## Worldjungle

The other event was staged by an organisation called 'WorldJungle', which provided a variety of fun for young people at the Woodfield Play Area. This included circus skills, with juggling, stilt-walking etc, an acrobat, African drumming and a stall making delicious fruit cocktails. The event was also a chance to gather the young people's views on what they would like to see for young people in this area in the future.

Unfortunately, whilst most of our young people are happy to take part in events such as these or find their own positive activities to keep them occupied, a few seem to find enjoyment in activities that, whether intentionally or otherwise, cause irritation, expense or



distress to others. As well as noise and disruption, this often seems to include smashing bottles in and around play areas, which, of course is extremely dangerous for other users, including young children. We were disappointed to discover that it also included uprooting play equipment provided to meet the needs of both younger and disabled children, which had only recently been erected at the Jubilee Field. Some residents living near the play area at Woodfield are so distressed at what has been happening there that they have raised a petition to have the basketball area and a seat near the play area removed. The Council is very supportive of our young people and has spent many thousands of pounds in providing activities for them, in particular the skatepark and youth shelter at the Jubilee Field. However, it does need to consider the needs of all local residents, and therefore must look seriously at problems which are reported. We understand that young people need somewhere to meet and just 'hang out' with their friends, and are happy that our open spaces be used for this purpose – we just beg those using them to consider the needs of others, keep the noise down, look after the equipment provided and take their litter home or put it in the bin. With just a little thought and consideration, we are sure that all members of our community can live together happily!

## Local Charities

There are several local charities which exist to provide help to residents in particular need. They meet regularly to discuss applications for assistance. Cam Parochial Charities assist people in general need and may be contacted on 542518 or 545231; their next meeting will be on 7th December. The contact for both Cam Institute Charity, which helps organisations that provide facilities for recreation or other leisure-time pursuits for Cam residents, and Dursley United Charities (help with further education and training) is Ralph Darby at 50 Orchard Leaze, Cam



## Country Walks

We are very fortunate in Cam to have on our doorsteps some beautiful countryside, with many public footpaths which enable us to get out and enjoy it. However, not all of these are accessible to those who are slightly less mobile, due to stiles that are difficult to negotiate. The Parish Council has therefore been working in partnership with the County Public Rights of Way Officer and with officers and volunteers from Stroud Valleys Project to create a more accessible walk by replacing stiles with kissing gates wherever possible and improving those stiles that have to remain. This has resulted in the creation of a circular walk starting at the Memorial Hall in High Street, through the fields to Halmore Lane, through Upthorpe and back down the fields to the High Street. Most of the stiles have now been replaced with kissing gates, including some installed as part of the improvements at Upper Upthorpe Farm, whose owner, Jeremy Brown has also been very supportive. Where stiles have had to be retained they have been replaced with new ones that are much easier to climb. It is hoped to continue the project by identifying other routes which would benefit from a similar approach – the route from Hopton Road to Cam Peak is being looked at at the moment. If you know of other routes where you think this sort of work would be helpful, please let the Parish Clerk know.



Meanwhile, Stroud Valleys Project has also been working on other walking issues, and has produced two very useful guides – the Stone Stiles Walk and Cam’s Hidden Snicketways, which are available from the Council Shop.

## Burial Ground

The Parish Council has been approached by St. Barts PCC to try to find a new site for a Burial Ground in the Parish, as the Churchyard at St Barts will become full within the next few years. It is not easy to find a suitable site in Cam, but the Parish Council does own some land at Ashmead, currently let as grass keep. Preliminary enquiries have been made with the Environment Agency and the Highway Authority as to its suitability for this use, but, before progressing the possibility further, the Council would like to know the opinion of local people as to whether they feel that a Burial Ground at Ashmead would be a good thing – or whether they have any other ideas for a better site (bearing in mind that, if it is privately owned, the owner must be willing to sell – and at a reasonable price!), or even if you think that a new site should not be provided at all.

## Caring for Carers

There are many of you out there who are acting as Carers – giving unpaid care to a relative or friend who is disabled, sick or frail and who cannot manage without help. Although most of us do this gladly, it can be a very wearing and stressful way of life, and can make the Carer feel as isolated as the person receiving care. However, there is help and support available, only a phone call away. Carers Gloucestershire is a registered charity managed by Carers and ex Carers, which offers information and support to Carers across the County. They hold information on equipment, transport, holidays, respite, charities and trusts and more and can advise on short break opportunities. Training and support groups are also available. Gloucestershire Carers can be contacted on 01452 386283 from 9.30 – 4.30 daily



## Parish Clerk Contact Details:

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## Memorial Hall

The Parish Council has recently taken over the booking of the Arthur S. Winterbotham Memorial Hall from Committee member Jeremy Clutterbuck, who had been standing in since the regular Bookings Clerk was forced to resign in order to care for her sick husband. Enquiries about using the facilities at the Hall should therefore be directed to the Parish Clerk at the Council Shop. The Parish Council is hoping, in time, to take over the bookings function for all Parish halls, so providing a 'one stop shop' which will be able to direct people to the facility best suited to their needs and, at the same time, promote the various spaces available and reduce the burden on the various volunteers who do the job at the moment.

## Planning Permission - How it works

Many people hoping to erect a new building or extend their homes will need to get Planning Permission. There are exceptions to this, mainly for small extensions, garden sheds etc. When Planning Permission is required, there is a set application process, which is briefly as follows:

1. The applicant completes the forms and sends these with the necessary plans and the application fee to Stroud District Council where the application is registered
2. Immediate neighbours of the site are informed and a site notice may also be erected.
3. Objectors (or supporters) to a planning application should direct their representation to the District Council, although it is helpful if they also provide copies to the Parish Council. It should be noted that neither the Parish nor the District Council usually acknowledges such representations, although they are all reported to the decision-making body.
4. A decision is made at District level as to whether the application needs to be referred to Development Control Committee or whether it can be dealt with under delegated powers by Officers - the majority of applications are dealt with by Officers.
5. Officers will consider each application in accordance with Law, Guidance and Policy, and will visit the site.
6. Various bodies are consulted by the District Council including Gloucestershire Highways, Severn Trent Water etc. Cam Parish Council is also consulted.
7. All Cam applications are considered by the Parish Council's Planning & Highways Committee, which meets on the second Wednesday in each month at the Council Shop. These meetings are open to the public and there is a short period at the beginning for members of the public to address the Committee. The agenda, showing the applications to be considered, is displayed at least 3 days before the meeting on the Council Shop notice board. Copies of plans for applications within Cam are held at the Council Shop and may be viewed during office hours. The Parish Committee does not make site visits, although individual Members may view a site to familiarise themselves better with it prior to the meeting. The Committee, taking into consideration all the information available to it, agrees its views on the application, which may be to support, object, ask for certain matters to be taken into consideration or to make no observations, and sends these to the District Council.
8. If there are 5 or more letters of objection on planning grounds, or if there is an objection from the Parish Council (properly referenced to Local Plan Policies), or if the District Ward Councillor so requests (again on proper planning grounds), an application that had been designated for decision under delegated powers will be referred to Development Control Committee, which meets on a monthly basis. This does not necessarily mean that it will be refused, just that it will be decided by elected Members rather than a Planning Officer.
9. A decision on the application is made at the District Council, either by Officers or by Committee, and the applicant and any objectors are notified, as is the Parish Council.

Decisions on applications must be made in accordance with the Policies within Stroud District Local Plan, adopted after extensive public consultation. They must also stay within the confines of planning law, which starts from the basis that all applications should be allowed unless there are valid reasons for not so doing. Legislation states that the comments of a Parish Council must be taken into consideration, but there is no requirement for the District Council to agree with them - it can and does make decisions contrary to representations made.



# Stand out from the crowd

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