

DANBURY

WINTER 2021

TIMES

No. 58



*The Danbury Parish Council wish all our residents
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*



CHRISTMAS 2021



Parish Council is planning a celebration together with Danbury churches. There will be a tree as usual at Eves Corner, provided and erected by Bakers of Danbury; it will have Christmas lights and there will be carols round the tree at 7 pm on Monday December 6th, music provided by The Salvation Army.

Father Christmas will attend and turn on the tree lights.

There will be mince pies and tea/coffee/hot chocolate in the Old Pavilion after the carols.

Put the date in your diaries and watch the website.

Hope to see you there.



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022

In June next year Queen Elizabeth II will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee as queen. This is an extraordinary event and unlikely to be achieved by any other monarchs - certainly in our lifetimes.

There are planned national activities over the holiday weekend from Thursday June 2nd to Sunday June 5th which you can check on in the media.

Parish Council is planning celebrations here in Danbury for residents rather than visitors and we want to combine this with recognition and thanks to all who have given and are giving time and efforts to help us cope with the Covid pandemic.

We have already dedicated the Community Woodland on former pitch 3 at Dawson Memorial Field to volunteers and key workers, and a board is being installed there to commemorate people's efforts.

Turn to the back page for our plans for the weekend.



DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Member of Facilities, Leisure and Activities, and Resources.

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Alexander
Planning

Mark Schofield
Planning

Liz Hiscock
Health and Wellbeing

DATES OF MEETINGS

November

<i>Monday 1st</i>	<i>Planning</i>
<i>Monday 8th</i>	<i>Environment</i>
<i>Wednesday 10th</i>	<i>Facilities</i>
<i>Wednesday 17th</i>	<i>Resources</i>
<i>Monday 22nd</i>	<i>Planning</i>
<i>Wednesday 24th</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>

December

<i>Monday 20th</i>	<i>Planning</i>
<i>Wednesday 22nd</i>	<i>Resources</i>

January

<i>Monday 10th</i>	<i>Planning</i>
<i>Wednesday 12th</i>	<i>Facilities</i>
<i>Monday 17th</i>	<i>Environment</i>
<i>Wednesday 19th</i>	<i>Resources</i>
<i>Monday 24th</i>	<i>Health and Wellbeing</i>
<i>Wednesday 26th</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>
<i>Monday 31st</i>	<i>Planning</i>

February

<i>Monday 7th</i>	<i>Community Engagement</i>
<i>Monday 21st</i>	<i>Planning</i>
<i>Wednesday 23rd</i>	<i>Resources</i>

March

<i>Monday 7th</i>	<i>Health and Wellbeing</i>
<i>Monday 14th</i>	<i>Planning</i>
<i>Wednesday 16th</i>	<i>Facilities</i>
<i>Monday 21st</i>	<i>Environment</i>
<i>Wednesday 23rd</i>	<i>Resources</i>
<i>Wednesday 30th</i>	<i>Parish Council</i>

PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Michelle Harper



Parish Clerk

Maria Dyer



Assistant Clerk

Lesley Mitchelmore



Assistant Clerk

NORMAL PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

The parish office telephone and e-mails will be manned during office hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm.

If you wish to contact the office please use:

01245 225111

E-mail: parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk

Website: www.danbury-essex.gov.uk

 **Like us on Facebook**



NEW COUNCILLORS

Jacob Armstrong

To set the record straight I applied to become a councillor before the Handforth Parish Council debacle and I have read the standing orders!

For those who do not know me, I am 25 years old, grew up in Maldon and went to Elm Green School, Little Baddow.

When I was 12 my family moved to Danbury so I could easily walk to the Youth Group at Danbury Mission, attend Essex Dance Theatre and venture more outdoors in our beautiful surroundings. I grew up passionate about dance, adventure sports and sciences; going on to study Geology at the Cambourne School of Mines down in Cornwall.

Since qualifying as a Geologist I have worked in Soil Engineering; in simple terms I design and improve the ground to make sure buildings don't sink.

Perhaps I am not the typical Parish Councillor you imagine? Certainly, I can't claim the knowledge and experience of my fellow councillors. However, in becoming a Parish Councillor I hope to demonstrate my passion for our village alongside technical knowledge in the areas of commerce, contracts, design and construction. From a different perspective, I'm also hoping that my giddy youth may help to encourage other, younger residents to join me and get stuck in locally too.

Nigel Orange

I joined, (was co-opted onto Danbury Parish Council) at the beginning of this year.

I retired in August 2019 from Canada Life, a life assurance company operating out of Potters Bar in Hertfordshire and I have spent 40 years in the Financial Services sector, specialising in pensions and investments.

I'm married to Julie, who also recently retired as a mortgage adviser. We have been happily married for over 40 happy years with two grown up children both living close by in Essex.

In November last year we were blessed with our first grandchild, an amazing little boy called Otis.

From early adulthood I always wanted to live in Danbury because of its rural nature, fabulous walks and stunning countryside. In 2013 I realised my dream and moved to a bungalow in St Cleres Way.

I honestly feel privileged to live in Danbury. What I never realised until moving here is what a great community spirit there is in Danbury. Feeling fortunate is why I decided to give something back to the community by joining the Parish Council. I will try, as do my fellow councillors, to make life for its residents the very best it can be.

MEN'S SHED

The Parish Council are delighted to be working with the charity, Essex Shed Network, to set up a Men's Shed in Danbury. Our Essex Shed Network was set up to support men's mental health and wellbeing and has successfully worked with communities across Essex to set up around 19 Sheds.

The Shed will be located at the Parish Council's Grounds Store, Mayes Lane Car Park and, depending on the interests of those who wish to join the Shed, will enable members to partake in a range of practical activities. Tools and other equipment will be provide by the charity.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Danbury Men's Shed, please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office (michelle.harper@danbury-essex.gov.uk) or Matt (matt@essexshednetwork.co.uk) or keep an eye on the Parish Council Facebook pages for more details as they become available.

PARISH BASED COMMUNITY CITIZENS ADVICE

Danbury Parish Council is pleased to announce that it is working in partnership with the Chelmsford Citizens Advice Bureau to provide the 1st parish-based service in the Chelmsford District.

A dedicated phone number and website have been set up for the residents of Danbury to contact local volunteers who have been recruited and trained as Community Information Assistants providing signposting and support in areas such as Benefits, Income Maximisation, Debt, Housing, Consumer, Employment, Legal and many other areas.

Danbury Parish Council believe that this service will be of great benefit to our residents who may otherwise find it difficult to access the services based in more central locations.

There have been a number of volunteers, but as the service is initially run from 9am to 4.30pm, some of the volunteers are not available until the service is extended.

Contact details are on Parish Council social media page and the village social media.

Citizens Advice is a registered Charity. Registered Charity No. 1088290, Company No. 4063248

GRAND OPENING OF COMMUNITY TELEPHONE BOX

The traditional red phone box in Pedlars Path has probably been there since the first houses were built. In recent years it became disused and BT wanted to remove it. It was the last phone box in the village. It was then that local residents suggested that the box could be retained in situ and given an alternative use to benefit the community. Some had memories of using the phone box in the past and recalled that it was quite a meeting point for local teenagers.

Following action by residents in Pedlars Path and the Parish Council it has indeed been saved. As it was in quite a poor condition the Parish Council arranged for its renovation. After this was done it was painted by a resident. New signage was added and it is now looking in tip top condition.

Natashia Day, who led the residents, attended meetings with the Community Engagement Committee to decide how the box could be best used by local residents and many ideas were put forward. Natashia and her helpers worked hard to refurbish the interior adding shelves and lighting and at the beginning of August the box was ready.



The box was officially opened by Cllr Barbara Hallett on 11th August and since then has been a great success.

Inside there is a noticeboard for advertising village events and a map of Danbury showing footpaths. Residents can donate books, magazines and games for others to borrow. We also thought plants, cuttings and seeds could be donated and indeed they already have been. There is also a bowl of water for thirsty dogs outside. If anyone has any other ideas please put a note in the box.

The box will be monitored for any misuse and Natashia will manage the contents to ensure it doesn't become too untidy. If you have items you think suitable please either leave them on the floor of the box or at 1, Pedlar's Path. *Please go and have a look.*



NEW PLAY FACILITIES – DAWSON MEMORIAL FIELD

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took part in the survey to choose the final design of our new play facility on Dawson Memorial Field, especially the schools who allowed us to leave the designs with them for all their pupils to vote on.

We were also very fortunate to be awarded a grant from the 'National Lottery Awards for All' of £10,000 and are waiting for the outcome of our entry into the Tesco Community Grant.

We are currently awaiting confirmation of installation, which due to backlog and demands on construction materials caused by the pandemic is likely to be early Spring 2022.

We received over 700 votes and the design with the highest votes (36%) was:



We hope you are all excited as we are for the new play facilities to be available to all our residents to enjoy and look forward to welcoming everybody to the Grand Opening Ceremony in early Summer next year.

BULB PLANTING

Parish Council is putting a variety of bulbs in several locations e.g. Runsell Green, Eves Corner, West Belvedere and Elm Green. The Danbury Rotary Club have 400 purple crocus bulbs associated with Rotary International's campaign to eradicate the wild polio virus; purple is the colour painted on the little finger nails of children who received the vaccine. There will be some large daffodils associated with the Marie Curie Day of Recollection March 23rd so watch for them along New Bowers; this association does sterling work in palliative care in mid-Essex. Other Spring bulbs will cheer the village next year.

LAND SLIPPAGE UPDATE

The land slippage remedial works were completed during September and it was with relief that we were finally able to reopen the car park in early October!



We are now in the process of planting a hedgerow to replace the hedge that was removed during the works. The Environment Committee are considering planting a new hedge consisting of native species at the southern edge of the car park as well as options for landscaping the slope with a mixture of trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. At the time of writing delivery and installation of new LED lighting bollards along the pathway from the car park to the Tennis and Bowling Clubs is awaited.



VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Various improvements have been made to amenities within the village in recent months. Most noticeable have been the new wooden posts erected at Elm Green, Eves Corner, The Old Pavilion and Copt Hill. At Elm Green a number of old posts had to be replaced and new ones added to the corner at the junction of the A414 to discourage the parking of cars, thereby improving the sight line turning left at the junction.

Eves Corner not only has new posts but also new wooden railings alongside the A414 that has replaced the old metal and concrete post system that was crumbling and becoming a safety hazard. Also Eves Corner has a new bench by the pond, it's blue, righted angled and colloquially known as a 'Happy To Chat Bench'. So please try it, admire the pond and have a chat.

Dawson Field now has a couple of picnic benches intended for the children's playground area, one being accessible for wheelchairs. The other bench has been 'temporarily' relocated by persons unknown but will be returned to its proper location in due course.

For those making use of the open spaces on Dawson's Field you will now be able to rest on the newly refurbished existing seats and benches.

Picnic benches and litter bins are being arranged for the Community Woodland.

Financial assistance for these will come from Essex County Council's Locality Fund, courtesy of County Councillor John Spence's support.



There is now a water fountain just outside the Sports and Social Centre so you can fill up with free water whenever you like. The fountain delivers mains water directly to a drinking tap and a water bottle filling point.

To encourage the use of a greener way of travelling there are now cycle racks in both the car parks on Dawson Field to allow you to securely fix your bike.

The children's play equipment area continues to be popular and has recently had repairs carried out to some of its more popular items together with new flooring.

The ponds at Eves Corner and Runsell Green have had weed and overgrown reeds cleared by The Conservation Volunteers hard work with the help of a resident, over three days. Thanks to all involved - the ponds look a lot better and open - obviously appreciated by the ducks and moorhens which had lots of young this year.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022

We anticipate these events if at all possible:

Thursday June 2nd:

Parish Council light the beacon at 9pm. Do you remember the lighting in 2012? Spectacular! Refreshments will be available at the Sports and Social Centre afterwards.

Friday June 3rd:

From 1pm to 8pm there will be:

- Danbury Market in the Sports Hall
- Seating and food available on the top field and Old Pavilion (possibly from local providers)
- Local organisations to have stalls such as Football Goals, Hook a Duck, Cricket nets etc
- Local groups to provide cricket, football, games on pitch 2
- Bowling Club to host "open sessions"
- Music by local choirs, bands
- Fancy dress/ hat competitions
- As many as possible of these activities will be free.

Saturday June 4th:

Jubilee Trail round the village to find letters making up a word or answer questions, with a start and finish time

Sunday June 5th:

Parish Council will host a Big Lunch on Dawson Field:

Tables and some chairs will be provided with bunting and maybe soft drinks. People should bring their own picnic for a friendly, family street party.

This is being planned by Parish Council already but we need volunteers at this early stage as well as on the actual days or all these intended events cannot go ahead.

Please get involved - contact the parish office for any more information and to sign up!

FARLEIGH HOSPICE



We have received a thank you letter for allowing the use of Eves Corner during the Danbury and Little Baddow Open Garden Day – a total of £14,500.00 has been raised including £680.00 from the two Farleigh Hospice Stalls on the day.

RECYCLING

Parish Council has recently extended their recycling arrangements. A change of collecting company means we now recycle all the office paper, card etc, and all the litter from the bins on Dawson Memorial Field as well as the green waste (hedge cuttings etc) is 100% recycled. A second green waste bin has been installed and next year there will be a second large general waste bin. This does not involve the street bins throughout the village which Chelmsford City Council still deals with.

We would still encourage people to take their rubbish home to use their own recycling kerbside containers provided by Chelmsford City Council.

THE CARER'S GROUP

To begin with Parish Council organised this group by Zoom every 3 weeks. However on October 5th we met face to face in the Old Pavilion which all agreed was much easier and friendlier. Tea, coffee and cakes helped the atmosphere and some useful ideas were exchanged as well as ordinary chat.

If you are a carer and can arrange the time, do consider coming for a break with people in a similar situation. We meet every 3 weeks on a Tuesday at 2pm for around an hour.

Get in touch with the Parish Office for information about the next meeting.

