

DANBURY

WINTER 2020

TIMES

No. 56



Danbury Parish Council sends all residents good wishes for the Christmas and New Year season.



CHRISTMAS IN DANBURY 2020

Due to the pandemic Parish Council has regretfully decided that the Christmas Tree lighting event, so successful last year, cannot take place this year. However we will be erecting the Christmas tree with its lights at Eves Corner as usual.

The Community Engagement Committee have been discussing how we can make Danbury look and feel festive this year as we are sure we all need a little more cheer to get us through the winter. It would be great if everyone could decorate the front of their properties a little more this year (not necessarily with lights, we don't want more power cuts caused by overload !!) but it would be marvellous to see some original ideas.



For example, make "snowflakes" or draw a Christmas scene or figure and attach them to front windows.



We will also be having a '**Christmas Scarecrow**' Competition which will be launched on 1st Dec. Residents are encouraged to make a scarecrow of a Christmas character (religious, festive/fantasy pantomime etc) which can be displayed in front gardens. Details of how to enter the competition plus entry form can be found on the Parish Council website and entries will be judged over the weekend of 19th / 20th December. There will be prizes of £25, £15 and £10 gift vouchers. We would love to see lots of scarecrows even if not everyone chooses to enter. We all need to get out and about especially during the season of over-indulgence so what better way to have your daily exercise than to follow the 'Scarecrow Trail'? Street locations of the scarecrow competition entries will be available on the Parish Council website.

Looking ahead, we were planning a 'Danbury Festival' with stalls, games and other activities, food and drink to be held on Dawson Memorial Field on May 1st 2021. It very much looks as though this date may not be viable because of uncertainty about Covid restrictions, so we have decided to put this on hold and resume planning when the event seems possible, probably in late summer or early Autumn. Watch this space!



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ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

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Planning

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Planning

DATES OF MEETINGS

December

Tuesday 8th

Health and Wellbeing

Wednesday 16th

Resources

Monday 21st

Planning

January

Monday 11th

Planning

Tuesday 12th

Health and Wellbeing

Monday 18th

Environment

Tuesday 19th

Facilities

Wednesday 20th

Resources

Monday 25th

Community Engagement

Wednesday 27th

Parish Council

February

Monday 1st

Planning

Tuesday 16th

Health and Wellbeing

Monday 22nd

Planning

Wednesday 24th

Resources

March

Monday 15th

Planning

Wednesday 17th

Facilities

Monday 22nd

Environment

Wednesday 24th

Resources

Tuesday 30th

Health and Wellbeing

Wednesday 31st

Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Michelle Harper



Parish Clerk

Maria Dyer



Assistant Clerk

Lesley Mitchelmore



Assistant Clerk,
Neighbourhood
Plan Co-ordinator

NORMAL PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

The parish office will be closed during this crisis but the 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 

DANBURY CORONAVIRUS VOLUNTEERS

We are still here to help you! **please call us on 07395 904761 from Monday to Friday between 9am & 11am** If you have no local support and are self-isolating or need assistance with essential shopping, prescription collection etc., a message can be left at all other times.

Danbury Mission are leading a partnership with Maldon food pantry to coordinate a local food bank service. Call us in confidence for more details. Donations are being made again at Tesco Express & The Co-op stores, so please look out for the collection point, and if you are able to offer a donation it would be most welcome.

The Sewing Bees have a coat/wellie exchange for children. For further information about the project please get in touch. The Sewing Bees are also planning other projects, including resuming mask making over the coming months.

We realise that many in the community are worried about the coming months, and in particular what the situation will be like at Christmas. We are hoping to be able to offer support to those of you who think you may be alone for the festive season, so please get in touch if you would like us to keep you informed of further plans.

You can also find us on Facebook and through our website for updates:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1534773070064493/>

www.danburycorona.com

PHONE KIOSK

The old phone kiosk in Pedlars Path, the last in Danbury, was decommissioned and removed earlier this year by British Telecom. These are iconic objects and due to the valiant efforts of some of the local residents, with the help of our MP John Whittingdale, the Parish Council have been able to secure its return! The kiosk was in a rather unkempt state but is being refurbished so it can take pride of place in the local area. The residents of Pedlars Path intend to utilize the kiosk as a book, toy, jigsaw and seed exchange. They will install shelving and a notice board, and keep it up-to-date and tidy themselves.

Kiosk before refurbishment:



and in future.





NEW COMMUNITY WOODLAND



In response to Chelmsford City Council's climate emergency declaration and the need to make a positive impact upon our local environment the Parish Council has decided to create a new woodland. Creating a woodland is a long term project and it may take many years to reach maturity. Woodlands can make a positive difference to our lives and to those of future generations. Trees and woodlands increase the local biodiversity of the area, providing

habitats and food for wildlife, reducing both carbon emissions and air pollution. The Woodland Trust has indicated that as well as providing environmental and biodiversity benefits, woods and trees are a cost effective solution to many of the big policy questions of our age. They help to reduce the negative impacts of our changing climate, support economic growth, promote healthy lifestyles and help to alleviate a range of debilitating illnesses. Together these issues are central to our well-being and quality of life. To put it succinctly, the evidence shows that life's better with trees.

The site chosen for the new community woodland is pitch 4 on Dawson Memorial field. Since this area has not been used for football for quite some time it was thought that it was ideal for turning into a woodland. Pitch 4 backs onto Penny Royal Road and is sandwiched between Fretton's Lodge and Church Field. The planting will consist of bare root tree whips (approx 3 foot high) and 15 mature trees (7/12 foot high). The whips will be paid for by Chelmsford City Council, and the mature trees will be funded jointly by the Parish Council and Danbury Society.



The trees will consist of native species UK grown and sourced. What is a native tree? This is any species of tree that colonised the land when the glaciers melted after the last ice age and before the UK was separated from mainland Europe, approx 6000 years ago. There are 60 or more native trees that include English Oak, Common Alder, Hornbeam, Field Maple and Yew.



The design of the woodland will incorporate an under planting of wild flowers, a wide semi circular pathway through the area with picnic tables located along its length. The area will be surrounded by fencing to protect against deer and rabbits. Once the trees mature, and this might take a few years, the protective fencing will be removed and more woodland walk ways created among the trees.

The planting of the woodland and its management over the first 4 or 5 years will be undertaken by Chelmsford City Council. However, it is hoped that the initial planting will be a community event with December 14th being allocated as a 'village tree planting day'. The Community Woodland is dedicated to residents' very positive and continuing responses and mutual support during the Covid 19 pandemic. Please contact the Parish Office if you want more details.

FANCY A NATTER?

Well hopefully you won't have to wait long. The Health and Wellbeing Committee have been making good progress with one of its projects to combat loneliness. A 'Happy to Chat' bench will soon be installed in a corner of the village green overlooking the pond and will be easily recognisable with its cheery look of a vivid blue sky.



Motivated by seeing an elderly man sitting alone on a bench, a lady from Cardiff came up with the idea of tying a sign to the bench to open up avenues for chat and, all of a sudden, you're not invisible anymore. This has helped inspire a movement across the world.

One in four people say that they are always or often lonely. Loneliness reduces quality of life and has an impact on health and wellbeing, affecting anyone of any age. Hopefully, the new 'Happy to Chat' bench will help to tackle loneliness through kindness, creating connections in our community to overcome one of the biggest issues we face. And, let's be honest now, who can say that a friendly hello or natter doesn't bring a smile to their face?

The buddy style bench is made of recycled plastic and is of a suitable size to maintain social distancing, but please do follow all government guidance at the time of use. We hope that it will help to bring a little extra cheer and sparkle into the lives of many whilst taking in the lovely view of nature in and around the pond.

Eventually there will be 2 similar benches elsewhere in the village.

YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

Liz Hiscock, (a Health and Wellbeing Committee member), and a team of Danbury Volunteers including 7 or 8 Young Volunteers from age 16, completed a gardening project at St Joseph's nursing home. They worked every Tuesday and Wednesday during the school summer holidays, with some completing the work in September. Taking care to socially distance they cleared overgrown flower beds, replanted raised beds on the terrace and renovated benches. They borrowed compost from 6 hippo bags round from the front of the building. Funds were raised including £600 from a "just giving" page. The Sewing Bees made bunting to decorate a gazebo, Beaver Scouts added painted pebbles and a tea party was held in mid-September. All this raised spirits of residents and staff after the Covid restrictions and it has been a very worthwhile project to get young people from our village involved in such a worthy cause.



DAWSON MEMORIAL FIELD - NEW PLANS

Danbury Parish Council has discussed extending the provision of equipment and activity ideas for children and young people on Dawson Memorial Field before. Now there are some new ideas being researched for Pitch 2 (behind the Sports and Social Centre) and perhaps around the beacon area. This is exciting and will be initiated over the next financial year.

Want to be involved and help develop these young people's facilities? Think about joining the council for this and for other work carried out for the benefit of the village. There are vacancies for several more councillors and the work is varied, the time commitment can be as little as 2 evening meetings per month - though more if you wish and can manage it. It is rewarding involvement helping "run" the village.

Look out for the new bike racks being installed in the car parks. There are also 2 new picnic tables with easier access to the bench seats beside the existing children's playground.



Come to a committee meeting to find out what happens - only by Zoom at the moment. Contact the Parish Office to find out how. The timetable of committees is on page 2.

Join us and help.

COMING SOON - A COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

The Council in partnership with the Co-operative supermarket will shortly be providing a public access defibrillator for use by residents.

It will be located on an outside wall of the co-op in a secure and heated cabinet. In the event that it is needed as the result of someone suffering a heart attack or a cardiac arrest - dial 999 for the ambulance service, answer their questions - they will have a record of the location of the machine, which they will give the caller, in addition to the current security code for the door.

All you have to do is enter the code to unlock the cabinet and take the defib to the patient's location and once there follow the written and audible instructions on the machine - it really is simple to operate.

On completion and when circumstances allow, return the machine to the cabinet and notify the Parish Council on 01245 225111 of its use so that it can be checked and reinstated for future use.

Once we are 'Covid Safe' we will be organising CPR training courses with support from the Danbury, Lt. Baddow and Bicknacre First Responders.





DANBURY CARERS

The lockdown period was tough for so many people; for those caring for loved ones at home it might have brought a sense of isolation with activities and family visits postponed. The Health and Wellbeing Committee want to help bring people together.

ARE YOU CARING FOR A LOVED ONE AND
WOULD LIKE TO LINK UP WITH OTHERS IN YOUR
LOCAL AREA FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT?

Danbury Carers' Group is a newly formed group of people who meet every three weeks on alternate Tuesdays and Fridays at 2pm. Presently, we meet virtually through an online platform. However, when guidelines allow, we hope to move to small face to face gatherings in the centre of Danbury to enjoy a cup of tea and a cake alongside a natter.

If you, or a neighbour, relative or friend, think that this is something that you would like to join, please contact Michelle Harper, Parish Clerk, on 01245 225111 or email: parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU

We would like to see the group evolve around the needs and desires of the participants and eventually become self-facilitating. It might be that people choose a theme for each get together, decide to have a speaker from an organisation (with which we could offer support), or simply relax into the warmth of friendly chatter. Longer term we are researching the potential of providing supported activities and social interaction for loved ones to run alongside the group.

ESSEX PLAYING FIELDS AWARDS

Our playground, cricket wicket and football pitches opened for use again as soon as possible after the Covid close down, and are being used with enthusiasm.

In the 2020 scheme Danbury gained these awards:

Class 1 Playing fields serving a community with over 2,500 inhabitants: Silver

Class 3 Playgrounds: Gold

Class 4 Cricket field: Merit

Class 6: Football fields: Pitch 1: Gold.

Parish Council is very pleased and thanks the grounds staff for their work over the year.



POLICING IN DANBURY

Have you noticed that there is a greater police presence in Danbury?

PC Matt Harkness of Essex Police's Rural Engagement Team is stopping by from time to time and, for example, notices were handed out to speeders on Little Baddow Road recently. Notices will be put on vehicles parking on our pavements too; if the way is completely obstructed for pedestrians, wheelchair users or buggies, they would have to step out into the road so such parking is actually against the law.

Overall the reports back from police show from April to September officers were deployed here for 280 hours. They were involved in general patrols, speed checks, patrols of "hot spot" areas.

Vehicles have been seized for not having insurance, drivers using mobile phones whilst driving, cannabis having been smoked within the vehicles and other driving offences. Officers talked to residents around the village too which generated good feelings and produced some useful information as well.

PLASTIC TIPS

In recent years, the media has highlighted the huge problems associated with the deluge of plastic that has become part of our daily lives.

Unpardonably, the equivalent of a truck load of plastic ends up in our oceans every minute of every day and, at this rate, scientists predict that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the sea than fish.

So . . .

- * Shop locally and choose loose fruit and veg rather than items in plastic
- * Keep reusable bags in the car or by the front door
- * Avoid wet wipes - go for washable flannels

PARCEL DELIVERY SERVICE (PDS) HOAX EMAIL

A number of residents have recently received a hoax email that warns them about a parcel delivery scam in the lead up to Christmas.

The majority of the information provided in the email is incorrect or out of date. The number in question has since been repurposed by another company (although will still set you back £3.60 per minute).

However, residents should still remain alert if they receive a card stating a parcel they do not remember ordering could not be delivered, and should be wary of taking delivery of parcels they have not ordered.

If you receive this hoax email, please do not pass it on, simply delete the message. For more information, read the Action Fraud article here:

www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/hoax-email-from-pds-parcel-delivery-service

CHRISTMAS ANAGRAMS



stole time	9	-----
careworn yups	6,6	-----
earthly how	5,6	-----
pertness	8	-----
streaky tour	5,6	-----
shep sequence	6,6	-----
discarding thumps	9,7	-----
casual tans	5,5	-----
decants rigger	8,5	-----
grayish lift	5,6	-----

LAND SLIPPAGE UPDATE

The monitoring of the land slip has now been completed and the Parish Council is waiting for the design of the remedial works to be finished in order that a costing can be obtained. The provisional timetable for works is:

October/November - Design and tender specification

December/January - Tender process and analysis

February - Contractor appointed

February/March - commencement of remedial works expected to take 4-6 weeks

The Parish Council will endeavour to keep the village residents informed of progress via its website, Facebook page and through village magazines.