

DANBURY

WINTER 2018

TIMES

No. 50



About 200 people including groups of Danbury's Scout Association attended the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day at the war memorial on Elm Green. The Parish Council had arranged the cleaning of the memorial and it gleamed in the fine weather. The vicar, Reverend Canon Jaqui Jones, re-dedicated the memorial, then the 2 minutes silence followed a very affecting sounding of the Last Post. Wreaths were laid, the St John's choir sang and the names of those on the memorial were read out. The occasion was a splendid commemoration of the end of an appalling conflict.



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Planning

Roger Cole-Jones

Danbury Society



Planning

PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Michelle Harper



Parish Clerk

Maria Dyer



Assistant Clerk

Lesley Mitchelmore



Assistant Clerk.
Neighbourhood Plan Co-ordinator

Robin Dickens



Groundsman

NORMAL PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday 9.15 am to 1 pm.

The Old School House, Main Road,
Danbury, Essex CM3 4NQ

Tel: 01245 225111

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

Website: www.danbury-essex.gov.uk

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Land Slippage

As previously agreed, I am writing to update the village on the land slippage in the area of the lower (Mayes Lane) carpark and footpath to the Bowls and Tennis clubs.

At the time of writing this report the Clerk and a small working group are continuing with the process of establishing the actual extent of remedy needed to ensure the bank and carpark are safe. This work is being supported by professional and indemnified engineers and is likely to take some considerable time, resulting in the need to draw up specifications and undertake a tender process that complies with government requirements. What is becoming more clear is that the costs are likely to be much higher than originally thought.

The council will be reviewing all options based on risk assessments and advice from the professionals. It is also likely that part of the carpark will need to be stabilised at the same time. We may have to separate the work into two parts: part one will be the stabilisation of the bank and carpark as a priority for both safety and parking capacity reasons, part two will be consideration of the replacement of the footpath and its final location. However, both elements will be dependent on the advice received.

Whilst this work continues, Council has reviewed all its budgets and reserves to establish how much funding may be available thereby reducing to a minimum the amount that may have to be borrowed. Clearly it is too early to have an accurate cost to be able to make decisions.

We will continue to keep you informed during the process as inevitably there will be carpark and access issues during the work.

Stuart Berlyn
Chairman



May I take this opportunity to wish all our residents a
Happy and Prosperous Christmas and New Year

The Ponds

The Conservation Volunteers with help from councillors and 2 residents (thank you!) worked on Eves Corner and Runsell Green ponds in October.

At Eves Corner over 3 days the aim was to remove the crassula strangling the reeds particularly on the East by the willows and maintain the balance of vegetation achieved by last year's work. The view from the bench across the pond was opened up and the channel to the main Southern water inlet re-cleared, as were all the other drainage points.

At Runsell Green the pond is doing well after last year's coppicing opened it up more to sunlight. Some scrub clearing and reed removal on the West side was sufficient over 1 day's work. There are possible signs of water vole activity which will be followed up with Essex Wildlife Trust.



Disturbing Problems in Danbury

Over the last few months there have been unpleasant developments and occurrences in our village.

Firstly vandalism is increasing. This includes the deliberate and repeated breaking of bottles which are left on the ground of the children's play park and to a less dangerous degree along the hedge of the top car park. In the summer tinder-dry drought period, fires were set in the play park, one below equipment and one in the bouncy saucer which was witnessed by a councillor. At a different time another litter bin was set on fire. Cars have been deliberately damaged.

Secondly there is an increase in unpleasant or threatening behaviour. A group of youths congregate on Belvedere Road throwing stones at houses. A group of youths climbed onto the roof of the Old Pavilion and hurled abuse at the cricketers until a resident shouted at them to stop. A group sat on the bank above the Bowling green and threw things, shouting at the players. A group of boys and girls in the fine summer weather congregated on the cricket wicket and did wheelies over it, damaging the work done to the pitch.

There are other examples of such behaviour. Please don't get involved directly but if you see any instance report it either to the Parish Office or to the police on 101.

Litter

This is also on the increase everywhere despite the efforts of our dedicated volunteer litter pickers. The litter ranges from food packaging through bottles and cans (e.g. around the seat by the beacon) to used nappies thrown down in the top carpark. In places fly tipping has included gas cylinders, tyres, suitcases and a fridge.

A slightly different type of litter is caused by the dumping of garden waste and hedge cuttings along footpaths and open spaces such as Footpath 17. Why not use the brown bins or even take extra to the recycling centre?

Any help you can give will make an impact so perhaps pick up one piece of litter as you walk around the village and put it in the nearest bin; report any obvious fly tipping via the Parish Office or directly to Chelmsford City Council online; volunteer to keep your own road tidy and collect a picker and high viz if necessary from the Parish Office.

Chelmsford City Council has special Cleansing Days, ours for 4th October this year, and we passed on 4 areas which residents had complained about.

All these things impact on us all and affect the place we live. Please be aware and get involved.

COMMUNITY SPECIAL CONSTABLES

Council is currently investigating the implications
(financial and other)
of participating in this scheme.

We will keep you informed in due course on
our website.

DELIVERERS

A big thank you to all the people who distribute
Danbury Times including 2 new deliverers.
However we are still needing more especially in the
Western and Eastern edges of the village.
Please consider offering to cover your own road or to
be on a list for emergency help if someone is away
or not well.

Danbury Heritage Days

These took place on Saturday and Sunday, September 23rd and 24th. Over 100 people visited and particular interest was shown in the St. John's and Heathcote Schools displays (and some people found their names in punishment books!), 19th/early 20th century photographs, maps of Danbury over the past 450 years, the census records and articles with pictures from past publications.

Several people offered information which we will follow up with interviews and some new items were donated. We plan a second set of days in two years' time hopefully during Chelmsford's Heritage week.

Some of the objects will be on show in Chelmsford Museum at Oaklands Park when it re-opens next year as a temporary exhibition on Danbury Parish; this will be followed by items from other Chelmsford parishes on a rolling programme.

The intention is to keep village archive materials and books in the Parish Council's meeting room so that anyone interested can arrange to visit for a longer look/search. The date when this is organised and available will be put on the website. (The census and birth/marriage/death records are available through St. John the Baptist Church.)

I would like to thank not only the councillors and wives/husbands who gave their time manning the exhibition, as well as muscle power moving tables and screens but also the innumerable people and organisations who lent materials. These are too many to list but include St. John the Baptist Church's archivist Betty Sinclair, Kate Gunner and Bakers of Danbury as well as the Twinning Association and the library which lent the old school bell.

If you have material (personal, business, club etc.) which you would be willing to contribute or have copied for this archive collection please let the Parish Office know. Anyone who is interested in interviewing or being interviewed is welcome too. It would be invaluable if villagers would contribute to the next exhibition.

Next year is the 79th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War - not a key number but time flies fast. Our intended second Heritage Exhibition will be in the 80th anniversary year. If you are still in contact with anyone evacuated here in the Second World War or with their families please consider sharing this with us, or passing on any of your own memories of the impact of the war on the village. Contact the Parish Office.



100th Anniversary of the End of the First World War

When I was in the British Army I was privileged to be in a parade at the Menin Gate, to stand in uniform as the Last Post bugled, surrounded by names of my predecessors who fell in Battle during WW1, which is truly a humbling experience.

2018 marks 100 years since the guns fell silent, hence the Royal British Legion poppy centenary appeal being more prominent with the silhouette statues appearing 100 days before 11th November.

Hopefully it will encourage people to not only look at what the British Legion does, but also see how all our towns and villages were all affected with the injured returning home, though some never to return at all as Danbury's own war memorial is testament.

After being medically discharged from the Army myself with spine injuries, the British Legion assisted me as they have with thousands of troops, but I wondered how could I help them in return.

Inspired by Maldon's fantastic effort with the River bailiff producing fifty silhouettes for local communities and Polden Engineering making three metal permanent statues, I decided to make an eight foot soldier and sailor for display in my own village of Heybridge Basin.

Mounted on the Jolly Sailor pub by the sea wall, they generated a lot of interest. Mandy Hessing saw pictures and contacted me on behalf of Danbury Parish Council to explain how they had tried to get a silhouette but to no avail, so I made the third Silhouette for Danbury.

I've now made seven, each one individually drawn to be slightly different, hopefully all generating interest for the Poppy appeal. In lieu of payment for my work, I ask for contributions to the Royal British Legion or to the other charity I work with for - ex military amputees:

The Pilgrim Bandits.

This organisation was established in 2007, its mantra "Always a little Further", and helps amputees from the armed and emergency services as well as other young people with physical damage. Its patron is Lance Bombardier Ben Parkinson 7 (Para) RHA. The aim is to push them into activities they would not have deemed possible - kayaking long distances, climbing mountains, parachuting and other endurance activities.

Their website is admin@pilgrimbandits.org

Shaun Morgan

Former Lance Corporal
Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers.



Wild Flowers on Griffin Meadow

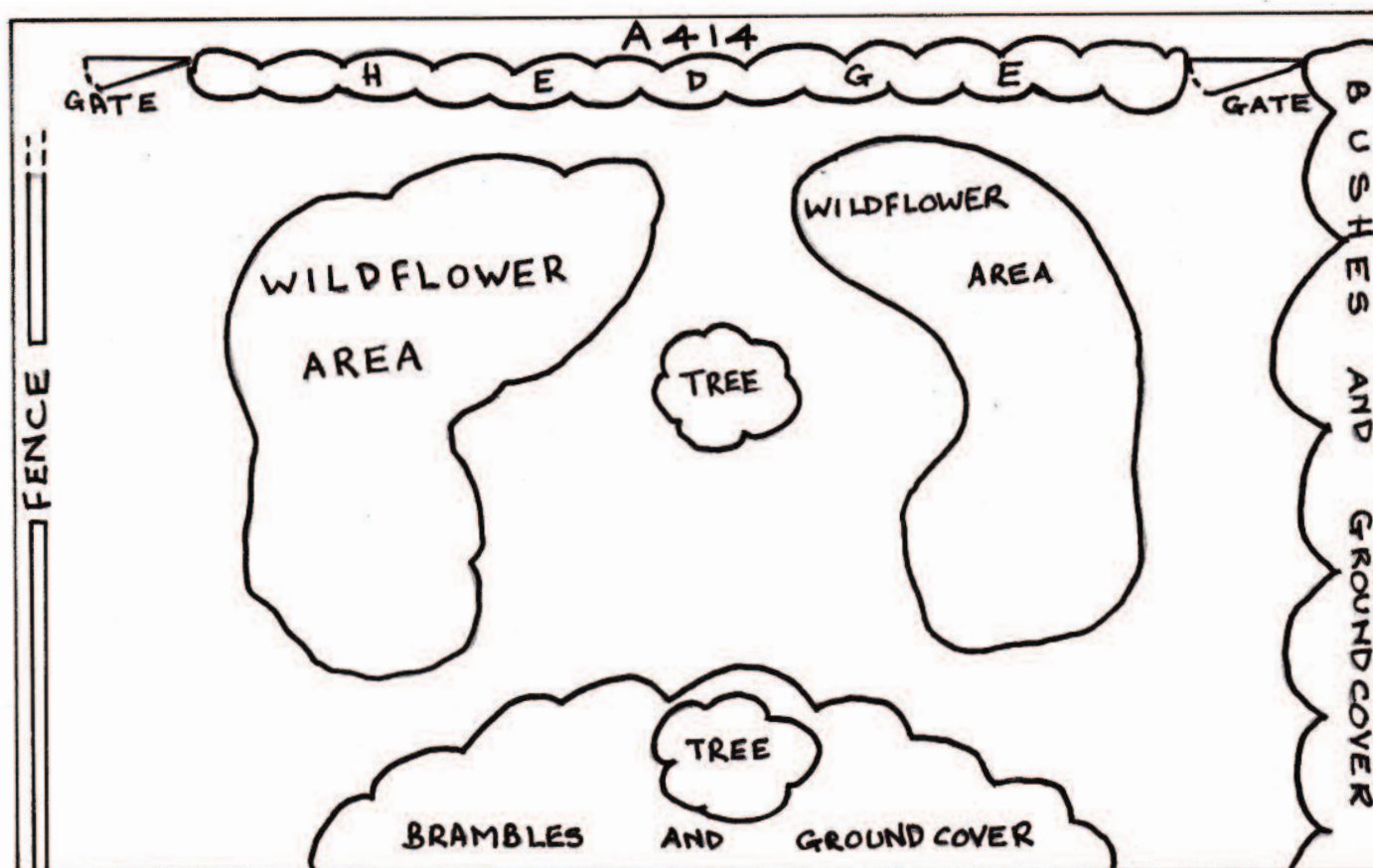
As part of the Living Landscapes programme the Parish Council decided to let the wild flowers on Griffin Meadow develop rather than continuing the current mowing regime. We asked Essex Wildlife Trust to advise and they were enthusiastic about the idea. Some existing wild flowers were already identified.

Rather than make the whole site a wildflower meadow, we have chosen specific areas (see plan below of the top part of the site - not to scale) which would be left for them. The groundsman would mow paths between them to continue to make the site accessible for the public. This would also make the site look managed rather than a neglected area. We would leave the areas under the trees as they are a good wildlife habitat. This will not affect the winter use of the meadow for tobogganing. We will investigate whether seats could be put at the top of the field.



The wildflower areas would be cut once a year no earlier than late July and the cuttings removed; this process reduces the nutrients in the soil which encourages wildflowers to grow and flourish rather than dominant grasses, nettles and cleavers which prefer enriched soil.

A fully developed wildflower meadow may take several seasons to develop but will improve year on year. The area will be monitored and the range of plants and any wildlife spotted recorded. When the area gets going we will ask residents to help identify plants which emerge.



DATES OF MEETINGS

DECEMBER 2018

Mon	3rd	<i>Environment</i>
Mon	17th	<i>Planning</i>
Tues	18th	<i>Resources</i>

JANUARY 2019

Mon	14th	<i>Planning</i>
Wed	16th	<i>Facilities</i>
Wed	23rd	<i>Resources</i>
Mon	28th	<i>Environment</i>
Wed	30th	<i>Parish Council</i>

FEBRUARY 2019

Mon	11th	<i>Planning</i>
Wed	27th	<i>Resources</i>

MARCH 2019

Mon	11th	<i>Planning</i>
Wed	13th	<i>Facilities</i>
Wed	20th	<i>Resources</i>
Mon	25th	<i>Environment</i>
Wed	27th	<i>Parish Council</i>

APRIL 2019

Mon	8th	<i>Planning</i>
Mon	15th	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

All meetings begin at 7.30pm

Play in the Park

Attendance figures

Thursday 2nd August	10.00-12.00	103	extremely hot /sunny
Thursday 16th August	10.00-12.00	21	heavy rain

Feedback notes

Positive

- Brilliant great fun for all the kids
- Play workers are great and fab for free
- Event is well run the kids love it
- An excellent day great games and fun staff
- We will return next year
- Great fun for a free morning
- Really enjoyed bouncy castle
- Great best one so far!

Constructive

- Refreshments needed
- More dates at this venue

Best Kept Playing Fields

At Essex Playing Fields Association Awards on October 25th Danbury was awarded 2 silver and 2 gold standards across the 4 football pitches. Dawson Memorial Field in general and the children's play area were gold standard. The cricket square was of merit standard.

Gold standard is the highest award and shows the great work/care which has been put into the areas.

Rogue Trader Leaflets

As autumn approaches Trading Standards is warning Essex residents about leaflets through the door offering gardening and tree services. It is widely recognised that this is not the best way to advertise if you're a legitimate trader and we are becoming more concerned about the circulation of leaflets with fake or incomplete address details that are often associated with very poor workmanship and distraction burglaries. We are regularly publishing leaflets that concern us on our social media pages, follow us on Facebook and Twitter and feel free to share. If you have any concerns 03454 040506 Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline.

Danbury Neighbourhood Plan

Post-Questionnaire Exhibition
Old Pavilion

Friday 7th December 12-4pm
Saturday 8th December 9-2pm



DANBURY PLAYERS PRESENTS



Dick Whittington
and his cat

By Cheryl Barrett

13th - 16th DECEMBER 2018
7.30pm & 2.30pm Matinee Sat/Sun

TICKETS £9.50 Adult £7.50 Child/Concessions

BOOK ONLINE www.ticketsource.co.uk/danbury

*£1.50 Booking Fee

BOX OFFICE : 07880988333

