

# DANBURY

WINTER 2022

TIMES

No. 60



## CHRISTMAS IN DANBURY 2022

### DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL WISHES ALL RESIDENTS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

This year's Christmas event will be on **Saturday 3rd December** and will include:

4.30 – 6.30pm real reindeer in the top car park



2 - 6pm Christmas Market and Craft Fair in the Sports Hall



4 - 6pm Father Christmas in a grotto in the Sports Hall (£3 tickets at reception on the day)

3.30pm, and 4.15pm 2 sessions by a children's entertainer in the Dawson Suite - free but please book

5.30pm pre-school to host lantern making

During the afternoon the bar will be open for people to buy tea, coffee or drinks with cakes. There will be a raffle for a special Christmas cake.

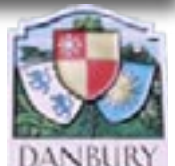


6.30pm walk with Santa and lanterns to Eves Corner for the turning-on of the Christmas tree lights then singing carols



7.30pm -10.30pm Family Christmas disco in the Sports Hall at £10 per person, children free - bar open but no food.

Come and enjoy as many of these activities as you can - see you there.



# DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Stuart Berlyn**  
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**Chairman of Parish Council**  
Ex-Officio member of all committees

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**Vice-Chairman of Parish Council**  
Ex-Officio member of all committees, Chairman of Environment

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Member of Facilities and Planning

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Chairman of Resources

## DATES OF MEETINGS

### October

Wednesday 26th Resources  
Monday 31st Community Engagement  
Health and Well Being

### November

Tuesday 1st Leisure and Facilities  
Monday 7th Planning  
Wednesday 16th Environment  
Monday 21st Leisure and Facilities  
Wednesday 23rd Resources  
Monday 30th Parish Council

### December

Monday 5th Community Engagement  
Health and Wellbeing  
Monday 12th Leisure and Activities  
Monday 19th Planning

*For January to April 2023, see Parish Council Website*

*Chelmsford City Council has made several organisational changes to parishes and decided that Danbury would be limited to 12 Parish Councillors.  
There are currently 10.*

## Speedwatch

**Unfortunately the current community speed watch will no longer be continuing due to lack of volunteers. If you want Speedwatch to go ahead in future within Danbury, we would welcome you to come forward, otherwise it will cease to operate.**

**For more information please contact:  
Debbie Hay; e-mail: d.hay125@gmail.com  
or telephone: 01245 227258.**

## PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Michelle Harper



Parish Clerk

Maria Dyer



Assistant Clerk

Lesley Mitchelmore



Assistant Clerk

## CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Alexander

Planning

Mark Schofield

Planning

## NORMAL PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday 9.15am to 1pm  
The old School House, Main Rd, Danbury, Essex. CM3 4NQ  
Tel: 01245 225111

E-mail: [parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk](mailto:parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.danbury-essex.gov.uk](http://www.danbury-essex.gov.uk)



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## DANBURY LEISURE CENTRE

(Yes - that's the new name for the Sports and Social Centre)



On the 15th August Parish Council took over management responsibility for the above. As a result there will be changes and improvements to the centre. Some have already commenced with extra classes, including special offers for both gym facilities and pay-as-you-go classes. An important change is that there is now no longer a need to become a social member, saving the annual fee.

A village survey has been included in October's Focus magazine asking what you would wish to see change or improve, including additional facilities etc. Please complete and return the survey either by hard copy or online via the following link,

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LMSDKFD> by 4th November.

Some of the improvements we have in mind will inevitably take time and money to implement.

In the mean time please check on social media as we regularly post updates on what is happening.

Remember it is your centre for you to enjoy, please make use of it; you are welcome to just pop-in, have a look around and chat to the staff.

We look forward to seeing you there in the near future

## HEALTH ISSUES

There is a group initially established for those caring for people which meets every third Wednesday of each month at 2-3.30pm in the Old Pavilion.

The next meetings are on November 16th with a speaker on Action for Arthritis, then December 14th which is a social meeting.

However, this group is for anyone interested in the topics being covered, not just for carers. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to attend any meeting, so we can judge how much tea and cake to provide!



Kelly Coombs from United in Kind came and spoke on August 17th and was very interesting and useful on things like the Essex Wellbeing Service, the telephone preference service, help avoiding scams and frauds. She brought some lovely items knitted by volunteers and completely free - e.g. Hug in a Shrugs, twizzles for those with restless fingers and decorated hand muffs.

United in Kind website is <http://www.unitedinkind.org> which has other useful ideas. The scam topic is also on the Danbury Parish Council Facebook page.

Do come along; if you have an area you would like information on, let the Parish Office know and we will try to arrange a speaker.



## THE BEACON

The most recent beacon was installed in 1988 to mark the 400th anniversary of the Spanish Armada.

There are no written records of the original but it would have given warning if invasion had occurred. The first recorded comment is from 1619, and in 1645 there was a request from Samuel Headley of Danbury for payment for maintaining the beacon. In 1725 it was blown down in a violent gale but was set up again by 1768 - presumably partly in fear of a possible Dutch, Spanish or French attack in the period after the Seven Years' War.

A map of 1768 shows its site at the high edge of the former Iron Age fort, about halfway along current Footpath 16, where it would have been visible when lit from all directions.

There were far fewer trees then as farming was more important and the land kept clear.



In 2002 for Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee the beacon was lit again. Andy Lambert was responsible for loading the brazier. In 2012 200-300 people gathered to watch the beacon lighting for the Diamond Jubilee. Similar beacons were lit all over the country and Commonwealth. The Chapman family loaded it with wood donated by Brookes Brothers, helped by Clive Pretty who brought the wood up from the Groundman's store.

The brazier itself was about 5 feet high so it took a lot of materials. The blaze was remarkable and was greeted by cheers.



Sadly the Platinum Jubilee could not be celebrated in the same way. On inspection the wooden post and iron brazier were deemed to have become unsafe. The installation of the play equipment nearby meant this would have been the last time that the beacon could be used; the huge cost of refurbishment was not feasible.

A difficult decision was taken to remove the beacon.

Similarly the cost of refurbishing the brazier to be used for plants elsewhere on Dawson Field was also too

expensive. Currently Parish Council is investigating another site for a replacement. Watch the Council's website for further information.



## PLAY EQUIPMENT OPENING

On 3rd September the new play area for older children was opened. It coincided with Danbury Market and both were well attended. People brought picnics too and the day was very successful with lots of happy youngsters. It is well used at weekends and after school.

At the time of writing, due to the extreme weather conditions in the summer, it was not possible to level the ground under the zip wire. This will be rectified by Chelmsford City Council's Parks Department (the contractors) as soon as the state of the ground is suitable.





## Public Rights of Way Improvements

The Parish Council have formed a partnership with Essex Highways to enable volunteer work parties to assist in repairing and maintaining the Public Right of Way (PROW) network in Danbury and the surrounding area. This group, known as the Parish Path Partnership (P3), can install new way marker posts, clear vegetation, replace signs on posts and repair bridges. We work with the Essex Highways PROW and Localism Officer at Essex County Council to agree work proposals.

The group has only been recently formed but we have already installed two way marker posts and cleared a couple of footpath from overgrowing shrubs.



One post was installed at the cross road junction of Footpaths 5,7 and 8 within the Outdoor Pursuits Centre.



Another was installed at the junction of Footpath 56 and Bridleway 13 in Lingwood Common.

A No Cycling sign has been rescued from the undergrowth on Footpath 17 and a way marker post has been discovered in dense vegetation at the beginning of Bridleway 49! More posts are to be installed later in the year on Footpaths 1 and 11.

In order to be as environmentally sympathetic as possible, wooden posts are fixed in place using local available materials such as stones, soil or rocks which are rammed around the post after being inserted into a hole approx 60 cm deep. When clearing vegetation the policy is to leave the removed material in the local area to decay naturally. The work can be physically demanding as a post can be some way from a convenient parking space so all materials and tools must be carried to site; sometimes this can mean quite a trek. If you are interested in helping to maintain our PROW network and wish to join our P3 group then please contact the Parish Council office.

## Men's Shed

The use of the former groundsman's store as a base for Danbury's new branch of the Essex Shed Network has been very successful. The group meets once a week at the moment with around 12 members. They are friendly and have developed a great rapport. In order to support the group further Parish Council has been successful in obtaining several grants to help provide equipment and resources. Councillor John Spence also arranged a grant from the Essex Locality Fund.

They have worked on their own personal projects and have been generous with their time producing items for the village. These include the Easter bunny at Eves Corner and the Human Fruit Machine used at the Platinum Jubilee Festival and at other events beyond Danbury. Other village projects are under way.





## Useful Contact Numbers for Reference to Local Issues:

### Dogs

Issues such as lost/found dog, fouling and dog on dog attack.

either on line at

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment-and-public-health/dogs/report-dog-fouling/>

or telephone: 01245 606606 Ask for 'Dog wardens' also available 'out of hours'.

**Dog Waste Bins** - red ( Non Parish Council Bins) 01245 606606 Ask for Public Health.

**Noise and Nuisance** 01245 606606 ask for Public Health ( if out of hours it will be option 2)

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment-and-public-health/noise-and-nuisance/report-a-noise-problem/>

Chelmsford City Council will investigate noise from

- alarms
- noisy animals
- pubs and clubs
- roadworks
- certain noise from neighbours
- building sites
- commercial premises and fireworks.

**Light Nuisance Problem** 01245 606606 Ask for Public Health.

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment-and-public-health/noise-and-nuisance/report-a-light-nuisance-problem/>

- domestic security lights
- commercial security lights
- car park floodlighting
- advertising or sign lighting
- building or landscape lighting

### Highways issues

<https://www.essexhighways.org>

- potholes
- street lights
- damaged pavements
- overgrown hedges

## Play In the Park

Once again Parish Council arranged for Chelmsford City Council to provide 4 sessions this summer. On August 23rd the morning skateboard/scooter session was well attended with 104 children and the first ordinary session on August 12th in the morning fairly well attended with 75. The Galleon Inflatable on 12th August (afternoon) and the second ordinary session on 23rd August (afternoon) far less so with 41 and 17 respectively. All who came said they enjoyed the activities. Since we pay for these sessions we may need to consider what to book for next summer. Any suggestions/helpful comments would be appreciated before the end of December please.



## Rewilding

In Spring Chelmsford City Council decided to help wildlife across the district by leaving green spaces, including some roadside verges, uncut until September. Each area is assessed separately and the mowing schedule varied to suit e.g. traffic sight lines. At the end of the growing period there will be a final mow and where possible cuttings removed.

This will support bees, butterflies, grasshoppers and other insects which are important pollinators. Mammals, birds and reptiles such as hedgehogs, turtledoves and toads will also benefit from undisturbed green areas and their insect populations.

Essex Wildlife Trust supports this move and councils across the UK are adopting similar approaches. Danbury Parish Council is limiting cutting of some areas on Dawson Memorial Field which will be cut less often to encourage wild flowers.

Unfortunately this was not a good year to initiate these changes: drought caused plants to set seed much earlier in the summer and top growth to dry out/die, which has caused criticism about unattractive brown verges. The system will take time to bed in but over time it should have a large impact on declining numbers of a range of creatures.

On a linked theme, Eves Corner pond dries out most years. This hot summer, adults allowed their children to race around in the pond, taking photos of them. It is a pond not a playground. Stomping around could cause damage to the clay lining so if it ever rains again ! :

- water could seep away through the cracks;
- the creatures desperately trying to survive in what damp patches remained would be under even more threat;
- the pond fills with runoff from surrounding land and roads which brings pollutants ( petrol, oil, nitrates) which settle on the bottom, so disturbance could cause health issues e.g. breathing difficulties.

Please treat the pond with care and common sense.



## Danbury Bowls Club Finals

Danbury Bowling Club Finals 3rd - 4th September 2022

Who said the game of bowls was boring? Far from it! At Danbury Bowls Club's Finals weekend on 3rd & 4th September, all matches were hotly contested by the best bowlers using every gambit to outwit and outplay their opponents by blocking "woods" (bowls) and dislodging those winning shot woods nearest the target of the small white "jack". (For those not familiar with lawn bowls, imagine the ricochet effect of snooker balls colliding).

All players over the weekend were resplendent in white trousers and shorts and in their uniform club shirts, coincidentally in the now familiar colours of blue and gold.

The accompanying photographs depict the essence of gamesmanship and competitive spirit abounding over the weekend, best realised by the club's attraction for the nineteen new members recently joined and welcomed through our Open Days in May.

The Men's Singles Title was won by Steve Gunster, Ladies Singles title to Liz Pretty. President's Cup-Steve Gunster, Novice Singles-Richard Green, Two Wood Pairs (Cleveland Cup)-D Coggins, D Greenwood. Three Wood Pairs (Cricketers Cup)-M Willett, D Willett.

Here pictured, are the winners of the Bill Linnett trophy. David Greenwood (skip), Sylvia Hennem, Zandra Westlake with runners up Derek Willett (skip), Keith Tucker and John Brotherton.







## Platinum Jubilee Festival

This marked Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years as monarch.

The day's activities have received so many positive comments from among the 500-600 residents who attended. On Friday 3rd July the top and second pitches at Dawson Memorial Field and the Sports Hall hosted stalls such as the Human Fruit Machine, ice cream, drinks, musical acts on stage including local singers, picnic tables. The WI provided very tasty afternoon teas and there were many more stalls.



There was free coffee/tea/squash and some people gave donations to the Ukraine Refugee Fund raising £123.

Several people wanted a similar event next year.

The weather was great and the few volunteers did an admirable job - many thanks to them because these events cannot happen without volunteers.

## The QUEEN'S Passing

Sadly the Queen's death was announced by Buckingham Palace on Thursday 9th September.

Parish Council marked the period of national mourning by suspending meetings and by opening a Book of Condolence, available in the Parish Office during the week and the Old Pavilion at the weekend. It was signed by a range of over 200 residents from school children to those who remembered the coronation in 1953. The first Parish Council after the funeral was marked by a minute's silence.



**God save the King.**