

# DANBURY

SUMMER 2018

TIMES

No. 49



LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
QUALITY GOLD



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## HAPPY RETIREMENT



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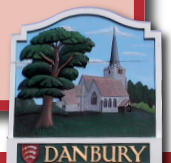
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# DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Council**

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Chairman of  
Environment

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Member of  
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Member of  
Facilities

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Member of  
Environment and  
Planning

## ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

**John Alexander**

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 Fax: 01245 226798**

**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)**

**Like us on Facebook** 



# COLLAPSING BANK/CAR PARK RISK ON DAWSON MEMORIAL FIELD

Over the last 18 months Council has been monitoring a bank slippage below the lower car park. The monitoring has been undertaken by a professional company. A pathway also sits on the top of the slippage to the bowls club, tennis club and areas beyond. The pathway has been unusable in parts for some time.

During this severe spring weather (mostly heavy rain) the bank has slid a further unexpected considerable distance and Council has been forced to close the footpath and the immediate area completely for safety reasons to protect the public. During this time a mains electricity cable has also been severed. Clearly, there is a risk that the bank may collapse completely. Council is also concerned about the longer term stability of the car park area above the path and the slippage, which clearly needs to be stabilised and the relative issues resolved.

Council is in the process of consulting with civil engineers as to the way ahead. However the issue is resolved, it is likely to be expensive. Until Council has recommendations from the engineers it is impossible to have any idea of costs and any wider implications. Parish Council has to seriously consider the recommendations and the wider financial commitments in order to determine the degree of work to be done. Council does not have unlimited funds so will need to consider how the work will be paid for. Reviews will be taken of Council's financial position.

Once these decisions have been made, as mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting it is still highly likely that we will need to borrow money from the 'Public Works Board', a government department which helps small councils with large expense projects at really good rates of interest. The Sports and Social Centre was part funded through this route.

This project is likely to take a considerable amount of time to resolve including formal tendering processes once plans etc. are agreed and drawn up.

Council will keep you informed of progress in minutes, on Facebook and the website.

**Stuart Berlyn**  
Chairman

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UP-DATE

By now the Steering Group should have delivered a questionnaire to every household in Danbury. Residents' views are essential for the development of the Plan's policies, including identifying location(s) for the 100 homes allocated through Chelmsford City Council's emerging Local Plan. A map of sites put forward created much interest at the exhibition on March 16th and 17th on the Draft Visions and Objectives.

It is important that residents fill in the questionnaires. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

**PLEASE RESPOND - Feedback is essential**



## FAREWELL TO DANBURY

This will be my final article for the Danbury Times, as I am retiring at the end of July, and I have decided to reflect on my time here together with the Parish Council achievements.

I commenced my role as Parish Clerk on the 1st May, 2005 and have worked for the Parish Council for the last thirteen years. When I joined, the Parish Office was situated in part of the current tennis pavilion and all the meetings were also held in that small area. It was remarkable how the staff and councillors managed.

In the early years the village won the Best Kept Village category for a large village obtaining prize money and bronze plaques for 2007 and 2008 which are installed in the current Parish Office.

Progression was all important bringing the Parish Council into the 21st century. The major project was to drain the football pitches and resurface the car parks and install lighting. Grant funding was all important to achieve the project which was successfully completed in 2010.

The greatest advancement was the move of the Parish Council to the Old School House. As everyone should know the Parish Council is now situated in the old school building. This provided a much larger working space with a separate meeting room and office. This made it a great deal easier to hold working party meetings during the daytime.

Danbury was chosen as a pilot for the new Quality Gold Award and after considerable work became the first Parish Council in the country to achieve this accolade of which I am extremely proud. Danbury has been lucky enough to have an active Neighbourhood Plan Group which is progressing well with the Neighbourhood Plan document for the village. This will be used by Chelmsford City Council as statutory planning guidance.

Legislation is constantly changing and as clerk you must keep up to date by attending and completing training courses earning valid Continuing Professional Development points. You must then implement and progress the updates.

The Old Pavilion was refurbished and brought back into use and is now booked out on a regular basis.

The Sports and Social Centre building has undergone renovation with complete electrical refurbishment. New toilets provided throughout the building, which were installed with the aid of a Lottery Grant.

The largest project going forward is the prevention of further land slippage on Dawson Memorial Field. This will be one of the greatest challenges for the new clerk going forward.

I have always enjoyed the challenge of arriving at work and never knowing what the emergency will be for that day. The unexpected can alter your work schedule at a moment's notice. Your knowledge has to be extremely wide: hosting meetings, working in partnership with local clubs who use the Parish Council's facilities, completing all aspects of finance from budgeting, precept, through to invoicing, answering residents' queries and offering advice. These are but a few of the duties.

I wish Danbury and your new clerk Michelle Harper all the very best for the future and I am sure the Parish Council will go from strength to strength. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all residents, councillors and staff who have helped me in my role for the past thirteen years.

**Margaret Saunders**  
**Retiring Parish Clerk**



## New hedgerows boost Danbury's rich wildlife

Hundreds of volunteers and numerous organisations have worked together to plant more than a kilometre of native hedgerow this winter.

Danbury Ridge Living Landscape is home to many species of wildlife, including adorable Hazel dormice, shy Brown hares and beautiful Yellowhammers, but continued fragmentation of their habitat here and elsewhere in Essex means they need our help. Wildlife needs to move to survive – to find food and shelter, to breed and to escape threats. Planting hedgerows helps them to do this.

So, over the winter 7,000 native species saplings, covering close to 1,500 metres, were planted across private land in the Danbury Ridge Living Landscape area, by Living Landscape volunteers, staff from Essex Highways, Ground Control Limited and the Environment Agency. Their hard work will help recreate lost wildlife corridors and reconnect isolated woodlands, allowing wildlife to disperse safely.

The project, led by Essex Wildlife Trust is part of an ongoing collaboration between a variety of organisations, including

Little Baddow Conservation Society, National Trust, various parish councils including Danbury and Little Baddow, Chelmsford City Council and Essex County Council through the Living Landscapes initiative.

"We are absolutely delighted with this winter's results, which were made possible by the support of volunteers and staff from a multitude of organisations, as well as those who provided financial support," Emma Ormond, Essex Wildlife Trust's Living Landscapes coordinator, says.

"Planting has now ceased as we head towards the warmer months, but plans are already afoot to identify further areas to plant our next 'kilometre for wildlife' within this fabulous Living Landscape".

For further information on the Danbury Ridge Living Landscape or if you are interested in supporting the next phase of this project as a volunteer or landowner, please contact Emma Ormond, Living Landscapes Coordinator, at [emmao@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:emmao@essexwt.org.uk) / 01621 862954.

Butterflies have long been one of the most celebrated features of the UK's wildlife. Bright and attractive these eye catching creatures take us back to our childhoods and spending summers outdoors in nature. Sadly, three quarters of British butterfly species are now in decline and a number have already declined to such an extent that they are no longer seen in Britain.

This decline is worrying as a healthy population of butterflies may indicate the general good health of an environment. To address this, one of the aims of the Danbury Ridge Living Landscapes partnership (DRLL) initiative (led by the Essex Wildlife Trust) is to restore, recreate and reconnect natural habitats so that butterflies and other wildlife can thrive. A team of volunteers have recently planted hedges in and around Danbury, providing natural corridors linking existing habitats.

### What can you do to help?

Why not choose some butterfly friendly plants for your garden, leave a hedge rather than replace with a fence or wall, leave an area of your lawn unmown so that wildflowers can grow through or plant some wildflower seeds in an unused space.

DRLL with the help of local residents, is completing its annual survey of butterfly species sightings. If you would like to take part over the summer, you can get a copy of the survey from either visiting [www.danbury-essex.gov.uk](http://www.danbury-essex.gov.uk) or by calling in at the Danbury Parish Council office (next to Danbury Library).





# Play in the Park

**TWO FREE SESSIONS WITH LARGE INFLATABLE  
ASSAULT COURSE PLUS SPORTS, GAMES & CRAFTS**

**Thursdays 2nd August & 16th August 10am to 12 noon**

Dawson Memorial Field (behind Sports Centre)

Suitable for children aged 3 to 11 years:

- Under 6s must be supervised by an adult parent/guardian throughout the whole session (maximum 3 children per adult)
- 6 to 8 year olds must be dropped off and picked up by an adult (password will be required)
- Over 8s can come and go without an adult, but must provide any relevant medical information and emergency contact details when they register

Children should wear suitable clothing for playing games and be prepared for any weather. They will need to bring a drink.

For more information please visit: <http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/playinthepark>

THE READING AGENCY AND LIBRARIES PRESENT



**14 July – 1 September in all Essex Libraries**

There's mischief occurring in Essex Libraries this summer!

The Summer Reading Challenge 2018, which is produced by The Reading Agency and delivered by libraries, is **Mischief Makers**. Children are being asked to read books and, with the help of Dennis, Gnasher and other classic Beano characters, find the treasure in Beanotown.

By reading or sharing books children will earn stickers (including some special smelly stickers) and if they complete the challenge they will receive a certificate and a medal.

Children aged 10 and over can take part in the ImagiNation 2018 challenge where they can create artworks or write reviews inspired by the books they have read.

For more information go to [libraries.essex.gov.uk](http://libraries.essex.gov.uk)

SUMMER  
READING  
CHALLENGE

THE  
READING  
AGENCY

Essex County Council

## WILD WEDNESDAY at Danbury Country Park

is regular free children's fun, making the most of what nature has to offer.

Families can enjoy Danbury Country Park by making dens and mud pies, wading in the stream, splashing in puddles, kicking leaves, forest craft...every day is different and there's always something new to stimulate the imagination and build an appreciation for the outdoors. Most popular with children from 2 to 12, but all welcome.

## Dates

25 July / 1 Aug / 8 Aug / 22 Aug /  
29 Aug

Times 11am to 2pm

*Free – but there is a cost to park at  
Danbury Country Park*

***No need to book  
– just turn up!***

## Please Volunteer

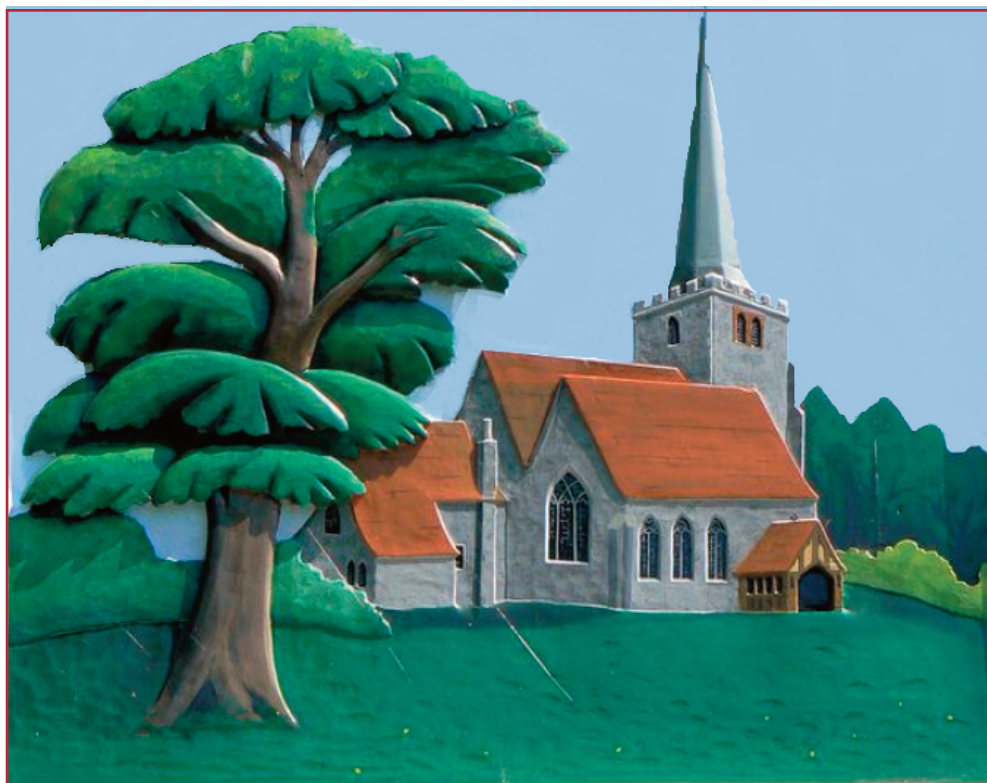
Can you offer to help deliver  
Danbury Times along  
your road?

We need help in the Riffhams  
Lane, Parkdale, Main Road  
(South side), Hay Green and  
Bakers Lane areas.

Three times per year – April,  
July and Early December.

Contact the Parish Office.





## Danbury Heritage Days

Supported by Danbury Parish  
Council

22nd & 23rd September 2018

10am – 4pm

The Old Pavilion – Free Entry

An exhibition of historical photos and artefacts celebrating the history of Danbury. Do you have any historical items or photos related to Danbury that you would like to share with the village? If you do please contact the Parish Office 01245 225111.

## The Magic “RE”

- REDUCE** don't buy goods wrapped in plastic, use paper bags (mushroom bags are good) for vegetables and fruit, take your own shopping bag for loose vegetables, shoes, clothing directly, always have your own shopping bags to avoid buying another (keep them in the car boot).
- REUSE** keep any plastic bags/plantpots/seed trays to use until they fall apart! Then see Recycle below.
- REPLACE** think whether there is an alternative to plastic – e.g. coir seed and plant pots, canvas shoppers, biodegradable rubbish bags.
- REFUSE** take out goods (e.g. carrots) from plastic packaging at the till and leave it with the cashier – a smile and explanation usually works; don't double wrap meat already plastic packaged, use your own bags for shoes/clothing instead of becoming a walking advert for the shop/chain with their plastic bags.
- RECYCLE** use the recycling system – the cover poster suggests some perhaps unexpected items which can be rinsed in your washing up water and recycled rather than putting them in the black bin for landfill. Do remove triggers and pump dispensers and put in the black bin though.
- REWARD** Give yourself a gold star if you manage a way to cut your plastics use!
- REMINDER** We are all aware of the increasing problems with plastic packaging: floating islands of plastic rubbish at sea and lots washed up on every beach; birds, fish and animals suffocated by plastic rubbish; microscopic plastic beads in our drinking water and perhaps in our food. Do ask what your favourite shops are doing about it. If you aren't satisfied, shop elsewhere. A few people can make a difference because the protests will spread. A little helps -recycling one bleach bottle saves enough energy to power a street light for over 6 hours.

Here are 2 interesting sites:

[www.recycle-more.co.uk/how-is-it-recycled-/plastic-recycling](http://www.recycle-more.co.uk/how-is-it-recycled-/plastic-recycling)

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42703561](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42703561)



## DATES OF MEETINGS

### JULY 2018

Mon	23rd	Environment
Wed	25th	Parish Council
Mon	30th	Planning

### SEPTEMBER 2018

Mon	3rd	Planning
Wed	12th	Facilities
Wed	19th	Resources
Mon	24th	Planning
Wed	26th	Parish Council

### OCTOBER 2018

Mon	1st	Environment
Mon	15th	Planning
Wed	31st	Resources

### NOVEMBER 2018

Mon	5th	Planning
Wed	7th	Facilities Budget
Wed	14th	Facilities
Wed	21st	Resources
Mon	26th	Planning
Wed	28th	Parish Council

### DECEMBER 2018

Mon	3rd	Environment
Mon	17th	Planning
Tues	18th	Resources

All meetings begin at 7.30pm

## Danbury Cricket Club

2018 Home Fixtures

1pm start

Dawson Memorial Field, Danbury

21st July	St Andrews
4th August	Noak Hill Taverners 2
18th August	Bentley 3
1st September	Eastwood 2

All Supporters Always Welcome  
Players aged 14 and upwards wanted  
Call/text Simon Moore on 07941 771 860  
or Lee Collins on 07738 281 401



## Oaklands Cricket Club

2018 Home Fixtures

1pm start

Dawson Memorial Field, Danbury

28th July	Rayleigh 6
11th August	Broomfield 2
25th August	Boreham 2

All Supporters Always Welcome  
For more information please email  
Stuart Ayris on:  
stuart.ayris00@outlook.com

## DANBURY MISSION FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT

We finished the season in style by winning the Chelmsford & District Churches League Cup Final with a 3-1 win over Billericay Pioneer. After a tough season, Danbury finished the year with silverware for the third time in four seasons with a solid team performance with goals from Joe Playle (2) and Steve Eaton.

It was a satisfying end to the season, after a slow start in the league campaign meant Danbury were out of touch with league winners St James from an early stage.

The Chelmsford & District Churches League is affiliated to the Essex FA and features church based teams from Chelmsford & surrounding areas as far as Colchester and Rayleigh. Any churches interested in finding out more information about how to get involved should contact the League through the website or through Twitter @theCDCFL.



DANBURY PLAYERS  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

BOOK NOW!



THURS 19th- SUN 22nd JULY

7:30pm & 2:30pm MATINEE ON SAT/SUN

TICKETS £10 ADULT. £8.00 CHILD.  
(+ £1.50 BOOKING FEE)

DANBURY VILLAGE HALL, CM3 4NQ

BOOK ONLINE:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/danbury](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/danbury)

BOX OFFICE: 07880 988333

## MARGARET SAUNDERS

Our Parish Clerk – Margaret Saunders retires from her post at the end of July. She has been a dedicated, loyal and valued member of staff for some 13 years. Not only have we relied on her professional guidance and advice, she has also been a fantastic ‘agony aunt’ to many of us.



Elsewhere in this issue you will find her final report listing some of the many achievements we have attained with her support, which has enabled Danbury to be a ‘Gold’ standard parish council recognised by others throughout Essex. Margaret is also highly respected amongst her peers who regularly seek her advice and guidance.

On behalf of the village, its many and varied businesses and organisations and in particular the many councillors over the years, plus of course all of the staff, we thank you and wish you a long, happy and healthy retirement.