

# DANBURY

WINTER 2019

TIMES

No. 53



*Danbury Parish Council wishes  
all residents a happy, healthy  
and prosperous Christmas and New Year.*

Danbury Christmas Tree Lights  
will be turned on at Eves Corner by  
Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst,  
Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Essex  
on Thursday 5th December at 7pm

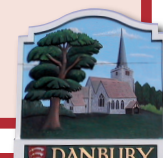


Sing along to traditional carols  
accompanied by  
The Salvation Army Band

Then join us at The Sports  
& Social Centre for  
refreshments and to meet  
Father Christmas

Sponsored by  
Danbury Parish Council  
Bakers of Danbury  
St John's Church  
Danbury Mission  
The Danbury Society  
SWF Rotary Club

*Photograph courtesy  
of Brigitte Whiteing*



# DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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## 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

## Newsletter Deliverers

The 30 people who have taken on delivery rounds 3 times per year of the Danbury Times do a fantastic job and we thank them whole-heartedly.

As some people move away from the village or are not able to do a round temporarily or at all for other reasons, it becomes necessary to ask for more volunteers.

Could you do your own road? Or are you willing to be on a 'fill-in temporarily' list?

We especially need help with Gay Bowers Road (12 houses), Tynedale's Lane (4), St. Joseph's (20), Hyde Lane South from Chalk Bridge (6), Slough Road (10) and Maldon Road (Gay Bowers) (10).

If you are able to volunteer or want more information please contact the Parish Office tel. 225111.

## 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](mailto:parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk)**

**Website: [www.danbury-essex.gov.uk](http://www.danbury-essex.gov.uk)**

**Like us on Facebook** 

## VANDALISM AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Since early summer there has been an increase in instances of vandalism and unpleasant behaviour in the village.

A den was built in the wooded area by a lower football pitch on Dawson Memorial Field, partly using trees deliberately cut down in this conservation area. Tools stolen from the nearby allotments were found in the den and there was evidence of drug use. Parish Council, acting on police advice, had no option but to have the den removed. There have been reports of a scooter rider distributing drugs at various points in the village.

An attempt to saw through the memorial bench by the beacon and destruction of the seat of the bench by the Youth Shelter followed; then the gate between the Mayes Lane car park and Pitch 2 was destroyed. Holes were dug in Pitch 3 and debris dragged over it, making it unplayable.

A second den was built in a wooded area still near Pitch 3 but no evidence of drug use was seen.

Groups of young people have hurled foul abuse at tennis players from banks by the courts, and at cricketers from the roof of the Old Pavilion. One group played with a football on the entrance approach to the Sports Centre, kicking the ball towards cars and making it unpleasant for people entering the centre.

Some of these young people and children have been recognised as living in the village and/or attending The Sandon School. Others come from Great Baddow. None of this is just youngsters messing about. It is destructive and threatening. Parents should be aware of the dangers of their children associating with these activities.

All these instances cost the village money in repairs. Parish Council also allocated funds for additional visits from police to patrol the village and they also came directly to at least one call for help to disperse a group of troublemakers. A Community Resolution was issued to one Juvenile for "Cannabis Possession"; a stolen vehicle and some discarded knives were found near the Sports and Social Centre; 3 "Stop and Account" procedures were undertaken by Officers who felt there was a need to stop some juveniles and ask them what they were doing in the area; a report of a Public Order offence by juveniles was made and investigated by police; 2 "Intelligence Reports" were submitted by patrolling officers about activity in the area; a vehicle was seized under the Road Traffic Act for driving with "No Insurance".

The extra police presence has certainly cut the problems down.

If you witness any anti-social or criminal activity please report directly to the police as soon as possible on 101 or online. However do not put yourself at risk.

## Speedwatch

Contrary to the report in the recent Danbury Society newsletter Danbury Speedwatch has not ended.

After the appeal in the last edition of Danbury Times, new volunteers applied for training and there are now 8 members. This makes it slightly easier to arrange checks though the recent wet weather has meant some planned sessions had to be abandoned.

Please still consider joining - the training is very simple and more people would be a great help.

Please contact either the Parish Office tel: 01245 225111 or [parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk](mailto:parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk), or contact Debbie Hay tel: 01245 227258.

## Helen Rollason Cancer Charity

In June this year we reluctantly closed our Helen Rollason Cancer Charity Danbury shop due to lack of sales. The support we have received from this wonderful community has been incredible and we've been proud to have a presence in the village for the past 10 years.

Thank you to everyone who has bought an item or donated goods to us; it has been a privilege to be part of Danbury for so many years.

Our nearest charity shop to Danbury now is in Witham; they will be happy to take any donations but please try to ring the shop before your arrival:

**Helen Rollason Cancer Charity Witham Shop, 72 Newland Street, Witham, CM8 1AH 01376 503485**

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

### Proud to Support our Residents

The Health and Wellbeing Committee has focused on developing a dementia friendly community as its first project. Our Dementia Friends training session, led by Mark Neville of the Alzheimer's Society, proved very successful. As well as advertising the event amongst local residents, the concept of developing a dementia friendly village was promoted amongst local businesses and the universal support was extremely encouraging. On the evening, the presentation began by dispelling myths and highlighting key facts about dementia and later provided perceptive, well received analogies all in layman's terms to develop everybody's understanding of this disease. We were delighted with the extremely positive feedback from this well attended, informative and interactive session.

Following on from the Parish Council's expression of interest for developing a community wellbeing hub in Danbury Library and building on the success of the committee's work in the area of dementia, plans are progressing for music workshops for those whose lives are affected by dementia. Additionally, the committee has plans to help carers through the development of a carers' support group.

The committee's second main initiative this year is in the area of adult mental health. Two successful sessions of the Mental Health First Aid training course took place this autumn. The course is an introductory session to raise awareness of mental health, introducing some common mental health challenges and explaining how to spot them. During the course, participants learnt how to talk with someone who might be experiencing mental ill health and were also equipped with some tools to enable them to look after their own mental health. We were very pleased to receive such positive feedback:

"Very valuable - giving tools and advice for future life. Gives me more confidence in dealing with mental health issues."

"I found it very informative and well presented. The whole session had a good pace and involved the attendees in group discussion and activities which held our attention. Many thanks for organising such a useful morning."

The Council are pleased to support the county wide "United in Kind" initiative. This is a new social movement aiming to combat loneliness by spreading kindness and helping people to connect with their local community. Small interactions and little acts of kindness can make a huge difference for people experiencing social isolation with the added bonus of boosting your own wellbeing too. We are very lucky to live in a beautiful village with a great community spirit, but why not make it even better by spreading a little more kindness.

Overall, we have had a very successful year to date and it is exciting to consider the future in which we hope to go from strength to strength, improving the health and wellbeing of as many of our residents as possible.

## Parish Council Surgeries

You can bring any questions or village problems to the Parish Council surgery stand in Danbury Market in the Sports and Social Centre sports hall, where 2 councillors are always available. This opportunity to raise issues is particularly useful if you can't get to the Parish office during the week, but is also convenient if you are visiting the excellent range of stalls at the market. These meetings are every first Saturday of the month (except January) from 9-12.30pm. The next is December 7th. There are useful pamphlets and flyers about village events or relevant matters which you can take away also.

## MEDICAL CENTRE UPDATE

A lot is changing at Beacon Health Group. Pressures in primary care across Essex have caused problems for our patients in terms of access to appointments and continuity of care, and we have been working hard to try to resolve this. We know, once seen, patients are very happy with the standard of care, but we need to help people through to the right care at the right time.

An example is the launch of our video consultation service, allowing patients over the age of 18 to access an NHS GP on a laptop, computer or app, at a convenient time. The GPs are part of our wider primary care team, with access to our systems and are able to prescribe and refer appropriately and meet regularly with us to look at feedback and satisfaction. This service is great for those who are working or who cannot easily get to the surgery.

Renata Dermitt is our new Beacon Health Group business director, and works closely with the GP partners, Drs McAllister, Plate, Strickland and Dollery, all of whom are local residents. Renata is well aware of the problems patients have been facing. She is very familiar with the area, having been practice manager at Lee House in the past. She has gained invaluable experience working in other areas and practices, implementing change. She wants to develop a 21st century approach to primary care.

‘We need a skill mix with clinicians alongside GPs and practice nurses. We are getting national attention from the innovative approaches we are taking to the shortage of GPs and nurses in Essex. We have recruited emergency care practitioners (ECPs), and now have 4 pharmacists, a physician’s associate and will have four health care assistants, as well as a full complement of GPs and nurses. This means that we can direct care to the most appropriate practitioner, freeing up the time of GPs and more qualified staff to manage complex care. Our pharmacists can manage medication reviews, as well as long term conditions such as diabetes, COPD and asthma. Our ECPs carry out many visits and nursing home support as well.’

We are shifting away from a locum based approach to permanent salaried GPs as this will improve quality and continuity.

We have just had all three sites approved to be training practices which means we can recruit and retain excellent new doctors and nurses. We take medical students too from ARU.

We have designed a ground-breaking new memory service for patients and carers to access diagnostic and carer support for people suffering from dementia, depression or anxiety, all very prevalent in our population. The practice is keen to make use of local voluntary sector organisations as part of the social prescribing initiative to connect isolated or unwell people with activities or people in the community to improve their wellbeing.

Challenges remain, and we need to tackle our high DNA rate, an average of 23 appointments every day. Patients are able to cancel easily through the regular text reminders or on the phone line with a dedicated line for cancellations. The new appointment system is helping, with access to appointments 2 days or 7 days in advance for non-urgent care, but with triage of all urgent on the day by ECPs and a duty doctor. People tend to forget if appointments are booked too far in advance. It also means there is no need to queue in the morning as no appointments are offered on the day without triage, so patients can call at any time in the day to talk to an ECP, avoiding the rush of calls first thing.

We have doubled the number of people answering phones, and we have secured support from the CCG to invest in better telephony, as with 25,000 patients we need more advanced technology.

Self-care is important, and use of the community pharmacist, as well as using sites such as NHS Choices to manage minor illnesses will take pressure off services. It is challenging for patients who are used to the old ways of working and the practice is keen to engage with and support people to understand the new roles on offer and the ways we work as a team around patients. We are working with the Parish Council and their Wellbeing committee to utilise the voluntary sector, such as the Alzheimers Society providing dedicated clinics at the practice. We want to embrace prevention through active lifestyles to prevent or reverse conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

There is much work to continue to do, but we are getting very encouraging feedback from patients that things are noticeably improving, and we will continue to update everyone on progress.

**Dr Caroline Dollery**

## DANBURY PARK BABIES

On October 12th a reunion was held in Danbury Country Park to mark the 80th anniversary of the use of Danbury Palace as a maternity home for firstly London and then Essex expectant mothers between 1939 and 1946. Its then owners, General and Mrs. Wigan, had offered their home for hospital use at the outbreak of the Second World War and their offer was taken up practically as soon as the war began to be used as an emergency maternity hospital.

Despite the rain, over 60 people gathered to see the unveiling of a blue plaque set on a granite plinth; the "veil" was a blanket, part of a layette given by Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother) in November 1945 to the 2000th baby to be born there. In all 2168 babies were born in 'The Palace', including one set of triplets and several sets of twins. The organisation of the event was partly undertaken by Simon Polley who keeps the register updated currently to about 480 members and whose mother Marie began the group, with Caroline Lambert. One of Marie's sisters worked at the Palace as secretary to the owners from 1943-46 and another worked there as a Red Cross VAD nurse.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Chelmsford attended with the Park Ranger, Andrea Gabriel, as well as two Parish Councillors and two representatives from the Red Cross. The Mayor gave a brief speech and the unveiling of the plaque was by the third baby born, Christine Clare, and the last, Sue Littlewood.



*The Lord Mayor of Chelmsford with Christine Clare and Sue Littlewood*



*The Lord Mayor with Norman Viney, one of the organisers of Danbury Park Babies, Andrea Gabriel, The Danbury Park Ranger, and a Red Cross Representative.*

Some ex-babies came from their homes still in Essex and some from further away including Cornwall, USA and Canada. The reunion then went to St. John's Church Hall for a sumptuous buffet lunch.

There are 2 reunions each year and more interesting details on the house and group, together with their newsletters, can be found online at [www.danburyparkbabies.org.uk](http://www.danburyparkbabies.org.uk).

## Village Groundsman – The Search Continues...

Residents will be aware that Robin, our long-standing Groundsman, retired in May after 25 years of dedicated service to the village. Parish Council has initiated the search for a replacement. However, despite receiving nearly 80 applications for the vacant position, no suitable candidate has yet been offered the role at the end of the first recruitment round. Clearly difficult shoes (or should that be boots?) to fill!

The options to continue to provide a cost-efficient service to the residents of Danbury have been assessed. Over the short to medium term, a contract has been procured with a grounds maintenance company to 'backfill' the services that were previously supplied by Robin. This grounds contractor comes with excellent references and currently carries out similar work for a number of other surrounding villages and parishes.

The Council will revisit the recruitment activities over the course of the Winter and also look at a variety of other long-term solutions. These include the possible continuation of the 'delivery as a service' approach, establishing an apprenticeship, making revisions to the job specification, or simply continuing to search for a like-for like replacement. Council will update residents with any further progress.

In the meantime, we are extremely grateful to the Office Staff for taking on extra duties, local contractors for taking on some of the short-term priority tasks, and residents and individual Councillors who have given up their free time to participate in 'litter picking days' to help maintain the village environment.

## Danbury Sports and Social Centre

### Gym Promotion

**ALL I WANT FOR FITNESS IS  
3 MONTHS FREE!**

This promotion offers new and existing members the opportunity to receive 15 months for the price of 12 with every annual payment in December. A single membership for 15 months is only £308, so don't delay call in to meet the team and sign up.

### Abba Tribute Show – Saturday 1st February

One of the longest established and most authentic ABBA tributes in the UK are returning to Danbury. ABBA MAGIC has dazzled thousands across the world with their acute attention to detail, perfect replicas of the original costumes and spellbinding vocals sounding like the real thing.

### Join our 500 Club – Support the Centre

This is our monthly lottery: you pay for a £5 stake each month. You will ALWAYS be playing for 50% of the total we collect. You're assigned a unique number for your stake. If that number comes up – you've won. There are 3 prizes



drawn each month. The more numbers sold the more prize money there is to win. The other 50% goes to the Centre towards high cost items, e.g. in the past, the installation of the solar panels. Application forms are available at Reception.

### Membership

**Are you a member?**

**If not, why not?**

We need your support, so pop in to see our wonderful facilities and the activities on offer - Annual membership is only £18 with reductions for students and senior citizens.

**Full details of our activities and forthcoming events are available from Reception, on our website [www.danburysportscentre.co.uk](http://www.danburysportscentre.co.uk) or phone 01245 224515.**

## DATES OF MEETINGS

### NOVEMBER

Mon 25th *Planning*  
Weds 27th *Parish Council*

### DECEMBER

Mon 16th *Planning*  
Weds 18th *Resources*  
(Office closes 1pm 24 Dec,  
re-opens 2nd Jan)

### JANUARY 2020

Mon 13th *Planning*  
Wed 15th *Facilities*  
Mon 20th *Environment*  
Weds 22nd *Resources*  
Weds 29th *Parish Council*

### FEBRUARY

Mon 3rd *Planning*  
Wed 5th *Health & Wellbeing*  
Mon 10th *Community Engagement*

Mon 24th *Planning*  
Weds 26th *Resources*

### MARCH

Wed 11th *Facilities*  
Mon 16th *Planning*  
Wed 18th *Resources*  
Mon 23rd *Environment*  
Weds 25th *Parish Council*

### APRIL

Mon 6th *Planning*  
Wed 8th *Health & Wellbeing*

All meetings begin at 7.30pm

## Land Slippage

Green Earth Management Company (GEMCO) continue to monitor the slippage via a number of bore holes placed along the slope at various depths. The outcome will be on the Parish Council's website early in the Spring 2020.

## Photograph Competition Results

Thank you to all who entered their photographs for "Summer Nature in Danbury".

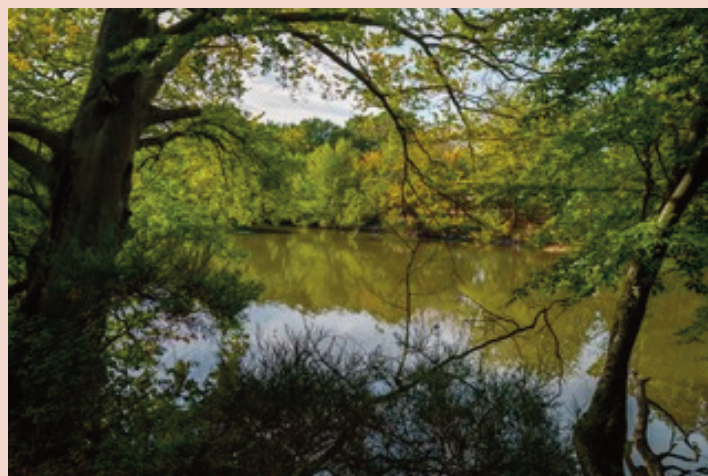
The judging was by a member of Essex Wildlife Trust's Living Landscapes group, Marie Molyneux who lives locally.

This is the winning photograph in the adult category:



And this is the winning children's entry from an 8 year old (on the right)

The winner's prizes will be awarded by the Lord-Lieutenant of Essex at the Christmas event on 5th December in the Dawson Memorial suite of the Sports and Social Centre at about 8.30pm.



## Winter Salt Scheme

For the winter of 2011/12 Essex County Council introduced a Salt Bag Partnership scheme to help local communities support themselves during periods of heavy snow. Parish Council has participated in this scheme from the start. In 2011 this involved us identifying footways in the village that would benefit from having salt available to use in areas not on ECC Salting Routes, and then recruiting residents and local businesses to undertake the work involved. Salt Team Members are provided with salt and guidance re safe usage and have generally found that when they start clearing and salting that neighbours then come out to help!!!