

# DANBURY

Winter 2009

## TIMES

Number 25



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# Danbury Parish Council

## Danbury Parish Councillors

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**Chairman of  
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## Parish Council Staff

### Parish Clerk

Margaret Saunders



### Assistant Clerk

Elisabeth Blyth



### Assistant Clerk

Maria Dyer



### Groundsman

Robin Dickens



## Additional Members

### John Alexander

Planning



### Phillip Watts

Planning



### John Bowen

Environment



## Publicity Group

Stuart Berlyn, David Whiteing, Arthur Allen, Caroline Lambert, Mike Wood (Editor), Chris Tressider, Elisabeth Blyth, Margaret Saunders

## DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2009/10

### NOVEMBER 2009

Wednesday 4 *Facilities*  
Wednesday 11 *Facilities*  
Monday 16 *Planning*  
Wednesday 18 *Resources*  
Wednesday 25 *Parish Council*

### FEBRUARY 2010

Monday 1 *Planning*  
Wednesday 17 *Facilities*  
Monday 22 *Planning*  
Wednesday 24 *Resources*

### DECEMBER 2009

Wednesday 2 *Environment*  
Tuesday 8 *Facilities*  
Monday 14 *Planning*  
Tuesday 15 *Resources*

### MARCH 2010

Wednesday 3 *Environment*  
Monday 15 *Planning*  
Wednesday 17 *Facilities*  
Wednesday 24 *Resources*  
Wednesday 31 *Parish Council*

### JANUARY 2010

Wednesday 6 *Facilities*  
Monday 11 *Planning*  
Wednesday 13 *Environment*  
Wednesday 20 *Resources*  
Wednesday 27 *Parish Council*

### APRIL 2010

Monday 12 *Planning*  
Wed 21 **ANNUAL PARISH  
MEETING**  
Wednesday 28 *Resources*



## Chairman's Comment

Welcome to this the Winter edition of your Danbury Times. Elsewhere you will find reports from all committee chairmen. At the time of writing road improvements are taking place in the village with vast improvements to the surface and parking area at Eves Corner. Many thanks to Essex County Council Highways Department for the support and co-operation.

### Congratulations

Parish Council won third prize in the competition organised by Essex Association of Local Council's County competition for websites. This would not have been possible without our webmaster Liz Blyth. 'Well done and thanks'

### Comings and Goings

During the last few months we have lost one of our assistant clerks who left to follow other interests and was replaced by Maria Dyer in November. Maria is currently Parish Clerk to a small local Parish Council and joins Elisabeth Blyth in providing support to our clerk Margaret Saunders. Another loss to the Council during the summer was Jackie Wells, the Council's only female councillor. We thank her for her valued contribution to council and the village, she will be greatly missed. The process to replace Jackie is under way. I welcome Arthur Pemberton as a councillor who joined us earlier in the year and now has his feet well and truly under the table. However, we still have another vacancy. Would you be interested?

### Never too old to learn

Until early semi-retirement recently, I had been unable to attend many of the training courses provided for councillors. Although, having been Chairman of your Council for some years, I am two thirds of the way through a course designed to enhance the skills of 'Chairs & Potential Chairs' provided by the Essex Association of Local Councils. I am confident that the training, which is excellent, will provide me with additional knowledge



and skills that will enhance the service that I provide to the Council and community.

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting took place in the Sports and Social Centre where I and the Chairman of Resources gave our annual reports and answered questions; any we were unable to answer were noted and the questioners responded to by the staff. I would also like to thank all who attended, in particular representatives from many of the villages clubs and organisations, who took the opportunity to display their services and to meet with and talk to other villagers.

### Minerals Consultation

We are still awaiting the outcome of the current stage of consultation on the proposed Aggregates & Minerals application at Tyndales Farm which is opposite the Royal Oak Pub. Although mainly outside the village boundary the site backs onto a number of properties within the village. It has the potential to impact greatly throughout the village in terms of large increases in HGV traffic. The next stage is expected early next year, with the springtime being the likely time. Hopefully, at that time we will find out if the application is still on the list for further consideration. We will keep you informed.

### Medical Centre

I understand that the target date for completion which was towards the end of 2010, may not be achievable due to financial concerns at Mid Essex PCT. The

council has requested an update on the plans and is awaiting a response.

### Can You help?

In January work is due to start on the maintenance of the pond at Eves Corner. The contractors have asked if the Council and villagers would like to be involved in the clearance on January 14th and 15th. We understand that the necessities will be provided. If you would like to help please let Margaret our clerk know. 01245 225111

### Drainage & Carparking Project

Phase 2 of the council's drainage & car parks project was completed in the spring and appears to be working well. Phase 3 which includes resurfacing the carparks, low level illumination and improving the access path to the Parish Office, Bowls & Tennis clubs is currently proceeding through the tender process, until responses come in we will not know the cost or what the financial implications for the village will be. However, we are very aware of the need to undertake this work as soon as possible.

### Special Thanks

Without the support of any number of people the tasks of the council would be much greater, so, again special thanks to the unsung heroes of our village including those that deliver your Danbury Times (we could do with some more deliverers for local roads in your own area), those who regularly litter pick areas of the village (without you we would not have won Best Kept Village competition) also, as is usual, my thanks go to all of our staff Margaret, Liz & Robin for all their hard work and support; additionally to my elected colleagues who give so freely of their time for the benefit of the village and those who live in it - Thank you to all.

**May I also take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.**

*Stuart Berlyn-Chairman of Council.*



## Clerk's Corner



### Power of Well Being

The power to promote the well-being of the area enables eligible local councils to undertake innovative action to improve the quality of life

of their communities.

The Council must meet four conditions to enable them to exercise these powers:

- The clerk must have the statutory qualification .
- At least two thirds of all seats of the Council must be filled at last elections
- At least 80% of Councillors must have completed training module on the power
- The Council must have published a statement of intent on community engagement

These are innovative powers that permit the Parish Council to support a broader range of activities than were allowed under the previous legislation. Councillors have completed training on this power. The Clerk has already passed the module. A final decision has to be made at Parish Council in November as to whether to adopt this power.

### Public Conveniences in Danbury

The Public Conveniences on Dawson Memorial Field are owned and maintained

by Chelmsford Borough Council. Meetings have been held between the Parish Council, Chelmsford Borough Council and the Police. All parties have been working together to try and improve the facility for the village. A complete new electrical panel for washing hands has been installed in the Ladies Toilets. The bushes outside have been removed to increase visibility from the Main Road. The Public Conveniences are cleaned on a daily basis, but there still appears to be problems with the cleanliness. The toilets have remained open on a 24 hour basis but this may not be the case if the vandalism or misuse continues.

### Assistant Clerk

It is with regret that the previous Assistant Clerk Facilities has left the employment of the Parish Council. She has now been replaced by Maria Dyer.

### Best Kept Village

Danbury entered the Calor Best Kept Village Competition. We are pleased to inform you that Danbury was awarded a Merit in Class I of the Competition. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank everyone who helped to obtain this Award by keeping the village tidy. The Competition also considers the communication process of the Parish Council to the Community.

### Web- Site

The Parish Council's Web Site obtained third placed in the Essex Association of Local Councils Web Site Competition 2009. Sincere thanks must go to Elisabeth Blyth, Assistant Clerk for maintaining and developing the site so professionally.

*Margaret Saunders, Clerk to Parish Council*

## Knowing your Councillors

### Max Telling

Born in a village of 2000 in South Yorkshire. I joined the Metropolitan Police in 1957. From 1969 until 1972 attended the London School of Economics and Political Science as an internal student



graduating with a BSc(Econ) Honours in 1972. I became a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute in 1986. My last years in the Met. were spent heading the Neighbourhood Policing Project - the largest joint inter-force (Met. & Surrey County Constabulary) Community Policing experiment in the history of UK. Neighbourhood (Community) Policing is now being gradually introduced throughout England & Wales. I retired from the Met. as a Chief Superintendent after 31 years.

Personnel Manager in the Department of Education from 1989 until July 1992 when I set up the physical infrastructure for OFSTED. I remained there as Facilities Manager until my (second) retirement.

Served as a Non-Executive Director on the London Probation Board. Additionally in 2001 I took an unpaid post with the Lord Chancellor's Department and chaired the North East London Newham & Thames Sub-Advisory Committee conducting interviews with applicants for the Magistracy. I left London Probation after ten years in 1997 but retired from the Lord Chancellor's Office in February this year. We have a duty to society to make things better if we can, which is why twelve of my fifty years in public service were unpaid and why I joined Danbury Parish Council. Married to Rita, with three adult married children who live fairly locally - we have five grandchildren. I joined the Parish Council in 2001. Currently I am Vice - Chairman of Planning Committee and a member of the Facilities Committee. I am also Child Protection Officer at St Johns Church Danbury. I am a Governor at St John's School and serve as Chairman of the Personnel Committee. My hobbies are gardening, reading, and D.I.Y.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

All Councils must have plans to deal with emergencies such as fire or extreme weather. Danbury has several designated evacuation areas (Church and Village Halls) for such disasters. Chelmsford Borough Council has a fully equipped emergency team who initiate and carry out any response effort. Their team plans to arrive at the scene shortly after the other emergency services but remain when they have gone. Until they arrive on the scene the Parish Council will provide support for opening the appropriate centre, settling people in and handing out registration cards.

For this we are assembling a team of volunteers who would be prepared to be available at short notice and remain at the evacuation centre/s until the Emergency Response Team arrive.

Clearly, the likelihood of us ever needing to respond to an emergency is small. Should the need arise (some will remember Wastnage Paint Factory) then your involvement could be crucial and would certainly be valued by the whole of our community.

If you can help please contact the Parish Office on 01245 225111.

*Councillor Arthur Pemberton*



## Planning

Banners, Placards, Signs, local and not so local advertisements appear with monotonous regularity on our verges and buildings to the intense annoyance of numerous residents.

The standard approach seems to be: we have got an event coming up; we need to advertise it so let's stick up a notice somewhere in the village where it will get attention. Do those who erect such notices ever stop to consider that there are rules and regulations which govern the display of such notices, even when erected on their own property, or that they have to seek permission to erect the notice? No-one wants to stop good causes and amateur societies from promoting their activities; however, their status does not exempt them from the regulations which they must observe like anyone else.

The rules covering the display of notices form the 'advertisement control system' which is made by the Secretary of State and is part of the planning control system. The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007 is the relevant control instrument which has been in force since 6th April 2007.

For the Danbury area, Chelmsford Borough Council is charged with the responsibility of operating the advertisement control system. In essence any notice or sign that is erected for public display is an advertisement; they can include:

- Posters and notices
- Placards and boards
- Price markers and displays
- Pole signs and canopy signs
- Town and Village name signs
- Fascia signs and projecting signs
- Captive balloons
- Models and devices
- Traffic signs
- Estate agents boards
- Advance and directional signs
- Flags

Particular attention is drawn to the need to seek permission from the landowner (including the Highway Authority if the sign is to be placed on highway land) before erecting an advertisement. The constraints apply equally even if the sign is to be placed on your own property.

Eves Corner is often the focus for advertising signs and those responsible are reminded that this area of Danbury falls within the village Conservation Area, thus demanding greater care when formulating notices and signs.

It is the responsibility of anyone contemplating erecting any signage anywhere within the village to ensure that the sign fully complies with the requirements of the regulations which can be viewed at the Parish Office during opening times. Danbury Parish Council is in discussions with Chelmsford Borough Council on this subject. Watch this space.



Arthur Allen, Chairman of Planning Committee.

## Financial Report



Your Chairman of Resources normally produces an article for year end in the Spring edition, but has now been asked to write something at this stage, month 6, half way through the financial year. So far we are keeping within our set budgets. In the next two months we shall start preparing budgets for next year, this is a joint

effort of all the council's committees. We have a new accountancy package, used by many Parish Councils and as with all things new can take a while to learn how to use it. However, there are many extra features which will save our clerk a lot of time in the future. Our previous accountancy package was written and supported by one man, who recently died.

Other issues that we discuss are keeping our computer and web systems up to date and running efficiently, with thoughts to the backup of data and emergency procedures should system or premises fail us. We are also working on future three year forecasts to enable us to

plan known future expenses. One minor concern is the current low rate of interest received, it would seem that Parish Councils are locked into poor rates, especially as none are prepared to take risks since the collapse of the Icelandic Banks (fortunately we had nothing to do with these). For the first time we had a minor debt problem with the collapse of one of our local football teams, a small amount of money which took a lot of discussion time in committee and work by our clerk in trying to reclaim this money. Now we shall continue with our budgets, a lot of hard work goes into trying to give you the best value for the least money, but despite low inflation rates costs still keep rising, we will do our best.

David Whiteing  
Chairman of Resources



# Environment

During the past few months the Environment Committee has dealt with several interesting topics of which the following have some definite outcomes;

## Footpaths.



There have been several reports of cyclists riding on Public Footpaths in Danbury, much to the annoyance of and danger to pedestrians. Recently a representative of Essex County Councils Community Action team dealing with the Rights of Way network

attended a meeting of the Environment Committee to clarify the scheme and how it operates. The Definitive Map, a copy of which is held in the Parish Office, shows the Parish Paths, Public Footpaths, Bridleways and Definitive Rights of Way and from this it can be seen which paths should be waymarked as Public Footpaths. These paths are marked by Finger posts at each end of the path and at each junction with other paths and tracks etc.

Public Footpaths should only be used for passage on foot and only to get from one place to another without lingering, especially when the paths pass close to gardens and houses.

Wheeled vehicles, (other than pushchairs or wheeled barrows), i.e. bicycles, are NOT allowed on footpaths. Finger posts often have "No Cycling" prohibition signs attached which should be obeyed for the safety of pedestrians and compliance with the Law. Bicycles can be quite dangerous when ridden on footpaths because they are usually quite quiet, can be traveling quickly and pedestrians don't always hear them coming.

The width of a footpath should be 1 metre or more when across a field or 1.5 metres or more at the field edge. The 1.5 m., width also applies when the path is between hedges or fences. A Bridleway, which is a path open to horse traffic, pedestrians and cyclists, should be 2-3 metres wide.

Essex County Council Highways Authority is responsible for the maintenance of the surface of the paths with the landowner being responsible for the hedges and land on either side.

The surface material used by Essex County Council for many of the footpath repairs is re-cycled Road Planings which it gets free of charge. This, in the opinion of the Environment Committee, is not acceptable because it does not blend in with the local gravel/clay/earth colours and is often uncomfortable to walk on. Pea shingle or locally sourced gravel is preferable.

## Highways, public paths etc.

Little Baddow Road, at the time of writing, is being completely renovated; highway, kerbs, and footways. It looks as though there will be a great improvement. The surface of Eves Corner car parking area is also included. Several other roads in the area have been resurfaced in the time honoured way with tar and gravel with potholes filled as well.

After lobbying, Essex County Council have paid attention to roads in our vicinity, something parishioners have been requesting for a long time.

## Gravel Quarries

There has been no further information regarding the proposed quarry at Tyndales Farm. We do not expect any results until next year because it has to follow the government's timetable for inquiries. There is still some gravel being spilt on the A414 at St. Cleres Pit which has been reported as being nuisance as it can be a hazard.

## The Bus Shelter



An ongoing problem is the positioning of a Bus Shelter on the Maldon Road, opposite The Avenue, (Maldon side). Many suggestions have been made as to the best place for it but all have met with objections, it now rests with Essex C. C. Highways as to where it should go. Watch this space!

The shelter on the Chelmsford side of the road, near The Avenue, should have electric light soon, if the contractor can get themselves organised to connect it up.

Well that's about all for this edition. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Alan Keeler, Chairman, Environment Committee.*

## The Royal British Legion Danbury and District Branch

The Danbury Branch of the Royal British Legion is now without a Poppy organiser for next year. May I appeal to anybody who is interested in the welfare of our Ex-Service community to contact me on 01245 225096.

*DJ Donovan, Branch Chairman, Secretary*



## Facilities

“Disgusting” is how some members described the pond at Eves Corner at a recent meeting, and it was suggested that I should comment on its state in this report. Well, I can't say I would agree with that description and I am sure the Moorhen with her chicks would not agree either. The yellow irises have added a spot of colour too. What is common ground between us is that the sedges, reeds and rushes round the edge have become a bit rampant and need reducing, but the question is how to go about it? And how much do we do? One thing is certain, the policy of obtaining the lowest quotation for a winter trim is insufficient - we get what we pay for - a quick trim - and the plants come back stronger each year. One way of ensuring that the emerging plants don't cover the whole pond is to make it deeper. Now there are those in the village who can remember the pond being puddled (by that I mean covering the bottom with clay or marl to make it impervious). To give a mechanical digger a free hand could easily ruin this so that the water drains away. The Council is seeking advice so that we get it right and have a good looking pond for years to come, but it may not look



its best immediately after the work has been done and before the plants have settled and regrown, and the moorhen has another brood of chicks. One interesting suggestion given to me recently was to include dipping stations so that children from our schools and community can go pond dipping and explore what wildlife flourishes in Eves Corner Pond. More information will be given in the Spring edition of Danbury Times.

Tenders have been invited to resurface the car parks, install low level lighting and install a new path to the Bowling Club, Tennis Pavilion and Parish Office.

## Heather Hills Club for the Physically Disabled

We have been a club for 37 years, we have 50 members some in wheelchairs and the rest walking wounded. Heather Hills is a happy club, we meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month. We have entertainment, lunches, parties, etc. We are all volunteers, we provide transport, the club is self funding and I have been running it for 17 years.

*Mrs D Rolf 01245 223346*

Having had major work done on the playing fields in the last two years, we are continuing the programme to ensure that they are kept in good condition, so we will be arranging for a firm to come in to vertidrain and sand our four pitches during the next financial year.

More essential work arose from an inspection of the DCA Sports and Social Centre to ensure that the building is kept up to standard. We are working hard to get to the stage where these extra items can be foreseen.

*Derick Hawkins, Chairman of Facilities Committee.*

## Danbury Outdoors - Learning Through Adventure

Based on the western edge of Danbury village and boasting stunning views across Essex, the **Danbury Centre for Outdoor Learning** is a long-established outdoor education centre, providing high quality outdoor learning opportunities to the young people of Essex and the wider community.

Working closely with local schools, youth groups and other organisations, the main focus of Danbury's work is to inspire young people to enjoy and achieve in new and exciting ways, away from the 'traditional' classroom. Indeed, the power of outdoor education is now recognised by the government, who support it through the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.

From archery and canoeing through to climbing, mountain biking and quad biking, the centre now offers a wide range of courses, from 'one-off' activity, through to long term complementary education programmes.

More recently, we have expanded our provision to include School Holiday Activity Days; Danbury Drop-in Days; and Family Days; which allows the local community to make use of our wonderful facilities. I hope that these schemes will continue to grow, thereby helping to consolidate our relationship with the people of Danbury.

The last three years have seen a real growth in our international work, with expeditions to France, Italy, Slovenia, and Morocco taking place, in addition to our regular UK trips. It is our intention to open up these types of trips to the public in future years, bringing the possibility of adventurous activity holidays to Danbury's doorstep!

In the meantime if you have any queries at all, or would like some further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01245 223342

*Colin Urquhart, Manager*



### Being a good neighbour in Danbury



#### Burglar alarms:

Welcome to the sixth article in the series: 'Being a good neighbour in Danbury' which is included in Danbury Times to satisfy requirement Environment 14 of the Danbury Action Plan 2006.

Burglar alarms are an increasingly common feature on all households and those in Danbury are no exception. It is estimated that around 90% of all alarm activations are the result of false alarms due to faults and 15.5% of Danbury residents complain that they are affected by persistent alarm noise. If a burglar alarm is persistently giving false alarms, neighbours will not take any notice of it and ignore its activation in the event of a real burglary, so it pays to make sure that your alarm is recognised as one that is well behaved and any activation is perceived as the real thing.

All registered burglar alarms are required to have a cut off device that silences the sounder after 20 minutes but leaves the flashing beacon activated. If your alarm activates frequently or in excess of 20 minutes it could be deemed to be causing a statutory nuisance and you could be served with an abatement notice. All burglar alarm systems are also required to have two named key holders registered with the police and the local authority so that in the event of an

activation access can be gained to the premises and the alarms silenced. If the noise team are unable to contact you and if there are no keyholders registered, or available, the noise team are empowered in the company of the police to enter your premises and silence the alarm. You will be responsible for any costs incurred. If the noise team decides to prosecute the courts can impose a fine of up to £5,000 for residential properties and up to £20,000 for business premises; any fine imposed would be in addition to the cost incurred by the local authority and any subsequent costs of your own.

It is in the householder's own interest to have a reliable alarm system that is serviced and maintained on a regular basis by a contractor who is a member of BSIA (British Security Industry Association) and/or NACOSS (National Approval Council for Security Systems)

*Councillor Arthur Allen.*

### Village website wins award!

Each year our village website is entered in the website competition run by the Essex Association of Local Councils (sponsored by Essex County Council). This year for the first time the Danbury Village website reached the final three, being awarded Third Place in the 2009 competition. Inspired by this modest success, we hope to continue to improve the website and perhaps achieve even greater things in the future!

The aim of the website is to provide easily accessible information about the work of the Parish Council and about local organisations, activities and amenities. Whilst our primary audience is yourselves, the people of Danbury; we know that the site is also of interest to people further afield seeking information about our village. Email enquiries have come to the Parish Office, through the website, from around the UK and from as far away as the USA and Australia.

We would appreciate your views on the website - tell us what you think and what other items you would like to see included. You can email me at [elisabethblyth@danbury-essex.gov.uk](mailto:elisabethblyth@danbury-essex.gov.uk)



### Contact magazine...

In Contact you will find details of events and meetings for most of our village organisations, such as Twinning, Women's Institute, Women's Fellowships, Meeting Point, Toddlers Groups, The Ladies Club, Danbury Wives' Club, Over 60's Club, Heather Hills Club, Danbury Society, and of course all the Danbury Churches service times and activities. Combined with interesting articles of our village history, National Trust and local schools, and details of baptisms, weddings and funerals. Useful local advertisements and a page from your Parish Council. Can you really do without this magazine.

*Sue Ferguson Editor*



## Danbury Policing Team

The Danbury Policing Team consists of Pc 745 Claire Forster, PCSO 71018 Jemma Carr, PCSO 71496 Sarah Martin and myself. We are supported by Response Officers from South Woodham and Chelmsford. PCSO Lynda 'Sammy' Samways is currently working in South Woodham, having made progress in her recovery from a back injury.

Every two months we have Neighbourhood Action Panel meetings, which are publicised on the Essex Police website. Almost without fail the issue of speeding is raised by somebody. I recently attended your Parish Council specifically to answer questions about speeding. At that meeting we were asked to target Bicknacre Road, Danbury.....so please be warned. We would rather you slow down than have to issue any warnings or tickets. **Don't get caught having read this article.**

Is speeding an issue? I overheard a conversation recently where four men were talking about speeding. On one



hand, one man was complaining about cars speeding down the road where he lived, saying how the Police should get down there and 'sort it out'. In the next breath he was recounting how he had 'only' ever had 4 speeding tickets!! Apparently the Police were underhand on one occasion as he couldn't see them, and he was exceeding the limit because he was going to collect his wife from the airport. Is that ok then? Maybe if someone was speeding down his road, he wouldn't mind if we managed to

catch them and issue them a £60 fine and 3 points on their licence!

We try and listen to where people want us to target speeders. Everyone wants us to deal with them in their road. We do have to try and take a broader view and take other factors into account.

For instance, on Friday 25th September 2009 we received a call from somebody giving us information about a possible drink/driver. Pc Forster was in the area and managed to locate and stop the driver, who turned out to be 3 times over the legal drink/drive limit. The person was also already disqualified from driving. They have been charged and will be going to court shortly. Simply put, this information and the action taken could have saved a life.

Please contact us on 0300 333 4444 or on the Neighbourhood Police Mobile 07711 147171 or on Crimestoppers 0800-555-111. We rely on you the public giving us information.

*Sgt Perry Land.*

## The Danbury & Little Baddow Horticultural Society

It was good to see friends mingling at the Autumn Show on Saturday 12th September, a very friendly atmosphere as members and guests discussed the various exhibits and the extraordinary amount of jams that had been entered in the cookery section.

Outstanding in the Children's Craft Section were some necklaces made of blackberries and strawberries, too good to eat? well maybe not. The 1st prize won by Rhiannon Boyle included pebbles decorated with pink semi precious stones which would make a perfect paper weight. As an added extra for this show, the children were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals as keepsakes.

The Top Tray for vegetables was won by Jackie Sibthorpe (a worthy winner) but 2nd Mary Huntington and 3rd Marianne Statters exhibits were also outstanding. It must have been Jackie's year as she also won 1st prize for her perfectly sized and matching onions.

Other cup winners included Caroline Brown the Currie Dahlia Cup for her beautiful Dahlias, Brian Abbot the Garden Lovers Cup for his Fuchsias. Ann Jones the Doris Thorington Cup for the highest aggregate points in Floral Art throughout the year, in the photography section Mike Wood the Mabel Retallack Photographic Plate and the Major F B Hitchcock Cup.

Our thanks to the committee for their organisational skills, time and commitment in presenting this show. A thank you to our very experienced Judges Mr Figgs (Horticulture), Mrs Potter (Floral Art), Mrs Hyman (Cookery) and Mr Clever (photography); the show would not run without them.

If you enjoyed this show as much as we did, tell your friends or better still, bring them with you. Village life at it's best. Contact Hon Secretary Mrs J. Shaw 01621 843459

*Barbara Patrick Treasurer*

## Danbury Village Hall Management Committee

### Do you remember.....

Dances and dinners, baby clinics and bazaars, suppers and sales, meetings and musical evenings held in our Village Hall? 2010 marks the centenary of a Public Meeting called to discuss the building of the hall. 1911 was the year the land was purchased. 1912 saw the Grand Opening of the hall.

The Committee plan to mark these pivotal dates with a fitting celebration, the first of which will be a cheese and wine party on Friday Jan. 15th 2010. We would like to have a display of memorabilia; do you have photos, press cuttings, or memories of those early years? These, and suggestions of suitable events to mark the centenary would be most welcome.

Chairman, Barbara French, would love to hear from you. Please contact her on 01245 225204.



## Producing the Danbury Times

The curious among you may have wondered exactly what it takes to produce the Danbury Times. I shall try to give you a brief overview of the process. The Publicity Group starts the process off with a series of meetings to discuss the basis of the content. Contributions are sought from Committee Chairmen, local organisations and others. These articles

are circulated around the Publicity Group via e-mail for consideration and comment; of which there is usually a substantial amount! Further meetings then take place where proofing and editing of each piece is agreed, with the Editors decision being final. At this point, the files (usually in Microsoft Word format) are passed to me together with a rough plan of what should appear on each page.

The Newsletter is created using professional design and layout software that allows flexibility in its creation. Photographs are edited in Photoshop

and balanced for contrast to allow for the printing process, sharpening and re-touching where necessary. Inevitably, articles will change with pieces added or deleted as the document is created and it therefore goes through a number of incarnations before reaching its final layout. This is then circulated to all group members for proofing and comment. Once signed off, a colour separated high resolution file is sent to our printers (Maldon Printing Co) who then make the plates and print.

*Chris Tressider- Publicity Group  
Tressider Associates Limited 01245 225369*

# Danbury Medical Centre

**The new Danbury Medical Centre** This been delayed as the PCT have overturned previous decisions and are reviewing the capacity of the new surgery. Our intention to provide consultant led clinics within the practice, reducing costs and providing care at home, seemed a sound proposition but in the current economic climate all decisions are being revisited. We cannot be certain what the final offer will look like, but the Local Medical Committee is fully supportive of our original plans.

**Flu season** is upon us again, with the addition of swine flu to complicate issues. Do not forget to book in for your seasonal flu vaccine at your surgery, particularly if you suffer from heart, lung, diabetic or renal problems; or have a suppressed immune system. Swine flu vaccines should have arrived by now. Locally we do not seem to have suffered unduly from this particular strain of flu, but it does tend to affect the younger population. Please book to have the vaccine if you suffer from any of the conditions above at whatever age. I would like to thank patients for their consideration when the media furore was at its height. People were very sensible in staying away from the practice; taking paracetamol and plenty of fluids; and calling for help as required. The Flu Line took a lot of pressure off the practices locally once it was operational.

I would like to clarify one point raised in the media recently about flu payments. No profit is made from this exercise. The fee which is paid to GPs is utilised to pay

our staff additional time to carry out the vaccinations and storage of the vaccines.

**New faces in the practice.** We now have three salaried GPs, who are a fantastic addition to our team. Dr Balraj Sandhu and Dr James Phillips will be remembered as previous registrars at the practice and Dr Katherine Thomas has often provided locum cover for us in the past. We are fortunate in having such high quality doctors joining our practice.



**Two new therapists,** Clive and Georgina, who provide support to those with mild to moderate stress, anxiety and depression, with employment support advice as well for those struggling to keep their job or those who have lost it recently. This is part of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) project which you may have read about in the local press. I am one of the clinical leads on the Mid Essex project, and we are already getting positive outcomes from quick access to this kind of help. It prevents people spiralling into more severe illness and reduces prescribing and unemployment costs.

**The Dispensary** continues to have some problems, but we have appointed 2 new dispensary consultants whose job it will be to ensure that improved customer service and systems are in place. We plan to introduce repeat dispensing and reduce waiting times at the counter. We have 2 new counter staff joining, and we have a new dispenser, Chris, who will be undergoing a pharmacist supervised NVQ

*Dr Caroline Dollery.*



## News from your Sports & Social Centre

### Financial Results

During the year to 31st March 2009, the Danbury Community Association (Trust) Limited reported a surplus of £10,562, with a current paid up membership of over 1,900. This surplus will be used to improve the centre's facilities for the members and the local community as a whole.

### Carbon Savings

The last issue reported on our project to install new energy efficient lighting with the help of an interest free loan from The Carbon Trust. After some teething troubles with the automatic sensors, everything is now running smoothly. Current savings in greenhouse gas are projected to be 25 tonnes per year which is a tremendous achievement and one of which we are proud. We would recommend any business to contact The Carbon Trust for help on reducing their carbon footprint.



### Our Activities

The fitness suite continues to underpin our financial performance. We have also been busy increasing the range of non-gym activities to provide a broader base for the community. These include regular entertainment functions, ballroom & latin dancing classes, a monthly dance practice night, an over 50s weekly meeting and a variety of junior sporting activities all of which have proved to be very popular with members and guests. We have several affiliated clubs including bridge, carpet bowls and badminton.

### Snooker

Our facilities include a self contained snooker room with two full size tables. Why travel to Chelmsford or Maldon

when you can play snooker in our convivial surroundings for only £3 per hour? Members can reserve a table for themselves and their guests by telephoning the Centre. Sadly, this is at present an underused facility and we are keen for it to be used to the full..

### Danbury Medical Centre,

We have increased our scheme to provide fitness assistance to anyone referred by their GPs. Call Adrian on 01245 224515 for further information.

### Markets

Country Market every Thursday

Farmers Market 1st Saturday of the month

### Room hire

We also offer two function rooms for your private party (including children's parties).

### Entertainment

The Overtures provided a superb evening's entertainment for 175 members and guests on 25th September. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves listening and dancing the night away. They certainly lived up to their reputation of being regarded as the finest 60s tribute act in the country. We are under great pressure to bring them back so watch out for an announcement early next year.

### Future events

**Saturday 5th December** - Christmas with the Rat Pack

**Friday 11th December** - Christmas Carols with Chelmsford Silver Band

**Thursday 31st December** - New Year's Eve Party for over 18s

### Membership

The Centre is here for everyone in the community. If you are not a member and or have not ventured into the centre for some time why not call in to see us. Adrian Owers and our staff will be pleased to show you around and answer your questions. Otherwise, you can give us a call on 01245 224515 or visit our web site [www.danburysportscentre.co.uk](http://www.danburysportscentre.co.uk) for membership

*Steve Holland Treasurer/Secretary*

## Calling all Danbury Palace Babies

After the great success of our June reunion, when we shared food and memories with those who were born at Danbury Park Maternity Home. Five of the mothers suggested that we return to

the Church Meeting Room for a grand "Bring & Share Bottle and Dish".

This has been arranged for Saturday December 5th from 12 - 4pm. Please contact Marie Polley 01245 356276, or

Caroline Lambert 01245 224661 if you would like to be there.

For more information visit [www.danburypalacebabies.org.uk](http://www.danburypalacebabies.org.uk)

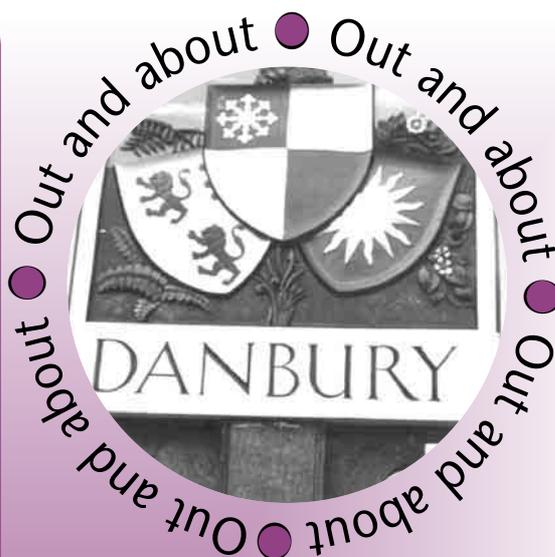


# Carols

## At Eves Corner

Wednesday 9th December 2009

The Churches of Danbury will lead a service of Carols around the Christmas tree with the Salvation Army Band, commencing at 8pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards at the URC Hall.



## Thank you Danbury...

...in raising funds for:

**Farleigh Hospice**     **£8,037**

**Christian Aid Week** **£9,272**

**St. John**

**Baptist Church**     **£4,150**

### Stop Press... Essex Playing Fields Awards



Well done Robin, second (out of 197) in 'Best Kept Playing Field' together with other awards.

## The Danbury Players

Proudly present

### Goldilocks and the three bears

Start the festive season with us at Danbury Village Hall from the 17th to the 20th December at 8pm.

Tickets - Adults £8.00. Concessions £6.00. Family ticket £30.00 (2 adults 3 children).

Box Office: 07774 046925.

## The Gap



### Finally it's open

The Parish Office is usually open Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 1pm. It is situated between the bowling and tennis clubs. The ramp from Mayes Lane car park leads down to it.

Parish Office, Mayes Lane CM3 4NJ

Tel: 225111 Fax: 226798

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

## Your Parish needs YOU

**Dedicated Parish Councillor wanted.**  
**For further details contact the Parish Clerk on 225111**

