

# DANBURY

SPRING 2015

TIMES



No. 39



## ANNUAL REPORT



### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

#### ALL DANBURY RESIDENTS

are invited to attend on Monday 30th March at 7.30pm in the Danbury Sports and Social Centre

Refreshments will be available from 6.45pm; there is a bar on the floor above.

There will be a talk by Joan Pinch and Emma Brogden of Essex Wildlife Trust's Living Landscapes, about the new scheme and about wildlife gardening.

Village organisations will have stalls around the hall, and there will be a raffle in aid of the 50th anniversary of Danbury Pre-school.

### DANBURY ACHIEVES GOLD STATUS

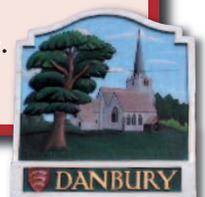
The Local Council Award Scheme was launched on 6 January 2015 to celebrate the very best local councils, to replace the Quality Council award scheme. Danbury is the first Parish Council in the country to receive Quality Gold Award Status.

Danbury was one of twelve Essex councils to take part in the pilot project run by the National Association of Local Councils and the Essex Association of Local Councils.

There are 3 levels; Foundation, Quality and Quality Gold. To achieve Quality Gold a council needs to demonstrate it is at the forefront of best practice by achieving excellent standards in community governance, community leadership and performance management.

Panel members agreed that the Danbury Parish Council's website was extremely professional, easy to navigate and that the Council contributed a great deal to the community. Newsletters were good and so was the interaction with social media. The evidence for the Gold Standard was extensive and the statements on value for money, crime and disorder, biodiversity, leadership in planning and managing the performance of the Council were of a very high standard.

This document can be found under Parish Council documents on the website.



# DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## Stuart Berlyn

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### Chairman of Parish Council

Ex-Officio member of all committees

## Mike Wood

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### Vice-Chairman of Parish Council

Ex-Officio member of all committees

## Arthur Allen

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Vice-Chairman of Planning and of Environment, member of Facilities

## April Chapman

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Chairman of Environment, member of Planning and Resources

## Amanda Gardiner

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Member of Planning and Environment

## Gary Gardiner

School House  
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Member of Facilities and Resources

## Barbara Hallett

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Member of Environment and Facilities

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Chairman of Facilities, Vice-Chairman of Resources

## Alan Keeler

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Member of Environment and Planning

## Brian Kennewell

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Chairman of Resources, Vice-Chairman of Facilities

## Max Telling

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Chairman of Planning, Member of Facilities

## John Thomson

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Member of Environment and Planning

## ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

### John Alexander



Planning

### Roger Cole-Jones

Danbury Society



Planning

## PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

### Margaret Saunders



Parish Clerk

### Maria Dyer



Assistant Clerk

### Hannah Mayes



Assistant Clerk

### 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 

## GARDEN COMPETITION

### A REMINDER

The weather is improving, Spring is here. Gardening is in the air.

**Do consider entering your front garden for the June competition.**

There would be 2 classes – a) small and b) larger front gardens which can be seen from the road; no need to have people enter your garden unless you wish. Any entrants who agree by 30th April could be listed on the pamphlet for the Danbury and Little Baddow Open Gardens scheme.

Contact the Parish Office for details.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the Parish Council's Annual Report. My comments are brief as elsewhere you will find reports from all committee chairs as well as an open invitation to attend the annual meeting being held at the Sports & Social Centre, where we try hard to respond to your questions and in particular to listen to and hear what it is you are telling us about your council and your village.

### Councillor Changes

Paul Howe has decided to leave the council and I thank him for his valued contribution to council and the village.

### Medical Centre

You may have noticed that at last work has commenced on the new building which will be great for patients as well as the dedicated doctors, nurses and staff.

### 100 Not Out

On the 15th March my wife and I had great pleasure in presenting a bouquet and birthday card to Florence Bell of Hay Green on the occasion of her 100th birthday. The Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford also visited and made a presentation on behalf of the City Council.

Is Florence the oldest resident of Danbury?

Do you know anyone nearing that wonderful age?

Please let the office know – contact details are on page 2.

### Volunteers

One of our First Responder Team – David Spicely has been presented with a special award by Chelmsford City Council in recognition of the tremendous amount of voluntary work he puts in to responding to residents as part of the team and in support of the East of England Ambulance Service. He has responded to 1000 call-outs since the group started – well done David and thanks on behalf of the village.

### Meet the council

On the 3rd December there was an afternoon 'Meet the Council' forum where invited guests from residents, village organisations and business were given a presentation by my colleague Arthur Allen on the role of the council and what it had to offer. This was followed by a question and answer session, with tea and cake to round off the afternoon. We found the comments and ideas from the session of great use and intend to follow it up with another event later in the year.

### A414 and Maldon Local Development Plan

Council is very concerned about Essex County Council Highways plans to, as they call it, "mitigate" the impact of the Maldon Development Plan (parts of which have already been approved) between now and 2026. These plans include the following: removal of the mini roundabout at Well Lane Junction, pre-signals in Mayes Lane and Little Baddow Road and only a Pedestrian Refuge outside the new medical centre. The traffic model used by highways indicates that Eves Corner will be at saturation levels by 2026 even without the Maldon development. Council will be **strongly objecting** to these plans and will seek meetings to discuss the matter further. More detailed reports will be included in the next issue of Danbury Times.

### Special Thanks

As we approach the end of this council's 4 year cycle with elections due in May, I wish to record my thanks to each person, including our many volunteers, who contributes to making Danbury a viable and lively community in which to live.

In particular I wish to thank the staff, Margaret, Hannah, Maria and Robin for all their hard work, dedication and loyalty. Without them we would not have been able to achieve all that we have.

Thanks also go to my elected colleagues, for their hard work, patience and dedication.



Florence Bell with Stuart Berlyn, and his wife, Sue.

*Photography by Chris Rushton, Essex Chronicle*



Dave Spicely with his certificate

STUART BERLYN, CHAIRMAN

## ENVIRONMENT

The Committee met 6 times last year and dealt with a range of issues concerning footpaths, hedges and trees, highways, bus shelters and quarries. Not all problems which are raised and discussed can be acted upon and most which can, take time. We liaised with area meetings on several issues e.g. Parish Transport Maldon District.

We continue to forward requests to Essex County Council (Highways) and the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel to improve footways at locations such as Hopping Jacks Lane, West Belvedere and Belvedere Road. The uneven footway along Mayes Lane and its flooding has been improved. Results on a feasibility study for a linking footway from Mayes Lane to Woodhill Road should soon be available. Access to the Bumblebee Children's Centre is to be made easier and safer, by installing a ramp.

An extra deep layer of wood chip has been laid on Footpath 17 to test its effectiveness. A new Footpaths Officer is needed and if anyone who frequently walks the footpaths around Danbury would be willing to report on them to the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Office for details.

We await a response from the South Essex Parking Partnership about parking in Well Lane/The Heights. Bollards were installed at Eves Corner to help prevent vehicles parking on the green. Parking difficulties at Belvedere Close have been forwarded to the Local Highways Panel for action, with the support of County Councillor Spence.

Although the annual litter pick day was ended, there are several people who have taken on responsibility for clearing rubbish from areas near where they live, which helps tremendously in improving the appearance of the village. There will also be a Parish Cleansing Day undertaken by Chelmsford City Council later in the year; the committee forwarded areas which could benefit from this.

A working group called Project Danbury was created to carry out schemes to improve the appearance of the village; details are elsewhere in this edition. A tree was given to and planted at Danbury Park School, an oak planted to replace the Jubilee tree which did not take near Robin's Nest and a mulberry tree planted to replace a tree which had to be felled at the top of Copt Hill.

Please continue to report any environmental issues, and think about volunteering for the various schemes which help the village – litter picking, Living Landscapes hedge surveys, Footpath Officer, Tree Warden or offering ideas and/or help to Project Danbury. Many thanks to those who already do volunteer.

APRIL CHAPMAN, CHAIRMAN

## PLANNING

Mr Roger Cole-Jones has replaced Mr. Paul Walton representing the Danbury Society on this committee. An application for Danbury Palace to Chelmsford City Council Planning Committee (CCC) was approved. It was agreed that the Danbury Planning Policy Framework does not need to be reviewed at the present time. An appeal for the Solar Farm at Jackletts Farm was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate, as was an appeal concerning land South East of the water tower telecommunications mast. At last work has begun on the new Danbury Medical Centre.

This Committee has submitted significant comments on the impact of the Maldon Local Development Plan on Danbury. The plan is still subject to approval by the Planning Inspectorate.(see page 3).

An application in Bicknacre for another 110 houses on the land adjacent to Horseshoe Farm has been made. Danbury Parish Council submitted objections and comments. This application has been rejected by Bicknacre Parish Council and is pending consideration by CCC.

In the year ending 31st December 2014 the Committee met 13 times, and considered 79 applications, commenting on 61 of these. 8 were refused, five withdrawn and the remainder approved by CCC.

MAX TELLING, CHAIRMAN

## FACILITIES

The Committee administers a large part of the annual budget in order to maintain the many amenities offered in Danbury.

### **Green Spaces**

In winter it is difficult to keep Dawson Memorial Field pristine but visitors continue to enjoy the well-maintained open space which offers lovely views across Essex. The path beside the top carpark has been improved and the path from the lower carpark to the Tennis and Bowls Clubs has been upgraded. A new tarmac path has been installed for safer access to the rear of the Sports Hall. The grounds man also looks after Elm Green, Griffin Meadow, Runsell Green and other smaller areas. Trees are monitored by an annual survey which in future will be in the form of an electronic map, and remedial work is undertaken as needed.

### **Sports Clubs**

Following the renovation of the cricket wicket, last summer visiting clubs have commented on its fine condition. The Cricket Club is hoping that new members will join to enjoy the benefits and expand the club. The Bowls Club held their annual Open Day and would welcome new members.

The Tennis Club continues to thrive and expand its facilities. On the lower courts it has had a new non-slip surface laid and an individual junior practice area created in one corner. Improvements to the Club house have been completed.

### **The Danbury Sports and Social Centre (DSSC)**

Stephen Holland, the Treasurer and spokesman for the Danbury Community Association (Trust) Limited, the charity which runs the centre, states that they were granted £16,000 by Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund towards a new sprung floor and improved insulation in the Sports Hall. It has been an immediate success with those playing sports, exercising and dancing in the hall.

The Facilities Committee also put replacement heaters and upgraded lighting into the building, and rebuilt the steps to the snooker hall.

### **The Old Pavilion**

Roof repairs and refurbishment of the kitchen area have been completed, providing a pleasant space with easy wheelchair access, to hire for up to approximately 40 people.

### **Children's Play Area**

The new play equipment and re-zoning has been a huge hit with the local children! Annual safety and regular visual checks are carried out and defects remedied immediately. 'Play in the Park' schemes, in partnership with Chelmsford City Council, that run during the Easter and Summer school holidays were very popular last year and will continue, bringing some fun activities to Dawson Field. **During the Easter holiday this will be held on Thursday 9th April from 10am -12pm.**

### **The Ponds**

The ponds at Eves Corner and Runsell Green are maintained twice a year with help from The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and parishioners to provide an enjoyable public amenity and an attractive habitat for wildlife. If you are able to help, we would be delighted to see you. Last September, children from our three primary schools planted wild flowers around Runsell Green pond with help from TCV. Many did not realise there is a pond in that part of Danbury but I'm sure they will be watching out for the colourful fruits of their labours in the Spring.

### **Road Salt Scheme**

Grateful thanks again this year to our volunteers who have participated in the scheme to keep key points in Danbury moving. Fortunately, so far this winter the weather has been kind.

CHRIS JACOBS, CHAIRMAN

## RESOURCES

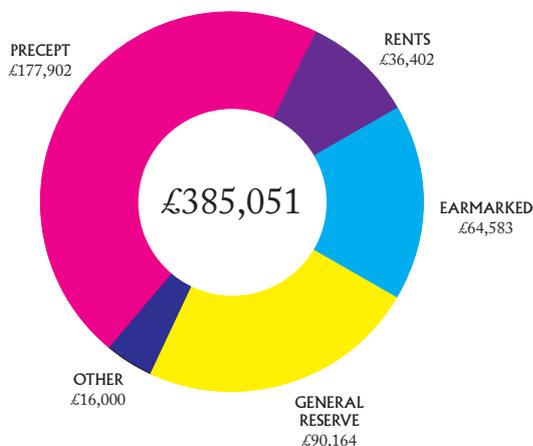
The pie charts shown below provide the outline of the council's income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2014. Major items of income included the precept of £177,902, the Local Council Tax Support grant of £8,548 (which is shown as part of Other Income), rental income of £36,402 mainly from the Sports and Social Centre, Tennis Club and Bowls Club and a receipt of £4,824 in respect of section 106 monies (the planning contribution transferred from Chelmsford City Council to the Parish Council to be used for infrastructure and community benefit).

On the expenditure side the larger items included some £5,500 on the Old Pavilion where the entrance door was relocated and new pathways laid. Repairs and maintenance costs for the Sports and Social Centre of some £12,000 included improvements to the emergency lighting system and the installation of a gas central heating boiler plus radiators for the Dawson Suite. Other smaller costs included £1,600 for new road markings on the Dawson Field car parks and £1,500 for new Parish Council noticeboards on the Village Hall. In addition various funds were earmarked for ongoing projects including £6,824 for the play area on Dawson Field, £5,535 towards the new stairs and pathways at the side of the Sports and Social Centre and £5,000 towards repair costs for the Old Pavilion.

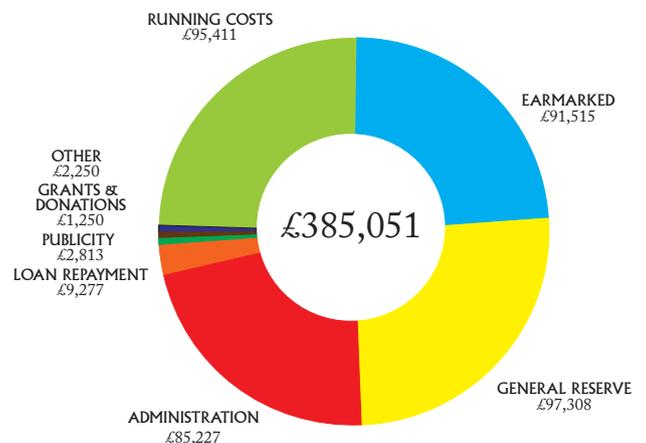
For the current year (2014/15) the precept increased to £179,390 due to the reduction in the Local Council Tax Support grant. For the coming year the precept will increase to £181,512 which reflects a £984 increase in council expenditure plus a further £1,138 reduction in Local Council Tax Support grant. However in 2015/16 the tax base (the number of band D equivalent properties) for Danbury will increase mainly due to the inclusion of the Danbury Palace redevelopment in the calculations. Therefore residents will see a reduction in the Parish Council element of their Council Tax for 2015/16, for a band D property the rate will reduce from £79.65 to £78.14.

BRIAN KENNEWELL, CHAIRMAN

Parish Council Income 2013-2014



Parish Council Expenditure 2013-2014



## SUMMARY OF THE YEAR (2014-2015)

- **I am extremely proud to report that Danbury Parish Council is the first Parish Council in the Country to obtain the new Local Council's Gold Award. Details on page 1.**
- Major refurbishment of the Children's Play Area completed with help from Grants of £30,500 from the Essex Environment Trust, Essex Playing Field Association, the Essex County Council Community Initiative Fund and Section 106 Monies.
- New steps and rear access to the Sports and Social Centre with path repairs.
- Lobbying the Post Office and the Co-op to retain the Post Office within the Co-op.
- Progression of works to the Old Pavilion - renovation continues.
- The meeting room at the Old School House is now the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council has transferred to on-line banking.
- The Communications Group worked with the 3 schools, attending Christmas events and giving presentations. The children took part in mock Council meetings at the Parish Office.
- The sale of postcards has gone well and the reprint adds one picturing all the Public Houses.
- In Autumn wildflowers were planted at Runsell Green with help from schoolchildren.
- The Parish Council presented Curt Brown with a watercolour painting of Eves Corner on his retirement after 24 years as Chairman of the Danbury Society.
- The Christmas Tree at Eves Corner was again erected for the Christmas period helped by a grant of £200 from the Danbury Society.
- The Tennis Club has completed extensive internal and external works to the clubhouse.
- Hannah Mayes, Assistant Clerk Planning and Environment, obtained her Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification. Robin Dickens, our grounds man, gained 5 awards from the Essex Playing Fields Association.

## ELECTIONS – THURSDAY 7TH MAY, 2015

If you would like to help shape your community and become a Parish Councillor the Elections will be taking place on Thursday 7th May, 2015. To qualify you must either live in the village, reside within 3 miles of the parish boundary or own a business in Danbury. There are 15 positions available. The term of office runs until May, 2019. Training is available for new members. Paperwork must be completed and hand delivered to Chelmsford City Council between 24th March and 4pm on 9th April. If more than 15 candidates apply a poll will be held; if 15 or fewer, those who apply will be returned unopposed.

MARGARET SAUNDERS, PARISH CLERK

## DATES OF MEETINGS

### March 2015

Mon	18th	Resources
Wed	25th	Parish Council
Mon	30th	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

### APRIL 2015

Mon	13th	Planning
Wed	30th	Resources

### MAY 2015

Mon	11th	Planning
Wed	13th	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wed	20th	Facilities
Wed	27th	Planning

### JUNE 2015

Mon	1st	Planning
Mon	8th	Environment
Wed	17th	Accounts then Resources
Mon	29th	Planning

### JULY 2015

Wed	15th	Facilities
Mon	27th	Planning
Wed	22nd	Resources
Mon	27th	Planning
Wed	29th	Parish Council

All meetings begin at 7.30pm

## PROJECT DANBURY

What does Danbury mean to you? Is it just a place where you lay your head after a hard day at work or is it a place you are proud to live because of its environment, rural ambience, relaxed atmosphere and aesthetic appearance?

Project Danbury's aim is to improve the environment of Danbury in terms of planting and tidiness and encouraging people to maintain their local neighbourhoods. The Project will start on a relatively small scale but it is hoped that it will gather momentum and scale to become a major vehicle for the general and overall enhancement of the village.



The expanse of grass where the public conveniences formerly stood in front of the Old Pavilion has been identified as the first area for improvement. Consideration is now being given to the type of planting to be used, in co-operation with The Cube Garden Design, to whom many thanks are extended for their help. Other areas are actively under consideration. Not all the land in question is in Parish Council ownership e.g. roadside verges, and any work on such land will only be with the permission of the owners.

**Project Danbury will only succeed in making our village an even better place to live and work if it gets the necessary support, co-operation and perhaps occasional sponsorship from you, the people who live and work in Danbury. The Danbury Society, The Scouts and some residents have already expressed an interest in becoming involved. If you are able to sponsor an area for improvement, if you have any constructive suggestions for items or areas to include within the Project and/or you are able to offer your time to assist in implementation or future maintenance then please contact the Parish Clerk using the details shown on page 2.**

## DANBURY CRICKET 2015 HOME FIXTURES

1:00 pm start, Eves Corner. <i>Supporters always welcome</i>		
25th	April	TBA
9th	May	Woodham Mortimer 2nds
16th	May	Great Wakering 1sts
30th	May	Rainham 2nds
13th	June	Ongar 1sts
27th	June	Eastwood 2nds
4th	July	Navestock & Ardleigh Green 1sts
25th	July	Bentley 3rds
8th	August	Mountnessing 1sts
22nd	August	South Weald 2nds

