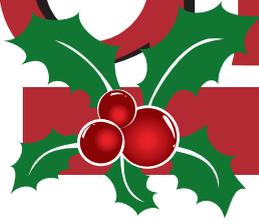


DANBURY

WINTER 2015

TIMES

No. 41



*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year from your
Parish Council*

LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD



SEE PAGE 7



SEE PAGE 7



SEE PAGE 7



SEE PAGE 5



SIMILAR PICTURES BUT THE ONE ON THE LEFT IS THE BRITISH MEMORIAL AT THIEPVAL, FRANCE;
ON THE RIGHT IS THE DANBURY MEMORIAL - SEE PAGE 6-7



DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Stuart Berlyn

13 Hopping Jacks Lane
Danbury CM3 4PN
01245 225883
stuart.berlyn@danbury-essex.gov.uk

**Chairman of Parish Council**

Ex-Officio member of all committees

April Chapman

6 Southview Road
Danbury CM3 4DX
01245 224791
april.chapman@danbury-essex.gov.uk

**Vice-Chairman of Parish Council**

Ex-Officio member of all committees, Chairman of Environment

Arthur Allen

New Rectory Farm, Southview Road
Danbury CM3 4DX
01245 224707
arthur.allen@danbury-essex.gov.uk



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

Dan Carlin

Little Orchard,
Postman's Lane,
Little Baddow, CM3 4SF
Tel. 01245 224805



Member of Environment and Planning

Amanda Gardiner

School House
Well Lane
Danbury CM3 4AB
01245 225366



Member of Planning and Environment

Gary Gardiner

School House
Well Lane
Danbury CM3 4AB
Tel 01245 225366



Vice-Chairman of Resources, Member of Facilities

Barbara Hallett

Orchard Lodge
Cherry Garden Lane
Danbury CM3 4QY
Tel 01245 226523



Member of Environment and Resources

Alan Keeler

Hazelbank, Fitzwalter Lane
Danbury CM3 4DZ
01245 222329
alan.keeler@danbury-essex.gov.uk



Member of Environment, Facilities and Planning

Brian Kennewell

82 Maldon Road
Danbury CM3 4QW
01245 226476
brian.kennewell@danbury-essex.gov.uk



Chairman of Resources, Member of Facilities

Paul Sutton

4 The Heights
Danbury CM3 4AG
Tel: 917507
paul.sutton@danbury-essex.gov.uk



Chairman of Planning, Member of Facilities

Max Telling

Colne Lodge, 42 Peartree Lane
Danbury CM3 4LS
01245 226037
max.telling@danbury-essex.gov.uk



Member of Environment and Facilities

Richard Wakefield

White Gable
Runsell Green
Danbury
CM3 4QZ
Tel. 227173



Member of Facilities and Resources

Mike Wood

49 Hopping Jacks Lane
Danbury CM3 4PJ
01245 222839
mike.wood@danbury-essex.gov.uk



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

POLICE

There is currently no direct link to the PCSO – any non-emergency phone 101.

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

Website: www.danbury-essex.gov.uk

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Great News

Following strong and evidence-supported representations by the Parish Council to the highway authority, and with support from our County Councillor John Spence, Essex County Council have now agreed that the developer must install a Zebra crossing for the safety of users of the new medical centre.

A414 and Maldon Developments

We still await the implementation of the peak time traffic lights in both Little Baddow Road and Mayes Lane, although Parish Council strongly objected to these. They are being installed with a view to improving the traffic flows along the A414.

Robin's Nest

Following a break-in at our groundsman's store and compound, resulting in theft and damage, a CCTV system has been installed to protect this area.

Carols Round the Christmas Tree

This will take place at Eves Corner on Wednesday December 16th at 7.30pm. Please join all our churches for this wonderful event

Strategic Business Plan

Your Parish Council has begun the production of a 5 year Strategic Business Plan for the council and village. We need your help: should you have ideas you wish council to consider on the future of Danbury, or any projects you would like us to consider, please contact the Parish Clerk p2.

New Councillor

We welcome Paul Sutton who joined us by co-option at the September meeting. You will find a personal statement from Paul below. We still have vacancies for 2 more members; if you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Special Thanks

I wish to record my thanks to everyone who has contributed to village life and to the work of Parish Council. In particular I 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 we have. Thanks also go to my elected colleagues for their hard work, patience and dedication.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stuart Berlyn

PAUL SUTTON



I have lived in Essex all my life, and recently moved back into Danbury with my wife Kay and our baby daughter. My ties to the parish go back a long way with much of my childhood spent around Danbury and Maldon, and we are delighted to have now established the area as our permanent family home.

My background is in Information Technology but I have spent the last 15 years working in a management capacity for City based institutions. This has allowed me to acquire expertise across a wide range of topics including decision-making, financial planning, negotiating and people-management; I hope to put these skills to good use on the Parish Council.

The sense of community spirit is something I care passionately about. The opportunity to make a contribution as a Parish Councillor to matters that go to the heart of the community seemed too good to miss. Although it is early days, I have already witnessed the hard work and dedication of the existing Councillors and it is my hope that I can continue with this tradition.

In my spare time, I enjoy running which enables me to 'explore the village'. If you see me out and about and have any topics you wish to discuss please feel free to stop me – I normally welcome the opportunity of a rest!

DANBURY SPORTS & SOCIAL CENTRE

Centre Refurbishment

Over the last two years, the Parish Council and the Trustees of the centre have been working together to plan the upgrading of 5 toilets within the Centre and 2 toilets in the Old Pavilion. At their meeting in March, the Parish Council agreed to pay for the refurbishment and secured a grant of £10,000 towards this from Awards for All, part of the National Lottery which gives money to community groups and projects.

As this article is being written, the work is in progress including the removal of all existing equipment and a complete re-design. The men's toilets downstairs are at present woefully inadequate and this will provide increased facilities and make the whole area much easier to clean. A disabled toilet will be installed in the Old Pavilion to comply with current regulations. In addition, the Dawson Suite function room has recently been redecorated and the sprung wooden floor sanded and restored.



Membership

Are you a member? Annual membership is only £15 which is great value, with reductions for students and senior citizens. We need your support, so pop in to see our wonderful facilities and the activities on offer.

Activities & Events

The fabulous ABBAMAGIC are coming back to Danbury by popular demand on Friday 5th February to perform their Abba Tribute Show. It will be pure entertainment – not to be missed. Full details of our programme of activities and forthcoming events are available from Reception, on our web site www.danburysportscentre.co.uk or phone 01245 224515.

TENNIS REPORT

Danbury junior teams:

At Danbury Tennis Club we are ever growing, especially with junior players. We therefore have the ability to enter many teams into different leagues. Earlier this summer we entered 8 teams from 6 different age groups into the summer Aegon leagues.

U8 Mixed Team

Our team of 5 came mid table in the U8 mixed division 3. All were fantastic in every match they played.

U9 Mixed Team

This team finished 4th out of 6 teams in the U9 mixed division 1, which was a fantastic achievement - a terrific season in a very tough league.

U10 A Team

The Aegon team finished second in Division 2. A super effort by the boys! Special thanks to all the parents for providing transport and scrummy teas for the opposition.

U10 B Team

This team was run by experienced captain who last year guided the U9 team to victory in Division 2. They won 36 out of 36 matches and only dropped 3 sets on their way to winning the Division 3! Congratulations to the team.

U12 Girls Team

Although there was only one other team in the competition the girls managed to beat their opponents both home and away winning all their matches in straight sets. Great work girls!

U12 Boys Team

This team was team entered in division 1. The standard of all the teams were very high and the team finished in a brilliant 3rd position.

U14 Girls team

The team had tough opposition playing teams made up of many skilled county players. However, the girls fought hard and never gave up in all their matches. They always played positively and always with a smile of their faces!

U14 Boys Team

In a very competitive division 1 league the boys finished 4th. Well done on a great effort.

U16 Boys Team

They were entered into division 3 and finished a terrific 3rd playing some fabulous tennis. So congratulations on your season.

It was a great season for all teams and I would like to thank every player for the part they played! Congratulations Teams!

BARN OWLS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DANBURY RIDGE LIVING LANDSCAPE

Wild Barn Owls are associated with open rural environment, often glimpsed as ghostly figures swooping to pluck small mammals from amongst the tufts of grass below their talons. Such magnificent spectacles are growing rarer as populations of this iconic species tumble due to a number of factors, including changes in land management resulting in a lack of suitable nesting and hunting habitat, road mortality and increased frequency of extreme weather events.

The Essex Barn Owl Conservation Project was launched in 2013 by Essex Wildlife Trust with the aim of reversing such dramatic declines across Essex.



The project, which is supported by more than fifty volunteers, works with landowners and managers to **restore, reconnect and recreate** suitable hunting and breeding habitat for wild Barn Owls; their populations are also monitored through this project and we are proud to announce that nearly fifty Barn Owl chicks were ringed by British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) on our behalf this year. In addition, there are now more than one hundred nest boxes installed throughout Essex **and several of these are located within the Danbury Ridge Living Landscape**, which includes Bicknacre, Little Baddow, Woodham Walter and more.

This is fantastic news but it is just the start; we are now looking for more landowners - whether private or commercial - to get involved in protecting this bird within our county, at a small cost to themselves. If you are interested in learning more about how to support the Essex Barn Owl Conservation Project or about the Danbury Ridge Living Landscape in general then please contact us (details below).

Emma Brogden
Living Landscapes Coordinator
Essex Wildlife Trust

emmab@essexwt.org.uk
01621 862954 / 07912 267319

PROJECT DANBURY

This scheme began with the creation of a new flower bed by the Parish Council and village residents at the Old Pavilion site. The whole idea of making Danbury more greenly attractive was never intended to be solely carried out by the Parish Council, and there will be other schemes in future to encourage other people to think how they can contribute in their own areas of the village.

There were unforeseen delays in the Old Pavilion work with Chelmsford City Council, the Tree Officer and the utility companies all needing to approve the work. However, the bed surface (grass and weeds) was initially cleared by hand. Then volunteers dug it over to 18 inches down with a digger, removing stones and hardcore from the former layby. Finally a ton of free! manure dug in again by hand by wonderful volunteers which is being left over the Winter for frost to break it up further and because the manured soil is too raw for planting yet. In the Spring a topping mix will be spread and then at last planting will be done. The bed receives sun all through the day at some stage so not only shade tolerant plants will be used. Evergreens and those providing colour and flower all year is the aim. Part of the planting will be the Women's Institute Centennial rose.

Two village companies have so far promised some sponsorship which will go towards the small maintenance necessary, and three people have volunteered to do weeding when needed.

If you wish to be involved or have constructive ideas, please let the Parish Office know because all active help is valued.

THE MEN ON THE MEMORIAL

The names have been on the memorial on Danbury Hill, for nearly one hundred years. I wonder how much they mean to people living in or visiting the area today. With the centenary of the Great War, this seems a good time to see what there is to learn about these men. Varying amounts of information have been found about each and 3 of them are detailed in this article.

One man died in 1915, Frank Britton, but there is little information on him. There is one name for whom nothing has been found, C Andrews, whose single initial and surname is insufficient to positively identify him. More information is available on the parish website about the others on the memorial; **if you can add anything about any of these men please contact me at rosie.crozier22@btinternet.com.**

The memorial on Elm Green was unveiled on 31st July 1920 by Field-Marshal Sir W R Robertson, who commented that "So far as he could hear...all classes were amongst the fallen from Danbury".

This is true, although many came from what at the time was called the lower classes. The 1911 Census shows that two were regular soldiers, others were farmers, cattle dealers, postmen, labourers, shop assistants, a gardener and a gamekeeper. Many followed the same occupation as their fathers. Their ages at death ranged from 18 to 49. Half served in the Essex Regiment, the others in a range of different regiments; it was not uncommon for men to be transferred to other regiments to fill gaps in numbers.



Frank Britton

Frank was born in Chelmsford and enlisted in Colchester, when he was recorded as living in Danbury. He was married to Lily May Britton, who at the time of his death was living at Rose Cottage, Woodham Mortimer.

He was a driver with the Royal Engineers, 28 Divisional HQ. His service number was 8879. He was killed in action on 27th April 1915 and is buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ypres. He is also commemorated on Woodham Walter Memorial and Church Plaque.

Reuben Henry Dodd

Reuben was born in Danbury in 1897, the second of four sons of Henry and Belinda Dodd. The 1901 Census shows the family living at Eves Corner. His father was a threshing machine engine driver and beer house keeper. There was a 14-year-old domestic servant. At the time of the 1911 Census Reuben's father was not present, his mother named Head of the Household. 14-year-old Reuben was a grocer's shop errand boy, and the four brothers had been joined by a further brother and two sisters. There were no servants. The family was living at Kyn Cottage, Danbury.

In 1916, Reuben was mentioned a couple of times in the local newspapers. First, he failed to answer a summons for not obscuring the front glass of a cycle lamp on the night of April 8th. "Special Constable Staines said defendant was riding with a front gas lamp, which threw a very bright light. Special Constable A S Firman called upon him to stop, but he did not, so witness stopped him. Defendant said he did not know they were specials. The front glass of the lamp was not obscured in any way, but

THE MEN ON THE MEMORIAL - CONTINUED

defendant obscured the light with paper, saying he forgot to screen it that night." A fine of 12s. 6d. with witnesses' expenses was imposed. (Current value about £27.)

A few weeks later Mrs Dodd, of Winstanley House, Danbury, applied on behalf of her son, by then aged 19 and employed at Hoffmann's, to be exempted from conscription. She said that one son, aged 20, had already enlisted when war broke out. It was pointed out that financially she would be no worse off if this son was also in the Army and the application was refused.

Four months later, on 28th September 1916, when Reuben was serving as a Private in northern France with the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regt) 7th Btn., he died, and is commemorated at Thiepval on Memorial Pier and Face 5D and 6D.

WHAT SORT OF DANBURY DO YOU WANT?

Looking down at the surrounding area from the church tower earlier this year, the impression was of a sea of green with neat farmland around a tidy village. Looking more closely at ground level there is much to admire still about Danbury's appearance but in places this is marred. Litter, fly tipping and verge parking are on the increase.

Litter:

There are many litter bins around the village – yet discarded cans, bags, sandwich wrappings, cardboard coffee cups and sweet papers damage the appearance of our verges and public spaces. I know parents bring up their children to bin litter, our volunteer litter collectors do fantastic work in their spare time, and the groundsman begins each day clearing the Dawson Field area; but the problem is increasing especially in areas such as around the seats on Church Hill and Eves Corner Green. Chelmsford City Council agreed on a temporary basis to empty their bins weekly over the summer but when they were full **people did not take their litter away to other containers, instead left it on the ground by the bin!**

More bins or larger containers risk making Danbury look like Binland. What is the answer? Can you help in any way?

Fly tipping:

Some areas seem to attract this. One is around the ford at the bottom of Sporhams Lane where Chelmsford have responded quickly to remove a fridge, roofing felt, huge piles of tyres and gas cylinders among other apparently commercial items. Other areas include Footpath 17 - a potentially lovely green route, yet someone has persistently dumped garden prunings, branches, grass cutting and old fence panels, all of which not only look ugly but smother the wild plants and flowers beside the path. Why not show more consideration and **use the brown bin or take it to a recycling point?** Two residents have spent about 8 hours moving this eyesore and taking it at their own expense to recycling points, and as a result the path looks good again.

Chelmsford City Council is currently running a campaign against littering and fly tipping with clear warning of fines (£75) and fixed penalties – see www.chelmsford.gov.uk/litter. If you have helpful ideas or want to report any of these problems, contact Chelmsford or the Parish Office.

Verge parking:

It damages the grass and kerb, is a hazard if it obscures sight lines, and is obstruction if it hinders the passage of pushchairs, wheelchairs and those with a visual or mobility impairment. In areas with Traffic Regulation Orders (e.g. yellow lines) it can be reported to the South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) 01245 606710; in areas without, it is a police matter. If in doubt about verge parking near you, contact the Parish Office.

DATES OF MEETINGS

JANUARY 2016

Mon 18th	<i>Planning</i>
Wed 20th	<i>Resources</i>
Mon 25th	<i>Environment</i>
Wed 27th	<i>Parish Council</i>

FEBRUARY

Wed 10th	<i>Facilities</i>
Wed 24th	<i>Resources</i>
Mon 29th	<i>Planning</i>

MARCH

Mon 7th	<i>Environment</i>
Mon 14th	<i>Planning</i>
Wed 16th	<i>Parish Council</i>

APRIL

Mon 4th	<i>Planning</i>
Wed 13th	<i>Facilities</i>
Mon 18th	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

All meetings begin at 7.30pm except for the 8pm Annual Parish Meeting

WINTER SALT

Danbury Parish Council has participated in this worthwhile and successful ECC scheme since its inception in Autumn 2011. As ECC only grits main roads, the County provides the Parish Council with salt to supply to residents to put down in their roads. Danbury Parish Council is participating again this winter. If your road could benefit from being included and/or you would like to join the 'Danbury Winter Salt Team' and be supplied with salt to put down when necessary, please contact the Parish Office.

PLAY IN THE PARK

On August 5th the weather was not promising but 46 children under 5 years of age and 9 of the 6 to 11 age group enjoyed the activities provided by Chelmsford City Council's Community Sports and Wellbeing team on Dawson Memorial Field. On August 19th, 69 under 5s and 35 of the 6 to 11 age group joined in. This day had the Kids' Kingdom inflatable and 1st2Bounce.

BEST KEPT PLAYING FIELDS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Essex Playing Fields Association on 15th October Danbury Parish Council received these awards:

- Class 1 – Playing Fields serving a population over 2,500 - Silver
- Class 3 – Children's Playgrounds - Certificate of Merit
- Class 4 – Cricket Grounds - Silver
- Class 6 – Football pitches - for pitches 1, 2 and 3 - 3 Golds

The awards were handed out by Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex and by Norman Hume, Leader of Essex County Council.



17TH - 20TH DEC 2015
DANBURY VILLAGE HALL
WWW.DANBURYPLAYERS.CO.UK

CHARITY COLLECTIONS

CHRISTIAN AID collected £8132 this year from Danbury and Bicknacre – a generous contribution. Thanks to all involved.

The Danbury and Little Baddow Fundraising Group collected £10,210 for **FARLEIGH HOSPICE**, largely from the Danbury and Little Baddow Open Gardens scheme together with generous donations from some regular contributors.

The organisers have been doing this for many years now and could do with some more help - organising the run-up, ideas and general support. Could you think about getting involved in such a good cause yourself? The more helpers, the less for each to do! **Tel: 01245 222674.**