

DANBURY



SUMMER 2020

TIMES



No. 55

THANK YOU



Thank you to all the wonderful, hard working volunteers, the Danbury Coronavirus Volunteer Group itself, the Danbury Medical Centre, the Mission, carers, key workers, the Sewing Bees, message runners, telephone friends, decorators of front windows and gardens, photographers, Thursday applauders, shop assistants, school teachers and teaching assistants, children who sent in jokes/poems pictures, editors of village magazines and all those anonymous yet vital people who have helped us all to cope better with this crisis.



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ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

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Planning

Roger Cole-Jones

Danbury Society



Planning

DATES OF MEETINGS

JULY

Weds 15th *Facilities*
Weds 21st *Health and Wellbeing*
Weds 22nd *Resources*
Mon 27th *Planning*
Weds 29th *Parish Council*

SEPTEMBER

Tues 8th *Health and Wellbeing*
Mon 14th *Environment*
Mon 21st *Community Engagement*
Wed 30th *Parish Council*

OCTOBER

Tues 20th *Health and Wellbeing*

NOVEMBER

Tues 3rd *Facilities*
Mon 16th *Environment*
Weds 18th *Resources*
Mon 23rd *Community Engagement*
Weds 25th *Parish Council*

DECEMBER

Tues 8th *Health and Wellbeing*
Weds 16th *Resources*

PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Michelle Harper



Parish Clerk

Maria Dyer



Assistant Clerk

Lesley Mitchelmore



Assistant Clerk.
Neighbourhood
Plan Co-ordinator

NORMAL PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

The parish office will be closed during this crisis but the telephone and e-mails will be manned during office hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm. If you wish to contact the office please use: **01245 225111**

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

Website: www.danbury-essex.gov.uk

Like us on Facebook 

VE DAY 75 - MAY 8TH 2020

Although the coronavirus restrictions meant that the Parish Council planned event could not take place, residents whole-heartedly took up the alternative suggestions. There was bunting at Eves Corner and Tommy by the village sign.

Several streets celebrated in safe, socially distanced ways. People decorated their house fronts and gardens with any red, white and blue flags, banners and rosettes they could find, many also showing the rainbows. There were front garden, house tea parties and some music - 1940s songs which everyone joined in with, children's games and a happy, community feel, lightening this otherwise fraught time.

If you have any photographs of your street's activities please send them to the parish office at april.chapman@danbury-essex.gov.uk. The Council is collecting them to add to the existing archive for future interest to be kept in the meeting room at the parish office.





DANBURY DURING COVID 19

On March 19th Cllr Mandy Hessing and Liz Hiscock (a co-opted member of the council's Health & Wellbeing Committee) discussed what they could do to support the community during the Coronavirus pandemic. After a couple of hours chatting Mandy said, "Let's establish a volunteer support group on Facebook to see if we can get help." - little did they know the result:

- * 400 plus volunteers in the Facebook group
- * 138 volunteers active, of which 77 active within the village and helping residents e.g. fetching prescriptions, delivering shopping
- * Volunteer recruitment - collating offers, identifying skill sets, DBS checks. How to best utilise the volunteers
- * Job descriptions for the volunteers- what they can expect and what is expected from them
- * Found office accommodation with safe working
- * Two telephone help lines up and running
- * Leaflets printed and distributed to about 2300 homes (Danbury, Little Baddow, and Bicknacre)
- * Building relationships with people they need to help and assist, with superb support from Dr. Caroline Dollery one of our GPs at Danbury Medical Centre
- * Appealing for food donations – Tesco Express & the Co-op have food donation trolleys within the stores; other businesses, village organisations and residents make donations too
- * A card payment & mobile card reader is now being used (donated by a local business), trying to eliminate the use of cash

They are supporting the 'Danbury Sewing Bees' who have been magnificently sewing scrubs for Broomfield Hospital and masks, some for the medical centre to distribute to those patients in need; also they are available to the general public from the 'Hub' in St. John's Church meeting room for a donation towards the costs of production.

- * A small team of administrators collate and organise all this.

This independent group was established without the shackles which limit Parish Council in the short term; they have and continue to provide a superb service to those residents in need of support.

So, what, might you ask is Parish Council doing at this time?

Parish Council has worked with, and supported the Group since its inception; the Health & Wellbeing Committee is fully involved with the development of the Group and has held several meetings, including online meetings since all physical meetings were cancelled, with all parties.

The Parish Clerk has been in daily contact with Cllr Hessing to offer support, advice and guidance where possible and the Parish Council have offered financial contributions to enable the Group to establish itself as a pivotal service to the residents of Danbury during this difficult time, with ongoing financial assistance when it is needed.

Parish Council has initiated, with the Group and in conjunction with the Danbury Medical Centre, a "Happy to Chat" service, whereby residents who are lonely, vulnerable or isolated will, at their request, be contacted at regular intervals by volunteers including councillors simply for a friendly chat or to be signposted to other services if needed. They have policies on board for GDPR/ Data protection, health and safety, safeguarding and disclaimers as needed. This system is now up and running.

Parish Council has experienced restrictions in an active sense due to its members' personal circumstances. However although the Parish Office had to close, the Parish Office staff have been working from home consulting with councillors to ensure that the business of the Council continues to function. Decisions on Resources, Facilities, Environment, Planning, Community Engagement, Health and Well Being, Danbury Times, BRB and the Neighbourhood Plan have all been dealt with over the last 5 months.

We have now become 'Zoom' specialists? Following regular remote meetings with the Clerk to ensure routine business can continue, our first formal remote full Parish Council

DANBURY DURING COVID 19 (continued)

meeting was on Wednesday 27th May 2020, with the public able to join the meeting and express their views/questions during public question time. Further Committee meetings have been held and open to the public since June 1st - see the website.

Council believe that by providing moral, emotional and financial support to the Group it has responded and assisted in the response to the needs of our residents in a manner that has allowed for the swift mobilisation of aid within the village.

Whilst I cannot thank all the councillors, staff and in particular the very many volunteers who have stepped up during this national emergency personally, I have here the opportunity to say

**‘THANK YOU’ - ‘THANK YOU
YOU HAVE BEEN MAGNIFICENT**

‘Stay Safe and Healthy’

Stuart Berlyn, Chairman



BRADWELL B CONSULTATION

Parish Council thanks all residents who responded on this application's Stage One Consultation, so vital to our village's future.

Based on those and on past comments and knowledge of Danbury's aspirations and problems, we have sent in our response. This is too long to be reproduced in this newsletter but is available in full on our website. If you are not on-line, contact the parish office to be sent a copy.

We continue to be in contact with BRB; they promise "to engage with stakeholders, communities, businesses and community groups across the region". Their intention is to probably have a partial consultation in the Spring 2021 depending on this Stage-One's results, and then to instigate a Stage Two Consultation in the Autumn 2021. They promise regular meetings and workshops though these had to be cancelled this Spring due to Covid-19 and could only take place on-line or by telephone. These consultations, the final application (if one is made - it is not definite, hence the importance of these consultations), and the final investment decision will take 5 to 7 years before construction may begin.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

In the extraordinary times we have experienced lately there has been a noticeable increase in the number of people using the Public Right of Ways (PRoW) in Danbury. This has been the result of everyone needing to get outside, enjoy the open air and get some exercise. The village has over 50 PRoWs and if we include the surrounding parishes there are several hundred public paths to take.

So what is a PRoW? A public right of way is a path that anyone has the legal right to use on foot, and sometimes using other forms of transport. The owner whose land the PRoW crosses must allow access. It is normally accepted that in England rights of way generally originated from one of three sources. Some were established as early as 5,000 BC, linking Neolithic, Bronze or Iron Age encampments. Others were created by traders moving from tribe to tribe, or travellers visiting places of worship (one of the most famous is the Pilgrims' Way). Closer to home is St. Peter's Way the route that pilgrims took from the oldest wooden church in the world, St. Andrew's Green-sted Green, to the Anglo Saxon church at St. Peter-On-The-Wall at Bradwell on Sea.

Over time four main groups of paths have been established:



Footpath: As the name suggests this path is used for walking only. It is different from the pavement alongside a road which is known as a footway. Footpaths are usually just tracks and are rarely surfaced or lit. You can also take a pram, pushchair or wheelchair on a footpath, but not a bicycle.



Bridleway: Bridleways have all the rights of a footpath but users are permitted to ride or lead a horse. In modern times the permission has been extended to bicycles. However, horse drawn vehicles are not allowed. Cyclists must give way to pedestrians and horse riders. Mechanically-propelled vehicles, including cars and motorbikes are not allowed.



Byway (open to all traffic - BOAT): have all the rights of a footpath but all types of wheeled vehicle are allowed including mechanical propelled vehicles.



Restricted Byway: A new category of right of way created in the Rights of Way Act 2000 allows the right of way on foot, on horseback, or leading a horse, cycling and for any vehicles other than mechanically propelled vehicles.

In Danbury PRoWs are mainly Footpaths or Bridleways. Parish Council have produced a footpath map which shows all the routes throughout the parish. The map is available via a number of boxes located at NT car parks, Elm Green and Runsell Green, and has proved very popular. The local area contains many woodlands, commons and country lanes, giving rise to a wide selection of walks to undertake. During the current pandemic there may be people who are venturing out into the countryside for the first time so it's worth mentioning the Government's Countryside Code:

Respect other people:

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the natural environment:

- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.
- keep dogs under effective control.

Enjoy the outdoors:

- plan ahead and be prepared.
- follow advice and local signs.

Knowing the difference between a footpath and a bridleway is important. In particular cyclists have no right to cycle on a footpath and would be committing an act of trespass against the land owner if they did; likewise if a motor vehicle were to drive on a bridleway. If you have to drive to the start of a walk then park responsibly; do not park on verges or block pavements.

There have been a few instances lately where inconsiderate cyclists have been speeding on footpaths which has nearly resulted in injury to people walking the footpath. This is anti social behaviour and should not be tolerated. Unfortunately the footpath behind St. John's Church has recently suffered

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (continued)

vandalism in the form of 'no cycling' signage being removed and defaced and a fingerpost pushed over. This is classed as criminal damage and as such could lead to a prosecution if the culprits are apprehended. Please report any incidents you witness to the police on 101 and copy to the parish office.

Whenever you set out for a walk around Danbury to get the most benefit have a relaxed frame of mind, don't rush, follow the countryside code and enjoy. If you want more information on Danbury's PRoW's you can contact the footpath officer, via graham.chapman@danbury-essex.gov.uk.

JULY 31st 1920

One hundred years ago the war memorial on Elm Green was officially unveiled. All over Great Britain monuments were being erected, often paid for by public subscription, in memory of the men from their communities who had joined the armed forces and were among the approximately 750,000 British service men who died in the Great War. Most servicemen were ordinary working class men: 1,000,000 largely volunteers in the first year of the war and then 2,500,000 conscripted from 1916. The feeling was that such memorials would continue to reinforce the feeling that there must never be another such war.

Danbury's monument was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield RA who had designed the Cross of Sacrifice in 1919 for war ceremonies abroad. It is of Portland stone, 24 feet high, with a bronze sword (the present one is a replica since the original metal discoloured the stone). It was unveiled on July 31st 1920 in a public ceremony by Field Marshal Sir William Robertson in the presence of Brigadier

General J. T. Wigan, Major General F. F. Johnson, Chairman of the Parish Council; Lieutenant Colonel G. W. T. Prowse, Chairman of the Memorial Committee; Mr. Justice Rowlatt; relatives of the fallen; service and ex-service officers and men, and villagers. On July 31st as the photograph below shows, The Rector, the Reverend J. B. Plumptre led the dedication.

The names of Danbury's 25 Great War dead are inscribed on the plinth; research on each man by Rosie Bartley-Crozier is available on the Danbury Parish Council's website. The war memorial is a Grade II listed monument of Historic and Architectural interest. Names of 15 service men from the Second World War are also inscribed on the plinth.

The monument was cleaned for Remembrance Day 2018 when as usual every year villagers, clergy, the Scouting Association and Parish Council representatives walked from St. John the Baptist Church to Elm Green, laid poppy wreaths and took part in a memorial service.



CHRISTMAS 2020

The Community Engagement Committee is planning a celebration of Christmas for 3rd December, and we hope for a bigger event than last year's successful one.

We are hoping that at 6.30pm the Salvation Army Band will lead carols round the tree at Eves Corner with lighting as last year. People are then invited to walk along to the Sports and Social Centre's Dawson Suite where there will be warm drinks and mince pies; in the Old Pavilion will be stalls selling Christmassy goods, more music; Father Christmas with his sleigh and also we hope reindeer, will be outside.



Plans are still being made because of Covid-19 uncertainty. Further details will be available on the Parish Council's website as firmer decisions are possible.

Book Thursday 3rd December at 6.30pm in your diaries.

DANBURY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL 2021

Parish Council and some enthusiastic residents are planning an event next year on May 1st when hopefully it will be safe for Covid-19 restrictions to have lifted, as a thanks and celebration of the wonderful response the village gave to the crisis.

On Dawson Memorial Field and in the sports hall of the Sports and Social Centre there will be food stalls, games and activities, music, singing and dance events.

A permanent memorial is planned - probably a tree and a bench, with also a book for photographs and for people to write their personal memories and thanks to individuals so it can be kept as part of the archive in the parish office meeting room as a record for future residents.

Details will come later but organisers are making plans and lists of possibilities, consulting people with entertainment stalls and considering access etc.

If you can offer any help in joining the team planning the event, or in helping on the day with marshalling or litter collecting - all the necessary background stuff - please contact the parish office to volunteer or ask for more information.

We want this to be a memorable day and the more people from the village take part at all stages, the better.

Book May 1st in next year's diary and come and help!

