

Danbury Society

charity number 283898

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020

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WHERE'S THE NEWS?

Oh dear. Oh dear. What an ironic headline to write on our Spring 2020 issue, shown below.

Coronavirus? Let's not tempt

providence but the British authorities seem to be keeping the affliction under control. But still wash your hands!

Like so many organisations, Danbury Society has been affected by the Government Lockdown.

From our published 2020 programme we have been forced to cancel the Annual Quiz in March, the talk about Beeleigh Mill in April and the visit to the Combined Services Museum in Maldon next month.

We are waiting to see what the Government directs and if we will be able to stage the Annual Art Exhibition at the end of August.

For the later events, who knows?



ONE MYSTERY SOLVED

In the last issue we asked about a reputed Prisoner of War (PoW) camp set up for captured Italian soldiers.

Society member Julie Barker came up with the information. As suspected the answer was the timber yard at Twitty Fee.

A number of Italian PoWs were assigned to work there during the war.

some chums. The men were very friendly and carved simple toys for the boys. Somewhere in her house, Julie still has a peacock carved from a piece of wood that her brother was given.

At the time Julie's family lived in Nursery Cottages, a line of 26 cottages in the eponymous road off Hopping Jacks Lane and not far from Twitty Fee.

A short run through the woods after school and the boys would have been at

the timber yard in minutes.



The timber yard (left) is now nicely laid out but not so in the 1940s soon after it was opened. The field entrance (below) is opposite the timber yard and where the hut(s) might have been erected.

Whether they were still classed as PoWs after 1943 is unclear as the Armistice of Cassibile on 3 September of that year withdrew the Italian forces from the war.

In Danbury there was a fairly small number of them. It was thought they were housed in one or two huts on site or very nearby.

Julie's brother, then a school-boy of around 9 years of age, would visit the Italians with



FAST COMMUNITY ACTION

Well before the Government launched its Lockdown on 23rd March, a dedicated support group had been set up.

It was Mandy Hessing (pictured) and Liz Hiscock whose initiative saw the support group going under the banner 'Danbury Coronavirus Volunteers'. In short order the group had a leaflet prepared and printed. This was distributed house-to-house together with red and green labels to put in windows. This was a means to indicate to patrolling volunteers whether help was needed or not, without having to call at the front door. In fact only 4 homes were 'red flagged'. The phone has been busier with 431 calls for assistance by mid-May since starting.

"We have about 170 active Volunteers, a group of about 30 plus are involved in the Danbury Sewing Bees," Mandy said. "Our volunteers have a huge amount of skills and this has been utilised throughout our setup, from answering the helplines, delivering shopping and prescriptions, designing various request forms to enable our central hub flow smoothly."

Central HQ or Hub is in the Church Meeting room. Everything that comes in through the phones is, logged, numbered and categorised to provide an audit trail.

Danbury Society has provided the funds for the dedicated mobile phones used by the group.

"Some volunteers have had training and started on our 'befriending' service, reaching out to residents that would like a friendly chat," explained Mandy. "This is ongoing and we hope will continue after the crisis."

Volunteers have tidied the grave yard, with

their own strimmers. They have been vigilant on their walks and while delivering their papers.



"It certainly brings lots of smiles and a few worries but that's why we are there - to ease worry and anxiety! The support we have had from our community makes me feel so very proud to be a part of it."

In case you may not have been out and about, work has started on the Classic Tastes development on the old Texaco filling station site in Main Road. Planning approval for nine flats in three blocks was given five years ago. (15/01117/FUL) Now large screens surround the site.

There are several other building sites active in the village although none are derived from recent planning applications.

BRADWELL B

Most households will have received a 4-page outline and others a full 142-page brochure about the planned Bradwell B nuclear power station.

The leaflet sets out some brief facts about the project but mainly gives details of where more information can be found on-line. The glossy brochure gives much, much more and can be read on-line too.

We have to accept that Bradwell B is a foregone conclusion. The government is committed to a nuclear policy. (NPS EN-6) Work is well under way at Hinckley Point. The second is planned at Sizewell C and Bradwell will be the third.

Bradwell Power Generating Company Ltd. This company was formed in 2016. It has four Chinese and three European directors and is owned by a similarly named holding company. This, in turn, is jointly owned by EDF Europe and CGN.

EDF is part of Electricité de France, a group that is 83% owned by the French government. CGN traces its 100% ownership back to China General Nuclear Power Group which is owned by the Chinese state.

EDF is wallowing in debt of around EUR40 billion. It has built around 60 nuclear power plants.

CGN relies on the infinite resources of the Chinese Government. CGN has been sanctioned by the US authorities for



Bradwell Power Station closed in 2002. This photo is taken from East End Road, the old Roman road that runs almost in a straight line from Bradwell village to St Peter's chapel. The new power station will be built between the old one and this viewpoint. (NRB)

Electric cars, computers and suspected industrial spying. US firms entertainment will ensure electrical demand keeps growing so some means of generating power is inescapable. CGN. CGN will supply two HPR1000 nuclear reactors.

Many people are hostile to nuclear on principle although it is carbon-free. The carbon-free alternatives are forests of turbines and solar farms, i.e. hectares of fields of black panels. The consultation does not permit any concerns about such a critical element of national infrastructure being provided by contractors owned by foreign governments.

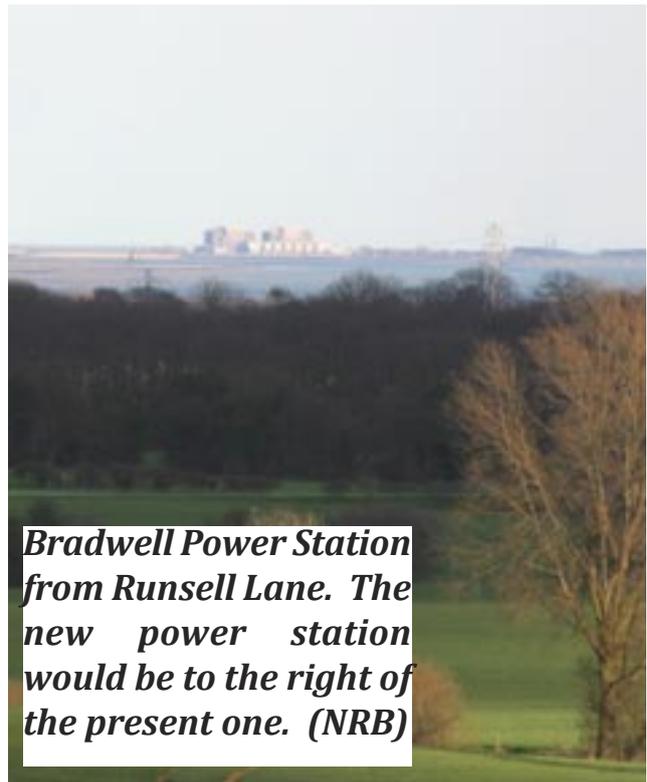
The communications are issued from That politically charged decision will be

taken by the Secretary of State after negotiations on prices and cost recoveries.

People can submit their observations by letter, email or complete a printed or on-line questionnaire. All information can be accessed at www.bradwellb.co.uk

These are the key areas up for comment.

1. Views on the overall proposal.
2. The design and safety of the project, environment and heritage. St Peters chapel, Othona religious site and the RAF memorial (below) will be protected.
3. The workforce involved in building and eventually operating it and residents to be affected.
4. Accommodation in temporary blocks of apartments. The maximum workforce at any one time is uncertain. Numbers quoted range from 3,000 to 10,600. The plan is for most to be housed on site.
5. Transport strategy means mainly sea and road. There would be hardstandings on the beach for ships to bring in some 50% of the construction materials. A strategic route is planned from A130/A132 junction at Rettendon and north-east across the Dengie peninsular to the site. Two routes are mapped, both well away from Danbury. In the early stages



Bradwell Power Station from Runsell Lane. The new power station would be to the right of the present one. (NRB)

(first 3 years) the A414 through Danbury could be a one-way route for trucks. Why can't the strategic routes be ready earlier? For workers, P+R sites at Sandon and/or Maldon are possible.

6. Freight management facility. The purpose is stacking: holding up to 100 HGVs and calling them forward to the site as required. Alternative sites are: (a) Rettendon, (b) East of, or (c) West of Latchingdon. The chosen location would also provide a P+R site with 1,600 places - similar in size to Sandon P+R. After construction, land would be restored. Readers may recall that when the Olympic Park was being built, such a facility was built on the M11 at Chigwell. 1st July 2020 is the deadline for comments.

Danbury Parish Council is also making a collective submission. The Council would like any individual submissions to be copied to the Parish office or by email to parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk by 31st May 2020.

IT WAS INEVITABLE

The Parish Council convened an extraordinary meeting on 18th March and unanimously “agreed to adopt the Emergency Policy in Respect of Covid-19 Outbreak and extend the scheme of delegation relating to Council decisions to the Clerk during any period of restricted activity to lawfully enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities.”

Under the Policy the Council cancelled all further meetings and postponed the Annual Parish Meeting that had been scheduled for 4th May.

Similar actions have been forced on other associations. The Society’s own are mentioned on the front page.

Danbury First Responders was among the earliest to abandon its service due to the restrictions imposed to protect both pa-

tients and volunteers. Professionals are more safely equipped.

On 20th March Danbury Sports & Social Centre reported, “It is with utmost regret that we are confirming that the Centre will close tonight, and not re-open until authorised to do so by the government.” It went on to reassure members about payments and suggested members continue to exercise and pointed to Lifestyle Fitness’s ‘Working Out From Home’ Facebook group.

When Robin the groundsman retired last year, the Parish Council was unable to recruit a suitable replacement. Instead it hired a contractor and has been sufficiently content with the standard of care that it has extended its contract through to October 2021. Whether the sadly missed Robin will be replaced by an employed groundsman will be decided at budget time in 2021.



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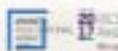
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MEMORIAL AT THE CO-OP ANOTHER CALL FOR HELP

Staff at our local Co-op set up an Appeal to raise money to place a memorial seat outside the store.

The Society received an email recently from a Chris with a straightforward message.



"A friend has been sorting through some old motorcycle photos taken in the Colchester area that he acquired years ago and found one that was taken in Danbury.

I wondered if the buildings still exist, or if anyone knows whereabouts they may have been?"

The building in the centre has 'A&H Digby's Stores' on the front fascia and on the side 'Danbury's Cycle Depot'.

This is in memory of one of their colleagues, Lena Beard, who succumbed to the Covid-19 virus last month.

It has been suggested this was near the Cricketers pub; or that it was near where Esso filling station now operates.

She was only in her 40s and valued by both colleagues and customers for her friendly and helpful personality.

It looks as though the road runs slightly up hill to the right. Such a prominent sign on the roof of the house suggests that this was somewhere along the A414

Danbury Society has made a contribution to this worthwhile Appeal. A seat outside the store will be of great value to those - particularly older customers - who walk to and from the Co-op.

Do any of our older residents recall Digby's stores. Please let us know.



YOUR MEMBERSHIP OF YOUR SOCIETY

The Government Lockdown has caused financial challenges to all parts of the economy even trickling down to small charities like our own.

It is not simply the money but the erosion of the bonds that hold people together in families, friendships, workplaces, social groups and so forth.

An association like ours depends so much on Members' voluntary support. The Government's incessant warning to 'Stay Home' (unnecessary Americanism; should be 'stay at home') means the So-

ciety has been unable to ask our cherished Distributors to go from house to house with Newsletters.

The consequence is that you, dear Members, have not had the friendly contact from your regular Distributor.

Nor have you - or most of you at least - been able to pay your sub this year.

We hope you will want to continue your membership of the Society by paying the modest fee of £2.

Here are three ways you can do so.

Best way to pay.....pay on-line

The Society's bank account detail is

Sort Code: 20-19-95

Account number: 9058 9632

But please do not forget to ADD YOUR HOUSE NUMBER/NAME & STREET to the pay advice. Unless you do so, the Treasurer is unable to identify from whom the payment is made.

Confirm your payment to Membership Secretary Chandra by email to chandra.pyne@btinternet.com

Another way to pay.....by cheque or cash

If you are ready to brave the challenge of leaving home, then post or leave a cheque to the Membership Secretary. Make cheque payable to 'Danbury Society' for £2. Or use cash. Put a two-pound coin (or two one-pound coins) in an envelope WITH YOUR HOUSE NUMBER/NAME & STREET on the outside. Post or leave at Wicklow, Southview Road. (second house on the left as you ascend the hill)

A third way to pay.....only with cash

If you know your local distributor and know where she, he or they live, leave your payment there. Put a two-pound coin (or two one-pound coins) in an envelope AND YOUR HOUSE NUMBER/NAME & STREET on the outside; drop it in the letterbox.

Confirm your payment to Membership Secretary Chandra by email to chandra.pyne@btinternet.com

HAVE YOU HAD A LOOK AT THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE? GO TO [HTTP://WWW.DANBURYSOCIETY.ORG.UK/](http://www.danburysociety.org.uk/)

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