

DANBURY COUNTRY PARK & LAKES

The country park and lakes were originally part of the estate surrounding the Palace. Now owned by Essex County Council, they are normally open from 8am to dusk. There are two pay and display car parks entered from Woodhill Road. There is also footpath access from Well Lane and from the A414 opposite The Bell pub. Note that the adjoining 'Danbury Outdoors' is not open to the public (apart from the well-marked public footpaths). Enjoy the open parkland for a picnic, take a stroll by the lakes, or walk through the woodland in the shade of ancient oaks, hornbeams and sweet chestnuts. In spring the rhododendrons are spectacular. Fishing permits are available for the lower lake from the Park Rangers.



19

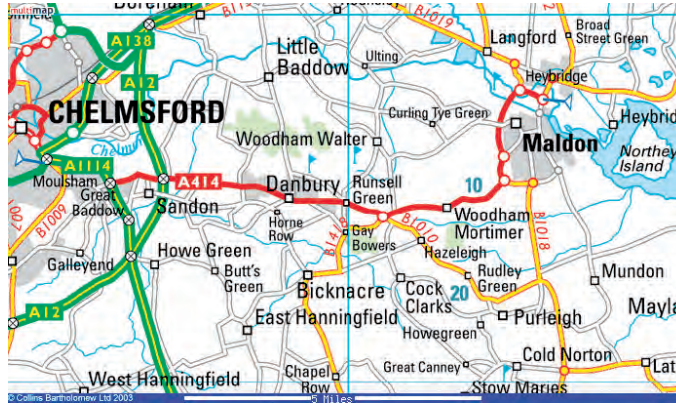
FEEDING THE DUCKS



20

AUTUMN COLOURS AT THE TOP LAKE

HOW TO GET TO DANBURY



A detailed map can be found in the Mayes Lane car park.

MAIN BUS ROUTES THROUGH THE VILLAGE

Chelmsford to Maldon Route 31, 31X
Chelmsford to South Woodham Ferrers Route 36

WHILST IN THE AREA WHY NOT VISIT.....

Paper Mill Lock, Little Baddow (2.5m/4km)

Boat trips, tea room, canal-side walks
www.papermilllock.co.uk

Little Baddow History Centre, Chapel Lane, Little Baddow (2.5m/4km)

www.thehistorycentre.org.uk

RHS Garden, Hyde Hall (4.5m/7km)

Extensive gardens, restaurant, plant centre, gift shop
www.rhs.org.uk/Gardens/Hyde-Hall

New Hall Vineyard, Chelmsford Road, Purleigh (4.5m/7km)

Shop, wine tastings, guided tours, annual festival
www.newhallwines.co.uk

Langford Museum of Power, Hatfield Road, Langford (5.5m/9km)

Miniature train rides, teas
www.museumofpower.org.uk

WELCOME TO DANBURY

A hilltop village in the heart of rural Essex



EVES CORNER

This is the centre of our village with picturesque shops, village green and duck pond. Relax on the seats, enjoy a cuppa at the tea shop, or have a pint in one of the nearby pubs.

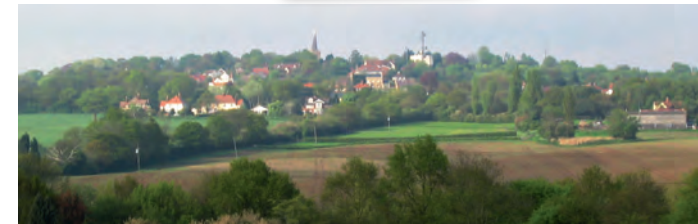
HISTORIC VILLAGE SIGN

The Shields of Geoffrey de Mandeville



Sir Walter Mildmay

St Clare



DANBURY HILL FROM THE SOUTH

Explore our woodlands and commons, country park and lakes. Enjoy the panoramic views of the surrounding area.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST



ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH

A Grade 1 Listed building, Danbury's medieval church of St John Baptist sits at the second highest point in south east Essex, 365ft (112m) above sea level. Its spire rises a further 112ft (36m). The 16th Century tower contains 8 bells. The earliest part of the stone boulder construction is the base of the north aisle which dates from the 13th century. The rest of the church was built in the 13th and 14th centuries. It was extensively restored by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1866. The church suffered bomb damage in 1941, not being fully repaired until 1968. More information is available if you visit the church, which is open every day.



MYTHOLOGICAL ANIMAL



CARVED PEW ENDS



WOODEN EFFIGIES

DANBURY PALACE



DANBURY PALACE

The present building stands on the site of a mansion, Danbury Place, built in 1589 by Sir Walter Mildmay, Clerk of the Court for Henry VIII. He grew rich from the dissolution of the monasteries and was a local benefactor, giving the Grammar School to Chelmsford. Ownership of the house remained with the Mildmay family and their heirs until the early 19th century, when it became run down. A new building was erected close to the site around 1832 and was bought by the church commissioners for the Bishop of Rochester when Essex was part of that diocese, hence the name Danbury Palace. It remained an ecclesiastical building until 1892 when it was sold as a private residence, the last owner being General Wigan who extended the planting to the east of the park. In World War 2 the building was used as a maternity hospital, eventually being bought by Essex County Council in 1947 and subsequently used as a Management College. It was used as a conference centre by the Anglia Ruskin university until their move to the new campus in Chelmsford. Now converted to residential properties.

THE OLD ICE HOUSE IN THE PALACE GROUNDS

(open to the public)



THE OLD ICE HOUSE

The Ice House was the storage facility for the ice that formed on the lakes in winter. The stored ice was used by the Palace kitchen staff, and also enabled the owners to display their wealth by the creation of elaborate ice sculptures for their summer garden parties. Access to the Ice House can be gained from the Country Park.

NAPOLEONIC REDOUBT



NAPOLEONIC REDOUBT

During the Napoleonic wars from 1780 to 1815, large numbers of troops were stationed in Danbury as protection from possible invasion. The high ground was ideal for keeping watch over the neighbouring estuaries, the earthworks being dug during this period as part of the fortifications.

THE OLD ARMOURY



THE OLD ARMOURY

This wooden building was used as a storehouse for the troops stationed nearby (see above). Now used as an office by the National Trust, it was rebuilt to the original design after a fire.

MAP OF THE CENTRE OF THE VILLAGE

Showing the locations of the attractions listed

(A map covering the entire village can be downloaded from www.danbury-essex.gov.uk)

Based on Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright (100017833).



KEY TO MAP SYMBOLS

- 10 Listed attraction
- Public right of way
- Public bridleway
- P Car parks
- Open access woodland
- Other woodlands



LINGWOOD

DANBURY'S COMMONS & ANCIENT WOODLANDS

Danbury is ringed by woodland by virtue of its glacial origins, the soil being unsuitable for the arable farming typical of most of Essex. The main areas are Lingwood Common, Danbury Common, The Backwarden and Scrubs Wood. All are managed by the National Trust, Essex Wildlife Trust or the RSPB, and are open access or crossed by footpath networks. See the maps provided at the entrances for more detail.

OUR HISTORIC INNS

THE GRIFFIN, MAIN ROAD



At the highest point of the A414 between Chelmsford and Maldon, this Listed, timber-framed building dates back to the early 16th century when it was a farmhouse. It became an inn in 1744, being a convenient spot to rest and water horses after climbing the long hill. Sir Walter Scott, the writer, stayed here in 1814, mentioning it in his novel Waverley.

THE BELL, MAIN ROAD



Another timber-framed building of somewhat later origin than the Griffin. It was named after a local legend that the Devil dropped a church bell in a nearby wood, having stolen it from the Parish Church during a storm.

THE BAKERS ARMS, MALDON ROAD



Originally a 19th century bakery, this building became a public house at the turn of the 20th century when the bakery business moved across the road.

OTHER INTERESTING BUILDINGS



1

The Chantry, Main Road: A 16th century timber-framed building which has been much restored with sham framing at the front. The upper story is jettied out on exposed joists. Its earlier use as a religious building for prayers is doubtful.



2

The Schoolhouse, Main Road: A girls' school built in 1840 by the Lord of the Manor next to a boys' school further up the road. In 1900 there were about 100 pupils. The building now houses Danbury Parish Council and a Children's Centre.



3

Rectory Farm House, Main Road: An early 19th century brick house with possibly an earlier timber frame. The building was also at one time a pub called The Star.



4

The Old Bakehouse, Maldon Road: Now a dental practice, this late 17th century building was once a grocery shop owned by the proprietor of the Bakers Arms, opposite.



5

Frettons, Main Road: This large house to the south of the s-bend on the A414 is of 16th century origin on a site dating back to the 12th century. During the 17th century the timbers were bricked and the two chimneys added. It has since had a number of notable occupants and is still in private ownership.

VIEWS FROM THE VILLAGE



7

From the War Memorial at Elm Green: Looking west gives an outstanding view along the Chelmer Valley over Boreham. On a clear day it is possible to see the tall control tower at Stansted Airport.



8

Looking south from the meadow behind the Parish Church: A beautiful, sweeping panorama can be seen, from Hanningfield Reservoir in the west to the tower blocks of Southend in the east, with the Kent hills forming a backdrop. Shipping on the Thames may be visible through binoculars.

EARLY HISTORY

Ice Age: The Danbury Ridge was created when moraine deposits were left by northward retreating glaciers (circa 10,000 BC).

Iron Age: Fragments of pottery and implements suggest a hill fort where the parish church stands today.

The Celts and Romans: The Trinovantes were local wheat farmers. No evidence of large scale Roman occupation remains, although Roman tile fragments are found in the church walls.

The Saxons and Danes: 'Essex' is derived from 'East Saxons', the Danes arriving later. The local tribe were the Daeningas, a possible origin of the village name.

The Vikings: The Saxons were defeated locally at the Battle of Maldon by the Vikings in AD 991.

Norman Invasion: William the Conqueror allotted the local region to Geoffrey de Mandeville who later became Earl of Essex. He appointed a Saint Clere (Sinclair) to Danbury who endowed and extended the parish church in 1233.

Mediaeval Period: Little is recorded of this era apart from the fact that the land was cleared to make way for the landed barons and their estates. The present Danbury Country Park was created by the Mildmay family at this time, the original mansion (Danbury Place) being built in 1556.

THE CRICKETERS ARMS, PENNY ROYAL ROAD



12

A late 19th century inn, probably named from the game played on the surrounding area of Danbury Common which was much more open at that time.

THE ANCHOR, RUNSELL GREEN



13

Situated on the eastern edge of the village, the Anchor was originally one of three cottages. It became an inn in 1830 when the licence was transferred from the very derelict structure opposite. Look inside for the quaint polished brass and the scorch marks made on the beams by reed torches.

THE ARMADA BEACON



14

This structure is located on high ground between the water tower and Sports & Social Centre. It was erected in 1988 as part of a national chain of visually connected beacons celebrating the 400th anniversary of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. Since then it has been lit on a number of occasions to celebrate national events.