

Feb '97

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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AD 597

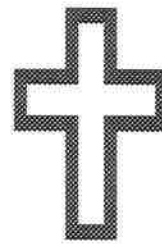
- *St. Columba died*
- *St. Augustine arrived*
- *Converts were a minority*

AD 597 - 1997

- *Their civilisation and faith become our nation's fabric*

AD 1997

- *The task passes to us, another minority*



Where do we go from here?

Come to a Lent Group and understand more
Beginning week of February 17 for four weeks at 8 pm

- Tuesday 3 White Bear
- Wednesday 42 Gilbey Crescent
- Friday 4 Greenfields



The Link is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

To order your copy of The Link please contact
Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture
Tel 813428

Advertising and other enquiries to
Sheila Parry, 16 Bentfield Causeway
Tel 814788

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**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
13th February for publication on 2nd March
13th March for publication on 30th March**

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk: Mrs Anthea Lee
24 Lea Close
Bishop's Stortford
Tel 656707

Meeting: Sunday 11 am

In February, Christmas seems a long time ago and summer seems a long way off, while the promise of the New Year may be wearing a little thin. The 'new' year may not bring dramatic changes to our lives but perhaps what we need more is a new way of seeing beauty in the things and people around us. The following paragraph was one of several extracts in *Faith and Practice*, a collection of quotations from Friends which have been valued by fellow Quakers and others over the decades.

"There is a daily round for beauty as well as for goodness, a world of flowers and books and cinemas and clothes and manners as well as of mountains and masterpieces ... God is in all beauty, not only in the natural beauty of earth and sky, but in all fitness of language and rhythm, whether it describes a heavenly vision or a street fight, a Hamlet or a Falstaff, a philosophy or a joke: in all fitness of line and colour and shade, whether seen in the Sistine Madonna or a child's knitted frock: in all fitness of sound and beat and measure, whether the result be Bach's Passion music or a nursery jingle. The quantity of God, so to speak, varies in the different examples, but His quality of beauty in fitness remains the same".

Carolyn Burch

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

Priest: Rev'd Joe White
The Presbytery, 12 Millside, Stansted
Tel 814349

Masses:	Saturday	Stansted	6.00 pm
	Sunday	Stansted	10.30 am
		Henham	9.00 am
Holy Days	Stansted	8.00 pm	
	Henham	7.00 pm	
Weekdays	Stansted	9.30 am	
	(Tues-Sat)		

Confessions on Saturday after 9.30 mass

EASTER FAITH SERIES OF TALKS GIVEN BY FATHER JOE WHITE

February 4th
The Mass as Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

February 11th
What is a Sacrament?
What is a Sacramental?
How are they related?

February 18th
How am I affected by sin?
Is forgiveness and reconciliation the same?

February 25th
The Christian life and the vocation of marriage.



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Ministers: Rev'd Margaret McKay
1 Howe Hall Cottages
Littlebury Green
Tel 01799 528155

Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
23a St John's Close
Saffron Walden
Tel 01799 523296

Contact: Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel 812593

PREACHERS FOR FEBRUARY

2nd	11 am	Mrs C Bonner
9th	11 am	Rev M McKay
16th	11 am	Rev M McKay Communion
	6.30pm	C.T.S. Service for Lent St Theresa's
23rd	11 am	Rev L Rapkin

Members and friends at the U.R.C. have been very generous in their giving for others this Christmas. At the gift service in December parcels of toiletries were brought for the residents of Humphrey Lodge, Thaxted, as well as sweets for the Huw Johnson club members to eat when they went to the Pantomime. and our Christmas Day appeal raised £142 for Grove Cottage, Bishop's Stortford.

We are very grateful for the support and donations received recently for our own Redevelopment Fund. We are now planning and looking forward to another year of fund raising events. Details will be available shortly.

Church of England

St John's Church, St John's Road

Clergy: Rev'd Bob Wallace & Rev'd Brenda Wallace
The Vicarage, St John's Road, Stansted
Tel 812203

Rev'd Andrew Spurr
43 Gilbey Crescent, Stansted
Tel 815025

Weekly Services:

Sunday	Holy Communion	8.00 am
	Parish Communion	9.30 am
	(Creche, Children's Church & Lazer Group)	
	Evensong	6.30 pm
Monday	Holy Communion	7.30 pm
Wednesday	Holy Communion	10.00 am
Friday	Holy Communion	9.00 am

Monthly Services:

1st Sunday	1662 Holy Communion	12.15 pm
2nd Sunday	Holy Baptism	4.00 pm
3rd Sunday	Family Service	11.00 am

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

4	10.30am Service at Norman Court
	8.15pm Prayer Group at 62 Chapel Hill
11	10.30am Service at Mead Court
	2 pm Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
12	8 pm Ash Wednesday Parish Communion
16	3 pm Evensong at Farnham
	The Bishop of Colchester
	(NO Evensong at St John's)
18	10.30am Service at Broome End
24	8 pm Standing Committee in the Rectory
25	10.30am Service at Hargrave House
	2.15pm Tiny Tots

REGISTERS FOR DECEMBER

Baptisms

1st Frederick Austen Boxall
8th Harry Marcus Rich

Funerals

12th Herbert John Turner, aged 72
23rd Walter Robert Earp, aged 81
30th Horace William Brown, aged 66

UNITED BENEFICE

On 1st January 1997, the United Benefice of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham came into existence. The Bishop of Colchester will be present at Evensong at Farnham Church on Sunday 16th February at 3 p.m. to celebrate the completion of this pastoral reorganisation. All are welcome to the service and a reception afterwards in Farnham Village Hall.

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister: Rev'd Michael Hayman
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford
Tel 654475

Secretary: Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Recreation Ground, Stansted
Tel 813579

PREACHERS FOR FEBRUARY

2nd	9.30am	Mr Michael Render
9th	9.30am	The Revd Michael Hayman Holy Communion
16th	9.30am	Mr Ken Mark
	6.30pm	United Service for the first Sunday in Lent at St Theresa's R.C. Church
23rd	9.30am	Mr Don McGregor

Our next Fellowship Meeting will be held on 21st February (venue to be announced) when we shall take a second look at Anglican/Methodist Unity Talks.



CHEVETOGNE VISIT TO STANSTED

Thursday 10th - Sunday 13th April

Our Belgian visitors will be arriving on April 10th. An itinerary is being prepared for them and they will be staying locally with host families. If you would like to be a host or help at the dinner on Saturday 12th, either by setting up the tables/serving the meal or helping with the washing up please ring Eileen Quinn, tel. 812109.

Many hands make light work and we would love to share the weekend with some new faces. We have lots of fun and it's a great way to make new friends.

Don't worry if you can't speak any French, most of our visitors have a basic knowledge of English and it is a great incentive to learn some useful phrases such as - BON APPETIT! or SALUT!

SHALOM

3rd February

Debate: "This house believes that the Church should allow the ordination of gay and lesbian people".

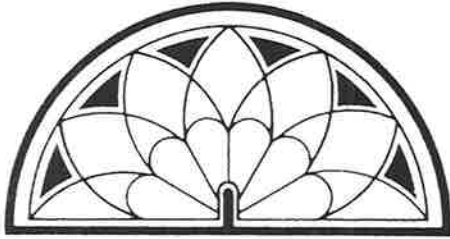
Venue: Ann Boyd, 5 St John's Lane.

14th February

Our retreat at Hengrave Hall led by Father Gerard Hughes SJ.

17th February

Tape and discussion led by Eileen and Brian Quinn, 4 Greenfields.



MORE 'E' VICAR?

Having heard of alternative theatre and alternative comedy, Andrew Jones took a look at alternative church at the Greenbelt Festival last summer ...

Greenbelt is an arts festival which last year was celebrating its 23rd year. For the last three years it has been run in association with Christian Aid helping those in need in third world countries.

The whole idea of Greenbelt is to spend five days camping in the freezing cold rain and learning more about who Jesus was, and how you could help Christian Aid.

During the day you could go and see preachers, comedians and live music of new groups which not that many people will have heard of. There are, if you get bored with the seminars, plenty of tents with bits and bobs that you could buy, such as CDs, tapes, videos, clothes and jewellery.

A suggestion, if needed, is to take your own food for breakfast and supper and try the different food stalls available, although be aware of the prices because they do seem to be higher than you would expect. I do advise you to try the French-style crepes and the homemade doughnuts. Another word of warning, not to have open-air campfires and make sure you have your gas cookers under control because the wind is quite strong and could easily knock them over.

You can take a caravan but if you want a good position, get there early. The best place is near an exit so you can get away early, but the only disadvantage is that you are a long way away from the Greenbelt Festival Village and the entertainment.

The best places at night are the Mainstage and the Courtyard. The Mainstage contains excellent music from well established groups, while the smaller Bandstand is for neighbourhood garage bands which are airing their set for the first time. On Sunday morning Mainstage is used for Sunday worship for those who want to go, and you may, as I did, see the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the Courtyard, a 17th century farmyard, there is adult entertainment which, basically, is stand up comedy. Sitting down on a damp floor may not be a great idea, but when you see the comedy you will realise that it is worth sitting for almost two hours. This venue was called The Velvet Smoking Jacket.

A few more places worth visiting are Charlies 24 Hour Cafe, the Cybercafe and two very big tents which contain live music from jazz to jungle, films and also a disco every night.

Alcohol is not allowed on site, though if you camp near one of the main pathways you will be kept awake by the odd drunk hippies singing out of tune to what they call music. It is certainly worth staying up into the early hours of the morning for the conversations around the campsite, so there's no need to worry about the noise anyway.

*Greenbelt Festival 1997, working with Christian Aid, will be taking place at Deene Park, Northants from August 21st - 26th, £62 Adult, £35 under 16's, concessions and family rates available. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with **Andrew Spurr, 815025.***

LORD, temper with
CRANQUILLITY
our manifold activity, that we
may do our work for THEE
with very great SIMPLICITY. EG

A Mediaeval Monk.

Uttlesford Carers &
Alzheimer's Disease Society
CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

Jill Smith of Social Services
will be talking about help available
2 -4 pm Monday 3rd February
Quaker Meeting House
Everyone welcome
Tel 01371 875810 / 872519



7.30 pm Saturday 8th February
St John's Hall
Tickets £6 (incl supper)
Telephone Mandy on 816895

**Stansted Mountfitchet
Evening WI
JUMBLE SALE**

2 pm Saturday 22 February
St John's Hall
Tea & biscuits - Cake Stall - Raffle
Tel 812725

VILLAGE EVENTS

February

3	Mon	Carers Support Group Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 pm 5 St John's Lane 8 pm
5	Wed	Gardening Club	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Thur	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Sat	Liberal Democrats Ploughmans Rainbow Pre-school Quiz Liberal Democrats Folk Evening Mountfitchet Ensemble Concert	Day Centre 12 - 2 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm Ugley Village Hall 7.30 pm Stansted Airport Terminal 8 pm
9	Sun	TV programme on Stansted	Anglia TV 5 - 6 pm
12	Wed	Afternoon Women's Institute	Day centre 2.30 pm
13	Thu	Evening Women's Institute	St John's Hall 8 pm
15	Sat	Conservatives Jumble Sale	St John's Hall 2 pm
17	Mon	Shalom Group	4 Greenfields 8 pm
20	Thu	British Legion (Women's Sect)	Day Centre 8 pm
22	Sat	Evening WI Jumble Sale Quiz Night for Bosnia	St John's Hall 2 pm St John's Hall 7.15 pm
23	Sun	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 - 12 am
22-23		Skip at Grafton Green	

March

1	Sat	Homemade Cake Stall	Outside URC Church 10 am
5	Wed	Gardening Club	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Thur	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7	Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer	St Theresa's 2 pm
8	Sat	Peter Kirk Jumble Sale	2 pm
12	Wed	Afternoon Women's Institute	Day Centre 2.30 pm
13	Thu	Evening Women's Institute	St John's Hall 8 pm



Chairman's Appeal for
Arthritis Research

CONCERT

by the Mountfitchet Ensemble
with Sonia Levy (piano)
8.00 pm Sat 8th February
New Terminal, Stansted Airport
Works by Saint-Saëns,
Shostakovich, Poulenc, Debussy
Tickets £9 from Stansted Carpets
Chapel Hill Tel 812019
or £10 at the door

**Chelmsford Cathedral
School for Prayer
Looking God in the eye and
telling him how it is!**

Canon Trevor Dennis
Old Testament scholar & author
10.30am - 3.00pm
Saturday 22nd February
Highly recommended!
Call Andrew Spurr on 815025 for transport
Soup and coffee provided at lunch time
(donation of £2 requested towards expenses)

**QUIZ
NIGHT**



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
of
STANSTED

for Chevetogne funds

7.00 for 7.30 pm
Saturday 15th March
St John's Hall

Refreshments provided - Prizes - Raffle
Bring your own drink and glass
Tickets from Eileen Quinn 812109

**Women's World
Day of Prayer**



2 pm Friday 7th March
St Theresa's Church,
Millside
Speaker Mrs Rita Morson
All are Welcome

**St Patrick's Evening
Irish singing and dancing**

in aid of the Conrymeela centre for
reconciliation in Northern Ireland
8 - 11.30 pm Saturday 22 March
Mountfitchet School
Refreshments - Bar - Raffle
An evening of Celtic delight!
Tel Dave & Rita Morson 850209

HOMEMADE CAKES

10.00 am
Saturday 1 March
outside the
United Reformed Church
Chapel Hill
(in church if wet)

*Beat the Blahs
Quiz Night*

Shake off those winter blues!
Proceeds to Bosnia Relief Fund
7.15 pm Saturday 22nd February
St John's Hall
Teams of 8
Tickets £5 incl wine & ploughmans
Please telephone Joan Freeman on
813186 to book your team!

STANSTED PERSPECTIVE

February. The blue skies are all the brighter for coming unannounced among the long lingering gloom of dark clouds which have kept us close to our homes over the winter. Out here in the woods there are copper buds in cloven branches which will soon become a mist of green bleached in the clearings.

It's Nature's second chance which comes unflinching with each new year, its undaunted, renewed optimism and hope, excelled only by that of church congregations each week as the preacher ascends the steps to the pulpit. I hope they are not disappointed as we are who live out here, though you won't see the discarded fridge and mattress once the leaves come out and cover them. I guess it doesn't matter if they can't see it.

Don't get me wrong, church only comes to mind as Mrs Bigfoot has just returned from down the road. It was a close call, she was almost spotted. A young family, she says, were trooping up the hill for a baptism, all dressed up with a little happy juice to chase away their apprehension. As if the miracle of new birth is not enough, they go back there each time, whatever their world throws at them, with new hope to connect their life with all the other lives which have passed through that building and with all that lives and grows by the same spirit up here.

They use water, I'm told. It's about purity and cleansing. There's hope for you, though if the church had to find clean water out here in the fields it would think twice about using it to speak of life and health. Bigfoot junior almost didn't make it through the winter drinking where he thought it would be okay. But most don't see it, so they wouldn't understand.

There's a cool wind coming straight across from the motorway so it's not fresh as I remember in years past, too long past. They could make power with that wind, lots of it, and it would be clean. I've heard they won't, the humans, since it matters to them that they would be able to see the machines, tall, shiny sleek and elegant. Cousin Bigfoot says they have them in the north country. I thought they would go for it here since they have an old one right in the village which they're quite proud of, but it doesn't seem to do anything any more. They must like the look of that one.

I'd like to see as humans see, just for a short time, though I don't think I could stand it for long.

Bigfoot



STANSTED FUN RUN

This year's run is on Sunday 22nd June, the day after the Carnival. Our first planning meeting is on 27th January when we shall be deciding, amongst other things, which charities we shall be supporting this year. If you would like to help us in any way, either during our preparations or on the day, I would be very pleased to hear from you. In future editions of the Link, I shall be updating you on our progress and giving details of any specific help we need.

Our *Toner Recycling Project* is going very well - another big thank you to those who have already donated. The first batch is about to be sent and I will report in next month's Link how much has been raised. We are continuing to collect all year round, so please keep them coming. Most laser, deskjet and photocopier cartridges are worth something, even ones which have already been recycled!

Marion Dyer
7 Blythwood Gardens
814059



Fun Run & Walk

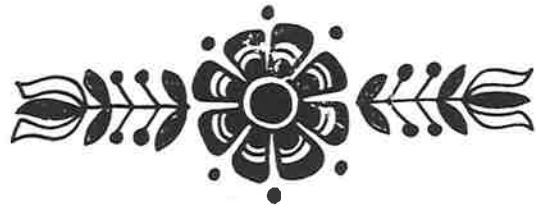
STANSTED

**PRINTER
CARTRIDGE
RECYCLING
PROJECT**



A big **THANK YOU** to all those who have donated or promised to donate toner cartridges. Please keep them coming - even the little deskjet cartridges are worth £2.50!!

Please telephone Marion Dyer on 814059 - collection can be arranged.



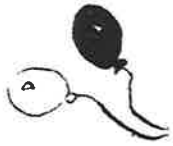
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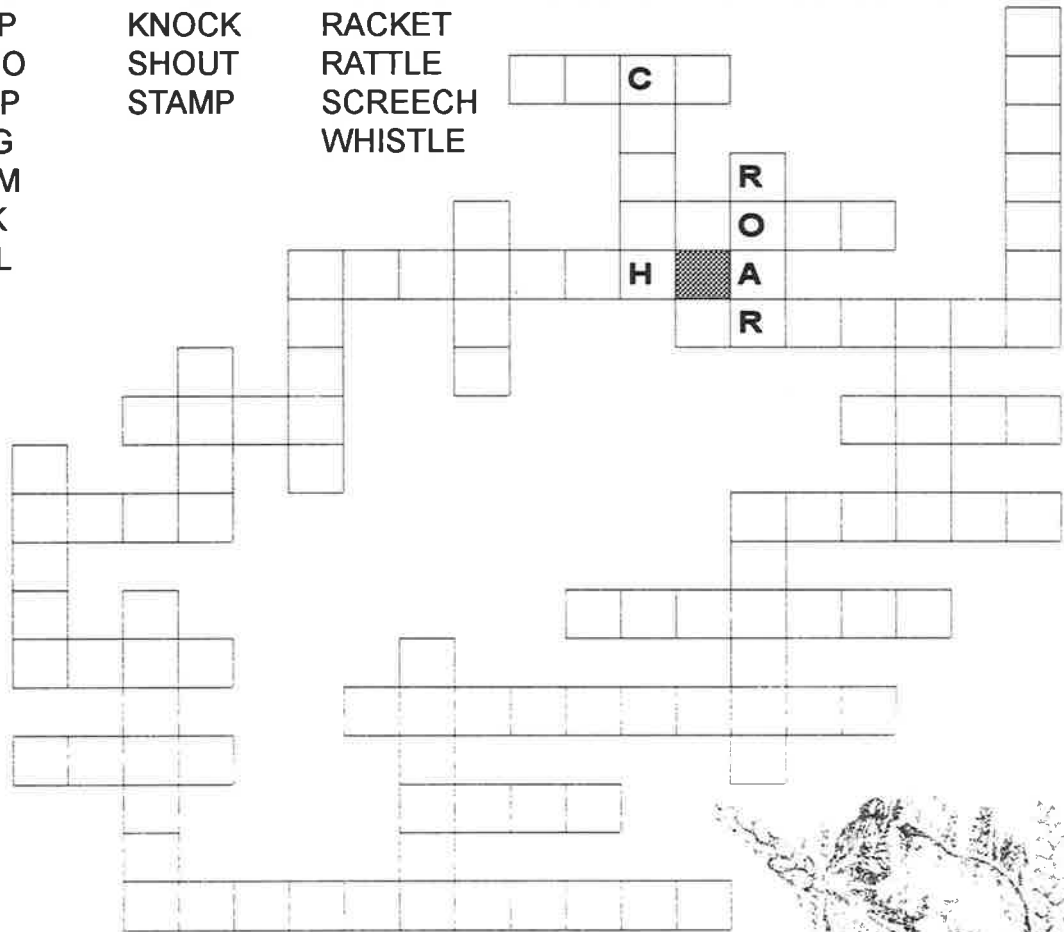
Ansaphone
01279 655060



CHILDREN'S PAGE WHAT A NOISE!

Can you fit these words on the grid?

BANG	CRASH	CRACKLE	CLATTER	HULLABALOO
BOOM	GRATE	HUBBUB	THUNDER	REVERBERATE
CLAP	KNOCK	RACKET		
ECHO	SHOUT	RATTLE		
RASP	STAMP	SCREECH		
RING		WHISTLE		
SLAM				
TICK				
YELL				



Answer on
page 14



THE FEBRUARY MOUSE

Freda was born on February 29th and she was a little fat roly poly mouse. She was a funny little mouse who was always telling stories and jokes to make her friends laugh.

Sometimes her jokes were so awful they made her friends groan instead! But they were used to her and didn't mind too much. Secretly they were proud of her because some of her stories were rather good, even though some of her jokes were terrible.

One Saturday Freda and her friends were playing at Nancy's house because it was a foggy frosty day and most unpleasant in the garden. They had played snap and snakes and ladders, they had drawn a big pile of pictures and they had played tiddlywinks. Then, after a grand game of hide and seek all over the house, Nancy's mother gave them elderflower cordial and nutty biscuits.

As they were eating the last of the biscuits Freda said "Why did the chicken lay an egg?" Before they could answer (or groan) she said "Because it couldn't lay a brick".

Then they all started thinking of jokes, Danny said "Why did the hedgehog cross the road?" Sam knew the answer to that - "To see a flat mate".

Jon asked "What do you call a man who ties ribbon round sheep?" "Rambo" said Nancy.

Then Freda said "Did you know that baby apes sleep in apricots?" "Oh that was terrible" they all groaned.

Before they went home they decided that as the jokes had been so awful they wouldn't tell any more for at least a month.



Two views of a familiar scene photographed at a 50 - 60 year interval.
Readers comments would be welcomed, particularly if anyone can date the early picture.

Photographs supplied by Peter Brown





Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society



On the second day of the year, despite the freeze, some 26 hardy souls gathered to hear Peter Brown give a fascinating account of the first hundred years of fire control in Stansted. The early days are understandably obscure but it seems likely that the first appliance was installed in the 1770s, following which a Samuel Game (whose grave can be seen in St Mary's Churchyard) was paid to grease the pipes and fittings. A replacement "engine" was bought in 1822 and served until 1914. Peter, ably supported by his neighbour Peter Baker, quoted several contemporary reports of fires, many of them caused by lamps and candles and aggravated by the widespread use of timber and thatch. Such was the interest of the audience that Peter was persuaded to give a similar resume of the second hundred years at a future date.

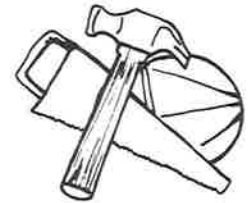
Meetings in the Day Centre at 8 pm on:
Thursday 6th February - Members Evening (various short talks)
Thursday 6th March - Essex Police by Fred Feather.

Editorial Note. The Link is pleased to receive contributions from readers, but it is necessary for a name and address to be supplied irrespective of whether or not it is withheld from publication.

It is some time now since I reported on our activities but that does not mean we have stopped work! In fact we have recently been fortunate to recruit Reg and Ted who are getting their hands dirty on Thursday mornings. Our 'old timers', Roy, Fred and Peter, still operate on Wednesday mornings. A carpentry kit containing 92 tools was completed last year and hopefully by now it will have arrived in Zimbabwe and will be en route to a small group of 2 men and 2 women who make items of furniture such as benches, doors and coffee tables.

As always, your donations of surplus tools (not the gardening variety) and Singer sewing machines, are most welcome and collection can be arranged. Our heaviest item to date was an anvil donated by a lady in Hempstead and it took three of us to slide it up a plank into the back of my car just before Christmas! Alternatively you may wish to make a small donation towards shipping and other costs incurred by TFSR both locally and nationally. We are particularly grateful to the members of Bishop's Stortford URC who raised about £100 after a new year appeal by their minister, ably supported by Fred!

Michael Dyer
814059



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Chairman: Steve Riley, 815455
 Membership Secretary: Frances Spalding, 813432

Forthcoming events

Saturday 8th February
 Ploughman's Lunch at the Day Centre, 12-2 pm.

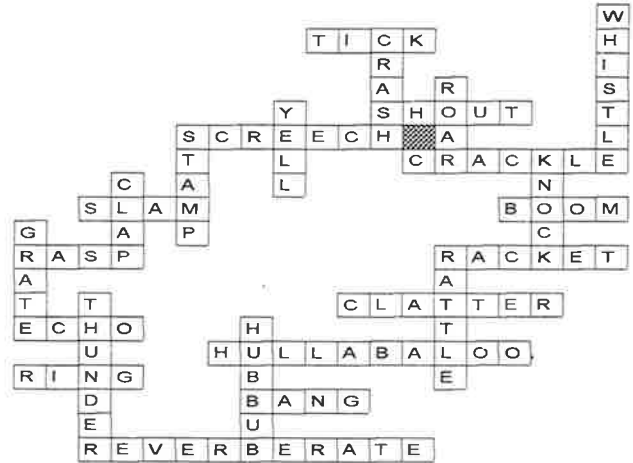
European Folk Evening with Mike Gutteridge, Ugley Village Hall, 7.30pm. Bar and supper. Tickets available from committee members. This is a very popular and enjoyable event - make a note in your diary and come along and enjoy yourself.

Saturday 15th March
 Grand Auction - Stansted Day Centre, 7.30 pm. Light supper and bar.

Your Parish Councillors are:

- Ray Clifford (Chairman), 812239
- Catherine Dean, 813579
- John Hudson, 814489
- Janice Loughlin, 812346
- David Parry, 814788
- Geoffrey Sell, 815925
- Melanie Watson, 814231

ANSWER



Stansted on Television

Between 5 and 6 pm on Sunday 9th February Anglia Television will be showing a programme on Stansted. Put it in your diary now.

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