



## Summer 2023 Newsletter



Comma Butterfly on Ox Eye Daisy at Bunkers Park © B. Makins

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# Editors Notes



Welcome to the Village Voice brought to you by Leverstock Green Village Association CIO.

It has been four years since we last published a newsletter for the community and I hope that you will all enjoy reading this one.

I should like to thank all the people who made this publication possible: Bernadine, for her patience in putting this publication all together. Lesley, both for all her hard work in sorting out the admin and for keeping me in line. Robert, for all his support and help in obtaining some of the advertising. Also, the LGVA committee for all their support in this venture, and of course NOT forgetting all the advertisers for their contributions without whose support this newsletter would not be possible. So, when you read through this newsletter, please try to support them.

If there are any potential sponsors out there who would like to be included in the next issue, then please contact Lesley, our administrator, at the LGVA office, contact details on page 3.

Please remember this is your newsletter. If you have any ideas or any feedback, please also send these to our administrator, Lesley. We also have a Facebook page, Leverstock Green Village Association (LGVA). We have over 2,600 members on this group. Why not join if you are not already a member?

This Publication will also appear in PDF format on our website. Please look it up at [www.lgva.org.uk/](http://www.lgva.org.uk/)

Again, please do tell us what you think. Remember this is your Village, so why not become involved? The next issue will be Autumn 2023.

Happy reading  
Clive Hill



This publication is printed on FSC certified paper. The paper comes from sustainable forests. If you do not want to keep this publication please recycle in your blue lidded bin.

# Leverstock Green Village Association (LGVA)

Contact Us -

Our Administrator, Lesley, can be found in the Village Hall office, Monday to Friday, from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Leverstock Green Village Hall

Village Centre

Leverstock Green

Hemel Hempstead

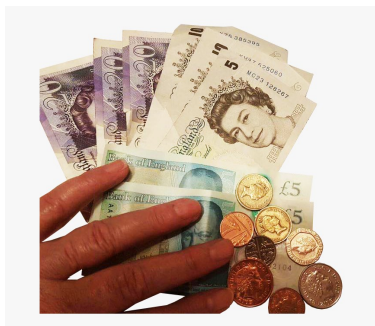
Hertfordshire HP3 8QG

Telephone 01442 268723

Email [lgvaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lgvaoffice@gmail.com)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/229284140440>

## 500 Club



If you would like to support the Village Association, and at the same time have a chance of winning a prize, why not join the LGVA 500 club?

For a subscription of £12 per year you have a chance of winning our first prize of £100, or a second prize of £30. The maximum members can be up to 500 and we are not there yet.

The draw takes place in the Village Centre on or shortly after the first of every month and results and winners are notified by email/post. Results

are also exhibited at the Village Hall (unless no publicity is requested).

The Club runs from April each year, when subscriptions are renewable, but you can join at any time by paying the number of months up to and including the following March. For an application form, see our website—

[www.lgva.org.uk/500-club](http://www.lgva.org.uk/500-club).

Alternatively you can pop into the Village Hall during open hours and collect a form from the office. After completing the form just deliver it, with your payment (Cash, cheque or direct debit details) to the Village Hall.

# What's On in the Hall

## **Art**

Tuesday 10am-midday

Wednesday 10am-midday

Wednesday 1:45pm-4:15pm (this class is full)

Thursday 1pm-3pm

## **Badminton**

Monday 1:30pm-3:30pm (this class is full)

## **Bridge**

Tuesdays 9:30am-12:30pm

## **Boxercise**

Wednesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm

## **Calligraphy (U3A) - Decorative Handwriting or Handwritten Lettering**

Mondays 1pm-3pm (twice a month)

## **Designer 3 Group - Flower Arranging Group**

Saturdays 9:30am-3:30pm (four times a year)

## **Everyone Active - Exercise to Music**

Wednesdays 10:00am-11:00am

## **Fabric Friends - Craft Class**

Fridays 11:30am-1:30pm (alternate weeks)

## **Fitsteps - Exercise Class**

Wednesdays 11:30am-12:30pm (term time only)

## **Harpenden Sling Library - Baby wearing information and lending service**

Friday 11:30am-1:30pm (alternate weeks)

## **Heart to Herts - People with heart conditions meet to chat**

Tuesdays 7:00pm-10:00pm (first Tuesday of the month)

## **Jazzercise**

Sundays 9:45am-10:45am

## **Just A Cappella Choir**

Mondays 7:45pm-10:15pm

## **Keyboard**

Thursdays 9:30am-midday

## **Leverstock Green Bowls**

Wednesdays 3:15pm-5:15pm

## **Leverstock Green Flower Arranging Group**

Thursdays 1:30pm-4:00pm (every other month)

## **Leverstock Green Players - Amateur Dramatic group**

Thursdays 8:00pm-10:00pm

## **Leverstock Green Playgroup**

Monday-Fridays 9:00am-2:30pm (term time only)

# What's On continued....

## **Leverstock Green Table Tennis**

Mondays 10:00am-midday

Tuesdays 2:00pm-4:00pm

Fridays 10:00am-midday

## **LG Women's Institute - Activities each month including guest speakers**

Tuesdays 7:00pm-10:00pm (second Tuesday of the month)

## **MAFVA - Military Model Making**

Tuesdays 7:30pm-10:30pm (fourth Tuesday of the month)

## **Pilates**

Mondays 9:30am-10:30am

Wednesdays 8:00pm-9:00pm

Fridays 9:15am-10:15am

## **Senior Fitness with Marta**

Wednesdays 1:00pm-2:00pm

## **Skye Dance**

Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm

## **Table Tennis Highfield / Leverstock Green**

Mondays 7:30pm-10:30pm

## **Tap Dancing**

Tuesdays 6:15pm-7:15pm

## **Westwick Women's Institute - Activities each month inc. guest speakers**

Thursdays 7:15pm-10:15pm (second Thursday of the month)

## **Yoga**

Tuesdays 12:30pm-1:45pm and 2:10pm-3:25pm

## **Zumba**

Mondays 6:00pm-7:00pm

Thursdays 6:00pm-7:00pm

Saturdays 10:00am-11:00am

## LGVA Hall Hire

We have three rooms for hire, the Main Hall (maximum capacity 150), the Westwick Room (max 60) and the Buglass Room (max 30).

You can hire our hall for parties, baby showers, anniversaries etc (Friday's, Saturday's and Sunday's) and also for meetings and classes. Halls can be hired in conjunction with one another.

Please contact our administrator, Lesley, for more information and availability.

### Main Hall



The main hall is 15.9m x 9m (not including the stage)



## Buglass Room



The Buglass Room is 7.4m x 6.3m

## Westwick Room



The Westwick Room is 10.6m x 6.3m



The Village Hall holds a Premises Licence. Alcohol for parties etc. must be purchased through our Designated Premises Supervisor.

Before submitting a booking form please contact our Administrator, Lesley, to check availability.

Our fully stocked and professionally managed bar provides draught beer, real ale, various wines at very reasonable prices.

# Planning

Probably the most controversial plans locally are the development of the green strip of land between St Margaret's Way and Kingcup Avenue. Also the total development of land stretching from the Maylands Industrial area to the fields on the east of the village stretching as far as those opposite The Centurion Club.

The St Margaret's Way development has been proposed and approved over several years and work has commenced. This is despite many objections from residents and from the Village Association. There will ultimately be a total of 46 new dwellings in the form of apartments and terraced houses. We are assured that the development will be mitigated by areas of grassland and newly planted trees but, overall, the plans are now too far advanced for any major changes to be made.

The other major development is the land to the east of the village. Plans were first put forward in 2014 by St Albans City and District Council (SADC) to build 1,100 homes on the Green Belt fields extending from Breakspear Way to a line roughly following the village boundary. In 2016 the Planning Inspector threw out the plans on the grounds that St Albans had failed to cooperate with neighbouring authorities. SADC subsequently lost a High Court Appeal and were forced to go back to the drawing board.

During 2018 they published a new local plan with an increased ambition of building 2,400 new homes on land stretching as far as the fields opposite The Centurion Club. In November 2020 the plan was again thrown out by the Inspector for failure to cooperate with neighbouring authorities. SADC subsequently decided to withdraw the plan and start again on a new draft. As of February 2023 they are still awaiting an updated Green Belt review and a new draft plan is unlikely to emerge before 2024 or 2025.

During this time Dacorum Borough Council has published plans for the Hemel Garden Communities which proposes development from The Marchmont Arms right round the north and east of Hemel Hempstead to join up or even overlap the St Albans plan. Sooner or later, despite many objections from residents and LGVA we are likely to see major development over this area. The present target date for completion is 2050.



## Planning continued



*The dotted white line marks the DBC/SADC boundary while the solid white line marks the proposed extent of Hemel Garden Communities.*

The only other major development in the area is the new cemetery and crematorium adjacent to Bunkers Park. The cemetery was necessary as DBC's original site at Woodwells is almost full and the crematorium at Garston could not cope with numbers without long delays. The cemetery was a DBC project while the crematorium was overseen by Watford Borough Council.

John Baldwin

## Keir's K9 Dog Walking Service

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## Cultivating with Clive

All of us must have realised by now that a lot of our natural insects and pollinators are in serious decline. In fact, bumblebees alone who are vital for the pollination of crops, garden plants and wildflowers have suffered huge declines over the past century. Two species have become extinct in the past 80 years and eight species are now endangered.

Some of us older residents will remember in the summer when it was time to clean the car on a Sunday, the amount of elbow grease we had to use to remove all the squashed bugs that had accumulated on the window screen. Have you ever wondered why we don't have to do this anymore?

What can we do about this? Well, there is plenty we can all do. Whether you have a small window box or a large garden. We can all help by following a few simple tasks.

Why not plant at least two types of plants or shrubs that will produce pollen for the insects for each season. You could try Crocus, California Lilac, Pieris or Dicentra for the insects to feed from in the Spring. In the Summer why not try Viper's Bugloss, Lavender, Geraniums and my favourite, Foxgloves. In the autumn you could try Verbena, Sunflower, Cosmos and Honeysuckle. This will give the insects enough food to last the year.



Apart from the above. I am in the process of creating a wild garden. I have a patch of grass at the side of my house in Leverstock Green which I am converting to a wild meadow. Firstly, I pegged down some old cardboard which I obtained from the local recycling centre or tip, as some people like to call it. I then covered the cardboard in poor quality

## Cultivating with Clive

topsoil. This you can buy from B&Q or garden centres. I then sprinkled some wildflower seeds on the topsoil and raked it in.

I made sure the soil didn't dry out and hey presto the wildflower seeds germinated bringing in all sorts of insects to the meadow.

If you have children, why not get them involved? They could help by sprinkling the seeds and watering them. Then spending an hour a week monitoring the insects, how many bees, beetles, earwigs etc. and make a list to keep them involved. It would help the future generations be aware of what responsibility we all have to the biodiversity of our Village, country and indeed the planet.



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# Welcome to Bunkers Park

Bunkers Park, as we know it today, started in 1995 when Dacorum Borough Council acquired the land from the Commission for New Towns (later known as English Partnerships). Prior to this the land had been farmed for many centuries with maps from 1877 showing the field boundaries. The hedgerows along the edges of the park are thought to date back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century and locally there is evidence of an Iron Age farmstead just to the south west of the Park.

With the land in the possession of the Council and following work carried out by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, plans were put together in 1997 to identify a vision for the future open space. The Management Plan was finalized by the end of that year and in February 1998, with the help of 200 local residents and 600 local school children, Chambersbury Wood was planted in the fields on the northern side of the Park. The planting was so successful that, 12 years later, it became necessary to thin out some of the trees to allow others to develop to their full potential. The Park presently extends to 123 acres and, together with Long Deans, forms a leisure area and nature reserve to the east of Hemel Hempstead. During 2023 it will be extended to include two fields on the south side of Bunkers Lane, shown on the map as Pond Field and Long Saunders. Until 2022 these fields were leased by DBC to a local farmer. The land forms a natural boundary to development and is part of the Green Belt surrounding the town.

Some of the original field names remain while others such as Bunkers Common and White Field are now known as Bottom Field, Chambersbury Wood is where Winchdells and Hill Field used to be. Mattens are the fenced pastures in the fields once called Winchdells and Rumballs and are now home during summer months to a small herd of Belted Galloway cows.



# Bunkers Park continued....

## Bunkers Park Map



*The Park Map shows its location with details of its layout, access points and footpaths.*

Friends of Bunkers Park is a group of volunteers formed of local residents who help to manage the Park's growth and generally keep a watchful eye on its development. The group meets once during most months to coppice the hazel, lay hedges and generally maintain undergrowth to provide a varied habitat for the Park's natural residents. They occasionally hold a litter pick and generally strive to make the Park a welcome place for its many visitors. The Friends are always ready to welcome new volunteers, if you would like to be involved or would like more information please call Lesley, our Administrator on 01442 268273 (alternatively email your contact details to [lgvaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lgvaoffice@gmail.com)).

John Baldwin

# Holy Trinity Church



Holy Trinity is the Parish Church (Church of England), for Leverstock Green and as such is here to serve the whole community. We offer regular prayer and worship (live streamed on Sundays); services and support for

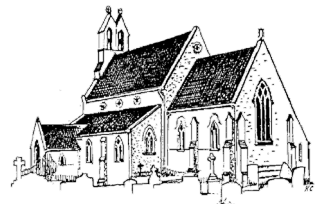
people at key moments in their lives e.g. christenings, weddings and funerals; and various activities to help people explore and develop faith.

We are an inclusive church: hospitality, welcome and community are important to us. Our Saturday morning coffee shop is very popular, as are the various social groups where people can build friendships and have fun together. Children are catered for at all ages from Toddler Church to Youth Group.

We support the needs of the local community by offering a bereavement support group, Friendship Teas for those who would appreciate company, and supporting a Community Foodbank based in Bennetts End and local charities.

Many villagers appreciate the peace and beauty of the churchyard, and the church itself is much loved, having served the village since 1849. We hope that in the coming months we will be ready to open it regularly during the day as a place to visit for peace and prayer. You are welcome to join us.

For more information please contact the Rector, Revd Lizzie Hood: [Lizziehood@aol.com](mailto:Lizziehood@aol.com), 01442 264860.



Website: <https://beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/holytrinity/>

## Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers to help at events, delivering newsletters and 500 Club renewal letters etc. If you are able, and it may only be for a couple of hours, would you join our volunteer database? You may get to meet new friends and find some new interests.

Email Lesley our Administrator, at [lgvaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lgvaoffice@gmail.com) or pop in and see her during office opening hours.



## Dates for your Diary

**8th May**—Kings Coronation Celebration 2pm—5pm Picnic in the Park—**FREE ENTRY**— bring a blanket. There will be food and drink, bouncy castle, candy floss, ice cream van etc, etc Have your photo taken with our King. *See poster on page 21.*

**8th July** Summer Fete 12 noon—4pm— **FREE ENTRY.** *See poster on page 22.*

**1st September**—Magic Show 7:30pm start—suitable for over 12's.

**18th November**—Winter Fayre and the big Christmas Light Switch On—1pm-4:30pm

## Leverstock Green Table Tennis Club

Welcome to Leverstock Green Table Tennis Club. We are a friendly club and welcome all to join us.

We meet three times a week:

Monday—10am-12 noon

Tuesday—2pm-4pm

Friday 10am-12 noon

Pop in and see us if you are interested, or call Phil on 07747 066025 for more details.



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- ◇ 271 St. Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 4RP



# 1st Leverstock Green Scout Group

1<sup>st</sup> Leverstock Green Scout Group provides Scouting activities for local children aged between six and 14. Our aim is to support children with their personal development and to empower them to make a positive contribution to society. We are based at the Scout HQ on Pancake Lane, although our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts like to get out and about, exploring the local area as part of a structured Scouting programme. We encourage Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to take part in a wide range of activities including weekly meetings, weekend events, hikes, nights away and camps.



Beavers is for all children aged between six and eight. Our Woodland Beaver Colony meets each Thursday evening. When children become eight, they join Cub Scouts, we have two Cub Packs, which meet on a Monday and a Tuesday evening. Our oldest children are in Scouts and meet on a Friday evening.

Scouting is only possible because of our leader team. All Scout Leaders are volunteers, giving up their time for Scouting. If you are interested in becoming a Scout Leader, please get in touch. For more information on Scouts please visit [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) and for more information about our Scout Group, please visit [www.leverstockgreenscouts.org.uk](http://www.leverstockgreenscouts.org.uk)

## Leverstock Green Wednesday Art Group



Our art group meets on a Wednesday afternoon in the Buglass Room.

We are a group of people who love art and produce work from a wide variety of mediums. We have no teacher since the founder of the group retired but as we all enjoyed being together we continued at the hall and have gone from strength to strength. We invite other artists to come for workshops from which we all get inspiration. We are all very supportive and have a wide variety of skills and interests between us from which we all benefit.

We pay a nominal amount each session to cover the cost of the hall and workshops and occasionally splash out on an outing to a gallery or outside venue. The class is an opportunity to spend two hours in a relaxing environment away from all the distractions of life.

For more information or to enquire about joining our group please contact Christine: 07561 855520.

# Leverstock Green Football Club

Leverstock Green Football Club was formed around 1895. The first match reports appeared on January 4th 1896 in the Advertiser and gave an account of a match against Hemel Hempstead Rovers.

The first competitive fixtures were reported during season 1908/1909 when the Club competed in Division Three of the West Herts League. Other clubs competing in the league at that time were: Abbots Langley, Bovingdon, Boxmoor, Bushey Heath, Hagden Lane, Kings Langley and Potten End.

The Club ground in Pancake Lane originally formed part of the Gorhambury Estate, Lord Verulam making the ground available for the youth of the area and his estate workers to enjoy a game of ball. Clearly Lord Verulam was an early enthusiast, providing timber-built changing rooms, which have been progressively replaced since the 1960's by the existing brick built clubhouse and changing rooms.

We are currently playing in the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division.

Web Site <https://levgreenfc.co.uk> Facebook [@LevyGreenFC](#)



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# Leverstock Green Cricket Club

Favourably positioned on the village green with a sunset-facing patio directly outside its clubhouse doors, Leverstock Green Cricket Club's reputation as a hub central to the community has grown strongly over recent years.

With a modest annual subscription, LGCC delights in welcoming new members of all ages.

Its cricket provision covers adults and juniors – both boys and girls – while a number of other regular community-focused activities means the clubhouse is in use almost every day of the year.

Perhaps the current highlight of its free-to-join offerings is 'Tea @ The Green'; a twice-monthly informal gathering for those living locally who would appreciate some companionship and a conversation over light refreshments.

To find out more about the wide range of LGCC community provision, please visit [lgcc.hitscricket.com](http://lgcc.hitscricket.com).



## Westwick Women's Institute

**Ladies**, if you would like to join a friendly group who enjoy lively and interesting speakers, visits to theatres local and in London, The Races, restaurants, botanical gardens, you name it we've probably been there or will be going soon; we were even in '**Calendar Girls**' and strutted on the red carpet with the stars. We have a lunch club, book club, Knit-n-Natter group, all of whom meet monthly for you to enjoy.

Why not give us a try, you won't regret it and you'll find lasting friends and never be lonely.

We meet the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Westwick Room of the Leverstock Green Village Hall.

Contact Mrs V Vogel on 07767 071281.



## Leverstock Green Tennis Club



the friendly face of tennis

Leverstock Green Tennis Club, in Grasmere Close, has bounced back after lockdown.

In 2022 the Men's First Team won the top division of the Watford and District Tennis League for the 4th consecutive year.

This winter, despite the weather, the club has forged ahead with a full programme of county and district team matches, tournaments and social activities from an exciting social side filled with fun events and friendly competitions including the John Martin Tournament in memory of a local resident.

We run Easter Tennis Camps and hope to run some in the Summer.

We also hold regular Open Day which this year was 23<sup>rd</sup> April where you can try our free sessions and meet coaches and members.

Further details at <https://www.leverstocktennis.co.uk>

An advertisement for ML Wedding Cars. At the top center is a logo consisting of a diamond above a circle containing the letters 'ML', followed by the text 'WEDDING CARS' in pink. Below the logo are two cars: a modern silver sedan on the left and a classic white vintage car on the right, both decorated with purple ribbons. At the bottom, the text 'Special rates for local customers' is centered. On the left side, contact information for Michelle Lubins is provided: 'Michelle Lubins' and '07881 956440'. On the right side, the email 'info@mlweddingcars.com' and website 'www.mlweddingcars.com' are listed.

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LEVERSTOCK GREEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION CIO

Registered Charity No. 1172784

# LGVA Coronation Picnic

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 2pm-5pm



To celebrate the King's Coronation

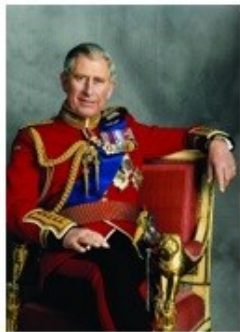
On Westwick Field, Leverstock Green  
(behind the Village Hall)

## Bring a picnic and a blanket

Attractions include bouncy castle, teas, coffees, cake, ice-creams, and candy floss. LGVA will provide the music so come along for some afternoon fun!!

Kids Fancy Dress Competition – come along dressed as a King or Queen. A prize for the best dressed!

Get your photo taken with our King.



# Leverstock Green CD (VC) Primary School

Leverstock Green CE (VC) Primary School is a one form entry school with classes from Nursery to Year 6. We are fortunate to have spacious classrooms and extensive grounds for our children to enjoy learning both inside and out. Our curriculum is designed to stimulate children's imaginations and develop a lifelong love of learning by providing a wide variety of experiences and challenges throughout their time here.



Although we are a church school, we follow the local authority's admissions guidelines and welcome children of all faiths and none. Our core Christian values are love, respect and forgiveness; these values were chosen by children, parents, staff and governors and we believe they are essential to enable every child to grow up as happy, secure and well adjusted individuals. These values firmly underpin all that we do to serve the needs of our local community. Our theological vision is based on Galatians 3:26 'For you are all the children of God.'

We have a dedicated, hard working and talented team of teachers and support staff. We work hard to ensure that each child is recognised as an individual; every child who joins us receives a warm welcome and quickly becomes part of the Leverstock Green family. The children are at the heart of everything we do and we firmly believe in our mission statement: striving for excellence; caring for the individual.

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities for different age groups as well as our own before and after school care, The Zone. We have an active PTA which works hard to provide a range of social and fund raising events throughout the year. Parents and carers are encouraged to get involved in the life of the school and we welcome many volunteers to help with learning in the classroom and on trips.

We welcome visitors at any time of year, so if you would like to come and see us in action please contact the school office for an appointment and we will be delighted to show you round.



# LGVA Village Fete

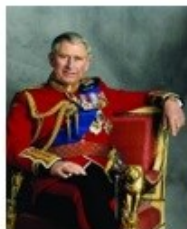
Including

**CAR BOOT SALE**

This year the theme is  
"The King's Coronation"

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023 from  
12 midday

On Westwick Field,  
Leverstock Green  
(Behind the Village Hall)



Lots of fun for everyone with a wide range of stalls, children's rides and activities, face painting, live music, refreshments, bar, food stalls, raffle, bouncy castle, dance displays, wood turning.

**There will also be an Auction for a 4 Ball Golf Voucher from the Centurion Golf Club!**

See the programme on the day for more information.

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# Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School

Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School is a lively, caring, successful school serving Leverstock Green, Northend and Bennetts End. The staff, Governors and parents work together to maintain a happy, structured environment in which all children are encouraged to achieve their very best, as they develop academically and socially.



At Hobbs Hill Wood, parents are encouraged to come into school to discuss their child's progress throughout the year. Parents are also welcome to participate in all aspects of school life, from taking part in activities with their child, to supporting fund raising events.

Our website – [www.hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk](http://www.hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk) aims to give you a taster of the school, as well as providing information for both parents and pupils.

Please feel free to contact us about the school.  
01442 401222

## Skye Dance

### **Dance for Everyone**

Come and try our new beginner friendly classes at Leverstock Green Village Hall on Wednesdays 7:30pm-8:30pm and your first class is FREE! The class is for all ages 15+ and we would love for you to join!

All levels of dance are welcome and beginner friendly.

Call us on 07810 887094 for more information or any questions or email me at: [dance@skye-dance.co.uk](mailto:dance@skye-dance.co.uk)





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## Leverstock Green Players

The Leverstock Green Players are an amateur adult theatre group that have been performing shows in the village since the mid 1970's. Meeting on a Thursday evening in the Village Hall, they put on variety shows in the Winter and Summer, which consist of song, dance and comedy. The Players have their own inhouse band, and with a great sound and light system, the shows always look and sound



fantastic. For each show the group select a charity, usually one that is close to someone in the group and will raise money via a raffle at each performance and donations on the door.

Whilst several group members live in the village, cast and crew alike come from far and wide. New members are always welcome, provided they are over the age of 16, be it on stage, backstage, in the band or just generally helping on show nights. The Players will not be doing their normal type of show in the Summer this year but will be performing a Murder Mystery evening on July 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, so keep an eye on noticeboards and social media.

To find out more see [www.leverstockgreenplayers.co.uk](http://www.leverstockgreenplayers.co.uk) or drop the group an email at [lgplayers@sky.com](mailto:lgplayers@sky.com).



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# Leverstock Green Playgroup

We are a friendly, safe, warming charity run playgroup/pre-school which has been in the Village Hall since September 1974. We have been supporting parents and nurturing children aged 2-5 years during this time. We teach our children through play and ensure they are ready for school when they leave us. We have great knowledge on child development and have lots of experience with children with additional needs and children who have English as a second language. We also work together with our local schools.



We were rated Outstanding on our latest Ofsted inspection.

Our ethos is NURTURING THE INDIVIDUAL TO ACHIEVE, we believe that all children are individuals.

We focus on speech and language, emotions and teaching children in our care the skills they need to start school.

This is achieved in a warm, inclusive, loving, caring, friendly safe environment with a rich, broad inclusive play based balanced curriculum for all our children.

We always give recognition for their work, by either displaying it, including it in their learning journals or by praise. We always try to treat children with respect and honesty and in so doing we hope to raise their self-confidence and self-esteem.

If you would like any further information please contact 01442 266270 or email [leverstockgreenplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:leverstockgreenplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk).

# The Mysterious U3A



The only qualification for joining is to no longer be in full time employment. In Dacorum we have about 1,250 members, about 80 interest or hobby groups, and meet in halls and homes throughout the borough. Our subjects encompass physical, artistic and craft, linguistic, discussion, technical, and history groups.

Members fully involve themselves by organising their

own activities in a wide variety of subjects. Everyone benefits from contributing to others, especially the contributors.

We hold two meetings at the Village Hall – Magic and Calligraphy – in the Buglass Room. You may have noticed the numerous calligraphy exhibits on the walls, whereas the Magic group simply disappears without trace after every meeting.

Members pay £14.00 a year or £26.00 a year for a couple at the same address. If you are interested, please look at our website at <https://u3adacorum.org>. You are welcome to drop in at any two meetings to find out whether it is for you, before having to join.

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## Tuesday Art Group

Do you enjoy painting and drawing and would like to join a group of like-minded people? We are a group of friendly amateur artists using a variety of mediums (watercolours, oils, acrylics, pastels, etc) who meet to chat and paint on a Tuesday morning from 10.00am-noon. We help each other and have no tutor.



If interested, please contact Ann Johnson on 07761 134734 or [ann-johnson@ntlworld.com](mailto:ann-johnson@ntlworld.com).



## Leverstock Green Library

How many! This is often the reaction when new members of all ages are told they can borrow 30 books at a time from the library in Leverstock Green and all the other libraries across Hertfordshire. A fantastic, and always changing, range of fiction or non-fiction books for children or adults, magazines or audiobooks, there is something for everyone. Prefer ebooks or eaudiobooks to print then your free library membership gives you access to them too via the popular BorrowBox app. Perhaps your book group is looking to borrow several of the same book or you need access to the internet?



Tucked away by the Community Centre a warm welcome awaits you from the team of friendly volunteers who run the library. Now open on Saturday mornings and every weekday afternoon except Thursday. We hope to extend these hours and perhaps you can help, new volunteers are needed and If you can give a couple of hours a week, or more.. and enjoy meeting people why not pop into the library or email us at [leverstocklibraryvolunteers@outlook.com](mailto:leverstocklibraryvolunteers@outlook.com) to find out more? Thank you for reading this far. We look forward to seeing you soon.

## Pilates

Pilates is a mind-body exercise class that can help your functional movement through your everyday life. It helps strengthen your core muscles to help improve good posture.

All the classes are mixed level with adaptation and progressions of each exercise.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact

Jackie Birch —Jackie\_birch@hotmail.co.uk

07708066824

Classes at Leverstock Green Village

Hall:

Monday 9.30-10.30. Wednesday

20.00-21.00 Friday 9.15-10.15



## Leverstock Green Flower Arranging Group

We are a small, informal group of people that meet every other month on the second Thursday to have a go at flower arranging. None of us are experts and each meeting is led by one of our members. Meetings are friendly and everyone is invited to partake in making an arrangement following the guidance of the person leading the meeting.

For further information, please contact

Bernadine Makins: 07972 413861

bernadinehimakins@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/339001093324744>



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salon 15

# The Leverstock Green Parish Trust

## Charity Commission no. 302421

The Trust was formed in 1992 following the sale of land in Pancake Lane where the original Village Hall stood. After repair and maintenance of the Village Hall, any remaining income may be used for “Charitable purposes which are of general benefit to the residents of Leverstock Green.”

Some of the previous beneficiaries include the LGVA, local schools, tennis, football and cricket clubs, local scouts and guides and the Holy Trinity church.

Grants are not given to individuals.

Applications for a grant, supported by documentation, should be sent to the secretary, Frances Bull via The Village Hall, Village Centre, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8QG.

The trust meets quarterly. If you are a local resident and would be interested in becoming a Trustee and would like further information please contact Frances at the address above.



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# Quizzes

## ADULTS

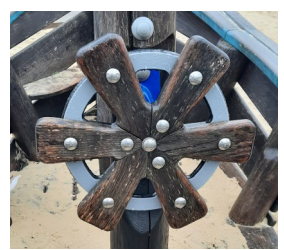
1. Where is this situated?
2. Where is this sign situated?
3. Whose logo is this?



- 4 What year was the Holy Trinity Church consecrated?
- 5 How did they spell Leverstock Green in the 17th century?
- 6 What is the name of the oldest house in Leverstock Green?
- 7 How many members of the Leverstock Green community died serving in World War One?

## KIDS

1. Who is this?
2. What is this part of?
3. Where is this?



- 4 How many adverts in this newsletter?
- 5 How many hours a week does the library open?
- 6 How many swings in the park behind the shops?

Answers on page 43

# CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

## IN THE VILLAGE CENTRE

LGVA is very grateful to the following local shops, businesses and local residents for their generous sponsorship of the 2022 Christmas Lights.

**LEVERSTOCK AUTOCAR**

**SIMMONS BAKERS LTD**

**BLAKEMORE FOUNDATION**

**WING FU HOUSE**

**(SPAR)**

**DP CLARKE**

**LG PHARMACY**

**SALON 15**

**LOCAL RESIDENTS**

**THE LEATHER BOTTLE**

**THE CRAZY GOAT**

**LG DENTAL PRACTICE**



The Christmas lights cost the LGVA £1,680. Some of the icicle lights are coming to the end of their life and will need to be replaced this year. So any contributions would be most welcome. If you would like to contribute, or know of any companies that may be willing to sponsor the lights please email Lesley on [lgvaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lgvaoffice@gmail.com).

# More Rubbish.....!

Hemel Hempstead and the villages that surround the town centre are facing specific challenges with litter which are increasing year-on-year. There is no one cause – there are many factors: Hemel has numerous light industrial areas attracting out-of-town commuters & commercial vehicles; close proximity to trunk roads & motorways; unlit roads & lay-bys; side roads & country lanes used as “cut-throughs”; population increase; lack of deterrents.....

Fly-tipping incidents reported in Dacorum have almost doubled from 832 in 2012-13 to 1,587 in 2021-22.

I have found everything ranging from a three-piece sofa with chairs to a full bathroom suite and even a cannabis air-filtration filter with burnt-out plants! We know resources are stretched, so what can we do to help? In terms of reducing fly-tipping, please ensure that any contractor you use to dispose of your waste holds a Waste Carriers Licence.

Fly-tipping can also be reported on Dacorum Council’s website.

There are now over 1,000 registered “litter pickers” of the Dacorum Street Champions, including entire families, many registered on the Facebook Group. If you are interested in signing up, please go to [www.dacorum.gov.uk/street-champions](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/street-champions). You will also be provided with the necessary kit.

There are a number of litter pickers in the Leverstock Green area – from Three Cherry Trees Lane in the north to Bunkers Lane in the south. Please join us!

Robert Goldstein



Buncefield Lane – before & after (bags awaiting collection)



# LGVA Quiz 2023

The return of the annual quiz, the first since 2019 saw a turnout of 9 teams on 17th March. After a few technical hitches (!) we had a fun evening with very close finishing scores. The winners on the night were The Punters with Angels a very close second.

The finishing results on the night were:

- 1st The Punters
- 2nd Angels
- 3rd The Farmers
- 4th Motherland
- 5th Mission Impossible
- 6th Pea Brains
- = 7th Leviathans
- =7th The Leftovers
- 9th Zumba Queens

Team Name	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Marathon	J	Total	Actual Position
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
Pea Brains	16	6	18	8	16	16	10	19	16	16	16	J	157.0	6	
Angels	20	6	15	10	17	14	24	20	12	14	12	J	164.0	2	
Leviathans	9	6	14	12	14	16	20	17	14	16	18	J	156.0	7=	
Zumba Queens	18	4	6	4	12	4	10	30	4	10	10	J	112.0	9	
Mission Impossible	16	10	11	12	12	16	16	20	10	18	19	J	160.0	5	
The Farmers	18	6	11	28	16	10	8	19	14	14	18	J	162.0	3	
The Punters	16	8	19	16	15	18	20	16	14	16	21	J	179.0	1	
The Leftovers	12	8	10	28	11	18	12	13	14	14	16	J	156.0	7=	
Motherland	18	4	14	10	14	10	12	32	12	14	21	J	161.0	4	

Thanks go out to all who took part and the quiz masters Philip Gore and Roy Makins. A very big thanks to the assistants on the night—Sue Brind, Colin Gage, Robert Goldstein, Lesley Hicks and Linda Land. Bernadine Makins



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## Leverstock Green Bridge Club



Would you like to learn how to play bridge? Have you previously played and would like to refresh your knowledge?

We are a friendly local club which runs weekly bridge sessions and are open to anyone who has, at least, a basic knowledge of duplicate bridge and can play at club speed.

Tuesday mornings starting at 9.30am at Leverstock Green Village Hall. We play 24 boards in Duplicate format and finish by 12.30m.

If you would like further information please contact :

Alan Woof on 07714 430650 or by email to [ajwo56@hotmail.com](mailto:ajwo56@hotmail.com)

## Leverstock Green Women's Institute

The W.I. has been part of our local community for over a hundred years.

It is often known as 'Jam and Jerusalem'. Today, members are still

known for their unparalleled home made produce and craft skills, but it is better known as a source of empowerment for women.

The W.I. participates in everything, ranging from local issues, to those effecting changes across society. At present Leverstock Green is supporting the campaign "No more violence against women" Leverstock Green W.I. meets every second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

We have book groups, a lunch group and occasional outings, plus a summer garden party and a fantastic Christmas meal.

One thing is certain: once a member, you will never walk to the local shops again without meeting someone you know. Come and join us!





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## Thursday Art Group

The group first started many years ago led by artist Terry Simpson. About 5 years ago Terry retired and the group decided to keep going and renamed itself Leverstock Green Art Club. Currently we meet on Thursday afternoons 1pm - 3pm and are now just a small group of 5. We don't have a tutor but I try to help where I can. I produce fortnightly themes for those who want them and try to introduce a different technique or medium from time to time. New members are always welcome, bring your own materials and the first session is free.



Christine Smith [christinesmith7957@ntlworld.com](mailto:christinesmith7957@ntlworld.com)





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# Hemel Hempstead Yarn Bombers



If you walk past your local post-box, you may notice an addition to it in the form of a knitted or crocheted “topper”, and this is the work of YarnBomb Hemel Hempstead, a group of individuals who got together in 2018 to create these amazing pieces to bring some joy and

brightness to our town.

Since then, we have grown with the help of the YarnbombHH Facebook group and regular meetings that are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at The Olde Kings Arms and a recently started daytime meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday morning at either the Liberty Tea Rooms or Sunnyside Café where members of all ages can come together to show what they are working on, discuss new projects or just natter and make new friends.



We currently have 48 toppers out to celebrate World Book Day raising money for Dacorum Education Support Centre (DESC), and with the generosity of the people of Hemel Hempstead have made donations to many other charities including DENS and The Royal British Legion. We are now busy working on our next display so keep a lookout and please share any photos you take with us on social media. If you would like to donate you can do this at <https://gofund.me/80036451>.



## And Finally...

Thank you to all the contributors to this publication. If you have any items you think would be suitable for inclusion in the next issue please email them to Lesley—lgvaoffice@gmail.com. Local photos would be very welcome which we could either use for our front cover or in our quizzes. Also your pictures from the Coronation. A thank you goes to Mavis Tilbury for letting us use one of her photos in this publication.

I hope you have all enjoyed reading this and as Clive mentioned feedback would be very welcome.

Bernadine Makins

Secretary to Editor Clive



## Quiz Answers

### ADULTS

- 1) Outside village hall
- 2) On Village Pharmacy Signage
- 3) Leverstock Green Dental Surgery
- 4) 1849 (October 30th)
- 5) Levestistoke Greene
- 6) Parts of Westwick Cottage dates back to the 12th century
- 7) 28

### KIDS

- 1) Sid the Snake alongside the playground behind the shops
- 2) Corner of Holy Trinity Church
- 3) In boat in playground behind the shops
- 4) 17
- 5) 20 hours
- 6) Five

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