



Spring 2024 Issue No 3



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Leverstock Green Cricket Club Junior Sponsors



Editors Notes

Welcome to the third issue of the Village Voice, Leverstock Green's own magazine, delivered to all the homes and local businesses in the village.

This July is the 50th anniversary of the opening of our Village Hall. When you flick through the magazine you will see that we have various articles relating to this memorable landmark. We are aiming to make this year's summer fete a celebration of our half-century. The Leverstock Green Playgroup are also celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. In fact, Tracey Dignum, Manager of this Pre-School Playgroup told me that there are a number of children attending whose parents were also pupils there back in the day! Also the Church is celebrating its 175th Anniversary.

You will see that we have some new features in this issue on which we would love some feedback from you.....good or bad! You could comment on our LGVA Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/229284140440>) or email Lesley at the Village Hall (lgvaoffice@gmail.com) or of course just call in and tell Lesley how wonderful this edition is.

What would you like to see in YOUR magazine? How can we improve? We are happy to listen.

Parents if you are looking for things to do for your little darlings for them to broaden their horizons, we have articles from the Girl Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Apsley Junior Football Club (who now have an affiliation with our very own Leverstock Green Football Club) who are on the look-out for boys and girls of most age groups to join their ranks. All contact details are printed within the articles.

We also have produced a Leverstock Green trail for parents and children for a bit of fun: you will find this in the centre of the magazine. If you require a larger version (A3 size) please email Lesley and we will deliver a copy to you for a small donation of £2.00

Since our last two editions we have lost a few sponsors due to the economic climate. However, we have been fortunate enough to secure some new sponsors and as always please try to support them. If it were not for their generosity then this magazine would not go to press.

Thank you to all you lovely people who put their hands in their pockets just prior to Christmas and donated towards the Christmas lights. Again, some of the shops are feeling the economic pinch and decided to give donating a miss this year. So, as ever, the great Leverstock Green public stepped up to the mark.

A big thank you to Lesley, Robert, Bernadine and all the other volunteers who take the trouble to deliver over 3,000 magazines throughout the village.

Clive Hill

www.lgva.org.uk

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

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

Website—<https://lgva.org.uk/>

We should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who volunteer for LGVA. Without volunteers we are unable to run our activities.

We are also always seeking more volunteers to help at events, deliver our magazine, letters, flyers etc. This can be on either a “regular” or an “ad-hoc” basis, for whatever time you are willing to spare.

In particular, we are looking to expand the digital marketing of our activities... events in the Village Hall, Summer Fete, Christmas Fayre, etc. Currently, we use Facebook, our website, this magazine, flyers, noticeboards, banners etc. So, we are now seeking volunteers to set up and administer an Instagram account and to develop our digital presence.

If you are interested then please let us know how you can help and join our Volunteer Database. You may even find new friends and discover new interests.

Please email Lesley, our Administrator, at lgvaoffice@gmail.com or pop in and see her during office opening hours 9.30-12.30 Mon-Fri.



500 Club

If you would like to support LGVA and at the same time have a chance of winning a prize, why not join our very own local lottery, the LGVA “500 Club”?

Membership only costs £12 per year and you have a chance of winning, each and every month, either the £100 first prize or £30 second prize.

The maximum membership is limited to 500 and we are not there yet but even better, as the membership increases, so will the prize money and the number of prizes!

Also, membership per household is not restricted, so more than one family member can join.

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 1st 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.

Alternatively, you can pop into the Village Hall during opening hours and collect a form from the office. After completing, just return this with your payment details (cash, cheque or standing order).

(Registered with Dacorum Borough Council. Registration No. 76 under the Lotteries & Amusement Act 1976)



500 Club Winners

August 2023—260 members

Francesca Rayment	317	£100
Frances Lawson	74	£30

September 2023—260 members

Mr Purkiss	236	£100
S & R Healey	30	£30

October 2023—262 members

Pauline Lindsey	003	£100
Penny Boyles	039	£30

November 2023—262 members

Caroline Hunt	442	£100
Michelle Lubins	311	£30

December 2023—263 members

K & J McBain	222	£100
Jemma Goldstein	091	£30

January 2024—263 members

Prakash Hegde	026	£100
Mary Fletcher	091	£30

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Some facts about your LGVA and the Village Hall

Leverstock Green Village Association, LGVA is a registered charity, run by volunteers, which seeks to promote and protect the interests of you, the residents, and to provide social welfare facilities for recreation and leisure time.

The centre of this hub is the Village Hall which whilst owned by DBC, the maintenance and management thereof are the sole responsibility of LGVA, who have to cover all the expenses incurred in the day to day running, including staff and utility costs. We are kindly supported by the Parish Trust for some major expenses such as decorating costs which are reimbursed.

So, LGVA, to cover its budget, relies totally on income from the activities in the Hall and fundraising events, all of which require your support.

What We are Responsible for:	Fund-Raising Activities:
Managing your Village Hall	Summer Fete
Activities (see pages 36 and 37)	500 Club
Defibrillator	Christmas Fayre
Christmas Lights	Christmas Lights
Newsletter Magazine (self-funding from sponsorship)	Quiz Night
Reporting Local Environmental Issues	Magic Show
LG Social & Business Facebook Groups	
LG Website	

If you would like to be kept informed of any forthcoming events please open a new email on your phone or device, type YES in the subject bar and send to lgvaoffice@gmail.com, this will enable us to develop a local database. Please be assured that any email addresses that we hold will be stored in accordance with GDPR, they will not be shared and will be used only for the purpose of notifying you of future events. You will of course be able to opt out at any time.



Leverstock Green,
looking South-
East towards the
Church c.1900

50 Years of the Village Hall 1974—2024

Our Village Hall celebrates its 50 year anniversary this year. The original village hall opened in 1920. It was situated on the corner of Pancake Lane and Leverstock Green Way (A4147). A tennis court adjacent to the hall was included. After a fire ripped through the Hall in 1968, the wooden structure was deemed unsafe.

It took over 11 years to complete The Village Hall as we know it today. In 1963, the New Town Commission offered the Parish Trustees an opportunity of a new site next to the proposed new shopping centre in Leverstock Green. So, in November 1964 plans for the new Village Hall, to be built by the local authority, were shown to the newly formed LGVA. In January 1966 a sub-committee was set up to publish its findings into the requirements of a new village hall. By September 1966 LGVA was told that because of the “financial freeze” the project would be paused until December 1967. Negotiations developed with the Borough of Hemel Hempstead (who would eventually build the new Village Hall) who agreed to lease it back to LGVA.

In July 1968, after the fire, the old village hall was officially declared “unsatisfactory for public lettings” unless £1,200 was spent on repairs. Subsequently, it was only used for WI and LGVA meetings rather than public entertainment. In 1970/71, the Social Services Committee instructed the Council’s engineer to proceed with the design in detail. Then, in July 1971 the LGVA agreed to contribute £5,000 towards the cost of the Hall.

The estimated cost at this point was £30,000. The go-ahead was given to build the new Hall.

Again, further cuts in grants by the Government meant that the halls plans were dropped. In 1972, new plans for the hall were drawn up. Finally, in December 1973, the Local Authority again decided to give the go-ahead on the building of the Hall, but now at an estimated cost of £70,000. Within a month the contractor had gone into liquidation. In 1974 new tenders were requested to build the hall now being quoted at over £100,000!!

The keys to the hall were eventually handed over to LGVA in July 1974. The freehold of the Hall has always been held by Dacorum Borough Council who then leased it back to the Village Association. Originally, the lease had to be held on behalf of LGVA by two nominated custodian trustees, but when the Village Association became a charitable incorporated organisation in 2017 it became possible to register the lease in the name of the LGVA itself. The current lease runs for 25 years from 2009.

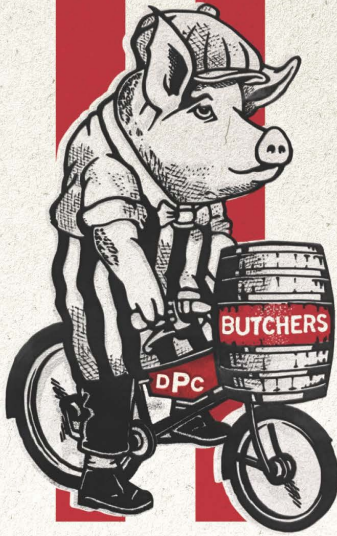
The Trustees have always been determined to maintain the Hall and the activities to the highest standards. With the help of donations from the Parish Trust, hall hire income and fundraising activities such as the Summer Fete and Winter Fayre the Trustees have worked hard over time to achieve this.

Following a major extension carried out in 2007, the Hall has three major rooms available for hire. With an extensively equipped kitchen and bar it is now regarded as one of the best equipped and maintained community centres in the locality.

Clive Hill



The new hall was masterminded by Fred Buglass the founder of the LGVA.



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- 4 Pork Cumberland Sausages
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- 4 Smokey BBQ Sausages

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BBQ Pack 3

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- 5 Lincolnshire Sausages
- 5 Pork Royal Sausages
- 5 Spicy Beef Koftas
- 5 Steak Burgers

All this for only **£40**

BBQ Pack 4

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- 6 Piri Piri Kebabs
- 6 Smokey BBQ Kebabs
- 6 Lamb Grill Sticks
- 6 Steak Burgers

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BBQ Pack 5

- 6 Peppered Beef Minute Steaks
- 6 Chinese Style Chicken Steaks
- 6 Garlic & Herb Chicken Drumsticks
- 6 Tandoori Lamb Grill Sticks
- 6 Smokey BBQ Pork Steaks
- 6 Minty Lamb Steaks

All this for only **£75**

BBQ Pack 6

- King Kebabs
- Pork King Kebabs
- Beef Steak King Kebabs
- Chicken King Kebabs
- Lamb King Kebabs

8 for only **£60**

BBQ packs available for all seasons and can be delivered straight to your door.

Margaret Rayner

Margaret Rayner, one of the longest serving LGVA Committee members, is leaving us. She joined the committee in 1998 and has served in various roles ever since. These have included service as Chair of the Hall Management Sub-Committee, member of the Finance Sub-Committee, Minutes Secretary and, most recently, as Association Secretary.

Margaret lost her husband, Ralph, in 2021 and is now going to move nearer to one of her daughters. Ralph was also a long serving member of the Committee.

We will be sorry to say farewell to a dedicated committee member and we say thank you for 26 years of service to the village.

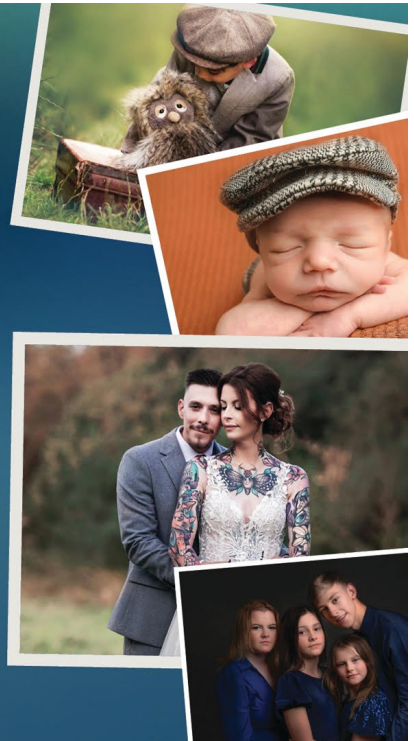


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Leverstock Green Parish Trust

The present Parish Trust came into being officially on 25th March 1992 under a Scheme approved and established by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales as the Scheme for the regulation of the Parish Hall Trust. Although not a church organisation, at the present time some of the Trustees are regular members of Holy Trinity Church: this is due in part to the terms of the original deed of 1920 which appointed the Vicar and Churchwardens as ex-officio Trustees.

The original Parish Hall Trust had its origins still earlier in 1904 when a committee was established (with the vicar the Rev. Durrant as Chairman) to raise money in order to purchase land and have built a parish or village hall.

In July 1907 the Parish Hall Committee applied and was given consent for "the erection of a new parish hall on waste land in the parish of St. Michael Rural adjoining the main road from St. Albans to Hemel Hempstead.....provided it is placed at a distance not less than 60 feet from the fencing on the opposite side of the St. Albans Road". The Rev. Durrant's son was an architect and drew up plans for a suitable building.



Picture of meeting in the old Village Hall
circa 1969

In the early 1960s with the development of the New Town talk of a new hall for Leverstock Green began. Leverstock Green Village Association was founded in 1962 by Fred Buglass to act as a voice for the whole community in this and other matters and discussions began with the charity commissioners with respect to the original trust. By 1967 they had declared they were not prepared to take over the parish hall trust as there was no obstacle to the deeds being transferred to another trust serving the same objects as the then Parish Hall. However, they agreed the original site could be sold and the money used to build on a new site. The last meeting of Parish Hall Trustees was held in January 1975.

On March 10th 1985 a public meeting of the Parish Hall Trust was held at which it was agreed to sell the Pancake Lane site with outline planning permission and to transfer same to the new Parish Trust, as approved by The Charity Commission. The money from the sale of the site was to be invested for the future.

The Parish Trust contributes to major maintenance expenses 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 grants, supported by documentation, should be sent to the Parish Trust Secretary, via The Village Hall.

The Trust meets quarterly. If you are a local resident and interested in becoming a Trustee or would like further information, then please contact the Trust Secretary via The Village Hall.



The Barber's Workshop

Barbers Shop, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.



The **Barber's Workshop** is the closest Barber shop to Leverstock Green - offering the complete range of men's grooming services, from the very latest trend to the traditional scissor cut & everything in-between!

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Your Local Councillors



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Photo by Freemove

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 work together with our local schools .

In 2018 we received an Outstanding status from our Ofsted inspection

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

We will use our children's starting points - what they already know, experiences they have had, where they live and build on these giving them more knowledge and experiences through play using the key person approach. Focusing on speech and language, emotions and teaching our children in our care the skills they need to start school. These skills are independence, turn taking, being able to sit and listen, fine / gross motor skills needed to strengthen wrists ready to write, reading, movement, yoga, drama- imagination and much more adapting the environment for all children to access our curriculum. This is achieved in a warm, inclusive, loving, caring, friendly safe environment with rich, broad inclusive play based balanced curriculum for all our children. We use a blended approach. In the moment planning, Montessori (opportunities for independence and open ended resources), Reggio Emilia (interactions with staff) and Bruner (scaffolding a child's learning) and John Bowlby (key person approach).

We aim to promote their independence by providing lots of choices and allowing them time for exploring, yet being available when needed.

We will always give recognition for their work, by either displaying it, including it in their learning journals or by praise. Praise will

always be given to a child for effort made or achieved and to reward good behaviour. We feel it is important to listen to the children and to spend time talking with them. We will 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 01442266270 or email leverstockgreenplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk



Hobbs Hill Wood School

Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School has launched a new venture to support some of its more vulnerable families. Just before Christmas it launched its monthly 'Too Good to Go' Hub. The Hub is a place where people and companies can donate unwanted items or used items that are reusable. These items are then available free of charge for families to collect when the Hub is open on the last Friday of each month. The Hub has a wide range of items available including second-hand uniform, toiletries, food, new clothing and household goods. The items have been donated by parents and by companies in the local area including Tesco, Aldi, Iceland, Simmons, The Entertainer and TJ's at Bennetts End. The school has also received some cash donations to buy items to go into the Hub. Over 100 families have already visited the Hub which provided them with a range of items including essentials for Christmas Day. In January the Hub focussed on a specific theme 'Baking with children' following a substantial donation of baking items from Tesco.

Hobbs Hill Wood was also very grateful to win first prize from Tesco Community Grants. The money will help many of their families through the school and enable their children to start and end the day with healthy meals. Pictured below are School Council members receiving the cheque from Tesco.



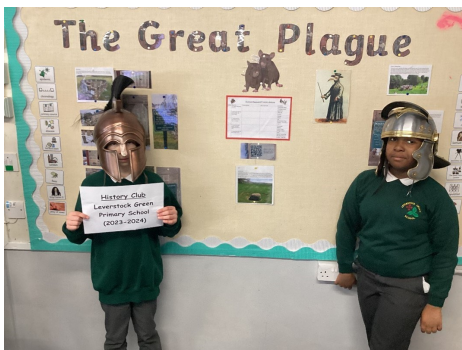
Making History Leverstock Green CE Primary School

Leverstock Green History club was formed in the Summer term 2023. Not really knowing whether it would be a success, we soon realised how popular it was with all classes across both key stages. Initially we offered the club to KS2 pupils, but have recently introduced Year 2 as well.

The history club was a way in which we could dedicate more time for the children to expand their learning within existing topics as well as making it a fun after school club activity for an hour, every Monday.

The club is always led by what the children want to research and investigate. In order to get them passionate about the past. This has seen the children expand their knowledge around topics such as Henry VIII and his 6 wives, where we tried to rate which queen was the best. We have also played out the life of Henry the VIII and his 6 wives in the form of a play. Other topics have included a research on Alcatraz (San Francisco), as well as the Pacific War. We have learnt about Edward the Confessor and the events that led up to the Battle of Hastings in 1066. More recently we have been looking at famous historical battles. These have included the Battle of Thermopylae, as well as The Battle of the Somme, the Battle of Britain and the D-Day landings.

In the short period we have been running the club, there have been some incredible highlights of note. In particular, when learning all about Henry VIII, a pupil at the club went away and researched his own family line and found some incredible links to the past. A distant relative Gerald Fitzgerald (1487-1534) Great (x9) Grandfather of Lennie in Year 3, turned out to be very high up in Henry's royal court and was heavily involved in the paper work sent to the Pope to annul the marriage to Catherine of Aragon as well as signing off the papers for Anne Boleyn's execution. It really was an amazing moment to have a direct link to such a famous English king and only came to light because we were covering the topic at history club. A quite inspirational moment which got us thinking who else within the school might have such connections from the past?



There has been some fantastic parental engagement including Norman style helmets and armour to try on which the children enjoyed. When the children are able to interact with such resources, they become far more engaged with each topic. We now have a Roman and Greek helmet for the children to try when we cover the topics in class or for the club. There is a mix of children and abilities in the group but that hasn't hampered any learning, with all year groups enthusiastic.

Half way through the Academic Year, 2023-2024, the history club continues to be in high demand with the parents and children. My aim is to continue to get children talking and researching about the past, whilst having fun and hope they all take that passion with them once they move onto secondary school and beyond.

Adrian Leonard, Y2 teacher

Longdean School



Longdean School are proud to support four students in Year 11 who will be participating in the 4x4x48 event. This involves running 4 miles, every 4 hours, for 48 hours straight, including during the night. This challenge is not for the faint hearted, but they are determined to push themselves while raising funds for Cancer Research UK.

If you can, please support the boys by donating via their "Just Giving" page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/48miles-48hours-1698241599435>



**Cancer
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Woodfield School

At Woodfield School, we are happy to announce that the first phase of our Outdoor Learning Project starts with our playground works at the beginning of March. We have fund raised and saved money in order to be able to enhance and add to our playground equipment. This means that our pupils will be able to access trampolines, hammocks and a wider range of climbing equipment and swings. As part of the Outdoor Learning Project, we will also be doing some work to the front of our grounds nearest to the road, with the curriculum offer in our Sensory Garden expanded, and improvements to the staff seating and shelters, as well as to the pathway into the school. We are also going to benefit from the installation of a temporary swimming pool, so that our pupils can have daily access to swimming lessons for a fortnight after the Easter holidays.

We are in the process of training up our first group of volunteers, who are going to work in class, in the grounds, in our student kitchen and in our coffee shop. We always welcome volunteers - whether as a one-off to help with the Outdoor Learning Project, or to help on a weekly basis.



Please contact us via email: admin@woodfield.herts.sch.uk, by phone 01442 253476 or in person..

We also welcome any parents who have children with SEND to our weekly Coffee Mornings.

Our Coffee Shop, which is run by our pupils and staff, has recently expanded its opening hours - please see below for opening times:

We look forward to seeing you in our Coffee Shop, at our Coffee Mornings or maybe at the LGVA Summer Fete in July!



Opening Hours (Term Time Only)

Monday 8am-4pm

Tuesday 8am-4pm

Wednesday 12:45pm-4pm

Thursday 8am-4pm

Friday 8am-2:30pm

We accept both card and cash.



Quiz

Thank you to all that turned out for the Quiz Night on 15th March. Big thanks go to the quiz masters Roy Makins and Philip Gore, Marker Colin Gage, Iris Parish and Julie Samuels for preparing the food, Colin Durrant, Lesley Hicks, Sue Brind and Maureen Pike for helping on the door.

The winners on the night were Ringo & The Starrs. (Yes that is Roy photobombing at the back). All scores were very close and thankfully we did not have to have a tiebreaker!



The LGVA managed to raise an astonishing £1,065.64 and thanks to all that took part.

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Apsley Football Club



Apsley Football Club is an FA Accredited Club and have recently formed an association with Leverstock Green Football Club to field boys & girls youth football teams within the local



area. Starting from next season (September 2024) Apsley FC's Under 16 Boys shall play out of The Lords Builders Merchants Stadium on Pancake Lane, the home of Leverstock Green Football Club. Anyone wishing to trial for any Apsley FC youth team should contact Garry at football@apsleyfc.org.

Apsley FC who deliver football training for boys & girls aged between 6yrs and 16rs shall play and train out from local school pitches to Leverstock Green. We have trials starting as early as February 2024, and hope to be able to develop and nurture this young talent and directing them towards the very best opportunities along the way.

If your child would like to join a local Friendly & Inclusive Club catering from boys & girls or you are a coach thinking of bringing your team/squad to us from another Club, then please visit our website at www.apsleyfc.org or contact us at football@apsleyfc.org.



Apsley Football Club

We have opportunities at Apsley FC for qualified Coaches, and those wishing to become Coaches. Nothing beats working with a group of children, inspiring them, developing them and watching them grow as individuals and as a team, it is a truly wonderful experience! Why not sponsor one of our teams and promote your company on the front of our player shirts across Hertfordshire! Please contact us for further information.

Anyone wishing to apply to play for Leverstock Green FC Men's Team, Development Team or Under 18s Team should visit www.levgreenfc.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to Apsley Football Club.

Garry Harvey

Chairman - Apsley Football Club



Leverstock Green Football Club



We have this season added an extra level to the club's teams with a Development side. This will enable our Under 18 players moving into open age football at a competitive level in the Premier Division of the Herts Senior County League. Also, we now have a link to the newly formed Apsley FC youth ran by one of our own volunteers. The football club First team who play in the Spartan South Midlands league Premier Division are currently is in a playoff place for promotion to the next level in the Non League System. We have negotiated with Homes England a lease extension of an additional 7 years.

Tony Smart

Web Site <https://levgreenfc.co.uk>

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Buglass Award

The Fred Buglass Award was instigated in 2002 using funds from the Fred Buglass Legacy. Fred lived in Leverstock Green for 45 years until his death in 1998 at the age of 93. He was responsible for the formation of LGVA in 1962 and served as Chairman and Life President of the Association. He was instrumental in the building of the Village Hall and was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1986 for services to the community. His final act, following his death, was a generous legacy to the Village Association. Fred was largely responsible for establishing the strong village identity and pleasant environment which we enjoy today. He was deservedly known as 'Mr Leverstock Green'.



Individuals who are eligible for the award must either live or work in Leverstock Green. They can be nominated for making a major contribution to the life of the village community, for promoting the identity of Leverstock Green or making a major contribution towards conserving or improving the environment of the village. The award was initially presented annually although there are some years with no presentation due to a lack of nominations.

At the AGM in November 2023 the award was presented to Lesley Hicks, the Village Hall administrator. Whilst Lesley is a paid employee she devotes a huge amount of additional time to ensure the smooth running of the hall, assisting at fund raising events such as the annual summer fete and even standing in for the caretaker when he is not available. Her contribution to the village goes far beyond her terms of employment and she is a very deserving recipient. Lesley was presented with the award by Clive Hill, editor of the Village Voice.

Nominations for the 2024/25 award can be submitted at any time and the award will be presented at our AGM in November. There is also a junior award although this is not held at present due to a lack of nominations. If you know anyone who you believe to be a deserving cause in either category, please let us know by sending details to our Administrator at the Village Hall, lgvaoffice@gmail.com.

Leverstock Green Table Tennis

Welcome to Leverstock Green Table Tennis Club. Established for over 20 years with a strong membership we welcome new members to the sport. We meet three times a week as follows:

- Monday and Friday 10am to 12 noon
- Tuesday 2pm to 4pm

With 3 tables there is the option of playing as much as you like on most sessions. Many of our members also play in the Hemel Hempstead League.

Interested? Then come along to one of our sessions, or contact Phil on 07747066025. Alternatively leave your details with Lesley, Hall Administrator, and we will contact you.



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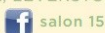
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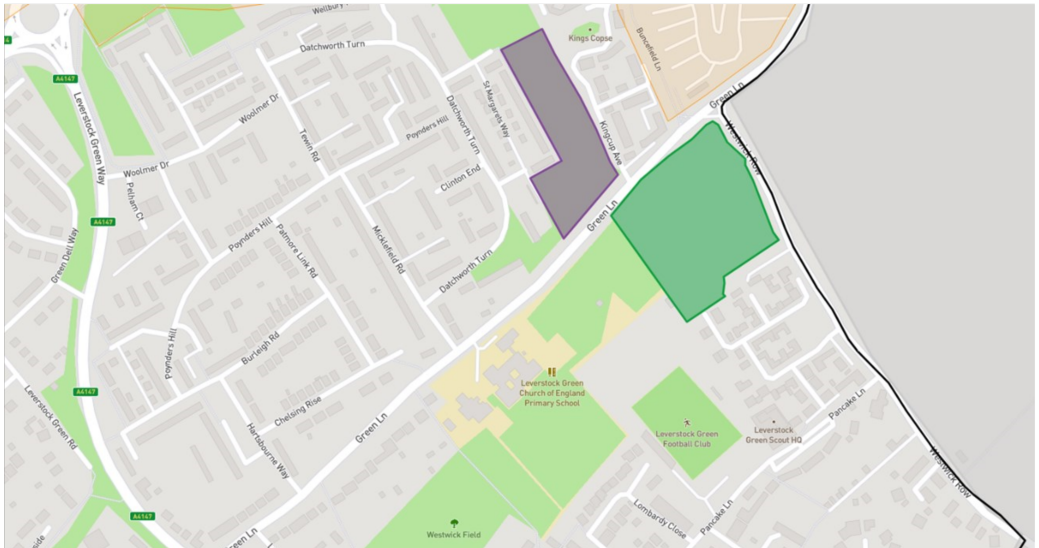
Planning

Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) launched a consultation on its new draft Local Plan in October 2023. The new Plan entitled 'Revised Strategy for Growth' covers the period to 2040 and attracted more than 1,300 comments. This new draft Local Plan followed DBC's initial consultation on an 'Emerging Strategy for Growth' which was published in October 2020.

The new Local Plan takes into account the extensive feedback from the first consultation and has been updated to reflect changes in the housing requirements and proposed improvements to infrastructure across the borough.

The plan proposes the building of 11,696 new homes up to 2040 which is 10% more than envisaged in 2020. A proportion of these houses will be built as part of the Hemel Garden Communities in conjunction with St Albans City and District Council (SADC). The plan includes proposals for at least 6 new primary schools and 2 new secondary schools as well as a revised hospital hub and new healthcare provision including extended and upgraded GP surgeries and health hubs. The town centre will be regenerated and there will be sustainable transport improvements including the regeneration of Hemel Hempstead train station. Full details of the proposed Local Plan are available on the DBC website at the following link. The consultation period closed on 11th December 2023.

[NEW CONSULTATION ON THE DACORUM LOCAL PLAN \(2024-2040\) – REVISED STRATEGY FOR GROWTH](#) (click this link to be taken to DBC website)



Map taken from above website link.

Dark Grey Site: Current St Margaret's Way development

Dark Green Site: South of Green Lane proposed development

Planning

The only new housing development within the DBC boundary affecting Leverstock Green is a proposal to build 80 homes on land south of Green Lane adjacent to Westwick Row. This site is the remainder of the old Westwick Farm which was earmarked for housing many years ago. LGVA has expressed a number of concerns about this development including the further loss of green space, the history of flooding in the Green Lane area, the proposed density of the housing and the need to ensure access to the development is not from Westwick Row.

Finally, the Centurion Club has submitted a planning application to SADC proposing an expansion of the golf course by a further 10 holes. The extension would be to the south of the course on land which is currently part of a conifer plantation. There has been some speculation that the application may be linked to a proposal to include a retirement village within the complex. Details of the application are on the SADC Planning Application portal under reference 5/2023/2112. The opportunity to comment on the application expired on 14th February 2024.

Peter's Cars

Villagers who walk down Kendale to cut through the alleyway to the Crofts might have noticed an old red car sitting on a drive. This car is a 1936 Ford deluxe, now referred to as a CX tourer. There are only about 30 of these cars surviving worldwide.

This particular car was built in Dagenham by Ford then exported to New Zealand and reimported back to the UK in 1992.

Ford decided to make this model in the UK to replicate the American model 48. Instead of the big thirsty V8 engine Ford decided to use a much more economical 1172 cc engine in the UK version. They made the car smaller and did away with the running boards.

Peter is in the process of restoring this beautiful car. If you see him when walking past his house working on his car stop and have a chat with him as he is a font of knowledge on all things cars.

He told me that old Ford cars are interesting to drive, due to steering and suspension issues. They have been described as like a bloodhound following a wandering scent on a bumpy road and like a puppy on a polished lino when driving them on wet roads.





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1LF

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 classes and meetings and most other events including birthday parties, baby showers, gender reveals, anniversaries, weddings and engagements etc (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays). The hall and rooms can be hired in conjunction with one another.

The Village Hall also holds a Premises Licence.

Our fully stocked and professionally managed bar provides beers, lagers, various wines and spirits.

We currently have availability of space for both regular and occasional bookings.

Before submitting any booking forms, please contact our Administrator, Lesley, for any additional information, pricing and availability.

Buglass Room

The Buglass Room is 7.4m x 6.3m



Main Hall

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



Westwick Room



The Westwick Room is 10.6m x 6.3m



Bar



The newly refurbished bar we would like to thank the Parish Trust for their help with the cost. They have agreed to pay for the redecorating and the chiller.

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THE LEVERSTOCK GREEN TRAIL CHALLENGE

The *Leverstock Green Trail Challenge* is an opportunity to take a closer look at some of the residential areas around the village. Using the illustrated map, your challenge is to walk the route shown by the white line and spot these thirteen items along the way.

Although the locations of the items are depicted on the map (the red numbered markers), we've jumbled up the running order of these objects, making the walk somewhat challenging but definitely fun and engaging!

We remind you to take care crossing roads which can be busy, and if children are present they must be supervised at all times. If you follow the route correctly, you'll end up a stone's throw from the local shops – so please support our local businesses by buying a snack or drink.

If you wish to purchase a larger Map (A3 Size), this can be brought from the office for £2.00 – just call or email Lesley. The answers for the *Leverstock Green Trail Challenge* can be found on the LGVA website under **Announcements**.



As you discover each item you can make a note of it's number in the white circles below it's picture.

Paul Mosley

THE LEVERSTOCK GREEN TRAIL MAP



10

9

11

8

13

12

Woodfield School

Leverstock Green Cricket Club

The Old Leather Bottle

Crossfell Road

Derwent Road

Ullswater Road

Crossfell Road

Malmes Croft

Windme Close

The Horsehoe

The Horsehoe

Missden Drive

Green Lane

Leverstock Green Way

Leaside

Struggling to see?



You can get an enlarged copy of this map (A3 size) for £2 when you call in at the office or alternatively, drop us an email with your request – at Igvaoffice@gmail.com.



Holy Trinity Church celebrates its 175th Anniversary

Prior to 1849 Leverstock Green had no church of its own. In fact, the village was divided between three parishes: Hemel Hempstead, Abbots Langley, and St Michael's St Albans. In 1846, following a meeting of local worthies, it was decided that a new church should be built in Leverstock Green on land donated by the Earl of Verulam.

Despite various setbacks during the construction, the new church of Holy Trinity was eventually consecrated on October 30th 1849, and subsequently a new parish of Leverstock Green was established in 1851.

Since then many changes have been made to both the church and the parish as the church has successfully sought to keep pace with the times. These include the installation of the clock in 1878, the organ in 1900, the oak Rood Screen in 1932 and central heating and electricity in 1939. The Trinity Room, with new vestries and modern facilities was added to the west end of the church in 1974 and has subsequently been refurbished. Over the last five years a sophisticated audio-visual system has been installed to live stream services and church events, which proved invaluable in keeping the church in touch with the community during the pandemic.



The latest example of keeping up with developments is the installation this year at a cost of nearly £40,000 of a new state-of-the-art heating system to replace the oil-fired boiler which has reached the end of its useful life. The new system uses under pew heaters based on the provision of renewable electricity and is the first of its kind in the Diocese of St Albans. It has the advantage of providing a valuable step towards achieving net zero carbon status for the church, and as a result, Holy Trinity is now being approached

by other churches to learn lessons from this latest project.

Holy Trinity Church

Regardless of the numerous changes and improvements over the years, the one thing that has never changed is Holy Trinity's place at the very heart both physically and spiritually of the Leverstock Green community. The church is here to serve the whole community and it does so by offering all sorts of activities to build social networks and support people in difficult circumstances, quite apart from offering worship and spiritual nurture for all ages.

As part of the 175th Anniversary celebrations, a celebration weekend is being arranged for 25th and 26th May. The church will be open for an exhibition on the church's history, and there will be a plant sale in the churchyard. We will be appealing for funds to recoup the cost of the new heating system, and to see us on our way towards the next 175 years! Sunday 26th May is Trinity Sunday, our 'patronal festival' and worship will be led by the Archdeacon of St Albans followed by our customary BBQ. All members of the village community are invited to visit Holy Trinity over the anniversary weekend to join in the celebrations.



Holy Trinity Vicar to Retire

The Revd Lizzie Hood, the Vicar of Holy Trinity Church Leverstock Green, has announced that she is to retire on 30th April this year. Lizzie has been in post for 12 years, initially serving the parish of Holy Trinity, Leverstock Green, but since 2018 has also been the Rector of the Benefice of Langelei - the senior priest in our team of 4 churches including Bennetts End, Apsley and Kings Langley. Lizzie also served a 5-year term as Rural Dean of Hemel Hempstead from 2015 to 2019. Her farewell service will be on Sunday 28th April at 3pm at Holy Trinity.



Lizzie has been a valued colleague and leader of our church family since 2012, and a much loved parish priest. She will be greatly missed and a hard act to follow. Many members of the local community, both those who are regular churchgoers and those who are not, have expressed their sadness that she will no longer be our village vicar and their gratitude for the tremendous contribution she has made to village life over the past 12 years.

Lizzie and her husband Tom plan to return to their family home in Abbots Langley, where Lizzie hopes to be able to devote more time to family life and her hobbies of music and gardening. Lizzie is also looking forward to becoming a grandparent for the first time later this year as her daughter and son-in-law are expecting their first baby in the summer.

We wish Lizzie a long and happy retirement with the grateful thanks of all the village residents for everything she has done on our behalf for the last 12 years.

Colin Gage

What's On In The Hall

Please bear in mind that the Hall does not open on Bank Holidays or New Years Eve

Art

Tuesday 10am-midday

Wednesday 10am-midday

Wednesday 1:45pm-4:15pm

Thursday 1pm-3pm

Badminton (term time only)

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 (alternate weeks)

Designer 3 Group - Flower Arranging Group

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

Everyone Active - Exercise to Music (term time only)

Wednesdays 10:00am-11:00am

Fabric Friends - Craft Class

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

Fitsteps - Exercise Class (term time only)

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

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

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 (term time only)

Monday-Fridays 9:00pm-2:30pm

Leverstock Green Table Tennis

Mondays 10:00am-midday

What's On Continued....

Mondays 7:30pm-10:30pm

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)

[Magic](#)

Fridays 2:00pm-4:00pm (alternate weeks)

[Pilates](#)

Mondays 9:30am-10:30am

Wednesdays 8:00pm-9:00pm

Fridays 9:30am-10:30am

[Pilates with Karen](#)

Thursdays 10:30am-11:30am

[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 \(term time only\)](#)

Tuesdays 12:30pm-1:45pm and 2:00pm-3:15pm

[Zumba](#)

Mondays 6:00pm-7:00pm

Thursdays 6:00pm-7:00pm

Saturdays 10:00am-11:00am

Police Community Support Officer Surgeries

Come and have chat to your local PCSO Paul Humphreys about any local issues at Leverstock Green Village Hall - 12.30pm-1.30pm on:

- 22nd May
- 26th June
- 30th Oct
- 20th Nov



Scouts

Imagine heading to South Korea for three weeks, with 45,000 Scouts from all over the world, camping together on one big campsite! 1st Leverstock Green Scouts had two young people and one leader attend an international event which happens every four years - the World Scout Jamboree. The most recent was in South Korea from the 1st to the 12th of August 2023 and it was not your usual Jamboree! The UK Contingent put a programme together which allowed the young people and leaders to head to South Korea roughly a week before the event, giving the groups an opportunity to explore the city of Seoul and meet people from other countries, before the actual event of the Jamboree. The young people get amazing support from the leader teams that attend with them and they make friendships that last forever with Scouts from the UK, Spain, South Korea and more! The two young people from 1st Leverstock Green Scouts were given a 'unit' to attend with - 36 young people aged 14-18 and 4 adult leaders. The leader that attended went as part of the International Support Team and he went and worked at the Jamboree assisting in the functioning of the event. Every Beaver, Cub or Scout who is in Leverstock Green Scouts is given the opportunity to attend a Jamboree, or a similar international event. This is possible through the fantastic leader team, who volunteer their time, to deliver amazing activities and opportunities. Young people from 6 to 18 years old can join Scouting - 6-8 Beavers, 8-10.5 Cubs and 10.5-14 Scouts - learning skills and making friendships for life, just search online at—

<https://www.leverstockgreenscouts.org.uk>. If you are interested in volunteering with 1st Leverstock Green Scouts, maybe as a Scout Leader - no experience is needed - visit <https://www.leverstockgreenscouts.org.uk/adult-volunteers/> to make a real difference to the lives of local young people.

Kind regards,

Tom.



Guides & Brownies



Would your daughter like to join in the fun and friendship that GirlGuiding can offer in a space that is just for girls?

They can join Rainbows at 5 – 7yrs, Brownies from 7 – 10yrs, then Guides and Rangers to 18.

Weekly meetings follow school term times for all sorts of crafts, music, cooking and outdoor challenges with occasional residential stays and camping.

Our aim is to realise their potential, inspiring girls to discover and become their best, encouraging confidence to grow and have fun.

There are Units that meet in the grounds of Leverstock Green C of E School in Green Lane, and several other venues around the local area, so do contact Heather on 07521 913872 to find out more.



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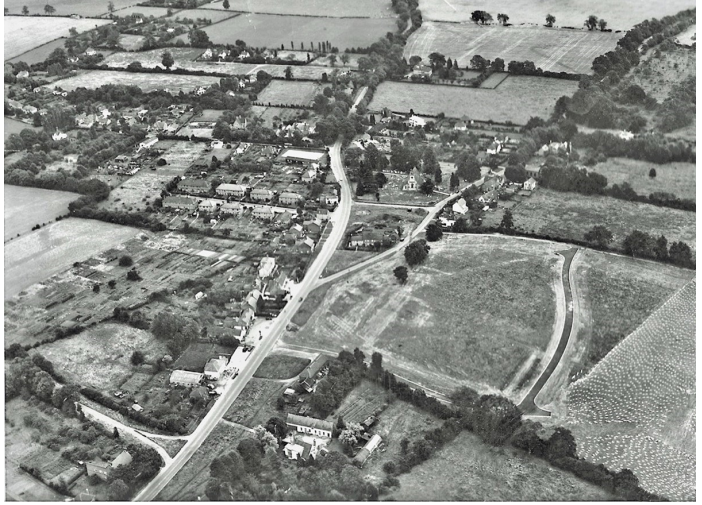
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Old Photographs of Leverstock Green

Recently an unknown lady visited the Village Hall and handed in the attached aerial photograph of Leverstock Green. It is not dated but I suggest it was taken around a couple of years either side of 1950. This is based on the fact that the start of Malmescroft and The Horseshoe are shown around what was later to become the cricket field. Building there commenced in the early 1950s.



It is interesting to note that there is a grass triangle at the top of Green Lane and only the corner house appears to be built there. Curtis Road is only half its ultimate length and there are allotments on the top part of Westwick Field (now behind the Village Hall). Blacksmith's Row and Leverstock Green Farm are clearly visible in the foreground.

There were no houses in Bedmond Road beyond Chambersbury Lane and very few in St Albans Road beyond Pancake Lane.



Leverstock Green today

Bunkers Park

Bunkers Park has, as some readers will be aware, been extended to include the two fields (known as Pond Field and Long Saunders) on the far side of Bunkers Lane. Access can be gained via the new gate installed last year in the lower far corner of Top Field. Care is necessary when crossing Bunkers Lane.



In late April or early May we can expect our annual visit of a small herd of Belted Galloway cattle from Box Moor Trust. These are monitored on a daily basis by a small group of volunteers who are all local residents. We are now looking for a couple of new volunteers. The responsibilities consist of visiting the cattle approximately once every eight to ten days and checking for obvious signs of ill health or injury, checking that water troughs are full and a quick visual check of boundary fences. Once reaching the cattle this should take no more than five or ten minutes. A trained volunteer will accompany you on your first visit. If you are interested in volunteering please send your name, email address and telephone number to Lesley, our administrator, at the Village Hall, lgvaoffice@gmail.com.



John Baldwin & Roy Makins
Cattle Watch Co-ordinators



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Cultivating with Clive

This year we were led to believe that any soil containing peat would be banned. This was not the case as the government has not legislated for the ban. Please read the RHS statement below.

The Government has committed to banning the use of peat in retail bagged compost in 2024. Also, its use in professional horticulture in 2026 (with some exceptions to 2030). However, so far the government has failed to put in place legislation for these bans. So it remains unclear when the use of peat will be legally prohibited.

So with this in mind why don't all you lovely people of Leverstock Green make a commitment to go peat free this year?

The peat bogs in the UK and rest of the world are what are known as carbon sinks. These have absorbed carbon in the atmosphere over thousands of years. Did you know that 30cm deep layer of undisturbed peatland hold as much carbon as the same area as a rainforest? Once the peat bogs are drained and the peat is dried this is when the harmful carbon is released back in to the atmosphere causing damage to our planet.

The peat bogs also store water, prevent flooding and host a wide range of wildlife which is good for biodiversity.

If you go to the local garden centre you will see lots of peat free compost for sale. Look for the responsible scoring scheme, it has a logo (see pic 1) or you can scan the QR code this will tell you how reasonably sourced the compost is. Also watch out for bags that state environmentally sourced as if it doesn't say peat free you can bet it wont be!



You must treat peat free compost differently to peat compost.

You will be advised to cover the top layer of peat free compost with grit, sand or perlite as this will help prevent Sciarid flies (I call them fruit flies) - the tiny black flies you might encounter in the summer in your kitchen or compost bin. They are harmless but very annoying. I would only do this when planting seeds or potting on plants. Just using peat free compost on the general garden you wont notice this problem. Also peat free compost will need less watering. The compost might look dry on the surface but will be wet a little further down the mixture. I lift the pot and see if any moisture drips out of the bottom of the pot. Also, because the peat free compost is extremely free draining it is a good idea to feed any

Cultivating with Clive

pots with a liquid feed, I use liquid seaweed once a week from March to the end of September. This will keep the medium full of nutrients all summer long.

You might also encounter small mushrooms growing from the compost, this is not a problem, it just lets you know the fungi are working to enhance the root growth. Just nip out the mushrooms and put them on your compost heap.

Peat free compost has a much shorter shelf life than peat compost, I would not personally use any that is more than 6 months old as the biologically active properties will have changed. Also don't store it in direct sunlight.

You might think this is all a bit of a pain. However, if we are serious about the future of our planet we all need to make small sacrifices to ensure a safer place for our children, grandchildren and future generations to live in years to come.

I am going to do some trials on various peat free composts and some I am going to make myself I will let you know how I get on over the next few months.

Here are some examples and are not endorsements.



Not peat free



Low in Peat



Peat Free



Wednesday's from 7:30pm

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1st Night Free

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or 01923 263498

All Dances walked through first and not attempted till
we are all Happy! (and that's the theme all night)
We are open for all 16yrs +. Come along and enjoy.

Folk Dancing

Hard Times In Dance

I was browsing on the internet the other day as you do when there is nothing to do. After looking up the price of tickets for Brentford v Wolves in the FA cup (I couldn't afford them) I considered what the national curriculum contained, particularly in the primary schools (Years 4-11 years for the modern reader), and was surprised that there was nothing in it with regard to dance or music. Mr Gradgrind would be proud as his teaching philosophy has reached all parts now.

My interest in dance and music, particularly folk music was cultivated at primary school. Our headteacher, Mrs King, was of Scottish descent and I assume that her love of folk dance and customs originated in her cultural heritage. I have to say that she was not averse to modern ideas as we were organised into house teams named after the planets. I was in the Uranus team.

I learnt the waltz, quickstep and cha-cha at the Court School of Dancing. There was such a school in most towns over Burtons The Tailors and spent my adolescence frequenting, The Royalty in Southgate, The Royal in Tottenham, Ilford Tiffanys and The Lyceum in The Strand where the Lion King is now playing. These dance halls are now closed. These were enjoyable nights before the breathalyser and were crowded with like minded individuals.

After marriage and raising a family my wife persuaded me to resume the light fantastic and over 20 years ago we attended Hemel Folk Dance Club. The club meets every Thursday night in Grovehill Community Centre at 7:30 for two hours. We meet like minded individuals. Many are newcomers to the world of music and dance but I do believe that all enjoy it. The dances are not rigorous and are suitable for beginners and experienced dancers. The music is supplied by relatively modern technology, we have loud speakers and a mini disc system. The dances are rehearsed before the music is played and nobody is embarrassed by the inconvenience of 2 left feet. 2 or 3 times a year we have guest callers. Newcomers have a free night whilst regular fees are £5 a night. After the first night there is a £5 membership fee.

I recommend that if you are over 16 that you should give it a try. You never know you may enjoy it and join others for a regular Ceilidh at Cecil Sharp House home of the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

Winter Fayre

The Winter Fayre was a great success and £1,072 was raised for LGVA funds. One of the major attractions was Father Christmas and he has promised to come back this year on 16th November. We recommend you book early to meet him.



Summer Fete 2024



This years Summer Fete theme is
“The Village Hall’s 50th Birthday”

**Saturday 13th July 2024 from
1.00pm – 4.30pm 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 (pizza, burgers and hotdogs, chips, gluten free vegetarian curries, chocolate waffles, candyfloss and ice-cream), raffle, bouncy castle, dance displays and The Dog Show is back!!

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

See the programme on the day for more information.



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Christmas Lights

Three volunteers, Robert Goldstein, Margaret Griffiths, Clive Hill, gave up their time over two weekends to collect donations towards the Christmas Lights from local shoppers. They raised an astonishing £808.83. Thank you to everyone who contributed over the two weekends.

We also wish to thank the local businesses who contributed £395 collectively —

- Blakemore Foundation (Spar)
- DP Clarke
- Leather Bottle
- Leverstock Green Autocare
- Salon 15
- Wingfu



Mandys is Northend's Convenience Store selling all your essential needs. Open Monday-Saturday 7:30-8:30pm and Sunday's 8-4pm.

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Hospice of St Francis

The Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted - Gardening volunteers wanted.

Most people in Leverstock Green will be aware of The Hospice of St Francis and the wonderful work it does. However, they perhaps will not be aware of the extensive grounds at the Hospice and that they are cared for by a team of volunteers, with Leverstock Green already being well represented.



The seven acres of grounds are a mix of formal gardens, woodland and a wildflower meadow with a woodland walk and wonderful views across to Ashridge.

The ethos of the gardens is very much towards conservation with no use of insecticides or herbicides and with composting of all possible matter. Our aim is to encourage all wildlife in the gardens.

We are a group of about 35 individuals who operate in teams responsible for their own section of the garden under head gardener, Gill Johnson. We are currently looking for extra help, particularly from people with gardening experience, although all are welcome. We meet on a Tuesday morning each week, with a break for coffee and cake mid-morning.

To find out more, please phone Caroline Smith at the Hospice on 01442 869550 or email volunteering@stfrancis.org.uk.



Street Champions

Our village and all the villages that surround the town centre continue to face the national issue of both litter and fly-tipping increasing year-on year.

We know resources are stretched, so what can we do to help?

There are now 1,467 registered volunteer “litter pickers” of the Dacorum Street Champions, including entire families, many being members of the DSC Facebook Group. In 2023, at least 1,533 bags of litter were collected by volunteers (610 recycling, 923 refuse). The true total is probably much higher as many are not reported. One-off litter picking events are supported by providing equipment for groups to borrow and collecting the bags. In 2023, there were 68 litter picking events...a further 850 bags of litter collected.

As a Street Champion, you will also be provided with the necessary kit including bags, picker, gloves and high-viz jacket and you are free to litter pick in any public space, provided you follow the guidance issued to you upon registration. There are already a number of Street Champions in the Leverstock Green area who tirelessly walk the streets and parks – from Three Cherry Trees Lane in the north to Bunkers Lane in the south.

Of course, you can litter pick without registering and many local residents can be seen collecting litter in their own bags which is great too.



Note that the Dacorum DSC bags can be left next to council bins. These will be collected by the Council’s Clean, Safe and Green teams, or you can advise the council directly. To sign up, please go to website:

<https://www.dacorum.gov.uk/street-champions> or send an email to:

street.champions@dacorum.gov.uk

So please join!

Robert Goldstein

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Bridge Club



Shown are a beaming Maureen, one of the club's founders, with her son Simon and his wife Julie - all active members.

The Club is going from strength to strength with membership now approaching 170. For several years the Club has run a Friday morning teaching program for absolute beginners and improvers/returners and for the current teaching year there are 80 students on the register. At the start of 2024 the Club decided to launch a second Tuesday evening teaching program for absolute beginners and 20 students enrolled. It seems like a lot of people want to learn how to play !

The club does run two regular weekly duplicate bridge sessions on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings which are competitive but also take place in a friendly atmosphere. In addition to the large number of students the Club also has amongst its membership a number of very experienced players who play regularly in county and national competitions with several representing Hertfordshire in inter county matches.

The Club do also run a number of additional events. Last November we ran an event with Andrew Robson, England's leading bridge player, and in May we will running a social evening for members.

The Club aims to be part of the local community. It is a regular stall holder at the Leverstock Green Summer Fayre and also supports local charities such as DENS and the Bedmond Food Bank as well as participating in Hertfordshire Bridge charity events.

For more information about the Club please contact Alan Woof (ajwo56@hotmail.com or 07714 430650).

Dance and Fitness Classes



CARA's
Dance & Fitness

TAP DANCE

TUESDAYS 6:15 – 7:15PM

Westwick Room

An energetic, fun,
toe-tapping class

for those with Tap Dance
experience.

Learn a great range of
choreographed routines, focusing
on technique, rhythm and style.

A good workout and a small,
friendly group!

£7 per class, payable half termly/termly with a discount.

FITSTEPS

Wednesdays 11:30 – 12:30

Main Hall

A 'Strictly' Dance based Exercise
class incorporating Latin & Ballroom
style moves to great music!

No partner required. High energy
and upbeat, but can all be
performed at an individual level.

A brilliant, fun way to keep fit and feel good in a welcoming environment.

£6.75 per class, payable half termly/termly with a discount.

All taught by a qualified and experienced instructor. Come along and give it a go!

PLACES NEED TO BE BOOKED. PLEASE CONTACT CARA FOR INFORMATION: PHONE –
07966 088604

EMAIL – CARA.PRENDIVILLE@GMAIL.COM



Leverstock Green Womens Institute

Leverstock Green WI meetings take place once a month at Leverstock Green Village Hall. Our group has been going for 105 years, having had its centenary in 2018.

The content of our meetings has been varied, ranging from sheer entertainment to discussing local and national issues. Last year we began with a fun event, where a magician and ventriloquist amazed us with unbelievable tricks. As the year progressed we learned some First Aid and laughed at our attempts to fit slings that stayed in place.

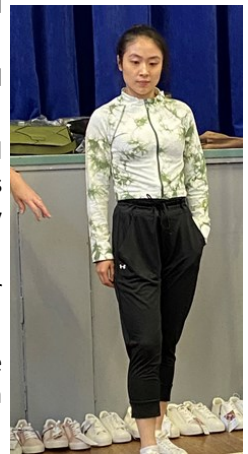
Speakers, including those from the prison charity PACT, a local housing officer, and a BBC news correspondent all extended our knowledge of wider society and other walks of life.

The WI is devoted to enhancing the lives of women world-wide and also closer to home.

We contribute to our local community and organised a very successful fundraising event where a packed hall enjoyed a fashion show. Clothes flew off the rails at bargain prices matched only by the speedy disappearance of the refreshments, all home-made, of course.

The proceeds will enable us to make donations to Woodfield School for special needs and a women's refuge.

Meetings will continue throughout 2024, and new members are warmly welcomed. You can attend three meetings as a guest at £4 a meeting, after which a subscription is payable.



Our meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. Details of the next few meetings are below:

April 9 – a demonstration on the art of tying scarves.

14 May – Annual General Meeting

11 June – Retirement Rebel – Siobhan talks about selling up, buying a camper van and setting off on her adventures

9 July – Blooming Berkhamsted – Heather talks about her involvement with the railway station garden and Rectory Lane Cemetery Memorial Garden



For more information, please email committeelgwi@gmail.com.

Leverstock Green Cricket Club

IT'S been a most productive winter so far at Leverstock Green Cricket Club - long before thoughts that are now turning to Spring and the return of cricket on the village green.

Pictured is the newly-refurbished bar in the main room of the clubhouse; the bar being the only part of the building which wasn't modernised at the time of the full makeover at The Green during winter 2013/14. Now, ten years on, everyone can enjoy the updated bar facilities when they're next visiting.

And that could be at many different times of the week. The club's community-focused



outlook - away from the cricket itself - includes a number of free-to-join activities, perhaps most notably Tea@TheGreen; a fortnightly chat over a cup of tea or coffee and light refreshments taking place each second and third Thursday morning of the calendar month at 10.00am. Do feel free to simply come along.

Clubhouse hires continue to prove very popular due to the interior decor and welcoming, cosy feel. LGCC caters for Saturday evening parties and midweek wakes, especially. Such enquiries should be directed to Steve Wright on 07833 475868.

We have had success with our Monday night darts team being promoted to the Premier League of the Old Bill's Charity Darts League. The LGCC team came second out of 8 teams with the Tudor coming first. In this league there are three divisions Premier, First and Second.

LGCC membership, which provides a number of benefits, starts from £45 per annum.

Email downes_mike@hotmail.com

for more details.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for details of fixtures when the cricket season begins.



Best wishes

Rich

Banjo Bash Club

My name is Chris Lawrance. I run the 'Banjo Bash' Club at the Leverstock Green Cricket Club. You can email me on chrisbanjolawrance@gmail.com.

We meet up on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 for an 8.30pm start. We are a friendly and enthusiastic group of people keeping alive the folk musical tradition of the American Appalachian mountains.

Our music is divided into two main styles, American Old Time and Bluegrass.

Our instruments include fiddles, banjos, guitars, mandolins, autoharps, and upright bass.

Contact me on the above email address if you want to be put on the mailing list.



Defibrillator

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is a life-threatening condition in which your heart comes to a standstill and is not pumping blood any more. Within minutes, this puts your organs and whole body at risk of death. Emergency treatment includes CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and defibrillation. CPR keeps enough oxygen in your lungs and gets to your brain until an electric shock restores a normal heart rhythm. CPR and defibrillators may save your life. The symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest are fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, chest pain, heart palpitations (fast or pounding heart beat), loss of consciousness.

The Village defibrillator was bought in May 2016 from Community Heartbeat Trust (national charity focused on providing lifesaving defibrillation equipment) and they work in cooperation with the Ambulance Service. The defibrillator was paid for by LGVA with contributions from County Councillor Andrew Williams and The Parish Trust. LGVA are responsible for the running costs – electricity, replacement pads, replacement battery and the rescue kit. The village defibrillator is situated outside the village hall and the library.



If someone has the above symptoms:

- Call 999 immediately. They will provide you with the code for the nearest defibrillator cabinet.
- Start CPR even if it's hand-only. CPR can save a life. It keeps blood and oxygen circulating until help arrives
- The 999 call operator will talk you through when and how to use the defibrillator. The defibrillator will also “talk” through the life saving instructions too!

After the defibrillator was used Team Macy kindly paid for a replacement spare pads – very much appreciated. Thank you very much.

Lesley Hicks

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Also offered to both men and women is a fingernail trimming service.

A Day in the Job of A Postman

Here we bring to you an exclusive insight into the job of one of our most recognisable locals.

I sat down with Ken the postman and asked him about his job which he has done for 20 years and has no thoughts of retiring.



In his own words he loves meeting people and being out of doors while walking up to 9 miles a day. He says its not the job it used to be with the early finishes but it's still nice to finish in the early afternoon after the early start. He hates the bad weather.

I had to ask him about shorts! He said he doesn't wear them all year long unlike some of his colleagues as it's too cold.

When asked is he had a favourite street the reply was Bedmond Road! I did not bribe him to say this!

On a final note I said that I had noticed when he was going home he had upgraded to an electric bike and he said that this makes the hills a lot easier.

Bernadine Makins

Photographic Competition

The results of the photographic competition are in!! The competition was sponsored and judged by Travel Four Seasons and the winning photograph is below:



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Congratulations to Roy Makins or should it be Bernadine for taking the photo!



Helen presenting Roy with his voucher



Sean Fletcher
Travel Four Seasons

Dates for Your Diary

13th July 2024 Summer Fete—bigger and better than 2023! The dog show will be back

16th November—Winter Fayre with Father Christmas and the big Christmas Light Switch On—1pm-4:30pm

25th November—AGM 7.45pm

Leverstock Green Tennis Club

During Autumn and Winter Leverstock Green Tennis Club has plenty going on for players of all ages and standards. We have introduced a New-to-Tennis adult programme that are free taster sessions on Saturday afternoons if you sign up, with regular coaching groups and more informal social tennis afternoons. We've also held our Christmas Cup tournament, box leagues and commenced our Winter Tournament which runs through to April, and lots of our Vets team players have been taking part in external matches in the Herts and Kenton leagues.

Autumn term saw two brilliant Junior Night parties for Halloween and Christmas, and will be back in March! Check our Facebook page for more details:- <https://www.facebook.com/LGLTC>



Just turn up for 2 open days on Sundays April 28th and July 7th when anyone interested can play with members & get a discount on membership fees if you subsequently join the club.

And Finally My World

I am writing this on a Saturday during the February half term and have Bobby the cockatiel doing the instrumental of "Another One Bites the Dust" and every now and again asking "What are you doing", which apparently means he's happy! My rabbits Dora and Dylan have their ear defenders on as there are another two budgies, Kiwi and Blueberry, twittering away. School holidays are always busy here with another 11 rabbits and four guinea pigs on holiday. Because the weather has been so damp we haven't been able to have the furies out so have hand cut our long grass for them.



The lengthening days and warmer weather this week have had the fish in the garden ponds begging for food, Roy has given them some flakes which the goldfish have been eagerly eating but the big boys have just been gingerly nibbling. The blue and great tits have been checking out the bird boxes so hopefully we will have some more families in the garden.



The first sign of snowdrops in the garden was noted on Boxing Day as I have some very early varieties with other following on through January. The earliest ones are starting to go over but amongst them are different varieties of daffodils some of which are out. I am eagerly awaiting the opening of the variety Rip Van Winkle which is my favourite and very distinctive in bud and flower.



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

Bernadine Makins


Sub Editor



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