



Autumn 2025 - Issue No. 6



'Amber' - taken in Bunkers Park by Rachel Doyle



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Editor's Notes

Welcome to the 6th edition of the Village Voice which I hope you will enjoy.

We have a few new features in this issue. We have a Young Author's page, and this is a short story created by a 15-year-old girl. If any budding young authors want to send in their short story for the next edition we will choose one and include it in the spring edition. Please send all stories to Lesley whose details are on page 3 opposite. We also have details about the Buglass award, nominate someone who you think has contributed towards the wellbeing of the village and send it in to us.

The new head of Longdean School is introducing herself. Hemel Hempstead Football Club have given us an article about youth football. We have coverage of the summer fete including pictures of the alpacas who were a big hit (page 20 & 21).

The Crown Estate have kindly submitted the latest news on the proposed development.

Also, seeing that Remembrance Sunday is on the 9th of November, we have an interesting article on WW1.

Don't forget to book your pantomime tickets on the 29th and 30th of November and full details of this can be found in this issue. As the dog show had to be cancelled at the Summer Fete due to the hot weather, this event was rescheduled for 6th September at on the Westwick Field and the results of this show are included.

We have the annual AGM being held in the Village Hall on 24th November. Why not come along to this informal event and meet your committee members and let us know if we can do anything any better to help the village. As an added incentive the bar will be open!!

I would also like to thank Bernadine Makins who helped me put this publication together, Ray Clarke for all his expert design and layout of the magazine, Lesley and all the committee members who contributed.

Most importantly all the advertisers who pay to have their business included in each issue which without them this publication could not be produced - **SO PLEASE TRY TO SUPPORT THEM.**

Thank you.

Clive Hill



Leverstock Green Village Association (LVGA)

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.



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. or scan the QR code below.



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 or scan the QR code above.

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, card, cheque or standing order).

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



500 Club Winners

February 2025 – 236 members

Michelle Langabeer	311	£100
Sarah Cottingham	446	£30

March 2025 – 236 members

Joanna Haynes	253	£100
Sharon Dawson	233	£30

April 2025 – 207 members

Samya Koll	043	£100
Richard Basterfield	266	£30

May 2025 – 207 members

Tanya Corrigan	049	£100
Margaret Kelly	035	£30

June 2025 – 212 members

Phillip Marchant	202	£100
Bolanle Ibrahim	210	£30

July 2025 – 220 members

Barbara Wilson	193	£100
LG WI	031	£30

August 2025 – 220 members

Graham Bolton	130	£100
Penny Boyes	039	£30

September 2025 – 220 members

Mark Cope	449	£100
Yvonne Dawes	491	£30



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and Sunday - 8.00am - 4.00pm**



Leverstock Green Village Association CIO

Charity No. 5172784

THE VILLAGE HALL
LEVERSTOCK GREEN
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
HERTS HP3 8QG



WINTER FAYRE

Saturday 15th November 2025

1.00pm – 4.30pm

at the Village Hall, Leverstock Green

Admission £1 Children free



Santa's Grotto £2.00 per child please
book via email lgvaoffice@gmail.com or
pop into the village hall **Monday-Friday**
9.30am-2.00pm



Followed by **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

With MP David Taylor

SWITCH ON at 4.30pm

Leverstock Green Football Club

Leverstock Green Football Club – Stadium Improvements Update

Leverstock Green FC has recently completed a series of important upgrades to our facilities to ensure the club meets the requirements for playing at Step 4 football.

After securing promotion to Step 4 in the 2023/24 season, we were required to make improvements in line with FA and Stadium Accreditation guidelines to remain at this level for the 2025/26 season. We were granted a season's grace to complete the necessary work, along with an extension until the end of July 2025 to finalise everything.



Thanks to the tireless efforts of our amazing volunteers, planning permission was secured, allowing us to build a brand-new 50-seater stand, a 100-capacity standing terrace, and a new toilet facility. We also installed perimeter fencing to screen the car park from the pitch and introduced new turnstiles—hand-built by one of our dedicated club volunteers.

Alongside these larger projects, a number of smaller tasks were also completed. We're delighted to share that, as of July 2025, Leverstock Green FC has officially been granted Grade 4 Stadium Accreditation. This ensures we can continue playing at Step 4 for the foreseeable future.

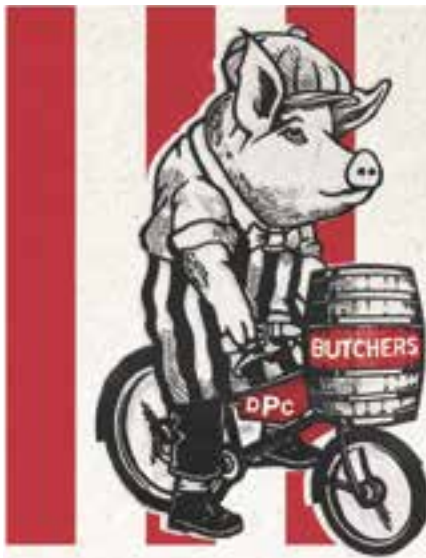


None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of our volunteers, supporters, sponsors, and the wider community. We're also hugely grateful to the management team and players, who have kept our football strong throughout this period of development.



A special thank you goes to **Lords Builders Merchants** for their ongoing support and help in sourcing materials to complete the works.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us reach this milestone—we look forward to welcoming you to the club soon!



DP Clarke
FAMILY BUTCHERS



Our dry aging cabinets enhances the flavour and tenderness of the meat through the process of time.

It may seem early but we will have our usual range of high quality free range turkeys, boneless turkey crowns, 3 birds rolled into one, beautiful Scottish grass fed beef, Gressingham geese, free range ducks, free range pork, Scottish Highlands venison and many other game products. All available to order for Christmas. We offer a free delivery service. Except during the Christmas week. We have also introduced meat cabinets, which mature the beef to ensure that the tenderness and flavour of the meat is at its best.



The Fred 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. Fred Buglass was responsible for the formation of LGVA in 1962 and a Life President.

The award recognises the people in the village who, by their actions, help make this a nice place to live and a community to be proud of, and who contribute positively to the village. It is for anyone who contributes significantly to the Leverstock Green community. A Youth Award was initiated in April 2003.

Nominations are required to be in by 1st September but can be made at any time during the year.

The nomination forms for both the adults and youth award can be downloaded from our website here - <https://lgva.org.uk/buglass-award/> along with the criteria for each award.

Or scan the QR code below.



Leverstock Green Parish Trust

Parish Trust – Charity No 302421

The Parish Trust was officially formed in 1992 following the sale of land in Pancake Lane where the original village hall stood. After the repair and maintenance of the Village Hall any remaining income may be used for the '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, guide and scout organisation and the Holy Trinity Church.

Grants are not given to individuals.

If your organisation wishes to apply for a grant, please pick up an application form from the Village Hall office and return for the attention of the Secretary Leverstock Green Parish Trust. Any supporting documentation should be sent via the LGVA email – lgvaoffice@gmail.com marked for the attention of the Secretary Leverstock Green Parish Trust.

The Trust is secular in its principle; there are seven Trustees who give their time voluntarily. They meet quarterly in January, April, July and October. If you are interested in becoming a Trustee and wish to have more information, please email LGVA and they will forward it to us.

Julia Hastings
Secretary

The background of the poster is dark blue. At the top, there are two stylized yellow faces with large eyes and orange mouths, appearing to hold up the text. A string of small, glowing yellow lights is draped across the top. The words 'QUIZ NIGHT' are written in large, glowing yellow, outlined letters. Below the title, there are two horizontal yellow lines.

QUIZ NIGHT

FRI 13TH
FEBRUARY 2026

Doors open 7pm for a 7:30pm start

£12.50pp

including a ploughman's.

Sorry no children under 18

Maximum of 8 per table

Please bring your own drink, glasses and
cutlery.

To book contact Lesley on
01442 268723 or email
lgvaoffice@gmail.com

Leverstock Green Village
Hall,
Leverstock Green,
HP3 8QG
Charity Number 1172784

Your Local Councillors



Councillor Catherine
McArevey

Mobile: 07929 569768

Email: Catherine.Mcarevey@dacorum.gov.uk



Councillor Jonathan Gale

Mobile: 07702 202 966

Email: Jonathan.gale@dacorum.gov.uk



Councillor Robin Bromham

Mobile: 07456 918101

Email: Robin.bromham@dacorum.gov.uk

Your County Councillor

I was privileged to be re-elected in May as your County Councillor serving Leverstock Green and Adeyfield East. Like all Hertfordshire Councillors I have a locality budget to help small charities and community groups with small grants supporting local projects, if you know of a group or project that could benefit or you need help or advice on any aspect of Hertfordshire services please get in touch.



Contact details:

Mobile 07879 662924

Email: andrew.williams@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Your MP

As your local MP, I'm committed to building a safer, healthier, and more prosperous community. Tackling antisocial behaviour remains a top priority, last month, I hosted a public event with local police to hear your concerns and strengthen our neighbourhood response, more of these events are planned for later in the year. I'm also working to improve access to healthcare services, ensuring everyone gets the support they need, when they need it. Supporting our small businesses is another key focus, these are the lifeblood of our economy, and I'll continue championing policies that help them thrive. I'm here to serve you, and I'll keep fighting for the issues that matter most locally.

Contact details:

david.taylor.mp@parliament.uk
facebook.com/davidtaylor4theme
david4hemel.org
x.com/DavidTaylor85
01442 816885

A promotional graphic for Catkins Business Services. It features a dark purple background with a city skyline at night. A yellow banner at the top left contains the company name. The main text is in white, and contact information is at the bottom. A QR code is in the bottom right corner.

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We design, develop, host and maintain engaging websites and online shops

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Leverstock Green Playgroup



Here at Leverstock Green Playgroup we have been busy since the last edition. We have been learning about people who help us and have had a visit from the local dentist; Firefighter Michael; PCSO Paul; and Dave the Paramedic who brought his ambulance. The children were able to look around the ambulance and dress up as a paramedic.

We have had a visit from Jungle Juniors who brought many different mini beasts to our children. They were able to touch a snake.

Along with our usual learning, Playgroup pay for external learning from Hart Beeps, Story Box and Fundamentals to give our children lots of opportunities to learn new skills, physical, imaginative, song, dance and drama.

We have had a lovely family picnic for our families.

We have many of our children leaving us to go to School Nursery and Reception and we wish them all well in their next adventure in education. They leave us with skills needed to start school learning through play. We await our next cohort and look forward to welcoming our new children and parents.

Interested? - Please contact: leverstockgreenplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk



Woodfield School

We have been very busy at Woodfield School this summer. Our pupils have been especially busy out and about in the community, enjoying accessing a wider variety of learning activities, including delivering this newsletter to residents!

We also enjoyed taking part in the Leverstock Green Village Fair, and our 'Name the Woodfield Teddy' competition raised £114, which we have donated towards the Minibus Fund, which our revamped Parent Teacher Association, Friends of Woodfield, is leading on.

We look forward to seeing some of you in our Coffee Shop or when we are next out in the local community.



Kelly - Office Manager

Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School

Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School ended the summer term with lots of celebrations including:

- A celebration of Britain Through the Decades (1940 – 2020), including VE and VJ days, on the school field. Over 1000 parents, pupils and staff were entertained with music and dance from each decade performed by each year group in the school from nursery to year 6. The evening included a performance from the school choir which performed two songs from Starlight Express which they had been to see earlier in the term (see picture).
- Our pupils who made the most effort with their learning this year were treated to lunch at Prezzo with the school's Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. Sixteen children enjoyed their three course celebration.
- Our pupils who made a special effort with their learning this year were treated to a visit to the bakery at Leverstock Green where they chose a cake to eat back at school to celebrate their achievement. One hundred and two children selected most of Simmons stock for that day and enjoyed a drink and cake together back at school.
- Fifty children from KS2 enjoyed a fantastic week on the Isle of Wight exploring its history and geography as well as visiting some great attractions including the amazing Aquapark with all its inflatables and slides on a man-made lake – the staff could not resist taking part as well! (see picture).

We start a new term with new children in Reception and nursery and construction of our new giant outdoor canopy is about to start. We still have a couple of spaces in our nursery so if you are looking for a place for your child you can find information on our website – www.hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk

Don't forget to join us for our community firework display on 5th November.



If you would like any information about our school please visit our website – www.hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk or give us a call 01442 401222

Leverstock Green CE Primary School

This summer we celebrated a phenomenal set of SATs results for our Year 6 pupils. 83% of the class achieve the expected standard or higher across the board, meaning our results were at least 20% above the national average. Here they are, ready to star in their version of Let the Games Begin, a play about spending too much time playing online games - very topical!

Congratulations to Aoife-Mae, Dahlia, Natalie, Mateo, Reza, Bradley, James, Burton, Luke, Ben, Lilly, Tom, Oliver, Macie, Lucas, Akash, Oscar, Carys, Jessica, Poppie, Sidney, Remmie, Erik, Henry, Joshua, Ollie, Sam, Laura, Ansh and Molly. We know you will make us very proud at your new schools!



If you are considering a place for your child, we currently have some Nursery places still available. You can book a tour by calling the school office on 01442 406520.

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FRI 21ST NOV | HAMMOND ACADEMY, HEMEL

Longdean School

I am immensely proud and excited to have joined the Scholars Education Trust as Longdean's new Headteacher this September, I feel so lucky to lead this great school into the next chapter. I began my career as a Music teacher in North London and for the last eight years I have been Deputy Head at Tring School in Hertfordshire. I am looking forward to immersing myself into the Leverstock Green community.

As Headteacher I have the highest of expectations for all students; whichever path they choose when they leave us, our job is to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills that they need so that they are ready to compete with the best in the next stage of their journey. Longdean has a broad, inclusively commitment to ensuring that students truly enjoy their years with us.

Longdean is lucky to serve such a strong community, and I am looking forward to working with the staff, students and their families to achieve fantastic results for all in the future.



Mrs Ruth Georgiades - Headteacher

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Herts Connected

Get connected with what is happening in your local area, keep up to date and have your say in what goes on where you live or work in Hertfordshire.

Herts Connected is a free interactive messaging service from Hertfordshire Constabulary. You will also be able to choose who you would like to receive messages from – including the Police and Crime Commissioner, Neighbourhood Watch and Action Fraud. Your preferences will make your messages bespoke and not just related to your postcode.



By working together, we can make Hertfordshire an even safer place to live and work. In Leverstock Green PC Corey Siriwardana (right in picture) and Sergeant Roger Akhtar (left in picture) are currently attending local meetings to get their faces known in the area. Your local contactable officer is listed as PC Corey Siriwardana, you can also contact us via our website <https://www.hertsconnected.co.uk/> or call 101. To contact PC Corey Siriwardana directly please email corey.siriwardana@herts.police.uk.

If it is an emergency, you should always call 999. There should also be a named PCSO but this post is currently vacant. All these posts are aligned to council boundaries.

(DD4) Leverstock Green Ward

Your local Neighbourhood Policing Team works to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in this area. They also respond to issues or concerns, conduct regular patrols and hold surgeries to share crime prevention advice.

Other units also work in this area, responding to emergency calls (Intervention) and investigating crimes (Local Crime Unit).

Local Priority Issues

We seek to tackle the issues raised in line with our Local Policing Community Charter. There is genuine concern in Leverstock Green about the use of quad bikes, e-scooters etc around the area.

Leverstock Green has been highlighted as an area to be policed for ASB following a survey conducted by residents on the Herts Connect website.

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Leaside Cars

Christmas Lights

2025 marks the 16th year in which LGVA has provided Christmas Lights in the Village Centre and these have become very popular. However, they are expensive and the Association relies on donations to cover some of the cost. Traditionally most, but not all, of the local shops and business around the village centre contribute every year but even their generosity amounts to little more than a quarter of the cost. Our income from the Village Hall is limited and we are therefore appealing to residents and other local businesses to support us this year. If you would care to donate towards the cost of the lights please call in to the Village Hall between 9.30am and 12.30pm, Monday to Friday, or drop an envelope in our letter box. All donations, unless anonymous, will be acknowledged.



LIVE SITE {STUDIO} ARCHITECTS



CONTACT US
07478648733



architect@livesitestudio.co.uk
www.livesitestudio.co.uk

The Leather Bottle



We've have enjoyed a very busy summer here at The Leather Bottle.

Elvis made a guest appearance back in May which was a very successful evening enjoyed by all that attended, as well as our very popular Soul Sundays in July and the end of August.

As we look forward to the Autumn and Winter, the football season has kicked off, we will show all matches on SKY and TNT sports.

We have introduced CruzCampo lager this summer which is flying out of the door along with our 4 Ale choices including 2 Tring pumps.

We continue with Bingo the last Thursday of the month which is a fun evening with jackpot prices.

We will host a Christmas Quiz in December, please keep an eye out for dates which will be advertised on our boards and Facebook Page.

On New Years Eve I have booked a DJ, details to follow.

We are available to host wakes as we are only a short distance from the Crematorium, please call the pub 01442 239911 with any questions or queries.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and custom especially through these rocky times.

Best wishes

Nicki and the staff at The Leather Bottle

Summer Fete

The 2025 summer fete had a VE Day Theme and was held on a very hot day and turnout was lower than usual which was reflected in lower than usual funds being raised.

Although two alpacas were due, only Amber came along with Molly the sheep due to the heat. Amber was very happy to pose for a cuddle and selfie with me.

The best dressed stall Winner was the SSAFA (Soldiers Sailors Air Families Association) and Highly Commended was the Leverstock Green Women's Institute.

Any suggestions for improvements/things you want to see can always be sent to the LGVA office.

Here are some pictures of the day:



Summer Fete



Team Macy

On behalf of Team Macy, we would like to thank Leverstock Green for all the support and donations following our Christmas light display on Tile Kiln Lane. We raised over £3100!

Team Macy was founded after the tragic loss of our youngest daughter, Macy. Our mission is to raise awareness of congenital heart defects, which cause more deaths in babies and children in the UK than all childhood cancers combined. We aim to fund lifesaving equipment for The Royal Brompton and Harefield, and support genetic research into heart conditions. Our hope is that this research will prevent other families from experiencing the heartache of losing a child. We've also provided AED machines to local schools and clubs to ensure life-saving aid is available in emergencies.

Team Macy will continue supporting our community.

For more information, visit www.teammacy.co.uk or contact helen@teammacy.co.uk.

Thank you for your support, and see the next edition for more on this year's Christmas display!

This years Christmas light display will be switched on, on Saturday 22 November at 18.00. Driveway fun starts at 17.00 as usual. We will have hot drinks and snacks, handmade crafts, our popular popcorn and lots of games including our infamous bottle tombola! Please join us for our biggest charity event.

The switch on will include the local "Just A Capella" who will be performing a Christmas medley.



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14 Stoneycroft, Warners End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 2QE
Tel: 01442 392667



Our aim is to provide a meeting place for retired and semi-retired men to get together and enjoy a monthly programme of a convivial chat over a cup of coffee and an interesting talk on a variety of subjects from visiting speakers. Our meetings are relaxed and informal, non-political and secular.

Additionally we have a programme of visits to places of interest to which partners and guests are invited. Club Lunches are a twice-per-year feature.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at St. John's Church Hall, St. John's Road, Boxmoor from 10.00am - 12.00 noon. Parking is available.

Our annual subscription is £32pa.

For more information about our programme visit: www.hemelprobus.org.uk/

If you are interested in becoming a member please contact our Secretary: hemelprobus@gmail.com

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What's On

LEVERSTOCK GREEN VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

These are some of the activities that are available at the Village Hall. Full details of what's available are on our website www.lgva.org.uk or speak to our Administrator.

Art

- Tuesdays 10:00am-midday
- Wednesdays 10:00am-midday (**this group is full**)
- Wednesdays 1:45pm-4:15pm
- Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm (alternate weeks)

Badminton

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

Bridge

- Tuesdays 9:30am-12.30pm

Calligraphy (U3A)

- Mondays 1:00pm-3:00pm (twice a month)

Designer 3 Group

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

Everyone Active

- Wednesdays 10:00am-11:00am (term time only)

Fabric Friends

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

Fitsteps

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

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

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

Leverstock Green Table Tennis

- Mondays 10:00am-midday
- Tuesdays 2:00pm-4:00pm
- Fridays 10:00am-midday

What's On Continued ...

Leverstock Green Players

- Thursdays 8:00pm-10:00pm (Performances twice a year!)

Leverstock Green Playgroup

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

Leverstock Green WI

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

MAFVA

- 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

Police Cadets

- Tuesdays 7:00pm-9:00pm (twice a month)

Tap

- Tuesdays 6:15pm-7:15pm

Tea Dance

- Thursdays 2.30pm-4.30pm (third Thursday of the month)

Westwick WI

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

Yoga

- 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

EVENTS/DATES FOR 2026

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Quiz | Friday 13 th February |
| • Fete | Saturday 11th July |
| • Winter Fayre and Lights | Saturday 14th November |
| • AGM | Monday 23rd November |

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



Don't forget to book our fully stocked bar for your next event.

SIMMONS

BAKING SINCE 1838



Simmons Bakers, your traditional local baker in Leverstock Green, has been family run since 1838.

We are very proud of our delicious range of artisan breads, especially the Chilli & Cheese Sourdough, and we really love our freshly baked Almond, Plain & Chocolate Croissants, which make a wonderfully flaky breakfast or lunchtime treat.

We have an amazing range of products at Leverstock, including Hot X Buns, Scones, Cinnamon Buns and our famous Jammy Doughnuts, all freshly baked, every day!

Our best-selling snacks are our wonderful Sausage Rolls..... and for the “extra” hungry, we recommend a deliciously filled “All Day Breakfast Bap”. Wow!!

All our sandwiches, baguettes and salads are quickly and freshly made in front of you, and there are samples available for you to try as you wait.

Please come and sample our amazing products and experience our fast, friendly service.

We're open all day, every day: Monday to Saturday 6.30 until 5.30 & Sunday's 7.30 until 4.

We look forward to seeing you soon at

The Village Centre, Leverstock Green Road, Hemel Hempstead. HP3 8QG



LGVA newsletter update – September 2025

Further to our update in the last LGVA newsletter, The Crown Estate wish to thank the many residents who attended our last round of engagement events in July. We spoke to almost 200 people over 4 different events and we do appreciate the time and effort that residents have afforded us to share their views and ask questions.

Outline Planning Application

As part of our engagement, we have shared our timeline for the project and anticipate submitting an Outline Planning Application (OPA) in the Autumn to St Albans City & District Council (SADC). We have had lots of questions from residents about what is actually being submitted in the OPA and wanted to take this opportunity to explain a bit more about it, and what it will include.

The OPA consists of two core components, the Parameter Plans and the Development Specification.

Parameter Plans

The Parameter Plans will set the overall ‘parameters’ of the development such as the number of homes to be delivered and the amount of open space required. This will reflect the requirements set out for the site in the SADC draft Local Plan. The Parameter Plans will also seek to set the broad locations for different land uses within the site – for example which areas will be for housing, which areas will be designated for business. This will be shown as broad blocks on a site plan to indicate the locations where different uses will be and the overall extent of development, but does not show the detail of exactly where individual homes or buildings will be.

Development Specification

The Development Specification is prepared to be read alongside the Parameter Plans to provide more information including:

- A Description of Development which describes the type and Use Classes for the development within the application to provide certainty about what is being applied for;
- A schedule of Development Components which fixes maximum amounts of floorspace and/or areas to be approved; and
- A series of Spatial Principles providing an explanation of the key principles which will govern the detailed design and delivery of each of the spatial elements shown in the Parameter Plans.

The Crown Estate Continued ...

In addition to the Parameter Plans and Development Specification, we are required to submit a number of technical reports such as an Environmental Impact Assessment and a Design and Access Statement. The Design and Access Statement (DAS) will be a useful document for people to understand the proposals for East Hemel within one document including how the design has evolved through technical and public consultation prior to submission.

The information in the DAS will form the basis of design codes for different parts of the site which will be submitted for approval if we secure outline planning consent.

These design codes will ensure the site is designed to a consistent and high standard.

Once the OPA has been submitted to SADC in the Autumn, it will then need to go through various checks to ensure it meets the Councils' validation requirements which confirms they have all the documentation typically required to support an application of this nature. It will then be given a planning reference number and the Councils will then start their formal public consultation period. After the public consultation period has ended, the application will be assessed and the Councils will determine whether they require any further information or updates before the application is taken to Planning Committee for determination. Due to the scale of the development being proposed, this process could take between 12 and 18 months.

A legal agreement (called a Section 106 agreement) will also need to be agreed with the Councils which sets out how infrastructure and facilities are to be provided.

We will continue to provide updates on the progress of the application on the East Hemel website: www.easthemel.co.uk.

What happens after the OPA is determined?

If the OPA is approved, work will then begin on evolving plans for the first phase of the development to come forward. This will involve working closely with the community on more detailed proposals for the first phase of the site, known as a 'Key Phase'. Once details to support the Key Phase are reviewed and determined by SADC, there will be the submission of 'Reserved Matters Applications' (RMAs). An RMA is an application for approval of specific details that were not approved as part of the Outline Planning Permission, such as details of the appearance and layout of buildings and landscaping details. All these details must be in accordance with the principles of development approved at the outline stage and will continue to meet relevant policy requirements before construction can begin. The public will be formally consulted on RMAs by the Council in the same way as with the OPA.

The Crown Estate Continued ...

Working with the community

We are really grateful for the time and consideration that local residents and community groups have given to the project so far. Whilst we are not yet submitting detailed proposals, we have retained all the feedback residents have provided throughout our engagement so far to ensure these can be fed back into the more detailed design processes over the coming years. We would very much like to continue to collaborate and engage with the local community as the project progresses.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the project, please visit our website at: www.easthemel.co.uk where you can find the latest project updates and information including all the exhibition panels shared to date.

You can also contact us at: hemel.enquiries@thecrownestate.co.uk with any specific enquiries.



Artistic impression of the southern area of the Illustrative Masterplan

It's all so simple

There was a simple forest. Trees around every area of greenery. With the amount of trees in the forest, he can't help but feel something is missing. Fog spreads over the whole, taking over like a dictator. Nothing can be heard: no bird, no rustling, no laughter. Gloomy, abandoned, mysterious: no light could be found, not even a ray. Slowly, time goes on by, carrying on the days like they were years. The tree stood so simply.

A tree stands alone. Isolated in very shape and form, reflecting on the days when he wasn't. Like a polar bear in a jungle: the tree felt so out of place. The tree sighs in the wind reminding himself of its age. Leaves dark and old, branches weak and fragile, but the trunk so vast, dwarfs the scenery, yet crumbles with disparity. Lightly, the wind kisses his roots, giving him the only rarity of excitement. Yet is that all the hope for this tree?

In another time, many years ago, the tree had a friend. Two to be exact. From when he was youngish, looking as dazzling as the stars, two hands were planted onto the centre of his tummy. Like a mother, he watched them grow. From two little toddlers, falling every now and then, over his feet, to an old married couple. He knew from the start that those two were destined for each other, whether they were in love with someone else or always fighting about who had the last ice-cream.

The tree loved those days like they were yesterday, yesterday when the sun shone whatever the weather was. But this was a time when he felt special, a time all those years ago, a time that he could never forget. It was in another time.

Rays of honey paint the atmosphere. Everything is different from the start. All except an isolated tree. You might feel sorry for this tree, and you should, he really is lonely. No hope for this tree at all.

Time goes by, hours turn into days, days turn into months. The tree stood alone for a while, then light began to pour in, shoving the fog into its mystery of a home. A rustle of leaves are heard above, then a chirp, then another. The tree peers a look towards his leaves of hair and notices a change in looks; a nest has been settled into the crooks of his arms, with two little magpies, squabbling but looking to be in love at the same time. One flies on its travels towards the ground and as it touches the pillows of grass, its gaze meets with the tree's eyes. A change can be noticed within the tree, he seems more, lighter, younger, happier. Every smile and conversation follows with an excited wind, kissing each and every one of them. The tree is finally free from misery; a family has been built into all their hearts. The tree has his everlasting peace.

Safwana Qureshi

Bunkers Park

Bunkers report.

Summer 2025 has been long hot and dry, which was preceded by a dry winter, making for very poor grass growing. We welcomed the arrival of our small herd of ten Belted Galloway cows from the Box Moor Trust at the end of April.

Our small herd this year comprised of nine bullocks and one older lady, their matriarch. This lady didn't have her own name, so the team helping on the cow watch, came up with Sybil. (From Faulty Towers).

Sadly, on 22nd July, Bob from the Box Moor Trust decided that the Belted Galloway cows were not getting enough sustenance and needed to go home early.

They were seen by Colin Durrant all being loaded into their luxury cow mobile and taken back to the trust headquarters. The Belted Galloway mates, holidaying on the moor near the railway station are still enjoying lush grass, presumably as this is nearer to the water table and it is still growing. The photos attached are courtesy of Colin Durrant. It is planned for some of the herd to return next summer, and with fence maintenance now completed by the SANG team Bunkers Park will be ready to welcome all again.



Many thanks to the team who gave up their time to be part of the cow watch and thanks to Colin Durrant for taking the above photos.

It's lovely to see the improvements being made to Bunkers Park, including the new signage and information boards, new gates, and improvements to steps.

Bunkers Park Continued ...

The Bunkers Park Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace Plan (SANG plan) deals solely with the enhancement of Bunkers Park – an existing area of open space managed by the Council. It provides a detailed assessment of the site pre-enhancement and the interventions needed for the site to become SANG based on the requirements set out in the Mitigation Strategy. This document is available on the Dacorum Borough Council website. <https://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/leisure-arts-culture/parks-play-and-open-spaces/suitable-alternative-natural-greenspaces/bunkers-park>

As part of the enhancement works for Bunkers Park more infrastructure and informal recreational features are being implemented. These can be seen through the new furniture, signposts and notice boards that have been installed.



Many thanks to Nash Mills Parish Council for letting us use the above four photos.

Bridge Club

The Club concluded another successful playing season on August 31st. We continue to cater for players of all abilities and as part of that we run an extensive teaching program in a welcoming, friendly environment.

As well as regular weekly bridge sessions the Club holds various trophy events throughout the year. Several members play regularly in either county or national events, or both and indeed earlier in the year Club members won two of the Herts Pairs events.

We also have five Club members who represent Hertfordshire in inter county league matches.

There is a lot of interest in learning how to play bridge – or improve how to play. A new round of teaching courses started in September and we have more than 130 students enrolled for those and hence our membership continues to grow.

The next new course for complete beginners will be on Tuesday evenings from January 2026. Please contact Alan Woof if you are interested and would like more details:

email: ajwo56@hotmail.com

telephone: 07714 430650.



Shopping Centre Improvements

Councillors are planning a re-vamp to the Village Centre, to include signage, benches, planters, dog-stands and bicycle stands. We hope that this will encourage greater use, on foot and by bicycle, of the Village Centre and in particular the Village Hall, as local information will be provided there. The raised section next to the post office will be removed and replaced with a more accessible bench and planter, and a nicer tree. Bike stands will be provided at either end, and benches and planters, including a loneliness bench, will be placed at various points near the shops. There will be a wayfinder next to the post box, and a notice-board in front of the chemist. An information point will be provided near the village hall, giving guidance about local amenities.

We would be happy to welcome any comments.

A combination of CIL and Parklets fund money will be used for this. It has not yet been fully costed but the street furniture is estimated to be well within the availability of which CIL money is around £37,000. Subject to that, consideration will be given to repair of the archway over the car park entrance.

Councillors Cathy McAreyve, Jonathan Gale and Robin Bromham



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Leverstock Green Tennis Club



LGLTC has been having a busy summer. Our clubhouse has undergone a refurbishment, and the installation of a new heating and cooling system is now complete which is a major step forward, and one that will make a real difference to the comfort and usability of our facilities all year round.

This progress wouldn't have been possible without the incredible effort of our volunteers. A huge thank you goes to everyone in the village who gave their time and energy to get this completed.

We also held our open day in July. It was a great turn out and we're pleased to welcome many new members to the club and excited to see these new faces become part of our fantastic community.



THE PANTOMIME PAVED WITH GOLD!

The Leverstock Green Players & LGPA present

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A TICKET



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SATURDAY 29TH - SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2025

VILLAGE HALL, LEVERSTOCK GREEN, HP3 8QG

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/LEVERSTOCKGREENPLAYERS



Cultivating with Clive

It has been a busy six months for gardening both on the allotment and at home. It has been very trying due to the hot weather and the drought conditions we have endured following a wet winter. Did you know at the beginning of each month I write a piece on gardening and allotmenting including a what to do list for the relative month. Why not have a read and see what I have been up to and maybe obtain some tips along the way



<https://lgva.org.uk/cultivating-with-clive/> or scan the QR code.



The Mediterranean Garden



The Pond



The allotment



Back garden

New Mayor



Firstly, I would like to pass on my thanks to the previous Mayor of Dacorum; Cllr Brenda Link. Brenda served as Mayor from May 2024 to May 2025 and provided significant guidance to me throughout my year as her deputy.

I would also like to welcome Cllr Garrick Stevens as the newly appointed Deputy Mayor of Dacorum for May 2025 to May 2026.

I have served as a Borough Councillor in Leverstock Green Ward since May 2023 alongside my colleagues Cllr Jonathan Gale and Cllr Robin Bronham. It has been a pleasure working with the community during this time and getting to know you.

In my professional life I am a nurse who trained at Hemel Hospital and the University Of Hertfordshire. I worked at the hospital in Intensive Care until its closure in 2009. I worked at Watford Hospital for a few months before changing direction and working exclusively in the community. I trained as a Specialist Public Health Nurse in 2012 and went on to become a specialist in Safeguarding for both adults and children and eventually became a Designated Nurse for Safeguarding at the Integrated Care Board which was a strategic role supporting all the health providers in Hertfordshire with their safeguarding needs. I was responsible for all aspects of domestic abuse, violence against women and girls and a range of other portfolios. Alongside those roles I also worked with the police as a Forensic Nurse Examiner for victims of rape and sexual assault. In order to serve the community as mayor I have resigned from that role so I am no longer working full time.

During Covid I was redeployed in to a community nursing role (district nursing) and have worked two evenings a week for several years in that role which I am continuing during my mayoral year.

I have attended approximately seventy-five events since being elected as your mayor and have many more planned. Some of the highlights have included playing Indoor Bowls with Angela Rippon who is very keen to encourage people to improve their health by dancing well into their older years and being a podcast guest with Simon Squibb who I am told has millions of followers and attended the business festival Ideas Fest, its is the Glastonbury of the business world.

New Mayor Continued ...

In Leverstock Green I have visited the AbbeyField Residential Home at Sibleys Orchard where I chatted to residents and shared tea and cake. They are really keen to be invited to any events that are happening in the village so please do consider extending invites to them.

I have also seen the Leverstock Green Players recent production and had the privilege of opening the village Fete organised by Leverstock Green Village Association. I am looking forward to a visit to the school for their 40th Anniversary celebration on 28th September.

Instead of choosing one local charity to support, I have decided to continue to raise funds for the Mayors Future Fund. This fund is to support small charities and organisations financially when they need support to buy equipment or access an activity for example. I have found from my experience of fundraising that it is often harder to raise money for small purchases or if you are a small charity without professional fundraisers. The fund is being managed by Community Action Dacorum who I used to work for and are experienced supporting our local community. To donate, scan this QR Code or go to Fundraiser by Catherine McArey: Cathy is raising money for the Dacorum Mayor's Future Fund.



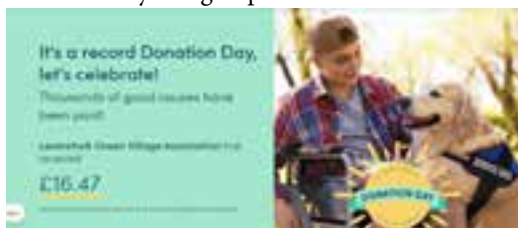
Easy Fundraising

Don't forget you can sign up to easyfundraising to support the LGVA when you are shopping online. All you need to do is create an account on their site and then choose a cause to support – Leverstock Green Village Association.

After creating an account at easyfundraising if you visit their website to find retailers and shop as usual, a percentage of your purchase is donated to your selected cause. I even book the Harvester via easyfundraising and receive 50p each time! What I would say is read any terms and conditions stipulated by retailers.

I was lucky and had a competition win just by visiting their daily promotions through June! Even though some of the contributions seem small they all mount up in the end.

The last quarter LGVA were paid out £16.47. I'm currently sitting in no 2 of the 15 supporters we have can you sign up and beat me?



Here's the link to support us. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lgva>



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Cricket Club

Early September rain won't dampen memories of a wonderful summer's cricket and community activities at Leverstock Green CC, based on the village green.

The virtually rain-free months of May, June & July allowed a full schedule of fixtures for a record number of ten LGCC junior teams to be completed on time.

And further, the club's Under-12 team - managed by LGCC chair Mike Parkes - qualified from their group stages to win the Herts County Cup Final at West Herts CC in Watford. They're pictured lifting the trophy aloft after 'Finals Day' saw then win past Bishop's Stortford in the last four to defeat Harpenden in early July's showpiece final.

Around 120 local juniors are now engaged in LGCC's cricket coaching programme at The Green, which brings a wide range of players' family and friends to the club during the Spring and Summer months, all mixing together in a safe and welcoming environment.

The clubhouse continues to play host to regular social activities & events - appealing not just to the LGCC membership but also many local people who view the clubhouse as something of a community hub.

Fortnightly 'Tea @ The Green' gatherings take place on Thursdays, while there's also weekly Tai Chi and Yoga & Relaxation sessions run, with attendees making a modest contribution toward tutor fees on a pay-as-you-attend basis.

Two darts teams represent the club on Mondays and Wednesdays almost year-round, and enjoyed notable success in local competitions over the past few months.

With monthly music hootenanny sessions and quiz nights supplementing regular live music events, LGCC has been delighted to welcome an even broader church of local folk through its clubhouse doors over recent times.

The club website lgcc.hitscricket.com is regularly updated with the latest events and community diary information, as well as sharing news of cricketing highs & lows on the field of play.

LGCC wishes to bid a warm welcome to anyone from the village who cares to stop by to enjoy a drink, watch live sport or simply enjoy a seat on our west-facing patio.

Best wishes

Richard Walker



Holy Trinity Church

After a flurry of fetes in July and a gentle pause over August, the autumn is starting to get into full swing (and not just when we look at the weather!). It has been lovely to start to get to know people in Leverstock Green in the last few months since I arrived as Vicar, and I hope to meet and get to know more of you at our events and activities that are coming up...

Harvest: With the leaves turning and heralding the end of the summer, that must mean that Harvest Festival is coming up! All are welcome to celebrate this important turning of the seasons on the 12th October at 10am when we will be having a special family service for harvest. This will include the traditional donations of tinned and long-life food for our local foodbank.

Lite Nite: At the end of October, on the 31st we will be hosting the ever-fun Lite Nite event in the churchyard from 5-7pm. A perfect place to stop off if you are out trick-or-treating with little ones.

Remembrance and remembering: The beginning of November is a season of remembering, starting with a service on the 2nd November at 3pm to remember those who have died, whether in recent years or a while ago. We will also be marking Remembrance Sunday (9th November), as is traditional, with a service at 10am in church and an act of remembrance by the War Memorial at 10.55am.



That time of year again... Before you know it, it will be Christmas, with all the associated fun and festivities! The Holy Trinity Christmas Fair is on the 6th December from 12.30pm, ending with the Light Up A Life service at 4pm in the churchyard. To get that proper Christmassy feeling, why not come along to one of our traditional Christmas services: Carols by Candlelight on the 21st at 6.30pm, Crib services at 3pm and 5pm on Christmas Eve, and the atmospheric Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. Our main Christmas Morning service will be at our usual time of 10am.



Not just for Sundays... All are always welcome to join us for our regular Sunday morning services at 10am, but we are not just here for Sundays. As your local parish church, we are here to support everyone in our village through life's ups and downs. To get in contact or find out more about what is happening at the church please do email me at dr.dmstretton@gmail.com, or follow us on Facebook.

Rev'd Dr Diana Stretton, Team Vicar

Hemel Hempstead Town F.C.

Developed from a handful of teams in 1990 by founder Chris Brooks, we are now one of the largest clubs in the area and remain a volunteer-run charity to serve the local community.

Our aim is simple – to provide a friendly, safe and fun environment for boys and girls across Dacorum to play football across all abilities.

We encourage the highest standards of behaviour amongst our players, parents and coaches to maintain the great reputation that has been established over the years.

Each season we work hard to ensure our club retains the status of an FA 3 Star Accredited Club, providing assurance to all Children, their parents and our partners around standards of welfare and safeguarding.

Each team has a minimum of one FA Licenced Coach and every adult linked to the teams will have completed the FA Safeguarding course as a minimum.

In September 2025 and as a result of years of fundraising and planning, HHTYFC will commence use of the FIFA-grade 4G facility at Astley Cooper School, to go alongside our investment and partnership into the 3G facility at Hemel Hempstead School in 2017.

With training through the week and matches on a Saturday & Sunday we continue to ensure our players have the best facilities available to them across the season.

Over 650 boys and girls, aged between 6-17 across our 50 plus teams, pull on the red shirts of Hemel Hempstead Town Youth each weekend.

Our boys section continues to thrive and flourish with our teams playing in the Eastern Junior Alliance, Junior Premier League and West Herts League and the continued strengthening and development of our pathway to the senior men's team.

Within the girls section we cater all the way through their football journey, from being introduced to the game and continuing to develop as they move through the age groups.

The girls teams at HHTYFC have had great seasons in the Middlesex County Cups, Junior Premier League and Herts Girls Partnership League and next season our girls section will continue to grow with the creation of the EGP pathway, which will lead into the creation of the women's team at Hemel Hempstead Town FC for season 26/27.

That pathway will encompass the continued development of all our girls section and these are exciting times across the club.

Hemel Hempstead Town Youth FC is a community club and it is through the volunteering from the players and parents, past and present, that we are able to offer opportunities for all girls to participate.

We continue to strengthen our links with the Senior Club and our increased community work on Matchdays during first team fixtures, giving opportunity to hundreds of children to sample live football at the Focus Community Arena.

We are proud of our club, grateful to all our volunteer coaches and managers and to those who kindly support through donations and sponsorship.

If you would like any further information regarding joining a team or would like to assist the Club and Committee with a variety of volunteer roles please contact chairman@hhtyfc.com.



Coming Up at
FOCUS
COMMUNITY ARENA

Vauxhall Road | HP2 4HW



Weston-Super-Mare
National League South
4th November | **7:45pm**



TBC
Isuzu FA Trophy
15th November | **3pm**



Horsham FC
National League South
22nd November | **3pm**



Chelmsford City
National League South
25th November | **7:45pm**



Maidenhead United
National League South
20th December | **3pm**

***fixtures subject to change due to involvement in cup competitions**
For more information regarding fixtures, please check out **hemelfc.com**

WW I Soldier

H G Wells used a phrase in his writing about WW1 saying, “WW1 was the war to end wars” he believed that the scale and devastation of WW1 would be so profound that it would deter future conflict.

My story starts in the Summer of 2020. Covid 19 had become part of our everyday life and the government made a ruling that we could only mix with a few family members. I had not been out for over a month, so I decided for a change of scenery I would take the two-minute walk over to our local church Holy Trinity in Leverstock Green. I took my reading book and found a bench to sit on. I noticed where I was sitting, a broken gravestone with the names of Alfred Harrowell (1851-1915) and Lizzie Harrowell nee Gill (1874-1965) and what caught my eye was the name under theirs was Frederick Harrowell killed in Palestine during WW1. I knew little if anything about the conflict in Palestine so I decided to find out more about Frederick Harrowell and the Sinai - Palestinian war.

Why were we in the Persian Gulf fighting the Ottoman Empire? - The British interests were in serious danger so the British Government decided to open up a defensive front in Mesopotamia (present day Iraq, Kuwait, and parts of Syria, Turkey and Iran) to weaken the Germans and their allies Austria-Hungary. The British were worried about other interests in the Middle East, the control of oil supplies and the need to secure a trade route i.e. Suez Canal.

The empire dissolved after its defeat in World War I, with the last Sultan deposed in 1922 and the Republic of Turkey established in 1923.

Fredrick Harrowell was born on 12 April 1894 to Alfred and Lizzie Alice nee Gill and was baptised at Holy Trinity Church in Leverstock Green. Fredrick was the eldest of four children the others were Emily Beatrice, James and Leonard. In the 1911 Census, the family lived at 2 Hillside, Cotterills Hill, Hemel Hempstead. In 1911 Fred was a printer at John Dickinson Company. In 1915 he enlisted as a Private in the Hertfordshire Yeomanry in the Household Cavalry and was sent to Palestine.

Fredrick died in Southern Palestine on 3rd October 1918 due to illness at the young age of 24. His death reflects the harsh condition the soldiers had to face: dysentery, trench fever, heat, dust and sanitation issues leading to infections etc. He is remembered on the gravestone of his parents Alfred & Lizzie at Holy Trinity Church in Leverstock Green and his name appears on the Leverstock Green war memorial. He was actually buried thousands of miles from home in the Ramleh War Cemetery which is now part of Israel. He was awarded The British War Medal and The Victory Medal posthumously.

So like many of our soldiers and allies in WW1 Fredrick Harrowell paid the ultimate price for our freedom today. If you just take a walk around Holy Trinity Churchyard and see a broken headstone near a bench with flowers on it, then that was me thanking a gallant soldier long ago but not forgotten.

Story by Wendy Marsh



Hemel Hempstead Town U19

Full Time Football Scholarship

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National League U19

First Team Pathway

FA Youth Cup

TOP Facilities

WWW.HEMELFC.COM/UNDER-18-s

Table Tennis

The Leverstock Green Table Tennis Club has been established for over 20 years with a current membership numbering 40 plus of which at least 20 attend sessions on a regular basis. We have three tables in use for every session and usually play doubles to ensure our players have maximum playing time.

Whilst we welcome players with varying levels of ability, we are not a 'beginners' club. Most of our members are at least an intermediate + level with some representing the club in the local league.

If you are a player with some experience and would like the possibility of joining a thriving club, please feel free to contact the Chair Alan Harper on 07971 650440 or email atlasal@hotmail.com

Two hourly sessions are held two days per week:

Tuesday – 2pm to 4pm

Friday – 10am to 12noon

Come along and give it a try!





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5 STAR REVIEWS!
TRUSTED AND RELIABLE

Dog Show Results

Congratulations to all the dogs who entered – they were all so well behaved. Thank you to Steve Judge, Westwick K9 dog trainer, who kindly sponsored the show and provided the goody bags and prizes.



Child Handler	1 st	Elsie Rose with her dog Queenie
	2 nd	Maddy with her dog Scooby
	3 rd	Jodie with her dog Cooper
Waggiest Tail (dog or bitch)	1 st	Katherine with her dog Tiggy
	2 nd	Fiona with her dog Milo
	3 rd	Siobhan with her dog Arlo
Most Appealing Eyes (dog or bitch)	1 st	Gemma with her dog Cookie
	2 nd	Liz with her dog Luna
	3 rd	Amy with her dog Ruby
Friendliest (dog or bitch)	1 st	Amy with her dog Ruby
	2 nd	Nick with his dog Bonnie
	3 rd	Fiona with her dog Milo
Prettiest Bitch	1 st	Liz with her dog Luna
	2 nd	Rachel with her dog Amber
	3 rd	Elsie Rose with her dog Queenie
Handsome Dog	1 st	Taylor with his dog Otto
	2 nd	Liz with her dog Teddy
	3 rd	Jodie with her dog Cooper
Best Condition (dog or bitch)	1 st	Maddy with her dog Scooby
	2 nd	Rachel with her dog Amber
	3 rd	Amy with her dog Ruby
Best Trick (dog or bitch)	1 st	Rachel with her dog Amber
	2 nd	Liz with her dog Teddy
	3 rd	Amy with her dog Ruby
Best In Show (picked from the winners)	1 st	Liz with her dog Luna
	2 nd	Elsie Rose with Queenie
	3 rd	Rachel with her dog Amber (who is featured on the front cover of this magazine!)

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Women's Institute

Leverstock Green W.I. enjoyed a busy year. A wide range of speakers entertained and informed whilst craft, and book groups plus a regular lunch meeting continued to flourish.

We were able to make financial donations to our local School for Children with Special Needs as well as the Girl Guides who meet in the grounds of Leverstock Green school. We provide on-going support to the Women's Refuge.

A talk from the Girl Guide leaders touched many nerves of nostalgia as members recalled, and relived, their experiences as Brownies and Guides. The achievement badges awarded by the Guiding Association today bore little resemblance to those we remembered, good housekeeping skills, cooking and gardening have been superseded by all things technical. We hope to meet Leverstock Greens Kings Guide who will tell us about her D.O.E. award.

The Village Fete celebrated V.E. Day as its decorative theme for individual stalls. Our lovely stall included a mannequin of a Land Girl complete with arm band, wellies and spade; we were awarded a highly commended. Two scrumptious raffle baskets were just chocolate-who could have foreseen such a heatwave? The baskets showed pictures, the chocs remained in a cool spot and those manning the stall melted instead!

A second scorcher moved our annual garden party into the cool hall at Holy Trinity. It proved a great success. Lovely nibbles, cakes and cold drinks had everybody smiling, enjoying each other's company and friendship.

You could join us!

Second Tuesday in the month. 7.30p.m. at the Village Hall.

Look forward to seeing you!





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What's in Your Garden?

It's been a good year for nature in my garden and around Leverstock Green. My highlight of the year was hearing a Treecreeper in Chambersbury Lane on 29th July while taking a short walk over Bunkers Park. This I was able to identify by using the Merlin Bird app on my phone and getting in touch with the local RSPB of which I am a member to get their thoughts on my findings. They also conduct the Bunkers Park bird surveys which results can be found here - <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L11434509/bird-list>

My previous highlight of the summer was on the same walk but on entering Bunkers Park I saw a fritillary butterfly but alas it would not stay still long enough for me to be get a snap! It could have been one of three species – the Silver-washed, the High Brown or the Dark Green.

In the garden there has been a variety of wildlife (not including bunnies and guinea pigs on holiday) but firstly butterflies. The earliest being on 7th March when two brimstones were out, along with a speckled wood, holly blues and orange tips. Over the summer there has been a lot of small white butterflies, small and holly blues, gatekeepers, tortoiseshells, peacocks and on the 21st June the first Comma butterfly visited. One moth we had in the kitchen was a yellow shell moth, I had never even heard of it but members from my local wildlife WhatsApp group were able to identify it for me.



Small White



Gatekeeper



Speckled Wood

We have had a good variety of birds in the garden this summer with robins, jackdaws, great tits, blue tits, long tailed tits, starlings and their noisy young, robins, sparrows and woodpigeons to name a few. We have been lucky to have two different species of tits nesting in our boxes this year. The blue tits surprisingly chose a new box that was a Christmas present from my friend Carol and only put up in early January. The great tits nested in an existing box on the opposite side of the garden. These baby great tits gave me many heart attacks seeing them poking out through the hole waiting for food to come back that I thought they were going to fall out. Thankfully the blue tits weren't so adventurous. The great tits were first to leave (fledge) on 19th May with the blue tits following on 24th May.

What's in Your Garden? Continued ...



Jackdaw in flight



Young froglet



Adult frog

On the 26th May Roy espied a goldcrest bathing in the fountain of our patio pond but it was gone before either of us could get our phones out of our pockets, let alone put in the password!

Going back to the tits on the 29th & 30th May, scruffy adult blue tits were taking fat away presumably to feed young. Then on the 8th June the two adults were back with three babies on the bird feeder which was a lovely treat.

In August we did have a wood pigeon nesting but the egg appeared not to have been fertilised after 4 weeks and was abandoned.

Throughout the summer the green necked parakeets kept coming back for a while and then disappearing. While writing this at the end of August they are back attracted to the beech nuts that are forming on the trees next door. I don't get them on my feeders yet.....

Apart from the fish in our three ponds we have been blessed with fully grown frogs and toads and damselflies flitting around. It is well known that our grass has not been cut for 5 years giving us a natural food for the bunnies (Roy calls this child labour) and wild flowers that attract the butterflies. Apart from this we have a wild flower area that allows more nectar for the butterflies and bees.



Damselfly



Robin



Dylan and Dora

Photographic Competition

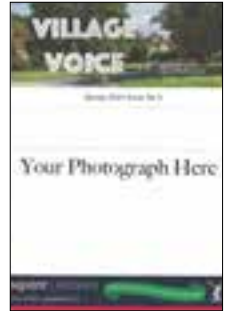
Why not enter our Photographic competition - It is free to enter.

The winner's photograph will appear on the front cover of the Village Voice in the spring edition.

A Leverstock Green related photograph would be in keeping with the magazine, and, preferably an Spring or Summer related photograph would be good.

Just email your picture to Lesley:- lgvaoffice@gmail.com with your name and the road you live in, although not essential.

Our panel of judges will pick the lucky winner as we did for this issue. Congratulations to Rachel Doyle for her photograph of 'Amber' in Bunkers Park below.



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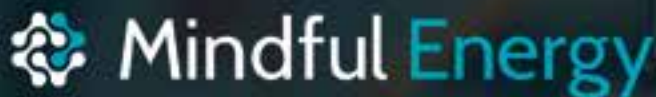
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