

LGVA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011**INTRODUCTION**

Good evening and thank you all for coming tonight. Our annual report to the Charity Commission is available together with the accounts on the table by the doors if you don't already have one. A copy can also be requested from the Office later. This report runs from 1st Sept 2010 to 31 August this year (2011), and doesn't cover the last 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ months. The LGVA area of benefit is much larger than the political ward for Leverstock Green. A map showing this is on the wall in the Buglass room and can also be downloaded from our website.

TRUSTEES

Our main management committee is made up of both elected and nominated Trustees. Up to 15 Trustees can be elected to the committee, and the elections for the coming year's trustees will take place later on this evening. The three Officers since September 2010 have remained the same, namely Myself, Margaret Rayner (Vice-Chairman & Chair of Hall Management), & Iris Parish our Treasurer.

At the AGM last year (2010) 11 Trustees were elected and a further 9 Trustees were nominated by various organizations. The full list is in our annual report.

ALL our Trustees are unpaid volunteers, and together with other members of the community who give their help in a variety of ways, we all give a great deal of our time and energy to the Association, and I would like to this opportunity to thank EVERYONE for all their hard work over the last 12/15 months. Without you all there would be no association, hall or the many activities we run.

EMPLOYEES....

We also have a few employees. Our new administrator Debbie Rowlatt has been in post now for over a year. She has proved a wonderful addition to our team, greets everyone with a lovely smile and I'm sure everyone appreciates the fact that she is a Leverstock Green resident herself.....Our other employees, the caretakers and cleaners have remained the same over the past financial year and I would also like to thank them for all their hard work.

BUGLASS AWARD

The recipient of the Buglass Award in 2010 was Simon Bounds, who received his trophy from the previous year's award winner in recognition of the many years he had spent maintaining the churchyard for all Leverstock Green residents to enjoy. There was no Junior Award made last year.

HALL MANAGEMENT

The HM committee continues to oversee the running of the hall and ensures that it is maintained to a high standard. Much of the work they undertake is routine but without their help the hall would not function as it does. Our thanks go to them all, but especially to the HM Chairman Margaret Rayner.

As always some groups who use the hall cease to exist and others start up. Whilst we would welcome new activities and groups the current programme provides a varied and interesting programme which suits a variety of age groups. Week-end parties and wedding receptions remain popular as do the children's parties.

If you wish to book the hall or have suggestions for new groups please let Debbie, our administrator know.

FUND-RAISING AND OTHER EVENTS.

The twelve months to the end of August this year were as usual extremely busy.

Our annual Fireworks display took place on Sat 8th November 2010 (i.e. not the one we attended on Bonfire Night this year!), Once again the fireworks were enjoyed by many families from Leverstock Green, as well as some from outside the village. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nick Taylor, and the rest of the team for making it such a memorable occasion.

After the previous year's success we held another highly successful Winter Fayre on 21st November. My thanks go especially to Pamela Richardson who organised the Fayre and the rest of her team for all their hard work and enthusiastic manufacturing of a variety of delightful items. It was at this event that the Leverstock Green Bags, designed and made by Iris Parish, were launched. Made of calico these bags fold or roll up for storing in a small space until needed and cost just £3 from the office. With one of our bags in your handbag or pocket, you need never be caught without a bag for those last minutes shopping items.

The Winter Fayre was immediately followed by the official switching on by our MP of the very first Christmas Lights in the village. They were truly wonderful and gave the village centre a fantastic atmosphere in the run up to Christmas. I'd like to thank Nick Taylor who was the brains behind the idea, his team of helpers, and above all our councillors who very generously gave us a grant to cover the costs last year. This year's switch on of the lights was last week, and I am sure you all agree we are continuing what is fast becoming a great tradition for the village, 'thanks to sponsorship from local businesses'

On the 23rd October 2010 we tried a new fundraising venture, an evening with Allcock and Brown. This was essentially a music-hall evening. Those of us who went enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining evening with Ploughman's supper. Sadly not enough people turned out on the evening to make it worthwhile repeating the venture.

Our Spring Quiz, with Ralph Rayner as quizmaster, took place on Friday 4th March. This was an extremely well-attended event much enjoyed by all who took part. I'd like to thank Ralph for the hard work in developing the questions, and Margaret Rayner, Iris Parish, Mick Reeve, Nick Taylor Pamela Richardson, Martin Chapman and John Walker for all their hard work on the night.

On Wednesday 13th April I gave another of my series of local history talks, this time on the history of Holy Trinity Church. On this occasion however, we changed the time to the afternoon and held the talk in the Westwick Room rather than the main hall. This proved highly successful with the Westwick Room being filled to virtual capacity so that not only was a goodly amount raised for LGVA, but I was able to share my knowledge and enthusiasm for our village's history, more widely amongst the local community.

The final events of the financial year were the Summer Fete on 16th July, and the annual Arts & Crafts show, held once again on the day of the fete, in the Westwick Room. My thanks go to Pamela Richardson who organised the fete and Edna Eckett for organising the Arts & Crafts exhibition.

Unlike the previous year, when for the first time in roughly a decade we had no concerns about the weather in the few days prior to the fete; this year's fete was to be a near wash-out! The morning was extremely wet and windy and our gallant team of LGVA helpers headed by Pamela and Nick were out battling the elements from 9am. Virtually all the stallholders from other organisations decided it was too wet; however we were determined to keep the show on the road and moved what stalls we

could indoors, keeping our fingers crossed that the weather would improve as the day progressed. Our MP declared the smaller fete open at 2pm.

Despite everything, the sun DID come out eventually and those who had ventured out into the field, or who visited the hall or field enjoyed it. Overall over £2000 was made for the LGVA funds, much of which came from our grand draw and our sponsors the Snowcentre and Hemel Property. Although this is of course a considerable reduction from usual, I think we can be proud of what we achieved in the circumstances.

All this could not have taken place however without the hard work of not just the fete committee, but many others as well. There are too many to thank individually, but my heartfelt thanks go to the many other individuals and groups who helped out in one way or another both before hand and on the day; whether it was producing the programme, getting the field ready, manning the gates, running a stall or providing and selling the teas. I would also like to thank our two main sponsors the Snowcentre, and Hemel Property, whose contributions are very much appreciated.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The environmental sub-committee (the ESC) , is made up of members of the LGVA committee and other local residents, has been very active in maintaining a watching brief on planning applications for developments within the village to ensure that any such developments are in keeping with the village environment.

Speeding of traffic on the Bedmond Road continues to be of great concern and discussions continued with HCC and the Police. Monitoring of traffic speeds has revealed that this is a real, and not a perceived concern. Hertfordshire Highways has proposed that the 40 mile an hour limit be extended from Pimlico into the village. This proposal was still in the consultation phase during the period in question, though I am delighted to say the 40 m.p.h. signs have very recently gone up

The Main Committee supported residents' concerns about the closure of the public toilets in the village and are pleased to report that DBC reconsidered the position and that most of the work to refurbish them has taken place and their opening is expected shortly.

OTHER ASPECTS OF LGVA WORK

Of course running the hall and organising events is only a part of all that we do.

Our glossy, full-colour newsletter is something of which we are all proud, and one of this year's issues was even featured in another group's newsletter as a "Guest Newsletter" I'd like to thank my husband Martin as Editor for the magnificent way in which he juggles the various items sent in and somehow manages to fit everything in despite apparently having twice as much material as space! My thanks too must go to the collators/counters and the army of distributors who deliver the newsletter to an increasing number of households, now well in excess of 3000, and of course to our newsletter sponsor Orchid Estate Agents.

We are also very grateful for the support and donations we receive from The Parish Trust towards maintenance; without their help our work would be even more difficult

Thanks too must go to John Ayling who does a wonderful job as our "in-house" photographer and in maintaining some splendid photo displays of our activities in the hall foyer.

On the IT front, my particular thanks go to Nick Taylor for continuing to do such a great job in maintaining our website. www.lgva.org.uk We also have an LGVA group page on Facebook which many of you are signed up to and a web-shop portal which allows those of us who shop online to earn extra income for the Association.

500 CLUB

One of our regular fundraisers is the 500 Club. I would like to formally thank everyone who contributes to this scheme, and particularly Rebecca Lawson who manages the scheme with great enthusiasm, the money raised is a valuable part of our annual income.

TRUSTEES/VOLUNTEERS

As mentioned earlier, we have a very strong and lively LGVA committee all of whom work hard to ensure that events in the village are well organised. Our monthly meetings are lively and interesting and we also have strong discussions on issues and problems affecting our community. We have some 20 members on the committee, made up of elected Trustees and representatives of various organisations in Leverstock Green. From time to time we inevitably lose members through retirement or relocation so we are always on the lookout for volunteers. If you live in Leverstock Green and would like to join us as a Trustee on the LGVA please let us know. You can **contact** one of the officers or give your details to Debbie in the office. This is a chance to help your local community and you would be made very welcome.

Of course as well as helping with our various activities we also need people to support what we do by attending our various events. Sadly, where support is not forthcoming, we are having to drop those activities, which in turn leads to less income. We get no financial help from DBC, so continued fundraising and the support of the community is essential.

FINALLY, After 49 years¹, Leverstock Green Village Association has a continuous track record of service to the community. The level of that service, and the facilities of our hall are I believe, second to none in the area. Leverstock Green is a popular place to live, and residents are proud to say they live here. I believe LGVA is one of the reasons why.

THANKYOU Barbara Chapman, LGVA 28 November 2011

¹ Leverstock Green Village Association founded 1962, 1st AGM 1963, became registered charity 1974.