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Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the Western Park Gazette.

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In this issue we focus on the blue plaque placed on the Mantle Road home of Leicester's best known suffragette, Alice Hawkins. Adrian Ablett, not content with keeping our streets clean, has also raised over £1000 for a local community hub. A local life skills charity for young people is searching for volunteers and there might soon be a reduction in all those "For Rent" boards across Westcotes and the Fosse.

Our Gardening expert Carey Tunstall has advice on taking care of our indoor plants and the local policing unit have been very busy dealing with everything from anti-social behaviour to bicycle thefts and more.

As always, the Brain Tazers are lurking on the inside back page.

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Events Diary

Free Thurs Club: 2pm. **Meet & Eat:** Weds 5pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narborough Rd.

Fosse Camera Club: For details visit Facebook page or fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk

Hall @ St Anne's, Letchworth Rd: Knit & Natter: 1.30pm, 4th Tues. **Weds Club:** 2.30pm, 1st Weds.

Musical Memory Box: 1st Tues 2pm **Pram Club:** Weds 9.15-11.30am. **Women's Taekwondo:** Thurs 8-9pm taekwondo4all.com **Fri Coffee Morn:** 10am

Free Tea/Coffee @ St Paul's Worship Ctr / Community Hub, Kirby Rd Weds, 2- 4pm. T-Top sale. 2nd Sat.

Family Friends: Term time 4th Mon. St Paul's & St Augustine's Centre, Kirby Rd. 2nd Sat at New Parks Methodist Ch. Contact Sarah on 07465 431 585.

Free drop-in Coffee Morns: Tues. 10-12 noon. St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Glenfield Rd East.

Pop-up Pub: St Anne's Hall, Letchworth Rd, Last Friday eve of the month from 6-11pm.

@Curve: Steel Magnolias 4-8 April. **When Darkness Falls** 12-15 April. **The Bodyguard** 12-22 April.

@DM Hall: Whitney (Tribute) 8 April. **Rumours of Fleetwood Mac** 13 April. **The ELO Show** 15 April.

@Little Th: Railway Children Musical: Til 15 April.

Y Theatre: An Evening Without Kate Bush 15 April.

Marcus Brigstock 29 April. **Francis Rossi** 3 May.

Upstairs@thewestern: Jess Green 31 March. **Date Night** 12 April. **Unglamorous Music** 14 April.

Riverside Festival: 3/4 June.

Western Park Festival: Sat 22nd July.

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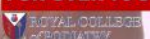
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BLUE PLAQUE FOR ALICE

A blue plaque commemorating Leicester suffragette Alice Hawkins has been unveiled on the house where she lived.

The plaque, at 18 Mantle Road, marks the address where she and her family lived during her campaigning years in the early 1900s.

It was unveiled to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8th.

The commemorative plaque is the result of work by local Fosse Ward councillors, Alice's great-grandson Peter Barratt and Ismail Dale of Heritage Schools.

Many suffragettes, including Alice, refused to provide their address for census purposes, but a postcard from Alice's suffrage memorabilia, which is still in the ownership of her descendants, gave the address.

This has enabled councillors in Fosse Ward and Peter Barratt to confirm the address and, through a local community ward fund grant, to bring the blue plaque campaign to fruition.

Tying in with International Women's Day it not only commemorates Alice Hawkins, but many of the other local women who campaigned alongside her for equality at the ballot box.

Speaking before the unveiling, Peter Barratt said: "To see a plaque unveiled on the very house

where Alice and family, including our grandfather, lived over a 100 years ago will be a very touching moment for myself and all her descendants who will be with me on the day."

Pupils from Inglehurst Junior School, Castle Mead Academy and Fosse Mead Academy took part in the unveiling ceremony.

The plaque also ties in with Historic England's Heritage Schools project to connect youngsters with their local history.

Heritage Schools' Ismail Dale said: "Alice's struggle for democracy has inspired pupils in Leicester to appreciate their inherited legacy of British democracy and encourage them to become active citizens."



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£1.2K RAISED FOR COMMUNITY HUB
St Paul's and St Augustine's Worship Centre came into existence in 2000, following the closure of St Paul's Church Kirby Road, and since then has remained an integral part of the local community.

A small group of volunteers have endeavoured to maintain the fabric of the building by holding monthly Table-top Sales (2nd Saturday of every month) and other fundraising events.

Following the devastating effect of the Covid 19 pandemic on the local community members of the Worship Centre established a Community Hub (2-4pm every Wednesday), with financial assistance from a Fosse Ward Community Grant, to provide a safe and welcoming environment for local people to socialise whilst enjoying free refreshments!

One of the enormous benefits of the Community Hub has been the enthusiasm of Adrian Ablett, one of the Hub's first members, to get involved with wider Worship Centre activities and in particular fund raising.



Adrian has virtually single handedly transformed the online selling of books, CD's and DVD's raising a staggering £1,248 since January 2022.

The monies raised by Adrian are vital in ensuring the continuation of the Worship Centre as a much loved and valuable part of the Local Community.

The Worship Centre relies heavily on donations of unwanted items including books, clothes, toys, small items of furniture, bric-a-brac, CD's and DVD's.

For additional information please contact www.stpaulscommunity.co.uk T: 07800 746 121

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COUNCILLOR SUSPENDED

Westcotes representative Jacky Nangreave has been deselected by the Labour Party after she joined other councillors in calling for the city mayor's job to be scrapped.

She and three others are said to be in breach of party rules by requesting a special council meeting.

All four had the whip withdrawn meaning they can't stand as Labour candidates in the May local elections. They join fifteen others who have been sacked following conflict within the party.

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Leicester's Life Skills Charity, based at Frog island, which helps children make safer life choices, is looking for a hundred volunteers.

At Warning Zone children hear real life stories and experience learning through interactive zones led by volunteer guides. The centre is split into a general safety zone: fire, arson, railways, personal safety, water, electricity, road safety to name a few, and E-Safety including topics like online phishing, cyber bullying, sharing and use of inappropriate images, online grooming and more.



Both areas explore themes such as peer pressure, criminal responsibility and consequences,

the importance of talking to a trusted adult, being a good friend, and mental health and wellbeing.

Warning Zone wouldn't function without a dedicated team of volunteers who deliver lessons and experiences to the children throughout the academic year. There are 10 sessions a week. Each needing 10 volunteers. Some of the volunteers stay for the day, while others just come for a morning or afternoon session. The minimum requirement is just 5 hours per month (2 sessions).

For info email: volunteer@warningzone.org call **0116 262 9739** or visit www.warningzone.org.uk

NARBOROUGH RD CONSULTATION

People living near Narborough Road are to be consulted over proposals to improve road safety at an accident hotspot.

From January 2017 to December 2021, 25 people were hurt in accidents on the section of Narborough Road between the junctions at Noel Street and Ashleigh Road/Stuart Street.

The main dangers involve cars turning right across city-bound traffic to get into the Shell filling station, as well as numerous accidents at the busy crossroads of Ashleigh Road and Stuart Street.

Leicester City Council has drawn up proposals to improve safety at both sites and is giving residents the chance to say whether they agree.

Visit: consultations.leicester.gov.uk



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TO LET OR NOT TO LET

Leicester City Council is set to renew powers to stop landlords erecting boards advertising their properties in parts of the city including Westcotes.

In 2018, the city council brought into effect a new Regulation 7 Direction which effectively banned the use of 'To Let' boards in some areas of the city close to the University of Leicester and De Montfort University. It means that landlords and agents must apply for planning consent to put up signs advertising properties for rent. If they fail to comply, they could face court action and be fined up to £2,500.



The current ban expires in July and covers local addresses in the West End, Ashleigh Road and West End conservation areas.

Residents are being invited to have their say as to the effectiveness of the measure and whether they support a continuation of the ban on unauthorised 'To Let' boards in these parts of the city.

Visit consultations.leicester.gov.uk

Closing date for comments is Wednesday 5 April.



LETTER BOX

Hi there, Enjoyed the (January) edition of the lively Gazette, as always. I was intrigued (and relieved! It's not just me then - phew) to read that others have been disturbed by the occasional high-pitched noise around the Westhill Road area. It drives me mad sometimes, especially as I cannot imagine what or where the source is. **AM**

It's a mystery as 'the hum' seems to be a worldwide phenomena and quite sporadic.

A recent study suggested it might be caused by very low frequency seismic waves due to the rumbling of magma chambers deep under the crust thousands of miles away, yet other studies report that it's airborne. It's thought that only about 4% of people can hear "the hum".

Once electronic, industrial, and urban interference are taken out of the equation, it's certainly strange, but presumably natural in origin.

Here's an online worldwide map of the hum:

thehum.info

Editor

Local Story or Event?

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22ND
2023**Western Park,
Leicesterwww.westernparkfestival.co.uk / Facebook @westernparkfestival**March Police Update**

The current local policing priorities include the following: Reducing anti-social behaviour in the Aikman Avenue area. As a result, Patrols have been carried out in the area and they will continue. Work is ongoing with the schools to raise ASB awareness.

Officers are working to reduce the use of off-road motorbikes on our parks and open green spaces, especially Western Park, which have been identified through local surveys. Extra officers will be patrolling the area at key times, supported by the local authority Parks Team.

Police and partners continue to increase road safety awareness in the Western Park and Braunstone Frith Area. In February, and following a recent road fatality, officers carried out speed checks on Glenfield Road. Several drivers were warned, and 4 motorists reported with-in a 90 minute period. More operations will take place throughout the spring.

The increasing number of bicycle thefts in Westcotes has become a priority for the local beat team. Officers continue to work with local businesses and residents to expand a uniformed presence. Police are working on increasing their signage at key locations, reviewing CCTV and identifying key individuals involved. Officers have made some positive headway in terms of arresting those who are suspected of committing these thefts. Police are working closely with partner agencies to increase the security of the local bike racks.

Crime prevention and target hardening advice has been given to local businesses. A series of crime prevention events and consultations will be taking place over the next few months, details of which will be posted on the local police social media pages.

Officers are making efforts to speak to anyone who has been affected by anti-social behaviour on the St. Andrewes Estate, by offering reassurance, and pointing them to support services. Foot patrols and public engagement in the area have been increased. Several arrests have also been made, for a variety of offences. Offenders are being referred to partner agencies with a view to prevent them re-offending.

Local CCTV has been altered in the area to capture issues and identify others. An environmental visual audit of the area is in the process of being completed.

The number of cannabis grows in rented properties in the Fosse area remains an ongoing concern which is being addressed with help from the community. Regular warrants are executed under the Misuse of Drugs Act, most recently on Tudor Road where another cannabis grow was discovered and persons arrested.

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



Due to the recent inclement weather, I thought I'd spend a little more time on my houseplants.

Spring heralds the start of new growth so I like to wipe the leaves of my broad-leaved houseplants with a damp cloth and rinse the smaller leaved ones under the shower head. This can remove the build-up of winter dust and help them to remain healthy. I find commercial leaf polishers or cleaners can block the pores of the plant, later causing unnecessary health problems.

I always check if any need re-potting. Some obvious signs that this needs to be done are roots growing out of the bottom of the pot, over-spilling soil, and the soil not retaining moisture. The benefits of re-potting plants can be huge within their life cycle, such as providing instant nutrients, promoting new growth allowing the plant to become larger and improvement of water absorption.

I carefully choose the pot that I'm going to replant into, but there shouldn't be a huge difference in size.



For instance, it won't be beneficial for the plant to go from a 6" pot to a 12" pot. Ideally a two-inch increase is a good rule of thumb. If you tend to over water house plants it's best to repot into a clay one which will absorb excess moisture, or if you tend to under water, a glazed or plastic pot will be beneficial. If you are using an old pot, please scrub it clean before re-potting to remove any disease or viruses. I like to put a bit of mesh over the holes in the bottom before putting soil in as this helps to stop soil from falling out but still allows drainage. I trim off any excess roots and gently tease out those that have grown in a circular pattern.

Finally - adding the soil. I always use fresh, house-plant specific compost; never use old compost or soil from the garden as this can introduce unwanted pests and diseases. I incorporate a mix of perlite and/or vermiculite in my compost, which helps with drainage. Some houseplant composts have seramis in them too, aiding nutrient and moisture availability. It's also worth noting that some house plants, such as orchids, need different compost mediums. I buy a specific orchid mix for those, and they like to be potted in clear pots, allowing their roots to receive optimum light. Succulents require sandy free draining soil which you can buy readymade. I then water the re-potted plant but don't feed them for a fortnight, which helps to reduce re-potting shock.

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Can You Solve The Word Wang? Hidden in the above box are the following words:

Buds, Bunny, Chocolate, Crocus, Daffodil, Easter, Lamb, March, Nesting, Rabbit, New, Season, Spring

Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk

		3	8	1			
				3	2	1	
			7			4	
		8			7		5 4
7			5		3		9
5	9		4			7	
		1		6			
		9	2	5			
				4	8	3	

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