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Hello From The Editor

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

Issue 160 and August already? How did that happen? Well, we've been busy - we headed off to meet the volunteers from the St. Paul's Community Hub as they tackle the blight of local litter whilst trying not to be pricked by discarded needles and syringes.

We've had a couple of unusual miss-steps on the social calendar; the Western Park Festival was a total washout so we'll find out how the organiser, Ady Alexander, plans to keep it going. The Scarecrow Trail was also cancelled, so what next from Project Hive?

In our regular features, Carey Tunstall does some pruning, Sergeant Lee Cannings and his team have been tackling the scourge of drug use, street drinking and unlicensed motorbikes and scooters.

And if you're feeling smarter than average - have a go at the Brain Tazers on the inside back page?

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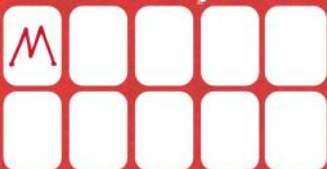
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Events Diary

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 & 3rd Tues 2pm **Pram Club:** Weds 9.15-11.30am. **Women's Taekwondo:** Thurs 8-9pm taekwondo4all.com **Fri Coffee:** 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.

@DM Hall: Sense & Sensibility 26 Aug. **Bad Dad** 27 Aug. **Sartaaj Live** 2023 2nd Sept. **Alfie Bowe** 13 Sept.

@Little Theatre: A Murder is Announced 11-16 Sept. **Y Theatre: Wrestling Resurgence** 8 Sept. **Heritage Open Days** 11-14 Sept. **Jack Carroll** 15 Sept.

Bike Fest (Free): 26 Aug, 30 Sept, (1-4pm) N College.

Friday Social Pop-ups: Hall @ St. Anne's, Letchworth Rd. 29 Sept, 27 Oct, 24 Nov.

WP Charity Beer Festival: 1&2 Sept. Hall @ St Anne's Letchworth Rd. £5 entry.

Summer Melodies Loros Ladies Choir Concert: 23 Sept. 7pm. St Anne's Ch. Tickets £7.50. 07792 118 396

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NEEDLES & SINS

The Leicester City Council's street cleaning in the West End is about as effective as it can be under the circumstances. Keeping on top of an increasing amount of fly tipping and littering whilst diving into every nook and cranny is a difficult prospect. This is where volunteer litter-pickers come in.

Wearing high-vis jackets and thick protective gloves, the St. Paul's Community Litter Picking Team met for the first time on August 8th to sieve through the area around the Kirby Road Pocket Park and the old St. Paul's Church.

A dozen bags of rubbish were collected in a couple of hours including cans, bottles and broken glass.

One of the big problems in the area is the number of discarded needles and syringes. These are generally stuck in hard to reach places like behind hedges, railings or hidden by grass. Special care must be taken with these as they can potentially pass on hepatitis B, C and HIV. The needles were found by Adrian Ablett, better known as Can Man, and reported to the council who promptly



collected them within a few minutes.

The group was brainchild of local eco-campaigner Adrian, and currently includes members of the Community Hub which meets every Wednesday 2-4pm in the Worship Centre.

Adrian and Rev. Sharon Plant met at the Hub and discovered that they both had a desire to clean-up the area for the benefit of the wider community. A grant approval by Fosse Ward for £500 funded the purchase of litter-picking equipment.

The group is convinced that there are others who would like to see the streets around the St. Paul's Conservation Area looking and feeling cleaner and brighter, and they are hoping that more local residents will soon join them.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Rev. Sharon on **07850 026 007** or email Dave at **stpaulscommunity@outlook.com**

The litter picking team plan to meet at 11.30am on alternate Tuesday's at St. Paul's & St Augustine's Worship Centre, Kirby Road. The hourly sessions are followed by free refreshments.



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FESTIVAL WASH-OUT

It was waterproofs, brollies and wellies for those brave souls who attended the Western Park Festival as it heroically swam on through the downpour of 22nd July. In spite of a day of torrential rain the annual festival went ahead as planned. Unfortunately, this year, the crowds did not turn up in their thousands.

Organiser, Ady Alexander said: "It was such a shame that it rained all day and people stayed away because of it.

"It takes approximately six months to plan, so it was heart breaking to see fewer people than normal.

"Thank you to those that threw on the macs and wellies and came anyway; we hope that you enjoyed it. A special thanks to all of the musicians, stage teams, first aid, traders, performers, Studio 79 dancers and our amazing volunteers! I would also like to thank the residents in the area for being so accommodating. I must also mention this year's sponsors, STL Service and MOT Centre, on Fosse Road and Wanlip Sand and Gravel, Syston. The festival would not have been possible without them!"

Zander Events plan this event for free on behalf of Friends of Western Park every year and because of it's popularity and increase in costs for

the infrastructure, such as stages, toilets and security, to name a few, the lack of gate receipts this year means it will not be possible to run the event next year without some kind of fundraising or sponsorship.

Do you have the skills and the time to write funding bids? Would you like to sponsor the event? Are you interested in getting involved? Please get in touch at bookings@zanderevents.co.uk

A GoFundMe campaign has been launched to help cover the costs of next year's festival. Click the QR Code to make a donation.



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BLAST SITE TO BE REBUILT

The site of a kebab shop, which was destroyed in a deadly explosion 12 years ago, is set to be re-developed.

The former site of 'Kams King of Grills' on the corner of Narborough Road and Braunstone Gate has been vacant since 2011 following an attempted insurance fraud which resulted in the death of Fiaz Ahmed Ansari and a man and woman, from Birmingham, being jailed for eight years each for manslaughter.

The original proposals for a three-storey building, and takeaway were submitted to Leicester City Council in 2018 but were not implemented. An amended plan will now see a two-storey building with offices on the ground floor and a flat above.



5 WAYS JUNCTION - MORE DELAYS

Work continues on the £10.4 million road improvement scheme on the busy A50. As part of the project, the council is completely redesigning and overhauling the junction which links Blackbird Road, Woodgate, Fosse Road North, Groby Road and Buckminster Road.

Woodgate will be closed to inbound traffic between its junctions with Fiveways and Marshall Street until early September. This is needed while work to reconfigure kerbs, ducting and drainage are carried out.

Fiveways junction will then be subject to a rolling programme of short-term road closures until the end of September. This is to allow the newly reconfigured junction to be fully resurfaced.

Martin Fletcher, Leicester City Council director of highways, said: "We're working hard to minimise disruption by carrying out work in phases and keeping road closures to a minimum. However, we will need to introduce a rolling programme of short-term closures over the coming weeks as we come to resurfacing the newly reconfigured junction."



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Project Hive is run by the WWCE, a group of local residents raising funds to redevelop the former Eco House into a community space.

It is with great sadness on our part, as I am sure that it is for many Gazette readers, that we have had to cancel this year's Western Park Scarecrow Trail. Scheduled for the first weekend in September, we didn't manage to attract enough scarecrow builders to sufficiently populate the area. This would have meant that there would be large gaps and a lot of walking up and down hills between entrants. We hope that this won't be the end for the Trail and will work hard to find a way that it can be brought back stronger than ever.

We would welcome any suggestions on what might persuade you to join in with a future event.

We are hoping to deliver a series of community engagement events into the autumn involving Forest School type activities. These will be held within Western Park itself. They will be bookable through our social media pages.

Finally, The Pumpkin Roll will return in October, whatever the weather!

KN

JAZZED-UP IN THE PARK

Sunday, 7th August saw the last of this year's annual Bands on the Park performances as Peter Crebbin and His Cool Swing Band played on Western Park, organised by the Letchworth Area Neighbourhood Watch. They were up to their normal very high standard of jazz and have played for them since 2011, apart from the Covid years.



This year's pieces included "I'm the King of the Jungle" from Disney's Jungle Book, "Bring Me Sunshine", "Stranger on the Shore" and many classics ending with "When the Saints Go Marching in."

One of this year's highlights was the ukulele band "UkeTot" who joined the band with Peter Crebbin giving them the chance to have solo slots. They are a group who meet to play together online on Mondays and Thursdays - just for fun!

GP

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August Police Update

We have listened to you and your concerns and are prioritising the following.

Priority 1: Drug Use and Street Drinkers. You said: Issues around Flora Street and Tudor Close. What we are going to do: Continued targeted patrols and stop search powers, use of PSPO powers to dispose of alcohol from street drinkers and partnership working to resolve the long-term issue in the area. We have targeted some of those responsible to place court orders on them to prevent street drinking issues.

Priority 2: Drug Supply / Production. You said: Concerns around the Tudor Road area due to cannabis grows and drug dealing in the area. What we are doing: A problem management plan has been set up to address this issue and continued enforcement via stop and search and warrants will be undertaken by beat officers in the area.

During June we executed search warrants at 11 addresses. Over 1500 cannabis plants with a street value of around million pounds were seized and 14 arrested. His Majesty is currently looking after the majority of these at one of his chosen premises. During July we have continued to target similar addresses, already having positive results.

It is fair to say these are very labour-intensive operations, utilising officers from across the ward, force and teams within the investigation side. Thank you to all of them, including members of the public for all the help to make our neighbourhood a safer and better place to live.

We are also working with the council, landlord groups and local community groups to spread information on cannabis grows, how to report it and help to drive this menace from our streets.

We have also been in your community at stores and food banks to listen to concerns. Please speak to the officers, if you have time, as without your support we struggle to target those causing the most harm.

With the school holidays in full swing, we have also had reports of motorcycles and scooters being ridden on pavements and across parks, putting the public in harm's way. We have already seized several of these, some stolen, and we continue to work with CCTV to identify those responsible. Parents, if there is a motorcycle on your premises, please make sure it is being used correctly by someone with a driver licence and insurance.

There have been a number reports relating to fraudulent parcels which have been linked to a few addresses on the Fosse ward. On August 8th Fosse officers arrested another suspect in relation to this activity. Investigations are ongoing.

Sgt. Lee Cannings

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



This month I have been pruning my trained fruit trees; in particular the espalier and cordons, but also fans can be pruned now if you have them. The summer growth has been exceptional,

possibly due to the large amounts of rainfall we have experienced lately. I've been removing the new shoots where the bottom third is woody, using sharp, clean secateurs. Each cut is made at a 45-degree angle, this lets rain fall off easily, removing the chance of puddling and the risk of any pests and diseases forming there. I've left any short growth, under 15 cm in length, unpruned as these are likely to form into fruiting shoots. The I follow this pruning by adding chicken manure pellets around the base of each tree, incorporating it into the soil which also removes most pests harbouring there.

In addition, I have been pruning wisterias. The growth can be left unchecked, but I find that they



Espalier Fruit Tree

flower more profusely when tamed. Wisteria is best pruned twice a year, unless they are a young plant, in January/February and then July/August. For the summer pruning I remove the whippy long growths back to around 5 pairs of leaves after flowering. This lets unrestricted air flow, wood ripening and bud formation. I also take out any large misplaced/unneeded branches to try and keep it in a nice shape for next year.

I've also carried on dead-heading most plant flowers to try and encourage further flushes of blooms. I say most because the odd one or two I've let go to seed so that I can sow them and grow new plants for next year. Some seeds I sow straight away but others I let dry out ready for sowing in the autumn or spring. I let mine completely dry out on kitchen towel in the greenhouse and then store them in old envelopes (which I label) popped in old takeaway containers with a pack of silica gel which I've kept from the parcels which have been delivered throughout the year. This process works well for me, and I hope you are able to get some free plants too!



Wisteria

Carey Tunstall

Martin Page

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

Autumn, Foxes, Pay rise, River, To, Brown, Ivy, Rain Squirrels, Winds, Flowers, Leaves, Return, Storm, Work.

Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk

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