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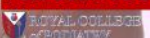
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Hello From The Editor

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

The Gazette's team are still struggling to wake up, after the end of year festivities. There might have been a lot of food/partying involved, we're not sure...

January is traditionally a quiet month on the local news front, and this year is no different, except for the closure of one of our area's best watering holes, the West End Brewery on Braunstone Gate. If you've ever wondered why the proof reading in the magazine can be a bit hit and miss, it's because of that place. We are not the only people walking past the locked iron gates and howling in grief at its loss.

This month we cover the roadworks going on in Braunstone Gate, we went to the launch of the Leicester Comedy Festival and Age UK have advice for the elderly struggling with the cost of energy.

As normal, Carey Tunstall has a New Year gardening update, there's more from the local boys in blue and the evil Brain Tazers lie in wait at the back.

So welcome to 2023. I wonder what's in store for us?

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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.

@Curve: Ocean At The End Of The Lane 31 Jan – 11 Feb. **Comedy Fest Shows:** 8-26th Feb.

@DM Hall: Queen Extravaganza 31 Jan . Leic Comedy Fest Shows 2 Feb-25 Feb Suzanne Vega 28 Feb.

@Little Theatre: Educating Rita 23-28 Jan. The York Realist 6-11 Feb. Oh What A Nite 14/15 Feb.

Upstairs@thewestern: Leic Comedy Fest 8-26 Feb.

Y Theatre: Leic Comedy Fest 8-26 Feb.

Leic Museum & Art Gallery: Leicester & The Queen Exhibition until 31 Jan.

O2 Academy: China Crisis 3 Feb.

Full list of LCF gigs visit: comedy-festival.co.uk

Email editor@westernparkgazette with your event

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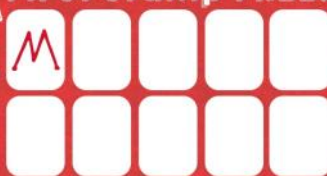
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PASSING INTO LEGEND

The recent pandemic and ever increasing energy and production costs are causing the closure of smaller independent breweries and pubs across the country. The shutting of Leicester's Framework Brewery, has been followed by the closure of one of the city's best known and only brewpubs, The West End Brewery on Braunstone Gate.

The WEB was heaving as the last pints were pulled on New Year's Eve where loyal customers had their last chance to neck back the remaining barrels of Project Pale and West Coast Bitter. It certainly went out with a bang as fireworks exploded across the city at midnight.



For almost seven years the WEB has been at the forefront of Leicester's real ale culture creating everything from stouts to kegs and from lager to speciality brews. It built a huge local reputation for it's crafted beers, naan pizzas and friendly atmosphere.



For owner and brewer, Josh Gray and his staff, closing the business was a particularly difficult, but "no option" decision having sunk years into creating a unique environment only to be faced with an astronomical increase in costs forecast for 2023.

Josh said: "I can't put in enough words just how honoured I am to have had such amazing support and such a wonderful community... From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank my right-hand man and woman, Russ and Tina. No single part of the WEB would have been anywhere near as special without these two."

The Gazette has compiled a short but very wobbly Facebook video of the last night of the WEB.

It's wobbly for a reason... Go to [@ourgazette](#)

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BRANSTONE GATE SCHEME

Two improvement schemes are taking place on Narborough Road and Braunstone Gate.

Leicester City Council is carrying out work designed to make both areas more pedestrian friendly, and in the case of Braunstone Gate, re-modelling it as part of a "Mini Holland" scheme to installing safe walking and cycling infrastructure and reduce car access.

Maintenance work on Narborough Road has been carried out in stages over the last two years. The latest phase should be completed by the middle of March.

It includes making pavements more pedestrian-friendly by installing new bollards and cycle racks to prevent pavement parking, as well as replacing broken or loose slabs and tackling drainage problems on a section of the outbound side of Narborough Road between its junctions with Ruding Road and Roman Street.

Work will also continue at Braunstone Gate as part of a larger £1.5m redevelopment scheme financed by the Government's Transforming Cities Fund.



The latest phase will focus on the junction of Braunstone Gate and Narborough Road and will include removing the existing left-turn lane from Braunstone Gate onto Narborough Road, resurfacing, and a new footway. The existing pavement will be re-laid with high-quality block paving, while three trees whose roots are damaging the footway have been removed.

Leicester Deputy City Mayor for transport, clean air and climate emergency, Cllr Adam Clarke, said: "These works both in Braunstone Gate and Narborough Road aim to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and make it easier to access these shops, bars and other local businesses safely."

Access to Braunstone Gate from Duns Lane and New Park Street is now restricted to buses, taxis and cycles only, and the left turn from Western Boulevard has been closed to traffic, except cycles.

Most on-street parking on Braunstone Gate has been removed, with the extra space used to create wider pavements. Businesses will be able to apply for street café licences and outside seating areas.

Disabled parking bays will be retained, and additional pay-and-display parking spaces will be included on neighbouring Bede Street and Western Road.

Happy New Year

from

Letchworth Area Watch

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Always looking for supporting Coordinators, in particular Nevanthor Road and Denis Close.
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LETTER BOX

Dear Editor: During lockdown, a group of neighbours in Western Park formed a small WhatsApp group, held a few social distance gatherings and helped each other out shopping etc. We gathered before Christmas last year and I suggested that instead of sending neighbours cards, we did something for charity. We decided to collect donations for the Woodgate Community Foodbank, so we amassed quite a lot of stuff and delivered it between Christmas and New Year.



This year I wanted to deliver the collection in time for Christmas, so we started earlier and expanded the collection beyond the WhatsApp group. My son, Oliver, and I delivered fliers to every resident on Ainsdale Road.

We organised house collection hubs and a mulled wine and mince pie meeting, allowing folks to drop off

at their convenience. It is fair to say that the response was overwhelming, we had so many kind and incredibly generous donations from residents all around Ainsdale Road including some from people on Oakthorpe Avenue and Dorchester Road.

We would like to thank each and every kind person who donated as times are hard for everyone, so giving anything isn't always easy. Their kindness was greatly appreciated by the guys at the foodbank and those who would benefit from it. **Jason Wilson**

Dear Editor: Just hoping you can add a huge thank you from all of us at Woodgate Community Food for all the donations we have had from the Western Park, Fosse and Westcotes community. Everyone has been so extremely generous, and it has made a huge difference to what we can provide. **Abi WCF**

Dear Editor: I wondered if anyone had contacted you regarding a rather annoying high-pitched buzz that seems to come and go in the area around Glenfield Road/Westhill Road (and probably beyond)? And it not tinnitus.

The noise has been commented on by a number of my neighbours and we're not sure what the cause is. It seems to be worse in the winter months and when darkness falls, so could, perhaps, be connected to an electricity substation or the street lighting system? **KM**



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COMEDY FESTIVAL TURNS 30

The Leicester Comedy Festival is back for the 30th Year. It's Europe's largest gaggle of comedians gathered in one place. This year's festival was celebrated with a special Gala Night at a packed De Montfort Hall earlier in January.

The Gala Night is a giant plug for the festival which has become an established springboard for new and up and coming comedians as well as the ideal place for seasoned professionals to try out new material ahead of the Edinburgh Fringe later in August.

On stage this year, and hosted by Seann Walsh, we were treated to the comedy musings/rantings of eight of the best and busiest comics on the circuit, all of whom have shows scheduled at the festival. They were Charlie George, Firuz Ozari, Dan Tiernan, Start Goldsmith, Celya Ab, Plastic Jeezuz, Grace Campbell and Ivo Graham. If you haven't heard of them all, it's certain that you will in the future. The Gala Night was a superb evening of music, giggles and laughter that has now become a major January fixture and one which is not to be missed.



If you're lucky enough to go to the after-show party; I did, they have chips and nibbles too... That's showbiz for you!

Last year, the Leicester Comedy Festival came back with a bang, after lockdown, showcasing a programme featuring 560 shows, over 800 performances at 64 venues. This year's festival is expected to be just as busy and runs from the 8th to the 26th of February at venues across the city.

A spokesman said: "Big Difference, the charity behind the festival, aims to deliver a memorable and entertaining experience by shining a light on the future generation of comedians, working with both young and old communities, and cultivating laughter and comedy in people's heart, as they celebrate with both staples and rising stars of the industry."

Comedians performing at the various Leicester venues in 2023 include Chloe Petts, Colin Hout, Darren Harriott, Adele Cliff, Fern Brady, Gary Delaney, John Kearns, Ignacio Lopez, Richard Herring, Ahir Shah and Sophie Duker, Josh Pugh, Emmanuel Sonubi and Sarah Keyworth.

More information on Leicester Comedy Festival's socials and at comedy-festival.co.uk **RP**



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AGE UK & OLDER ENERGY BILL PAYERS

As the winter days get colder, many people are seeing the stark reality of the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and rising energy bill.

Many people are having to make drastic cut-backs, even making the tough decision between 'heating or eating' which, particularly for older and vulnerable people, can have a detrimental affect on their physical and mental health.



New Age UK analysis has found that 2.8m older households are living in fuel poverty this winter – despite the Government freezing the energy price cap.

In a bid to help older people in the local communi-

ty be warmer and wiser about their energy usage, as well help them save money on their energy bills, local charity Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland is providing free home energy checks. They will assess energy usage in your home advising on how you can stay warm for less money, any grants you may be entitled to, supply and fit free energy saving products such as draught excluders, timers, and light bulbs. These measures can help reduce energy bills and keep warm for less money and are available to people aged over 50 years.

Age UK Leicester, Shire & Rutland is committed to supporting older people during this cost-of-living crisis by providing a range of support services to help older people to keep energy bills down and stay warm and well this winter. This includes free benefit checks and applying for benefits you may be entitled to and support to keep warm via a free home energy check.

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**Jan Police Update**

Firstly, a happy new year to you all, I hope the festive period was good and that it was Santa and not the Grinch that visited.

A man has been imprisoned for killing a woman following a crash on Hinckley Road, near Braunstone Park, in July last year.

21-year-old Connor Wilsher will serve 6 years after pleading guilty to death by dangerous driving & failing to stop after a road accident.

Wilsher was attempting to overtake another vehicle on a bend when he collided with Darcy Reid's car. Darcy, who was only 23, died in hospital from her injuries a few weeks later.

Burglary offences are still occurring as are parcel thefts. Please ensure, when in or out, your doors and windows are locked and that if you are expecting a delivery, and won't be in, that the delivery company are aware of your nominated safe place or neighbour where they can leave the parcel. Check that your sheds, outbuildings or back gates are locked as well.

With Christmas in the rear view mirror, please consider how you dispose of packaging from new expensive items. Whilst we all love to be responsible and recycle, where possible, those big, branded box, that your new pride and joy has arrived in, is also an advert that you have it!

On the 6th January we held a bike registry event on Tudor Road. This was well attended with several food delivery riders also taking time out their busy schedules to get their bikes marked and another gentleman running home to fetch his two wheeled Christmas present! We will be holding further events in the coming months and updates will be posted on Facebook @West Leicester Police and Neighbourhood Link. If you haven't signed up already then please do so by visiting www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk as we regularly send out updates of events and crime prevention advice.

Several search warrants have been executed in the last 6 weeks, across Westcotes and The Fosse, resulting in the recovery of large quantities of cannabis. We are exploring opportunities with the fire service and power companies to raise awareness of the risk that these locations can pose to the community as the electrical work is very dangerous. This can, and has, led to fires breaking out. Local information is instrumental in disrupting these activities. Suspicious activity can be reported by telephoning 101, visiting the Leicestershire police website or reporting your concerns anonymously to CrimeStoppers via their website or freephone telephone number **0800 555 111**. Please also feel free to drop into any of the advertised beat events on police.uk and let us know your concerns.

Matt Hutton

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



Now the festive season is over, I've been considering how we can try and counteract some of the excess waste that we produce. For instance, we love Christmas nuts, even though some of them are still in the bowl at the end of January, so instead of throwing the shells in the waste bin I've been saving them. Washed pistachio shells can be used to provide good drainage in houseplants. Unwashed salted shells can be used in the garden when placed around plant bases as a slug and snail deterrent. If you have an open fire, either type can also be used as kindling to get it going. Other shells, with the possible exception of walnuts, can be added to your compost bin as it's good to have a mix of green and brown matter, but they can take up to two years to break down unless you crush them first to speed up decomposition. Small amounts of paper and card can also be added to your compost pile, I like to add most of this to recycling though as I believe it's more environmentally useful.

There's been some controversy over whether citrus fruit should be added to your compost because of its acidity level, but if the peel is dried out first, it'll rot more easily and give off necessary nitrogen,

phosphorous and potassium, whilst the scent can act as a natural deterrent to keep pests at bay.

I separate winter plant gift bowls, transferring the perennials into the garden and any short lived plants into the compost bin along with the soil medium. I wash and save the bowls for next year so they can be re-gifted. Real Christmas trees, that are not rooted, can be chopped and stored for rotting in an unused area of the garden which is great for wildlife! Or if you have access to a decent shredder they can be shredded and added to your compost bin or used as a mulch/weed suppressant. Rooted trees can be placed in the border and dug up for use next year.

I have spent some time clearing guttering and drainage pipes leading to water butts ensuring the winter rain is collected for the coming seasons. It's also a good time to cut back any overgrown and unwanted ivy as well as other climbing plants before the birds start nesting. The birds love high energy food to help them through the cold spell and, as ever, I've been making sure they have enough fresh water to keep them going.

Happy New Year and happy gardening!

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H	G	B	F	T	I	V	Y
F	A	I	U	S	L	N	H
R	P	N	K	N	E	J	E
E	M	Y	G	I	Y	T	T
E	A	S	C	O	S	Y	Y
Z	H	E	N	A	V	L	R
E	C	O	O	O	L	E	E
P	Q	T	M	O	W	K	R
DD	W	X	H	W	A	R	M

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

Baileys, Ivy, Toast, Champaign, Robin, Warm, Freeze, Ice, Whiskey, Cosy, Holly.

Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk



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