

# Western Park Gazette

News-Views and advertising for the Western Park Area  
No 14 April/May 2010 [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)



## Greetings From The Editor

Welcome to the April/May issue of the Western Park Gazette.

In this edition, shoppers who park next to the Hinckley Road parade of shops could get parking tickets. As Roger Blackmore's tenure as Leicester's Lord Mayor comes to an end, he reveals the history behind his chosen charity, The Leicester Children's Centre in Mablethorpe.

We find out what the Hinckley Road Policing Unit have are up to and our gardening guru, Tony Huxley, wants us to grow our own fruit!

There's the story about the appeal to create a memorial window in St. Anne's Church to commemorate local war dead, Helen Knott suffers bonfire rage, there was an "eggciting" success on the park, and Andy Miarkowski thinks video sharing websites could be in a lot of trouble.

You can also win a pair of tickets to see Salome at Curve.

Don't forget to join us on-line and have your say on the discussion board or brows through previous issues of the Gazette. And we're on Facebook as well! If you would like to contribute, just get in touch.

*Sharon - editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk*

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## Shoppers Shopped!

Drivers have parked side to side in the lay-by on Hinckley Road for over 20 years. But following a complaint to the City Council, wardens slapped parking tickets on four cars.

A spokesman said there had been reports of vehicles parking dangerously and causing an obstruction on the road and pavement.

The fines were issued on cars parked diagonally, rather than side to side.

Although cars are still being parked like this, they are now fewer spaces as drivers try not to encroach on the carriageway.

*Is it ridiculous? - Join the discussion on our forum at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)*



Still squeezing in - But not as much!

# Secret Millionaire

As a Western Park resident myself, I was very pleased that Secret Millionaire Jahan Abedi decided to support local charities with some of his money.

My particular interest is in the Fresh Start project, run by Refugee Action. Appearing in the programme was quite an experience and I'm delighted that a difficult and sometimes controversial topic was given a very human face by some of the many decent people who have defied terrible odds, not only to reach safety here, but to keep going despite the challenges of delays and destitution.

It's really important not to mistake asylum seekers for other types of immigrants. One small but important point is that the project won't help reintegrate immigrants back into the asylum system. It will help destitute asylum seeking women (who currently have no reliable accommodation or form of income) to consider their long term futures and make appropriate plans – whether that involves reintegration or the possibility of returning home.

Jahan's gift is a fantastic contribution to what is an important project for some extremely vulnerable people.

Aidan Hallett. You can read Aiden's article in full at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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# Events Diary

**Western Park Clrs Surgery** Monthly-2nd Thursday, St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 7-8.00pm.

**Zumba Class** Tues 8-9.00pm at St Anne's Church Hall. £4.00 Call Sarah 07810 307 113.

**Spiritual Development Circle** every Thursday. 6-9.00pm at Angel Source Holistics, 14 Hinckley Road. Dishna - 07955 634 221.

**Knitting Circle** Meet every Thursday from 1pm at Mary Clare, 4 Shaftsbury Av. Tel: 0116 255 1866.

**Leicester Badminton Club** New College Leicester Mixed abilities - all ages. Tues 7pm, term time, £3.00. Tel: Michael Cheung 07967 592 208.

**Castle Gardens Old Town Event:** 14th May. 11am - 7pm. Tours around Leicester Castle, churches and Newalke Houses Museum. 0116 255 4980.

**Night at the Museum:** 15th May. 6-9pm – evening of activities at Jewry Wall Museum. 0116 253 2569.

**Guildhall Events:** Mediaeval Gardener, Haunting of Guildhall, Print Workshop, Leicester Early Music Festival - 9th-31st May. 0116 253 2569.

**Leicester Castle Events:** Early Music Festival, Teddy Mania & Ghostly, Ghastly, Gruesome. 2-5pm Castle Park. For children. 31st May. £1.00/Free.

**Fosse Library:** 17th - Beaded Jewellery, 19th - Crochet, 21st - Family History. 0116 225 4995.

**City of Leicester's Singers Waterfall Concert :** St James The Greater Church, London Rd Sat.19June at 7.30pm. [www.cityofleicestersingers.co.uk](http://www.cityofleicestersingers.co.uk)

## Events in the Parish

St. Anne's St. Paul's and St. Augustine's

**At St. Anne's Church Hall -**

**Mon - Fri** Sandhurst Playgroup 285 7440. Term-time

**Mon:** 5.30 - 7.00pm: W.E.A. Yoga 255 6614.  
7.15 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi with Rick.

**Tues:** 8.00 - 9.00pm: Zumba Fitness.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tues:** 2.00 - 4.00pm: Mothers' Union Speakers

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tues:** 7.30 - 9.30pm: W.P. Gardening Club.

**Wed:** 5.00 - 8.00pm: Weightwatchers.

**Wed:** 8.00 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi with Rick.

**1<sup>st</sup> Wed:** 2.30 - 4.00pm: Wednesday Club.

**4<sup>th</sup> Wed:** 7.00 - 9.00pm: Mothers' Union Speakers.

**Thurs:** 9.00 - 10.00am: Pilates for fitness.  
1.30 - 3.30pm: Pram Club. (Term time)

6.30 - 8.00pm: Rebounder Aerobics

**Fri:** 10.00am: Coffee Morning.

**1<sup>st</sup> Fri:** 11.30 - 1.00pm: Lunch club.

**2 & 4<sup>th</sup> Fri:** 2.00 - 4.00pm: Folk dancing.

**Tuesdays** 10.00am: Mums and Toddlers & 1.30 pm:  
Over 60's Club. (**St. Paul's**)

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>** at St. Paul's Worship Centre:  
Coffee Morning for Christian Aid and table-top Plant  
sale. 10 - 1 pm and Come and Sing Musicals at **St. Anne's**. Inc. Glass of wine. £5.00 per adult, £1.00  
per child. 7.30pm.

**29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>** Laund Abby Flower Festival.

**9<sup>th</sup> June** at 5.30pm Installation of Christopher Oxley as Honorary Cannon.

As his appeal to raise money for The Leicester Children's Holiday Centre in Mablethorpe continues, Lord Mayor, Cllr. Roger Blackmore delves into the history of this unique Leicester Institution.

## A Holiday Home From Home

For 112 years, The Leicester Children's Holiday Centre has provided free holidays to more than 53,000 disadvantaged children aged between seven and eleven.

Near the fun fair and just behind the sand dunes by the beach, the Holiday Centre has offered some local children their first sight of the sea.

In the late Victorian period, Lady Rolleston, the wife of an influential local architect, became concerned about the welfare of poor Leicester boys she saw selling newspapers.

They would be struggling to earn a few coppers a week to help feed their families and many were shoeless and poorly dressed.

Lady Rolleston frequently invited these children to her home for food and rest. She realised there was a desperate need for the lads to get away from their punishing work and mix with other boys. Along with her husband Archibald, they launched the Leicester Boys Club which also, with volunteer helpers, arranged camping holidays in the Mablethorpe sand dunes.

This was so successful, she decided to form a

permanent organisation and with the help of the Mayor and local businessmen, they formed the Leicester Poor Boys Summer Camp. A year later the title was changed to the Leicester Poor Boys and Girls Summer Camp and Institute.

Whilst it was considered suitable for boys to camp in tents it was felt, "unseemly" for young ladies, so in 1900 a purpose built shelter was erected. Five years later the boy's block was built and by 1935 the current building was erected.

There are many reasons why today's children need this vital service. They might be affected by poverty, crime, family illness or other factors.

The Centre offers a traditional stress free holiday, where children eat local fresh food, learn social skills, manners and consideration. They can visit the local cinema, the shops or have fun on the beach.

The centre has its own play equipment and the staff organise games, projects and many other educational activities.

Lady Rolleston would have been proud.

More from Roger in the next issue.



Holiday Centre 1n 1935

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## West Leicester Votes 2010

### The Candidates

Peter Coley - Liberal Democrats.

Celia Harvey - Conservatives.

Liz Kendall - Labour.

Geoff Forse - Green Party.

Shaun Dyer - Pirate Party UK.

Stephen Ingall - UK Independence Party.

Dave Bowley - Independent 3.

Steven Huggins - Independent 3.

Steve Score - Trade Unionist and Social Coalition.

Gary Reynolds - British National Party.

### 2005 General Election Results

The 33,224 (53.3%) turnout in 2005 resulted in a Labour win of 17,184 for Patricia Hewitt over her Conservative rival who polled a total of 8,114. The Lib Dems managed 5,803 and the Greens 1,571.

### The Constituency

The current Constituency was taken by Labour on its creation in 1974 and has been a stronghold ever since. The original seat existed in the early part of the 20th century until its abolition in the 1950's.

In 2009 Leicester West had the 4th highest level of unemployment in Britain at 13.8% and a population of around 95,000.

# EGG-citing Success!

It may have been cold and damp this Easter but that didn't stop around 200 people turning up to Western Park for an Easter Egg Hunt.

The event, organized by the Friends of Western Park and Leicester City Park Services, raised £145 towards improvements in children's play facilities on the park.

As well as the Easter Egg Hunt there was a n Easter Bonnet competition which attracted a large number of incredibly creative entries making it very hard to judge.

Ady Alexander, chairman of the FoWP, said: "We want to say thank you and well done to all our winners. It was a great event and everyone had a lot of fun. We are trying to get more people to come and use the facilities in our fantastic park and if we can do that and raise some money towards improving things then that's brilliant."



With a titanic raging fury and clothes pegs clenched between her teeth, Western Park journalist and broadcaster Helen Knott is not bothered by ash from a volcano. Ash from bonfires is another matter!

## KNOTT'S LANDING

Helen Knott

Bonfire rage is a terrible thing. The sky is blue, the sun is out and loads of people have been beavering away in the garden trying to tame their wilderness into something that will be a nice place to sit, relax and have a glass of wine in later in the year.

This hard work generates garden waste which has to be got rid of and I fully understand that a sensible way to do it is in the bonfire.

My problem is that people seem to think it's OK to have a bonfire in the middle of beautiful sunny days. It blooming well isn't. I have, on several occasions recently, had to race out in the middle of the day to rescue my washing from smoke. I cannot begin to explain how irritating it is to have to drag half dry, smoky washing into the house, wash it again and dry it on the radiators. There are also a few asthma sufferers in our family and rushing around closing windows so they can breathe properly is a pain.



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Bonfire etiquette isn't hard to get the hang of. You should have your bonfire late in the afternoon or early in the evening. Check your immediate neighbours gardens for washing and try and work out what the wind is doing so you can make sure it isn't going to blow the smoke straight into their windows. A still day is best. When you have your bonfire going, get it hot and try not to throw piles of wet stuff on that make a lot of smoke.

So there you have it. From here on in the only ash on my laundry should be Icelandic volcano ash. If you agree, or even if you don't, you can get online to discuss it at:

[www.westernparkgazette.co.uk/forum](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk/forum)

## GAZETTE COMPETITION

March's Gazette competition winner is Stephan Mills who won two "Classic Who" stories on DVD featuring Tom Baker.

This month we've teamed up with Curve to offer a pair of tickets to Salome, Oscar Wilde's controversial study of erotic obsession on Friday 14th of May.



### THE QUESTION

Salome, who performed the dance of the seven veils for the head of John the Baptist, was the daughter of which legendary King?

- A. King Herod.
- B. King Canute the Great.
- C. King Lionidas of Sparta.

Email your answer by May 12th 2010 to [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)  
Or to - Editor c/o Western Park Gazette  
62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester , LE3 0UA  
*One correct answer picked at random. No cash alternative and editor's decision is final.*

## Tai Chi For Charity

Local charity Coping with Cancer who support cancer victims, their families and carers are offering the chance to experience an ancient Chinese martial art.



Tai Chi is a very subtle, gentle and slow method of exercise for people of all ages, with the benefits of stimulating blood circulation, loosening joints and promoting relaxation.

Coping with Cancer has been running a Tai Chi class for many years, and it is now being opened up to the general public.

Taking place at Helen Webb House on Westleigh Road from 5 to 7pm every Wednesday evening, the Tai Chi master will take you through the basic moves at your own pace.



A donation of £2 is suggested, payable on the night. For more details please ring:  
**0116 223 0055 or email [admin@c-w-c.org.uk](mailto:admin@c-w-c.org.uk)**

## THE RED COATS ARE COMING!

If you see people in red coats walking the streets of Western Park this spring you can be safe in the knowledge that no-one is going to shout hi-di-hi at you.

They are the new City Warden's and their job is to make the streets a nicer place to be.

Their job will cover a wide range of issues including; litter, graffiti, fly-posting, nuisance parking (vehicles for sale or being repaired on the highway), leaflet distribution, dog fouling and wheelie bins on streets.

They have been working across Leicester in eleven wards for the last year and have had considerable success with removing fly-posters and getting people to take their bins off the streets.

A spokeswoman for Leicester City Council told the Western Park Gazette that the wardens would be able to help solve problems by using their knowledge of local services to provide joined up solutions.

She also said that in the future you will be able to text them with information or photos of problem areas.

Anyone can contact the City Wardens to report problems on their hotline number which is 0116 252 7001.

To Comment - e: [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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# April Update

## From Hinckley Road Policing Unit

Officers executed a warrant at an address in Westcotes and closed down a cannabis factory. Arrests have been made and investigations continue.

Officers at Hinckley Road and Braunstone Police Station are introducing the system of issuing yellow cards to those who commit Anti Social Behaviour. It is to be given out to low level first time offenders of ASB. Only one yellow card is issued, if there are any problems after that, the process of warning letters and other interventions will be introduced.

Officers made arrests following a report of a fight between two groups of men in January at the junction of Narborough Road and Fullhurst Avenue. As a result, on 29th March, two men were charged with Possession of a Firearm with "Intent to Cause Fear of Violence" and given bail conditions not to enter Leicester. Another man was charged with having an offensive weapon. Enquires are continuing.

Officers from the Hinckley Road Local Policing Unit arrested a person for Burglary on Braunstone estate. He was arrested in possession of

stolen property from a recent break in. A further male was arrested for Burglary in the Braunstone area. He was found on the premises and promptly arrested. Three further arrests were made on Braunstone Estate for going equipped to steal in another incident. They were found to have items on them to commit crime and were known to the police.

A male was also arrested by officers from the Hinckley Road neighbourhood action team, for handling stolen goods. He was arrested in possession of gold rings from a recent Burglary on Braunstone Estate.

All were bailed pending further enquires.

In a separate incident, another active burglar was arrested for breaching his bail conditions and on suspicion of several burglaries. He was charged and remanded to court.

### Officers in the Fosse Area will be concentrating on the following priorities:

To reduce groups of youths congregating in the Warwick Street, Vaughan Street and Dannett Street, Central Road, Bonchurch Street and Rally Park areas.

To prevent groups of youths gathering at the weekend drinking alcohol and causing general anti-social behaviour.

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## Breath Easy Week

Breathe Easy, the British Lung Foundation Network, provides information, support and friendship to anyone affected by lung disease.

Each year their Breathe Easy Week fundraiser marks their 25th anniversary and the launch of their new Children's Charter.

A bric-a-brac sale and raffle will be held in the Foyer of Glenfield Hospital on Wed 9th of June.

## CLASSIFIEDS

Part-time - Fulltime Beauty Therapist NVQ 3 needed. Must have 3 years exp.

Call Tracey/Nicola 0116 254 9905

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## **Memorial Window Plea For St. Anne's**

**Four Thousand Pounds** is needed to create a memorial window to honour Western Park's war dead.

Fundraiser Michael Walker says, "Many are aware there is no focal point within St. Anne's for the remembrance of those who have given their lives for this country. With this in mind various options have been considered, culminating with the idea of creating a memorial window by adapting the central panel of the window on the south aisle near to the Book of Remembrance".

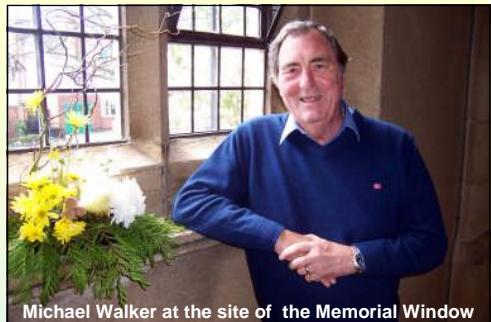
The Diocesan Advisory Committee has already approved the scheme. "We thoroughly support the proposal and feel it would be an attractive and thoughtful addition to the church".

The £4,000 cost to create and install the window will be met partly by Church funds, however the idea is to make it a Western Park area project and involve the local community.

Mr. Walker is asking the community for help, "Various fund raising ideas are being considered and we're looking for donations, in fact two have already been pledged".

The current cost could vary subject to the complexity of the design and Western Park residents are asked to put forward ideas. Mr. Walker says, "It doesn't matter how basic your drawings are as

the idea will be refined to fit the manufacture and it could be a combination of several ideas.



**Michael Walker at the site of the Memorial Window**

Any ideas about fund raising, the design and any questions regarding the whole proposal are welcome. We wish to see the project completed as soon as possible".

For more information contact Michael Walker (0116 2246047)

Holding an event near Western Park?

**TELL US ABOUT IT!**

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or The editor c/o 62 Ainsdale Road  
Leicester LE3 0UA

**Clarefield Road News Letter**  
The Clarefield Road Newsletter, which recently celebrated its first birthday, is circulated to all Clarefield Road residents and a few Hinckley Road ones as well.

Editor Mel Lawrence says: "I started the newsletter because I wanted to build on the community spirit that we have on Clarefield Road, as well as provide useful information for its residents. The feedback I've received has been very positive and it definitely seems to be making a difference."

Mel is keen to point out that a street newsletter is a unique type of publication. "It's completely different from the Gazette or a Neighbourhood Watch newsletter," she says. "It's much more intimate, although it can cover wider issues. It's also useful for encouraging neighbours to get to know one another better through joint social activities."

If you are interested in starting a newsletter for your street, email [clarefieldnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clarefieldnews@yahoo.co.uk) or write to Mel Lawrence c/o the Gazette.

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## Freeriders Club on the RIGHT TRACK!

The Western Park Freeride Club is now firmly on the map following our very successful first open day.

The aim is to bring the community together by hosting cycling events, regenerating and maintaining the track, obtaining funding for equipment and providing coaching sessions for track users.

The first open day on 1st April was a very popular event and despite the bad weather, there was an amazing turn out. Four bouncy castles and inflatables, coaching sessions, giveaways, free cycle repairs, equipment and cycle try outs, a climbing wall and BBQ, all added to the fun.

The club have the backing of the council and several cycling organisations and are committed to reducing crime and anti social behaviour in the area by involving young people in a fun sport and teaching them to look after their surroundings for everyone's benefit.



Free Riding on Western Park Track

The Western Park Freeride Club is part of the A.C.E (active communities for the environment) project run by Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire and funded by the Big Lottery. Membership to the club is free and the forms can be downloaded from their website: [www.westernparkfreeriders.co.uk](http://www.westernparkfreeriders.co.uk)

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## Nice Box - What's in it?

Andrzej Miarkowski

When three former PayPal employees created the video sharing website YouTube in 2005, it's unlikely they grasped what a huge success it would rapidly become.

One year later they sold it to Google Inc for \$1.65 Billion and it continues to get even bigger.

The Californian based company uses Flash Adobe to display user generated content including music videos, film and TV clips, video blogging and mobile phone clips.

It's the phone clips that have caused a major problem.

Although the terms of service are strict, with over 200,000 videos uploaded onto YouTube every day, some things slip through that violate copyright and international law. The huge volume of uploaded daily content makes it virtually impossible to vet every video and this has lead to a big problem for YouTube and their parent company Google whose video search engine also picks up content from other video distributors.



Three Google executives were recently given six month suspended prison sentences in Italy for violating the privacy of an autistic teenager who was bullied in a phone clip that was posted on Google's Italian website. In his ruling the judge states that Google bears responsibility because the company profited from advertising on the web site where the video was shown, even though the offensive material was quickly removed after a complaint was made. The judge wrote: "In simple words, it is not the writing on the wall that constitutes a crime for the owner of the wall, but its commercial exploitation can." He said his decision should be interpreted as a requirement that internet service providers must screen the enormous amount of video that passes through their sites.

As we become more confident and complacent in using Web applications, more people are likely to present inappropriate material for public viewing and a point will be reached where the free for all will no longer be tolerated. It may be inevitable that some of the Web applications we take for granted today could be severely restricted, expensive or even non-existent in the future.

Andrzej Miarkowski is a Microsoft Certified Professional Developer.

More from Andy next month.

# Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



I thought you should know I've taken the pledge. No, I haven't gone teetotal, how else would my typing finger stay lubricated? I'm doing my bit for healthy food and the environment. Few things are more rewarding than growing your own food. The UK's leading organic charity, Garden Organic, is trying to get 30,000 people to take up their One Pot Pledge® and grow fruit and veg at home. You too can make the pledge and get lots of useful information at [www.onepotpledge.org](http://www.onepotpledge.org). As the name suggests, you don't need a large vegetable plot to take part. A suitable container and compost on a kitchen windowsill and you're away. Herbs like Coriander and Parsley are ideal. A little more room, then try some Tumbling Tom tomatoes. Limited space outside? Try growing potatoes in a large container. Last year I grew a crop in an old plastic water tank! Just make sure you have some drainage. Try using old potatoes that have started to sprout, there's no need to be precious. Home grown produce cuts down food miles, packaging and ensures a supply of fresh readily available ingredients. It's also highly addictive.

## BRAIN *TAZERS*

1. Why are some letters above the line and others below?

AEHFIKLMNTVWXYZ  
BCDGJOPQRSY

2. There are three switches in your hall. Each turns on one of the three light bulbs in the cellar. You can turn the switches on and off and leave them in any position.

How would you work out which switch corresponds to which light bulb, if you are only allowed one trip to the cellar?

**Answers on line at**

[www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

If you'd like to **TAZER** our readers brains, with a lateral thinking or logic puzzle, just drop us an email with the question **and** the answer. *Editor*

**Last months answers -**

Triangle Puzzle - At least 30 triangles.

Lateral Thinker - Both equations wrong!  $8+7=15$

Demand for allotments is the highest it's been in decades. Last year sales of fruit and veg seed overtook those of ornamental plants. But you don't have to sacrifice beauty for function. Beans were first grown in this country for their blooms alone! And my potted Laurel bush isn't just for show. It's regularly ravaged for the sake of a Bolognese sauce.

If you decide to join in let me know how you get on. In the mean time I hope to see you at Plant Fest 2010 where I will be doing my bit for another charity.



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