



Drought... Not Here!



River Soar near Western Boulevard

Drought... What Drought

This month is on the way to becoming the wettest April for 20 years.

Last spring was one of the warmest and driest on record and this March was also unexpectedly dry, but April is proving to be the exact opposite.

Atlantic weather fronts off the coast have created the wind, hail and heavy rain lashing down on West Leicester, considerably raising the water level of the River Soar for a time.

According to Met Office statistics, halfway through April, the torrential rainfall across the UK was only 10% above the normal 35mm, so the 2000 record of 120.3mm is still to be beaten

Near the end of April, the Mountsorrel weather station reported our area's total rainfall for the last three months was 137mm; considerably wetter than 76mm last year, yet local April rainfall is only slightly above the Met Office average.

It's also colder than normal, with temperature a little below the local seasonal average of 12C.

The weather is expected to become more settled during the second half of May, but a great deal more rain is needed to replace the badly depleted water table which ultimately supplies reservoirs.

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SLOW IT DOWN!

Plans to impose speed limits on roads in the Westcotes, and Tudor Road area are coming into force during the spring.

The £100,000 scheme by the Leicester City Council's planning department, to cut the 30mph speed limit down to 20mph, will effect a total of 114 city roads, with more in the pipeline.

The residential roads chosen already have speed bumps as traffic calming measure and as a result the new limits will be easier to enforce.

The plans were put out for public consultation with 84% of those responding backing the plan which brings Westcotes and Tudor Road into line with other areas of Leicester.



Leicester's **BIG** Spring Clean 2012

Volunteer groups and locals across West Leicester are once again springing into action to clean up our neighbourhoods and open spaces.

Leicester's BIG Spring Clean 2012 which runs until 5th June, is encouraging as many as possible to take part.

In April children from Woodgate Adventure playground joined other volunteers to fill 16 bin liners with rubbish from around the play area and staff, parents and children from the New Parks Adventure Playground joined parks staff to litter pick Western Park.

To find out more visit

www.leicester.gov.uk/bigspringclean



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LOCAL COUNCILLOR IN THE RUNNING
Westcotes Councillor Sarah Russell has been chosen by the Labour Party as their representative in the race to become Leicester-shire's first elected Police Commissioner.

Councillor Russell will stand in the November 15th election against a currently unknown field of candidates.

Policing Authorities outside London are due to be replaced by Police and Crime Commissioners, on a £70,000 a year salary.

The change is aimed at making the police more accountable to the communities they serve.

The Commissioner will be overseen by a new Police and Crime Panel made up of representatives from within the policing area.

The elections will take place every four years and anyone wishing to put their name forward as a candidate, should visit the Police and Crime Commissioners page at www.homeoffice.gov.uk



Events Diary

Zumba Class Tues. 6.45-7.45 & 8-9.00pm at New College. Call Sarah 07810 307 113.

Fosse Camera Club: Fridays. St. Peter's Church Rooms. 7.45pm. 0116 299 2230.

Leic' Ladies WI: Meets monthly on 3rd Mon. 7.15pm Upstairs in The Almanack, 15 Bath House Lane.

Breastfeeding Group: West End Sure Start Children's Centre, Catesby Street, Leicester, LE3 5PB Every Tuesday 1:30pm - 3:00pm. 0116 225 2225.

Plant Sale: 4th-7th May. Afternoons. Woodgate Resources Centre.

Peter Crebbin & His Cool Swing Band: 6th May. Residency at the Hilton Hotel. 1-3.30pm.

May Fair and Coffee Morning: Sat 12th May. 10-12 noon at St. Anne's Church Hall.

The Secret Life of the Honey Bee and their Keepers: An illustrated talk with Graham Law: 15 May. St Anne's Church Hall. 7.30pm. Visitors £1.50.

Moroccan Market: 8th-12th May. City Centre.

Family History on the Internet: 14th May. 10-12 noon. Fosse Library Mantle Road. Free.

Poetry Please: 18th May. Westcotes Library. 10.30-12noon. Free.

Pelargoniums with Mike Darch: & plants for sale. Evening talk at St. Anne's Church Hall, 19 June.

7.30pm. Visitors £1.50. For details T: 0116 255 9245

Western Park Festival: Sun July 15th. 12-8pm.

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

At St. Anne's Church Hall -

Mon - Fri Sandhurst Playgroup 285 7440.

Mon: 5.30 - 7.00pm: W.E.A. Yoga 255 6614.

7.15 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi. Call Rick 285 5159.

2nd Tue: 2.00 - 4.00pm: MU Speakers.

3rd Tue: 7.30 - 9.30pm: W.P. Gardening Club.

Wed: 5.00 - 8.00pm: Weightwatchers.

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

1st Wed: 2.30 - 4.00pm: Wednesday Club.

4th Wed: 7.00 - 9.00pm: MU 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.

1st Fri: 1.30 - 1.00pm: Lunch club.

2 & 4th Fri: 2.00 - 4.00pm: Folk dancing.

Tuesdays 10.00am: Mums and Toddlers: Over 60's Club. 12.30 (**St. Paul's**)

Messy Church: April 7th, May 12th.

Bob's Family Quiz: St. Anne's. Sat 5th May.

7.00pm. Bring a team of 4. RSVP Jan 285 4284 or Nick 07792123630 tickets (In Advance) £6.

Church of the Martyrs

Westcotes Drive Leicester

Tomatoes Cafe Church: Live music alternate Saturdays, 9.30 -12 noon.

Shake Rattle & Roll: For babies toddlers & carers every Thursday in term time- 9.30-11.30am.

Street Self Defence: Mondays in the Hall. 7.30-8.30pm Call 07788 637 686 for details.

Martyrs Football Training: every Weds eve 9pm at New College, Glenfield Rd.

Craft Group: for any type of craft. Every 2nd Thurs of the month.

Karate: Fridays in the Hall. 6.00-7.00pm.

Rainbows: Mondays 5.15pm.

Brownies: Mon & Thurs. 6.30pm.

Guides: Tuesdays. 7.00pm.

Photo Exhibition: 29th April- 5th May. During church opening times.

St. Andrew's Methodist Church

Glenfield Road East, Leicester

Weds: Brownies. 6.30-8.00pm. T: Heather Valentine 0116 287 1056. **Fri:** Pram Club. Term Time.

10.00-11.30am. T: Jean, 0116 255 2912.

Parish of St. Peter

21 Hinckley Road Leicester

Details of events and services can be found on line at www.stpetersleicester.org.uk

Epworth Methodist Church

Blackbird Road, Leicester

Weds: Boys' Brigade 6.00 - 9.30 (ages 5 - 17)

Tel: John Ogleby 0116 233 7978

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8 Caught in Metal Net

Local police based at Hinckley Road have caught eight drivers illegally transporting scrap metal.

Officers took part in a multi-agency operation on Wednesday April 18 to tackle scrap metal theft.

The team patrolled the area with representatives from the Leicester City Council, Environmental Crime Team. They were looking for vehicles carrying scrap metal and vehicles known to be used in the scrap metal trade.

The operation was to ensure that the drivers were carrying the correct waste licences and documentation and to locate stolen scrap metal.

A total of 12 vehicles were stopped in the operation, during which officers found a range of items including washing machines and metal gates. Police are currently tracing ownership.

Eight drivers were found to be without the required waste transfer notes. One driver will be interviewed for other waste offences by Leicester City Council Environmental Services.



A Fully Loaded Canon

Several decades ago, I spent some time with a remarkable local man.

I whiled many happy hours in the company of the late Alfred Silverwood of Church Avenue, as he regaled me with tales of Leicester in the late 1900's and the early years of the 20th century.

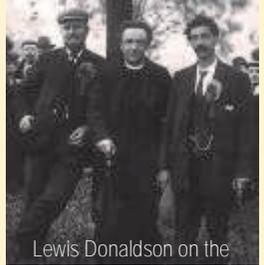
One of the most colourful local characters Alfred recalled was Canon Fredrick Lewis Donaldson, the Vicar of St. Mark's in the city from 1896 to 1918.

Lewis Donaldson (1860-1953) was born in Birmingham and educated at Oxford.

He arrived in Leicestershire as Rector of Nailstone in the 1890's, having spent time working in the slums of London where he became deeply concerned with the social issues of the time.

He was one of the founders of the Christian Social League and upon his arrival in Leicester, became chairman of the local branch of the Christian Social Union.

As a lifelong campaigner on behalf of the underdog, he led 470 out of work shoemakers on the Leicester Unemployed March to London in 1905 and secured lasting fame, or possibility notoriety, as an anti establishment troublemaker.



Lewis Donaldson on the

Having being refused an audience at Lambeth Palace, by the Archbishop of Canterbury to discuss the marchers' rights, he then published the Church's unsympathetic responses to his pleas.

A life long pacifist, socialist, supporter of women's rights and a believer in the idea of union between Anglicans and Methodists, he frequently locked horns with the Church and Government. Eventually, having spent most of his career upsetting them, he was removed from Leicester and sent to a quiet rural parish near Peterborough.

He had to wait until his friend, Ramsey Macdonald, became Prime Minister in the 20's for further promotion to a Canon of Westminster Abbey.

As he grew older, he became an expert on the traditions and history of the Abbey, conducting tours of the building even until he reached 90.

I shall always remember Alfred Silverwood's reminiscences of this colourful character and it is fitting the Donaldson Centre in the new St. Martin's House near the Cathedral has been named after him. © Roger Blackmore

A Cut Above @SALON 57

A new hair and beauty salon @Salon 57 on Braunstone Gate has flung open its doors to customers, in the premises of one of the areas best known salons.

Following the closure of Tete a Tete in January, two of the longest serving members of staff decided to go it alone and reopen the salon under a different name, but with the same high standards. After 10 weeks of hard work, Felicity Parker and Philippa Kerrod have completely renovated and reformed the building, focusing on up to date style and total comfort.



Staff at the Opening Party

Philippa said: "Friends, family and the whole team mucked in together. We scrubbed, sanded, painted and built. No job was too big or too dirty and the result is brilliant!"

Business partner Felicity is determined the new business will be a success: "Tete a Tete was a great salon and a terrific place to work with wonderful clients. There were plenty of tears and hugs all around when it closed. But we decided to take the opportunity that fell into our laps and launch our new @Salon 57 from fresh.

We have retained some of the highly skilled stylist from Tete a Tete and Jo Measures, our beauty and holistic therapist continues as part of the team."

It wasn't all hard work as Felicity explained: "The fun part for us all was choosing which products to use. We were so excited to start with the latest version of Inoa Hair Colour by L'Oreal and we've had great support from Paul Mitchell and American Crew reps."

Old clients are already flooding back and Felicity and Philippa are delighted: "It's going really well and we're so pleased with the support from former clients. We really would like to thank them. It's great to be back, but we couldn't have done it without you!"

(Sponsored Article)

Green Fingers - Sore Legs!

Our Gardening Guru, Tony Huxley will be peddling furiously for charity.

On the 5th of May, Tony and a group of other "bonkers, middle aged peddlers" will be cycling from Neville Holt in Leicestershire to Brancaster in Norfolk, a distance of 102 miles, which they hope to do in under 8 hours.

Tony is raising money for a friend's charity, the Children's Trust Tadworth who offer specialist care to children who have received head injuries or brain damage.

Tony said: "They offered help and support to my friend's young nephew and family after a tragic drowning accident. We are hoping to help The Children's Trust continue with the good work they are doing.

"I know we're all feeling the pinch at the moment but you could always see it as a schadenfreude fee towards the delight you will have in knowing that I will be spending the week after the event walking like a man who literally got his butt Kicked!" **To donate follow the link:**

www.justgiving.com/Tony-Huxley



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KNOTT'S LANDING

Helen Knott

Sound the klaxons, disaster is upon us. For sale boards are going up around Western Park and a large chunk of West Leicester; the long exodus is starting.

What could possibly cause this panic? Fuel strikes? Solar flares? Floods and plague?

No, it's schools. More specifically Market Bosworth High School. Every morning busloads of children get picked up from Hinckley Road and get taken to school miles away. It's been like that for years because, and I apologise in advance to anyone involved with the following two schools, no-one in their right middle class minds would send their kids to New College or Fullhurst Community College because they have both, in the past, systematically failed dismally as education providers for our kids. Parents are quick to pick up on this stuff and take action, that's why schools with good reputations have higher priced houses around them.

Up to now if your little angel went to Dovelands



Primary School then you were OK because it was a feeder school for Market Bosworth High School which has an outstanding rating from Ofsted. Now Market Bosworth High School is seeking academy status and going from 11-16 years old so they don't want the children from round here any more. Quite a few parents got a shock this year when their kids at Dovelands were refused places at Market Bosworth. Appeals are lodged, moral outrage is ignited, for sale boards are going up.

Is it a knee jerk reaction? Probably, but where do you send your child if it isn't to Market Bosworth? There's talk of Brookvale High School in Groby, but not everyone is going to get in there!

Talking to people in the know, Braunstone has, in the past, missed out on funding to New Parks which is more deprived, so the schools around here have never been valued or nurtured. We are reaping that laissez faire attitude.

Maybe in six or seven years Fullhurst will have improved results and a better reputation? Maybe middle class parents will send their kids to Fullhurst and help it improve? Maybe they will have built a shiny new college for the big development out at Leicester Forest East so we won't have to worry. Maybe not? In the meantime, parents will vote with their feet and the for sale boards will go up.

Make a Splash!

In The Western Park Gazette

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Local Band?

Local singer?

Local Artist?

GOT A GIG PLANNED?

If you're based in West Leicester and you're performing in the city, drop us a line!

And we'll give you a mention!

e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk



COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Fosse Cllrs Surgery: Monthly, 2nd Sat, 10.30-11.30, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre & last Sat 10.30 - 11.30am Woodgate Residents Association

Westcotes Cllrs Surgeries: Westcotes Library, 1st Sat each month, 10.30 - 11.30am and 3rd Fri each month, 5.30 - 6.30pm. West End Neighbourhood Centre, 4th Fri each month 9.30 - 10.30am.

Manor House Neighbourhood Centre, 2nd Friday every month, 10-11am.

Western Park Cllrs Surgery: Monthly-2nd Weds St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 7-8.00pm.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS

Once again, the bandstand on Western Park plays host to a season of summer concerts.

3rd June: Youth Brass 2000.

24th June: The Hathern Brass Band.

8th July: Peter Crebbin's Cool Trad' Jazz Band.

12th August: The Enderby Brass Band

All the bands will play from 3pm.

2nd September: St. Anne's Church Music Group with Praise in the Park at 4pm.



April/May Police Update

Officers from Hinckley Road Policing Unit hold regular Beat Surgeries to address any crime relegated issues resident may have.

It is the ideal time to sit down and chat with local police about any concerns or problems your neighbourhood may be facing.

BUCKMINSTER ROAD AREA

Local officers, PC 1297 Steven Reeves and PCSO 6021 Andrew Coulton are holding a beat surgery at the Spar on Buckminster Road on the 21st of May between 11 and 12noon.

NEWFOUNDPOOL

PC 170 Andy Goady and PCSO 6674 Mel Bailey are also holding their beat surgery at Inglehurst Junior School in Ingle Street on July 4th between 3 and 4pm.

KIRBY ROAD AREA

PC 1802, Paul Smith will be at St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road on May 9th from 7pm.

FOSSE RD SOUTH & WINTON AV AREA

Pc's 670, Ross Peachy and 1743 Darren Camp are holding a street consultation on the corner of Fosse Road South and Winton Avenue on May 10th between 7 and 8pm.

WESTERN PARK

CPSO 6094 Sally-Ann Morgan is holding her regular Beat Surgery at the Mencap building on Western Park on May 15th between 10.30 and 12.30pm.

WESTCOTES LIBRARY

CPSO 6079 Stephen Jackson holds his meeting at the Westcotes Library in Narborough Road on May 16th between 2 and 4pm.

ROBERT HALL CHURCH

CPSO 6556 Bijesh Pathak will be at the Robert Hall Church on Narborough Road between 10 and 2pm on June 13th.

To contact you local officers dial 101, follow the instructions to leave a message. Key in the appropriate voicemail number which is the officer's four digit identification code.

Two Leicester men have been charged following the burglary of a house in Meadway Western Park on April 16th, during which a quantity of jewellery was stolen.

One of the men, aged 27 was also charged with a second count of burglary and possession of cannabis, following an incident at a house in Chislehurst Avenue in Braunstone.

The second man, aged 23 years-old, was also charged with criminal damage.

Sing for Water!

Organisers are now recruiting for the massed sing at the Riverside Festival.

Led by conductors such as Una May Olomolaiye with songs including The Beatles' "All you need is Love" and a Bollywood song 'Koi Ladki Hai', this fun event will be held on Sunday 10th June at Bede Park.

The massed choir raises funds for Water Aid – bringing clean water and sanitation to the world's poorest communities, saving and changing lives.

Music packs are available for £5 and contain all the information, a CD of songs in the four parts, musical scores and lyrics. Anyone can sing along at home and attend the free rehearsals.

Organisers say a good time is guaranteed, even if you're not the best singer in the world. For music packs phone Julie Burnage 0116 2331683 or more information phone Colleen 0116 2912606.

e:leicestersingforwater@yahoo.co.uk
or visit www.leicestersingforwater.org.uk



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TECHIE THUMP

Richard Perry

The internet is a bit like the old Wild West. Exciting to visit and stuffed full of many interesting things, but also rife with bandits, robbers, thieves and general nastiness ready to snare the unwary.

The internet is also the home of a crapulous cave dwelling ogres known as Trolls.

A Troll is someone who posts inflammatory, off topic and very often vicious statements in online forums and chat rooms.

A Troll is a psychiatrist's dream. Hiding behind a keyboard, these big and hard web warriors' sole purpose in life is to seek out people to harass, upset and offend, so feeding off the anger or distress it can cause. And they come in herds. When one gets started, they invite the rest of their dribbling, bovine hoard to stick the boot in.



Facebook, Twitter, even Myspace, if anybody still uses it, are their prime hunting grounds with celebrities and the bereaved generally the targets.

Trolls don't always get away with it. Liam Stacy was recently jailed for 56 days for abusing footballer Fabrice Muamba on Twitter. TV presenter Richard Bacon went a hunting for an anonymous Troll who had been harassing him and his family for two years and Frank Zimmermann has been found guilty of sending a "grossly offensive" email to Corby MP Louisa Mensch.

Trolls aren't people who have a point of view to argue; this isn't a freedom of speech issue and it isn't interweb tomfoolery. They are just attention seeking thugs with keyboards, but they're savvy.

Trolls regularly fake their online persona, steal identities and post under other people's names. There are Colluders who work in groups to cause as much upset as possible and Grievers, who wreck online gaming for thousands. They are like a travelling rash; scratch it and it'll disappear for a while, only to turn up elsewhere.

Trolls thrive on confrontation, so if you're on a forum, downvote their comments; on Twitter and Facebook just ignore and block them. They won't necessarily go away, but it will annoy them. If that doesn't work, call the police since harassment laws also cover internet threats. Unfortunately the police aren't properly set up to quickly deal with this form of behaviour, unless the Troll is actually a moron, and uses his real name.

Other advice - above all - Don't feed the Trolls!



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Win a Meal for Two

Here's your chance to win a fantastic meal for two at Braunstone Gate's newest bistro.

Owned and run by chef Adam Lynch. The Gate Bistro offers a wide variety of full flavour dishes. And here's your chance to take a friend and dive into one of their superb evening meals.

Just correctly answer the question below and you could be in with the chance of winning a three course meal for two!

Thermidor and Newberg are two forms of which expensive foodie treat?

- A. Sirloin steak**
- B. Lobster**
- C. Venison**



Send your answer by 15th May 2012 to:

The Editor, Western Park Gazette, c/o 62
Ainsdale Road, Leicester, LE3 0UA or by email :
editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk.
You can also enter on our website.

T&C's. 1 entry per person. Excludes drinks. 1 winner chosen at random. No cash alternative. Prize is not transferable. Judge's decision is final.

Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



A mild March has made the annual daffodil bloom even more showy than usual. This spring display requires a lot of energy from plants. Now's the time to pay them back and "put something in the tank" for next year.

Remove spent flowers as soon as possible. This is called dead-heading and stops plants wasting energy trying to produce seed. Daffodil seed, if viable, needs years of growing in undisturbed soil before it flowers, and then the results can be poor or unpredictable. For the average gardener division is a much better way to produce more daffodils. If you have small number of daffodils you can snap the flower stems off with your fingers or use secateurs. With larger numbers use shears to clip them off. With really vast numbers, especially when naturalised in lawns I have even used a strimmer to flick off the dead flowers.

Giving your daffodils a feed will improve the chance of another good show next year. Any multipurpose fertiliser will do, or a mulch of garden compost will do the trick. If conditions are dry a good drink would be appreciated. Lift and divide over-

crowded clumps in early summer before the leaves die back. A common mistake is to plant the bulb too shallow. Aim for a planting depth of about two to three times the height of the bulb.



As a boy, I remember my mother tying bunches of daffodil leaves into knots. Besides giving the bulbs a Croydon facelift this does nothing to help the daffodils. In fact damaging the leaves reduces the plant's ability to photosynthesis and build up food reserves for next year. If you let them die back naturally before removing the leaves, for at least six weeks after flowering, you'll be rewarded with trumpeting daffodils for years to come.

More from Tony next month.

Shhh... It's a Secret!

The first rule of cake club is don't mention cake club! The Clandestine Cake Club has had its first meeting in Leicester and organisers say it was a slice of heaven.

Cake club is a secret society of bakers who meet once a month to show off their hard work and eat the cake made by others.



This time the meeting took place at Entropy on Hinckley Road and the theme was Spring which brought out the creative side of around 20 bakers.

Among the cakes on offer were coconut cake with lime frosting, grapefruit cake, beetroot and orange cake with orange frosting and candied beetroot decorations and chocolate and beetroot cake with cream cheese frosting.

Organisers Jenny Pethick and Anjeli Orton said they were really pleased with the turnout for the first event.

Anjeli said: "It was brilliant to see all these people with their passion and creativity. Everyone worked so hard and the cakes looked amazing. The best bit was that we got to try them all and take bits home!"

Jenny said: "We are really looking forward to the next one now. It takes place on Saturday April 28 starting at 3pm at a secret location. We've set the theme as Rock and Roll so if the first meeting is anything to go by we are looking forward to some amazing creations."

The organisers are planning competitions and prizes for bakers who shine and they are always looking for new members. You can find out where the next meeting is by going to www.clandestinecakeclub.co.uk/groups/leicester/

Helen Knott

If you have a local story email us: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

BRAIN TAZERS

1. Andrea died at sea and Lee died in Florida. Everyone was much happier with Andrea's death. Why?
2. John's mum has three children. One called April and one called May. What is the third called?
3. What Number comes next in this Sequence: 2,2,4,12, 48?
4. What does this sequence represent: 4, 3, 3, 5, 4, 4, 3, 5, 5, 4, 3 ?
5. A man is murdered on a Sunday morning. Detectives interview the maid, chef, butler and handyman, all of whom have alibis. The maid was collecting the post, the chef was making breakfast and the handyman was watering the lawn. Why did police arrest the maid?
6. Name three consecutive days without using Wednesday, Friday or Sunday.
7. Near Bye Nuts is an anagram of which popular spring time character?
8. How much earth is there in a hole measuring 3m x 2m x 4m?
9. What is the tallest mountain in the world? (... do you really think you know?)

Answers on line: www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

SUDOKU



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MEN WANTED!

A well established local choir is calling for more men to join their 60 member group.



The Fosse Singers are a mixed choir of all ages and perform a variety of music from pop, soul, jazz, rock, classical, folk, choral, musicals as well as carols at Christmas time. The choir also performs regularly at a wide variety of venues and events, and has also participated in an international choral exchange.

This year they are particularly looking for more men to join the choir and even out the numbers. Members don't have to read music, just enjoy a good sing-song.



Choir members have commented on how being part of the choir has helped them to make more friends, improve their confidence to sing and provided the opportunity to sing new and varied music at a range of venues and locations.

For more information, contact Hannah Brine on 07814 935 049 or e.fossesingers@hotmail.com

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