



STRAW TREKKING ACROSS THE LEICESTERVERSE



More on Page 4

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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the August edition of the Western Park Gazette.

This month we go Straw Trekking with Sam the Scarecrow as he travels across Leicester drumming up support for September's Scarecrow Trail. We find out how you can get a free tree for your yard or garden and the founders of a local Neighbourhood Watch stand down after 16 years.

In our regular features, There's the Project Hive update, Helen Knott spots a convoy of mobile classrooms heading to the Castlemead Academy currently being built on the site of the Kirby & West Dairy, Roger Blackmore tests out his iambic pentameter with a look at poetry in Leicester, Gardening Guru Tony Huxley interrupts his Alpine holiday to dig for herbs while Mark and his team at Hinckley Road Police, continue to shut down local cannabis farms as well as dealing with unexploded grenades and the trauma that is the Beat Bobby of the Year Award!

As always the crossword and Sudoku lurk with intent on the back page.

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If you've got a local news story or event email:

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Events Diary

St Anne's Weds Club: Monthly, 1st Weds. St Anne's Hall. Letchworth Rd. 2.30-4pm.

Free Thurs Club: 2-4pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narb' Rd.

Perfectly Edible UK's Market & Community Cafe: Fri 11-2pm. West End Centre, Andrewes Street.

Coffee Mornings: Fridays 10-12 noon. St Anne's Hall.

Women's Taekwondo. Fridays. Brite Centre -10am & Thurs - 8pm at St Anne's Hall. 07951 426 386

Walking Group: Sundays. 2pm. 96 Deg. B-Gate.

Sun Eve Dru Yoga with Emma: 18th Aug. St. Anne's Hall. 7.15-8.30pm 07393 811150.

Free Children's Art Club: Saturdays 10.30-12.00. Fosse Neighbourhood Centre. Mantle Rd.

Bands in The Park: Sun 18th Aug. Loughborough Brass Band. 3-4pm. Bandstand on Western Park.

DM Hall: 16-26th Aug - Gigs In The Garden.

Free Family Film Show: 26th Aug. Arch 2 Bede Street LE3 5DL. 4-6pm.

Ride Leicester Festival: 17-31st Aug

Belgrave Mela: 18th August.

City Festival: 19th-25th Aug. New Market Sq.

Curve Theatre: 27th-31st Aug: **The Entertainer**,

3rd-14 Sept: **Grease**, 18th Sept-12 Oct **War Horse**

WP Beer Fest: 6th & 7th Sept. St Anne's Hall.

Little Th: Importance of Being Earnest. 9-14 Sept.

Upstairs @ Western in Sept: 11th: **Autumn Season Launch**, 12th-13th **Sexy Lamp**, 11th-13th -

Bicycles & Fish, 14th - **Uncle Armando's**.

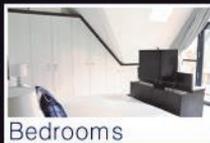
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STRAW TREKking

Sam, the Project Hive scarecrow, has been on a straw trek tour of Leicester since the start of June. He's the mascot of the Western Park Scarecrow Trail, taking place in September.

Sam has been meeting, greeting and taking selfies with some of the people he's met at Festivals, School Fetes and around local landmarks this summer.

He'll be on Dovelvands playground on the 7th & 8th of September so make sure you don't miss your chance for a selfie of your own!

Local businesses have got behind Sam and we would like to thank our sponsors: Western Park Joinery & Building Services, MDH Construction & Carpentry and Hendersons Ltd. (WWCE)



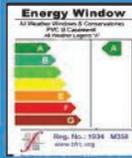
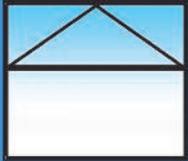
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Poetry in Leicester

With the recent appointment of Simon Armitage as the new Poet Laureate, it seems appropriate to take a look at poetry within our community.

Throughout the years, interest in poetry and poets has remained strong in both the City and County, as can be seen at the annual Everybody's Reading Festival and at community events to celebrate National Poetry Day.

Local initiatives to help poetry to flourish include the former Leicester Poetry Society, Word! and Leicester Writers' Club

Poetry at the Western, the pub venue close to Narborough Rd junction will be familiar to a number of readers, with many performances throughout the year.

Soundwrite, a women's poetry group meets regularly at the Friends meeting house on Queens Road and performance poetry is staged at various venues locally, including both our city universities and the Y centre.

A prominent Jamaican poet, Jean Binta Breeze, has made her home in Leicester. Other published poets from the area include Davina Prince, Caroline Cook and Pam Thompson, the latter being a prize-winner in last year's Ledbury Poetry Festival competition.

Leicestershire is also unique in one interesting respect. In the 1970's its County Councillors decided to produce an anthology containing poems written entirely by members. Officers unkindly cast doubts on whether councillors were up to this task but in the event, the appointed independent judges declared the work of a generally high standard.

Interest in poetry continues to thrive here, though Leicester has yet to produce a local poet laureate.

Roger Blackmore

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Tuesday 10th September

Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre

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Wednesday 11th September

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Imagine I have one of those booming cinema trailer voices and you can hear me say this... "Castlemead Academy – coming to your community this Autumn".

Lots of kids I know are going to be turning up there for the new school year but there has been something missing... a school! In case you didn't know where it is based, it's down by the Mile Straight near the old Kirby and West Dairy site.

You'd be forgiven for not knowing as nothing has happened there for ages. Kids all received offers for places at the school in March but still no building occurred on the site. I've been waiting and watching with interest to see what it will look like.

For many of us, school included lessons in 'the mobile' but things have moved on since I was at school. I've learned that there is a catalogue for mobile buildings to be used in education. Schools' management teams can pick the level of finish they want and all they have to do is find a site, provide utilities and order a school! That is top level shopping. Rushey Mead School showed parents their mobile buildings and promised the Castlemead ones would be of the same standard, this is not the mobile you remember!

After months of seeming inactivity on the site, I was walking along Hinckley Road and lo and be-

hold! I saw a lorry with a mobile on it. Not unusual in itself, but this one had a sign in the back saying Castlemead on it. I quite literally followed a chunk of it along Hinckley Road as it arrived on the back of a lorry. I posted a picture on social media. Then saw another lorry, and another.



Suddenly the site is all activity. If you take a stroll along you can see the buildings all being stacked up and landscaping is taking place. My excitement level at this is probably too high, especially as my child isn't going there, but seeing something appear out of the ground, something that will nurture kids and provide them with a place to grow is exciting. All that promise and potential in one place should give us a warm glow. At last we have a new school.

Helen Knott

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Children's Music Taster Day

Sat 12th October, - 10.00am-1.00pm FREE admission, subject to availability but book in advance
Instruments include guitar, keyboard, violin, cello, African drums & possibly wind instruments

Adult Music

African Drumming Group: Weds 7.30 – 8.30pm. £6.00 per session. For all abilities. Contact 01509 814569 or 07904541520 for details. **Guitar:** Weds. Various abilities. Cost £5.00 per lesson. Contact 07958542564. **Cello:** Fridays. Call 2530717 for details. Possibly other instruments.

Lunch Club

Mondays and Thursdays, 12.30pm. Cost £2.50 for 2 course meal plus tea/coffee.

Senior Citizens Club

Mondays 2.00 – 4.00pm. Cost £1 per session

Senior Citizens Keep Fit

Thursdays 11.00am – Noon. Cost 70p per session

Our Co-op Friendship Group

Tuesdays 10.00am – Noon. Cost £1.00. Learn craft skills and make new friends

Yoga

Mondays 6.00 – 7.15pm and 7.30pm – 8.45pm. £4.50 per session, unwaged £4.00
Must book in advance

Salsa Classes for Beginners

Tuesdays 7.30 – 8.30pm. Cost £6.00 per session or £40 for eight sessions
No need to bring a partner. Ring 07414 596 481 for further details

Tetsudo

Martial Arts. Sundays 11.00am - 1.00pm. Cost £4.00, Under 12s £3.00
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JKS Shotojuku Karate Club

Sundays 9.15 – 10.45am. Ring 07886 504 516 for details.

Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.00pm. Ring NA helpline 0207 7300 009
Ask for Woodgate – Leicester Meeting

The Centre is also available for bookings. There are three rooms. The main room is particularly suitable for children's parties and other family events. The small rooms are suited for meetings and training events. Contact Centre for rates and availability

For more information contact the Woodgate Residents Association

Woodgate Resources Centre, 36 Woodgate, Leicester LE3 5GE
Tel. No: 0116 253 0717 e: office@woodgateresidents.org

The Woodgate Resources Centre is funded by Leicester City Council



New College is a lovely school to visit with such a positive atmosphere and polite, enthusiastic students."

**Mrs S. Flint,
Volunteer**

Leadership is highly effective and ambitious for all the children at New College Leicester.

**IQM Assessor April
2019**

City College celebrates gaining top marks from assessor

New College Leicester is celebrating retaining an inclusion quality mark. The Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) inclusive school awards recognises the commitment by schools to provide the best education for all children irrespective of difference.

The assessor, Barry Carney, said in his report: "There can be little doubt there is a committed, passionate staff who ensure all students are given the opportunity to succeed.

Leicester Mercury June 2019



"Students are proud of their school. They feel valued and say that their views are taken seriously".

Ofsted

Award for New College

New College Leicester is celebrating their success at the National Citizenship Service Champion Schools Awards held at the King Power Stadium. The College is the winner of the Silver Award for high level participation in 2018.

**Western Park Gazette
January 2019**



'Remarkable' change led by Head Teacher

The transformation of New College Leicester is a huge success story for New Parks, Leicester city and more importantly young people. None of this would have been possible without the inspirational leadership of the head teacher Jane Brown.

**Leicester Mercury December
2018**



"This school has a lovely feel to it".

**Parent on a school
tour November 2018**

Pupils get taster lessons at school

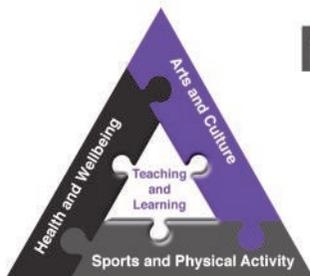
New College Leicester hosts to a large group of Year 5 pupils from Parks Primary who participated in the college's PALs (Primary Aspiration Links) programme.

**Leicester Mercury
November 2018**

College is shortlisted for honour

New College Leicester has been shortlisted in the new National Creative Learning Awards.

Leicester Mercury February 2019



New College Leicester Open Evening

#ThisIsUs



Thursday 12th September 2019
4 pm – 7 pm
Everybody Welcome



www.facebook.com/newcollegeleics



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Would Yew Believe It's Elementree?

West Leicester residents can now help the environment by adopting or fostering a sapling tree.

It's a great way to improve the biodiversity in our neighbourhoods and really green up the area by putting one or two in yards or gardens.

Each sapling comes in a recycled container - kindly donated by the West End Brewery.

We have Bird Cherry, Crab Apple, Grey Willow, Rowan (Mountain Ash) and Hazel.

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NW Founders Stand Down

The founders of the Letchworth Road Area neighbourhood Watch have stood down after 32 years between them.

Brenda Cavers and Pat Abraham started the Neighbourhood Watch scheme 16 years ago after discovering that being a member of these schemes can not only deter burglars and lessen crime but also reduce some insurance policies.

Since then the Letchworth Road Area Watch has expanded to include adjoining roads.

New Chairperson, Julia McKim hopes to expand the service and is looking for more street coordinators. Follow the links from ourwatch.org.uk



Pat & Brenda with Sally-Anne Morgan & Insp Rob Randall

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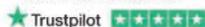


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Western Ward

New Parks Centre: Aikman Avenue.
First Friday of each month 3.00pm – 4.00pm
St Anne's Church Hall: Letchworth Road.
Second Weds of each month 7.15pm – 8.15pm.
Braunstone Frith Recreation Centre: Sharman Crescent. Third Saturday of each month 11.00am – 12.00noon.

Fosse Ward

Fosse Neighbourhood Centre: Mantle Road.
Second Sat of each month 10.30am – 11.30am.
Woodgate Residents' Association: 36 Woodgate. Last Saturday of each month 10.30am – 11.30am. No surgeries in August.

Westcotes Ward

Westcotes Library: Narborough Road.
Third Tuesday of each month. 5.30pm to 6.30pm.
First Friday of each month 10.00am – 11.00am

Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields

Christ Church: Barbara Road.
First Weds of each month 5.30pm to 6.30pm.
Oak Centre: Cort Crescent, Bendbow Rise.
First Monday of each month 2.00pm – 3.00pm.
Brite Centre: Braunstone Avenue.
Third Friday of each month 2.00pm – 3.00pm.

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

While many of you have been enjoying the lovely summer weather, at WWCE HQ we have been busy completing the finishing touches to upcoming events and working on the next phase of Project Hive.

We held a very productive meeting with an expert about how we pitch the project to larger investors and how the brilliant support already shown by our community will be a key part of that. Leading out of this we will be filming for a short promotional video in an around Western Park during August. There was also an exciting meeting with an architect talking about what we need from the Eco House site and as a result we will finally have some concept art to share with everyone soon.

Looking a little further ahead, we've recently released tickets for Project Hive's Chef & Spice Takeover evening on October 7th. The ticket price includes your food for the evening and all proceeds will go direct to the redevelopment fund. Why not book a table for you and your friends? Follow the link on our Facebook event page @wwwceleicester

Website: projecthive.org.uk or on Facebook



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Aug Police Update

Your local policing teams based at Hinckley Road are continuing to fight the dangerous use of property to grow large scale 'cannabis-factories'. This month drugs warrants have been completed at addresses on Celt Street, Westcotes Drive and Upperton Road with thousands of pounds worth of drugs taking out of the hands of serious organised criminals!

The earlier we catch these properties the better so if you notice a strong pungent smell from a property, with curtains always shut and sometimes the sounds of fans then please report your concerns via Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

The towpath near Bede Island was closed to the public on the 15th of July following the discovery of three grenades in the canal.

Local magnet hunters, who fish for metal in waterways, found the grenades along with bullets, air pistols and knives. One of the grenades was inert but two were destroyed in controlled



Photo: Steven Matts

explosions by the Army Bomb Disposal Unit.

Along with the Leicester City Council Youth Service we are supporting a new youth club called "Lad's Lounge" – Only Boys Aloud" for young men aged 13-19 years old at New Parks Youth Centre on St Oswald's Road every Thursday 6:30pm-8:30pm. Young men from around the city are able to attend. Find out more from Leicester City Youth Service on Facebook or on Instagram at 'leicester.youth.services'.

The time has come for you to nominate your Beat Bobby of the Year! This is the award for Leicestershire's best beat police officer which was won by our very own PC Matt Eld last year! Can Matt retain his title or can another officer on our team take his crown?

Your local officers eligible for the award are:

Fosse: PC 4694 Ally Dryden, PC 4709 Alex Baxter, PC 4686 Fiona Espin.

Western/New Parks: PC 1228 Dave Martin, PC 3155 Matt Lapidge.

Westcotes: PC 557 Matt Eld; PC 1115 Stephen Clarke; PC 2054 Tam Singh-Baines.

Send your nominations including the officer's name and beat, along with a brief explanation why you believe they should be nominated to ciaran.fagan@trinitymirror.com

Sgt Mark Brennan

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



When the editor sent me a request for some horticultural scribbles for the latest issue of the Gazette, his message found me on holiday in the French Alps.

Away from the coal face, or rather the gardens of Leicester, I've found myself far too chilled to think of anything to write about. As I've cycled through wildflower meadows, hiked through Alpine scenes of floral beauty, no subject matter sprang to mind. Obviously, my creative ability was on holiday as well! I consoled myself by cooking dinner for the family. A spicy tomato sauce made with locally-grown produce sounded just the ticket, but where to find the herbs to flavour it on a Sunday afternoon when most French shops shut by 12.30? Luckily, 'I've got a very particular set of skills' to quote Liam Neeson, and set off down the country trail leading from the campsite.

Oregano, *Origanum vulgare* grows wild in the verges here, its sprays of pale pink flowers providing nectar to a myriad of local insects species. At least I assumed it was Oregano. It's easily confused with Marjoram. Their leaves are almost identical. Marjoram flowers are often whiter, but

they interbreed, creating many varieties. Analysing the plant's sepals, the growths that cover the buds and fold back underneath the opening flowers, can help determine which is which. Oregano sepals are often much bigger than Marjoram.

Another way to distinguish between them is the flavour. Marjoram is considered mellow, whereas Oregano is more spicy and stronger in flavour. But the main reason I assumed it was Oregano is that it was growing in an area that's cloaked in snow and ice all winter, something the more tender Marjoram is unlikely to survive.

Back at home I grow Oregano "Aureum", dotted along the front of some of the beds. This golden variety makes an excellent low-growing border perennial. If only I was back there, I'm sure I would have thought of something to write about!

Tony Huxley



Oregano



Marjoram

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Martin Page

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1 Across: Educator 1 Down: Medication 2: Leave behind 3: Breaking into a computer 4: Fish eggs 5: Partially cook 6: Whirling 7: Girl 8: West African country © Paul Towers

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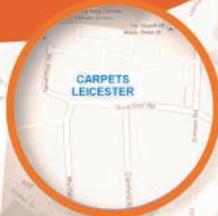


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