

RUBBISH!

WEST END DROWNS IN FLY-TIPPING



More on page 4

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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the August edition of the Gazette.

This month, the huge amount of fly tipping in Westcotes makes the front page. It's not just there - it's everywhere. The Fosse area is another notable grot spot. On a side note; who are the people nicking the trolleys from Tesco and leaving them all over the place? We have a letter about that!

Surprisingly, we have a couple of positive stories too. The Fosse Riders Motorcycle Club, who were unceremoniously booted out of their home on Western Park, have found a new one on Glenfield Road and The West End Brewery launched a very successful crowd funding campaign to bring beer to the masses.

Regular features continue with Helen Knott on the trials and tribulations of teaching, Carey Tunstall has August's gardening advice, and her daughter, Alex, looks back at Leicester during the renaissance.

We also have the latest local policing update and on the inside back page, the ever present Braintazering sudoku and crossword are ever ready to do unspeakable things to your brain.

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Published by Rapsallion Media

62 Ainsdale Rd
Leicester LE3 0UA

Printed by Flexpress Ltd
6 Coal Cart Road, Interchange,
Birstall, Leicester, LE4 3YB



Events Diary

Free Thurs Club: 2pm. **Meet & Eat:** Weds 5pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narb' Rd.

Perfectly Edible UK's Community Shop. Fri & Sat. Fri 11-2/3pm. West End Centre, Andrewes Street.

Free drop-in Coffee Morns: Tues. 10-12 noon. St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Glenfield Rd East.

Curve: Curve on The Square (*Live outside performance weekends in August*) Dial M For Murder 31 Aug-4 Sept. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof 3-18 Sept. Pricilla Queen of The Desert 13-18 Sept.

Upstairs @ Western: Crafternoon - 26 Aug & 2 Sept. IamDram - 10 Sept. How To Be Amazingly Happy - 4 Sept. Mates - 4 Oct.

Bank Holiday Family Fun Day: Mon 30th Aug. Crows Nest. (Bouncy castle, play area & entertainment)

Night of Musicals: 16,17 @7.30pm & 18 Sept @ 2.30pm. New College. Bookings 07704 991 334.

DM Hall: HMS Pinafore - 24 Aug. 21st Century Abba 28 Aug. Rumours of Fleetwood Mac - 1 Sept. Boyzlife 3 Sept. The King is Back - 6 Sept.

Little Theatre: Blue Stockings. From 27 Sept - 2nd Oct. 6 Feet Away 4-9 Oct.

Y Theatre: Jenny Eclair: 2-Sept. Lloyd Griffin 3-Sept. Our Beat Goes On - 6 Sept. Mark Thomas - 9 Sept.

Liberty UK Festival: Local art trails & more across Leicester. For locations visit libertyfestival.com

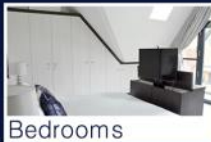
Leicester Craft Beer Fest: 28-30 Aug 12-9pm. Free Entry. Green Dragon Sq.

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RUBBISH!

Fly-tippers have been busy polluting the West End of Leicester with piles of rubbish strewn across the Fosse and Westcotes wards.

This is not a new problem, but it appears to be getting worse, with Braunstone Gate and Western Road becoming regular targets.

The front page picture features a pile of veg boxes left on Braunstone Gate. City Wardens are searching for CCTV footage which will help identify the fly-tippers.



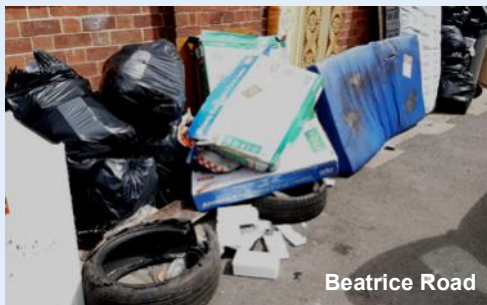
It's not just residents inconsiderately chucking out domestic waste - some of the fly-tips across the West End are huge and have included bathtubs full of building waste, furniture and household appliances.

City Wardens have been issuing legal notices to residents who have thrown their household waste onto the street, including businesses, like a bar and restaurant on Narborough Road, who were continually dumping rubbish and allowing their waste bins to overflow onto the pavement.

Wardens have been door knocking to hand deliver educational leaflets and orange bags to homes who have side waste and are not recycling.

Last year, fly tipping cost Leicester City Council £374,000 to clean up nearly 10,000 incidents despite clawing back some of the cost through fines.

The average fine for the cost of cleansing services to remove a fly-tip is £400 - a drop in an ocean of rubbish.



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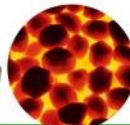
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KNOTT'S LANDING

September is back to school month and it occurs to me that we really need to start valuing our teachers.

Back in the dark days of COVID we clapped for NHS workers who were out saving lives and rightly so. Teachers kind of got lost in the 'key worker' bundle when actually they were at ground zero. The fact they turned up at school meant the rest of the keyworkers could actually go to work.

It's why the government was so reluctant to close schools. The fact that teachers were in school meant the bins got emptied, carers visited their clients, the supermarkets were stocked and staffed, sewerage plants operated, water supplies were maintained, nurses could do shifts, and a myriad of other key jobs could happen. If you don't have childcare for under 14s then a huge portion of the lower paid, undervalued but essential workforce has to stay at home. The ones I know also provided lessons online for children for at least part of the day, meaning some of us got a break for a bit even if online learning was more stressful than buying a house in a property bubble.

Anyone who tried to be part of home schooling knows



now that teachers are Einstein level angels. It would appear someone came in and changed maths completely, so it looks nothing like any maths that I ever did. I'm also deeply impressed at the incredibly high-level grammar being taught to seven year-old. After explaining 'fronted adverbial' and 'past continuous' to a friend and watching them having a mild seizure trying to work it out, I have nothing but respect for those trying to get that into the minds of Roblox and Minecraft obsessed children.

I recently heard someone moaning about teachers and how they don't work hard and the old chestnut about six weeks off in the summer came up. Well, here's a little nugget for you – teachers don't get paid for those six weeks off. They only get paid for the 190 days your little munchkin is in school plus a bit of what, I think, is called directed time – the time their headteacher can tell them what to do. Their salary is spread out over 12 months so they don't go broke on gin and books over the summer.

I get some people didn't have a good time at school, but I don't have great memories of the dentist – I don't go around slagging them off as workshy because they have holidays. Teachers do a tough job looking after the nation's children. As they go back to school for another uncertain year, I will be saying thank you and you can tip them a thank you as you drop your child off, because it's a teacher who is making sure they are safe so we can go to work.

Helen Knott



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LETTER BOX



Dear Editor: I just wanted to write to thank you so much for including our article encouraging people to come forward as School Governors!

It was a great success; we now have some wonderful new Governors and an Associate Governor to boot! If anyone else would like to get involved with local schools in this important voluntary role then the Local Authority is looking for people.

The best way to contact the Local Authority is by email at governors@leicester.sch.uk and a great webpage for finding out more about the role is - School governors (leicester.gov.uk).

Thanks again from me personally and from Shaftesbury Junior School,

Alex Buchanan-Smith (Co-Chair of Governors at Shaftesbury Junior School).

Dear Editor, It seems that everywhere I go across the West End I keep seeing shopping trolleys left lying around.

They do all seem to be from Tesco on Braunstone Gate. There are not just one or two.

It must cost them a fortune so I went online, out of curiosity, just to see how much they were - and they are at least £100 each.

I am surprised Tesco do not use smart trolleys which can't be removed from their premises. **J.B**

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Update

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WWCE's Project Hive is run by local residents who are fundraising to redevelop the Eco House on Western Park into a community space.

We are delighted to announce that the road to a new community space in Western Park for everyone has reached its most significant milestone yet, our plans have been approved!

WWCE have been working tirelessly since 2016 to secure the ongoing use of part of the land for community use. Following a successful crowd-funding campaign in late 2019, we engaged GSS Architecture to draw up our ambitious plans to redevelop the site from its present derelict state.

The former "Eco House" was a symbol of Leicester's status as the UK's first Environment City. Both WWCE and GSS carefully considered the history of the site in order to respect the environmental ethos of the house, by the creation of a sustainable, eco-friendly, and bio-diverse development at the heart of the community, dubbed Project Hive.

In addition to the variety of community spaces that will be available within Project Hive, there will also be both indoor and outdoor teaching areas, available for use by local schools.

The hard work to find £500K for construction now begins with the hope that links to local businesses and educational facilities can be forged to move the project forward.



And talking of fundraising - it's almost time for this year's Western Park Scarecrow Trail! The theme is "The World Of Books", so look out for some of your favourite literary characters popping up on our local streets! There will be two locations, on either side of Hinckley Road, where you can buy a guide map. Details of the sites will be available on our website and Facebook page. There will also be other craft stalls located along the route and marked on the map. All of the officially numbered scarecrows will be competing for the title of "Best Scarecrow" voted for by those who come along and walk the trail.

We hope to see lots of you out and about on the weekend of the 4th and 5th on September, starting at 10am!

Find us on Facebook @wwceleicester

Leicester in The Renaissance

It's no secret that Leicester is a city rich with history, and we're fortunate in that we have an exciting range of museums and historical sites right on our doorstep. One period which particularly fascinates me is the Renaissance, and if it's one that you or your children are interested in too there's plenty of places you can visit to get a taste for its vibrant – and sometimes gory! - history.

If your children are studying Shakespeare in school this year, it's well worth paying a visit to Leicester's Guildhall. Shakespeare wasn't always a playwright – in fact, he started his dramatic career as an actor, and it's rumoured that he performed at the Guildhall with his travelling theatre troupe in the late 16th century. It's also the site at which a thanksgiving dinner was held for Cromwell's troops after they defeated the Royalists at the Battle of Naseby in the 1640s.

In Abbey Park, you'll find the statue of Cardinal Wolsey just by the ruins of the former abbey. Wolsey was once one of Henry VIII's most treasured advisors, but after a falling out over his failure to procure an annulment for the King's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, he quickly fell out of favour. In 1530, Wolsey was summoned back to London on a charge of treason, but fell ill and died in Leicester Abbey on his way. Supposedly, his mortal remains lie somewhere in the grounds of the

park, although after several attempts at excavation they are yet to be found.

If you're feeling particularly adventurous, you might want to make the trip to Bradgate Park, where you'll find the ruins of Bradgate House – the birthplace of Lady Jane Grey. Often referred to as the 'Nine Days' Queen', Lady Jane Grey was crowned Queen of England on the 10th of July 1554. Just nine days later, however, Henry VIII's daughter Mary made a challenge for the throne, and Lady Jane Grey was beheaded. She was aged only 16 or 17 and it is reported that she had some difficulty finding the chopping block once blindfolded. Gruesome stuff! **Alexandra Tunstall**



Inside Bradgate House



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BACK IN THE SADDLE

Fosse Riders Motorcycle Association has, at long last, re-located to a new clubhouse. Following months of work, renovating a disused building next to West Gate School, the club has managed to complete the work and move in.

The Fosse Riders were based at their Western Park clubhouse, just inside the Hinckley Road gates, for 44 years but had to move as the Eco House and surrounding area will be redeveloped into a community space and housing.

The new building was officially opened by the City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby who was taken aback by the standard and speed in which the building has been transformed. This 1927 Golf Clubhouse has now been bought back into use and has become a beautiful building once again, thanks to all the hard work put in by club members. The club is also looking after the trees and landscaping the area.

Now that Covid 19 is almost behind us, the club has plans to hire their building out during the week. Rates will depend on times and length of hire. More details can be obtained by contacting Stefan Davis on 07939 958 309 or email stefandavis1@hotmail.com

If you would like more information about the Fosse Riders, visit: fosseriders.co.uk

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Brew Can Do It!

The West End Brewery and Tap Room on Braunstone Gate raised the bar with a crowdfunding project after a major disaster saw £8000 flushed down the drain.

Owner and brewer Josh Gray said: "We decided to create our own collection of canned beers, so that anyone, no matter where they live, could enjoy a taste of the WEB. We rolled up our beer-brewing sleeves, sprang into action and paid a substantial amount to a canning machine supplier who suddenly went bust, taking all our hard-earned money with them."

Not one to cry in his beer, Josh found a new canning machine supplier but needed to recover £8K. So, the plan to start a Crowdfunder was hatched. What he wasn't expecting was the speed at which the initial £6K target would be met. He said: "We hit our main target after just three days - which is way beyond what we expected."

The crowdfunding goal has now been stretched to £10K as Josh explains: "Our initial target helped get back much of the money we lost. Now we hope to be able to continue our efforts so we can recover the rest and help redevelop our website to help sell our new canned craft beer range to beer lovers across the country."



"Thanks for everyone's support so far. It really means so much to us."

The Crowdfunder runs to the end of August and offers a number of beer related tiers from £10 to £1000 including corporate sponsorship.

Search for Westend Brewery on [crowdfunder.co.uk](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk)

Picturing Lockdown

While most of us were twiddling our thumbs out of sheer frustration during the lockdown, Westcotes based photographer Tony Shelley, saw it as a historic opportunity to get snapping.

He said: "I began to make these images within minutes of the Prime Minister announcing the national Lockdown in March 2020. We had to make a flying visit to our local supermarket, to stock up on essentials, when we were met by customers in panic, and row after row of empty shelves. Immediately, I started to make images with my iPhone."



The morning after, I sprang into action, by carrying two digital cameras, and began photographing the silent, empty streets, and this went on almost daily for months to come."

You can see Tony's work at his exhibition which runs until Friday September 3rd at the Chapel Gallery, 10a Bishops Street.



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**Aug Police Update**

A woman has died following a night-time collision near Hinckley Road/New Parks Way roundabout involving a black VW Golf R and a blue Nissan Micra, on 3 July.

The 23-year-old was taken to the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham for treatment but sadly died from her injuries.

Three men were arrested but detectives from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit would still like to speak to anyone with information who has not yet come forward. Quote ref 748 of 3 July.

Police are appealing for information after an incident in New Parks that left three men with serious injuries.

Around 11pm on Wednesday 21 July, officers received a report of an injured man on Ryder Road, and along with the East Midlands Ambulance Service attended the scene. Three men were taken to the LRI with serious injuries.

A 42-year-old local man was arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm and remains in custody.

DS Nick Woodrow said: "We believe two men were riding quad bikes in the area and ask anyone who may have seen them or captured them on dash cam to please get in touch on 101 quoting reference 21*40921."

Detectives are investigating an incident where a man was assaulted, on Pindar Road in New Parks, by a group of people shortly before 6pm on Sunday 1 August.

A man in his 30s was approached by four men who got out of a black Mercedes. He was hit with what he believed to be a pole and the group then left the scene in the car. DS Nick Woodrow: "Any information you have, whether you were an eyewitness or have footage from a dashcam or doorbell, could help our investigation." Quote Ref 21*431104.

Six warrants have been executed at properties across the county including addresses at Gallards Hill in Braunstone and Prince Albert Drive in Glenfield. This follows an investigation into car insurance fraud involving classic cars, which resulted from the execution of a Misuse of Drugs Act warrant in Coalville.

A fully-restored blue Ford Granada was recovered, along with a large amount of cash and number plates connected to other insurance fraud. Five men have been released under investigation. DC Natasha Perkins said: "We still have outstanding vehicles we are trying to locate and we're asking anyone with any information that might help us find them to please get in touch." The missing cars are a blue Ford MK1 Granada XL, a 1960 Rover P5, possibly in grey, and a blue 1976 Ford Granada Ghia.

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



The next few weeks are a very busy time in the garden! I'm making sure I water my evergreen shrubs on a regular basis, especially azaleas and camellias, as it's now that their flower buds are developing for flowering next year. I'm also constantly deadheading flowering annuals and perennials to encourage further flowering rather than letting them go to seed. Additionally, I'm cutting back my herbs in the herb bed to encourage another flush of leaves before the frosts get them. I'm freezing any excess leaves that I've accumulated so I can have access to tasty herbs all year round.

If you have any lavender plants that have flowered, you should trim them back to keep them nice and compact. In addition, trim fading perennials, this keeps the garden looking fresh and well-tended. I've also been collecting seed heads as I'd like to establish a wildflower/meadow area, this will be fantastic for wildlife and



pollinating insects if successful! In the vegetable garden, keep feeding crops such as tomatoes and peppers.

I've also pinched out the tops and side shoots of my tomatoes, so all nourishment is concentrated on the growing fruits. Further to this, it's good to pinch out the tops of runner beans to encourage side shooting and therefore a bigger crop.

My main crop of potatoes should also be ready to harvest soon - if there is a glut of these, I'll store them in hessian sacks which allow ventilation but exclude light, which is the perfect environment for storage.

I've been taking lots of pictures of my garden throughout the seasons so I can see where I need to remove plants, for instance if they're not the right height or where I can put new plants in. Keeping a photographic record also helps when ordering your spring bulbs. Now is a great time to do this so they arrive in good time for planting out.

As always, please keep bird and bee baths full and check if your pond needs filling because even if we've had rain, a little bit of sun or wind can evaporate the existing water!

Carey Tunstall



Martin Page

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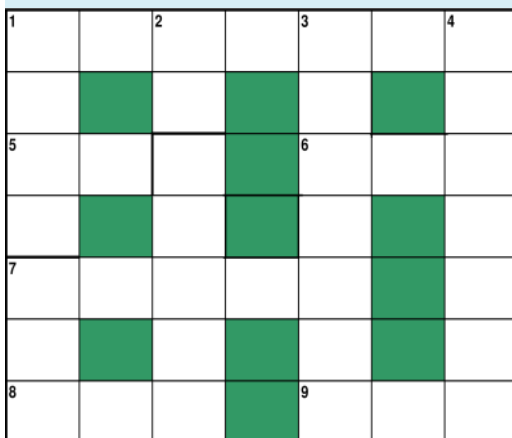
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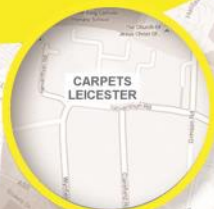
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