



## Slip Slidin' Away!



### Hello From The Editor

**Welcome to the February issue of the Gazette.**

The national media called it "The Big Freeze" when in reality it just got quite cold and snowed for one night in Leicester; admittedly causing a few problems.

In this issue, we pulled on our snow boots and headed to Western Park to grab a few pictures of the fun, whilst Helen Knott attempted to push stranded motorists up Shoulder of Mutton Hill!

Sledging aside, Roger Blackmore examines the life of Robert Hall, who gave his name to the church hall of the same name on Upperton Road. Narborough Road could be in line for a face lift, Richard Perry looks at a particular nasty virus which is attacking our computers and Tony Huxley goes all Compost Corner.

We have the local police update, local man Andrew Bucknall embarks on a charity bike ride across Vietnam and is anyone for tennis? Find out about the LFE Tennis Club.

We are always looking for contributions, so if you have some local news and information or you're holding an event, please get in touch.

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# Slip Slidin' Away!

**The Second week of February and the Snow finally arrived!**

Hundreds of people made their way to Western Park to sledge down the hill by the bandstand. Conditions were treacherous the previous night as the snow fell and cars were unable to get a grip on Shoulder of Mutton Hill on Hinckley Road. All that was forgotten on Sunday 5th as Western Park was crammed with well wrapped hoards zooming down the hill!



# Narborough Road Facelift

**Improvements are on the way around Narborough Road after the City Mayor and his cabinet have gave the go-ahead to a £600,000 scheme to improve city gateways and neighbourhood shopping areas.**

Five priority locations are set to benefit from cash the council won from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. They are Belgrave Road and Melton Road, Belgrave Gate, Granby Street, Narborough Road and Market Place.

The scheme will be launched with a £100,000 scheme on the city's Golden Mile.

City Mayor Peter Soulsby said: "This will act as a pilot project so we can take forward any lessons learnt to benefit the other priority shopping areas and gateways when we move onto the next phase".



The scheme needs the support and investment of the business owners who will be asked to apply for council grants of up to £5,000, which they will have to match with their own funding. It will prioritise shop fronts that are in the most prominent positions on the roads, or are in the greatest need of upgrading.

City council officers will offer businesses help with obtaining their grant, getting high quality design input, and putting in planning applications where necessary.

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# Events Diary

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

**Peter Crebbin & His Cool Swing Band:** 4th March. Residency at the Hilton Hotel. 1-3.30pm.

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

**Knit & Stitch Club:** Thursdays. Braunstone Library. 1.00-3.00pm. Free

**Bygone Leicester:** 1st March. 7.00-8.30pm. Fosse Library. Free

**World Book Day Coffee:** 1st March. 10.30-12.00pm. Brite Centre, Braunstone Ave. Free.

**Coming Home:** Musical tribute to local forces. Lord Mayor's Appeal. 4th March. 7.30pm. DeMont Hall.

**Art Exhibition:** 8th-22nd March. Westcotes Library. Bath House Tours: 10th & 34th March. 2.30pm. Jewry Wall Museum. Free.

**St. Patrick's Celeb:** 10th March. From 11pm. Service at Cathedral, parade to Humberstone Gate.

**Mother's Day Crafts:** 11th March. 11-3.30pm. Newark Houses Museum. £2.50.

**Mosaic Workshop:** 14th March. All Day. Jewry Wall Museum. £8.50 inc. materials.

**Meet the Mayor:** 17th March. Outside Westcotes Library. Free.

**The Fab Beetles:** 23rd March. 7.30. The Guildhall. Tickets. £12.00. [www.leicester.gov.uk/museums](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/museums).

## 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tue:** 2.00 - 4.00pm: MU Speakers.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tue:** 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: 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.

**1<sup>st</sup> 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:** Informal, interactive worship and shared meal. Feb 25th, April 7th, May 12th.

## Church of the Martyrs

### Westcotes Drive Leicester

**Tomatoes Cafe Church:** Live music alternate Saturdays, 10th & 14th March. 9.30 -12pm.

**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.

Details of events and services can be found at [www.martyrs.org.uk](http://www.martyrs.org.uk)

## 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](http://www.stpetersleicester.org.uk)

## Epworth Methodist Church

### Blackbird Road, Leicester

**Weds:** Boys' Brigade 6.00 - 9.30 (ages 5 - 17 years) Tel: John Ogleby 0116 233 7978

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## Leicester Beer Festival

**This year's annual four day Leicester Beer Festival kicks off at 5pm on the 7th of March.**

There's a Dickensian theme running through the festival to mark the bicentenary of Charles Dickens's birth, with Samuel Pickwick depicted on this year's logo and several brews named after his characters.

85 products from brewers within a 25 mile radius of Leicester will be available out of the 220 beers and 35 Ciders and Perries on show.

Beers are sourced from most of the county breweries along with products from some of the newest and smallest micro-breweries from other parts of the country.

For the tenth year running, the festival is being held at the Charotar Patidar Samaj off St Margaret's Way, and runs from March 7th until 10th of March. Day tickets are from £2.50.

For further details visit:  
[www.leicestercamera.org.uk](http://www.leicestercamera.org.uk)



## The Story of Robert Hall

**With his name forever commemorated in the Baptist Church at the corner of Narborough Road and Upperton Road, Robert Hall was born at Arnesby in the south of the county, the youngest of 14 children of a Baptist pastor in 1764.**

Though a sickly child, who suffered from both physical and mental illness for much of his eventful life, the young Robert showed signs of a lively and inquisitive mind from an early age.

Having been sent away to study under a minister in Kettering he quickly mastered both Latin and Greek before going on to study first in Bristol and subsequently taking a masters degree at the University of Aberdeen.

In 1791 Robert Hall became pastor of the Baptist congregation in Cambridge, where he quickly established a reputation as a powerful preacher attracting huge crowds to hear his sermons. At the same time he wrote various religious tracts against the background of the French Revolution and the subsequent wars in Europe.

After another bout of illness he returned from Cambridge to live at Enderby, married the servant of a fellow Baptist minister and took over as pastor of the Harvey Lane chapel in Leicester. He continued his writings and also championed the cause of the Leicester framework knitters hit by the terrible recession of 1819.

He was instrumental in forming a Friendly Society to help alleviate the poverty of the workers which, it could be argued, was one of first trades unions in history. He was also a strong supporter of parliamentary reform.

In 1826 Robert Hall returned to Bristol where he took over as Principal of the Baptist Academy there.

Sadly his health rapidly deteriorated and he died in February 1831. He is buried in Arnesby.

His statue by the sculptor John Birnie Phillip stands just off New Walk as a tribute to this remarkable, if at times, unconventional minister of religion.

© Roger Blackmore



# KNOTT'S LANDING

*Helen Knott*

**A bit of snow and the country grinds to a halt. It certainly happened on Hinckley Road recently.** Saturday night and the whole thing ground to a halt in a snow shower. It wasn't even a blizzard really, just some snow that stuck! Unfortunately, so did all the traffic from the football and rugby.

There is no reason for this to happen really. It's not like we don't get adequate warning from the weather forecasters. It's not like there are not plenty of news channels giving us wall to wall advice from everyone from the RAC to the local vicar. We are repeatedly told how to drive in inclement conditions and repeatedly warned not to go out unless absolutely necessary. I am reliably informed winter tyres are available in all good garages and if we were really worried, snow chains and snow shovels too!

So why is it that car after car failed to get up the hill to cross the railway bridge near Braunstone Leisure Centre? I went out in the snow at about 10pm to see what all the fuss was about. Cars were attempting to drive out of the city by driving as close as possible to the car in front and using

maximum revs to progress. Unfortunately it resulted in getting stuck. One lady from Eastern Europe got out of her car and asked what was going on. When I said it was just snow she shrugged her shoulders and said "Ah yes, no-one here has winter tyres."

Just for the record, if you are driving in snow, put the car in 2nd gear, just dab the accelerator, seriously, just give it enough revs for the clutch to bite and BE PATIENT. Wait for a bit of clearance in front of you before trying to climb a hill.

I pushed a few cars up the hill with the help of some lovely teenagers from Braunstone who were genuinely happy to help. There was also an enthusiastic drunk bloke called James who was not much help and his friend who was brilliant at explaining how to drive in the snow. A top snow team.

What did irk me a little was the people who stood inside their houses with warm cups of tea watching us... Not a one offered us a brew!



## Andrew's Big Bike Ride

**Gazette reader Andrew Bucknall is undertaking a Charity Challenge this month, cycling 300 miles from Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam to Angkor Wat in Cambodia.**

Andrew is raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of his grandmother, Ivy Talbot, who passed away in last March after suffering with cancer.



Macmillan offered vital support, providing both equipment around the house to enable his grand-

parents to live as normal a life as possible and emotional support when the cancer became untreatable.

Speaking on the challenge, Andrew said: "My family were very grateful for the support Macmillan gave, and I wanted to give something back as Macmillan relies solely on charity donations and fundraising. I have been training and fundraising for the challenge for the past 18 months, cycling around 130 miles per week in all weather conditions and nearing my fundraising target of £3400. I can't wait to go and enjoy the experience of a lifetime."

If you would like to find out more about the trip and donate please visit

[www.justgiving.com/Andrew-Bucknall](http://www.justgiving.com/Andrew-Bucknall) or to donate by text, send BUCK78 £amount to 70070

To find out more about what Macmillan visit [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

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# School Quiz Night

**The Dovelands School PTFA are holding a quiz night on Friday 16th March to raise money towards the improvements in the school playground.**

Doors will open at 7.30 and the quiz will begin from 8pm aiming to finish by 10.30.

There will be a bar and nibbles available to buy.

Teams need to be a maximum of 6 people and it costs £5 per team to enter

Anyone interested should contact the PTFA via this email: [dovelandsptfa@googlemail.com](mailto:dovelandsptfa@googlemail.com)

*If your school is holding an event and you would like some free publicity across West Leicester, please send an email to*

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## Green Light at Eco House

**GreenLight is a local group of people sharing a passion for people and the environment.**

We had a clothes, book and toy swap event at the Eco House at the end of February giving visitors the chance to clear out the old and swap for something new.

Then on the 24th March, they are doing some seed planting and growing activities at the Eco House from 12 until 3pm.

A chance to grow something from seed and then, after a period of nurture time, eat the product!

If you are interested in either of the events, please contact Anne Scott on 07856 776604.

## Jazzing up Your Dinner!

**Local jazz musicians from West Leicester are regularly strutting their musical stuff for diners at the Hilton Hotel Bar in the Meridian.**

Peter Crebbin and his Cool Swing Band, lead by the man himself, have a residency at the hotel and play the first Sunday of the month.

Peter says: "It's fun, we've been doing this for three years, playing classic jazz and swing tunes from all eras. We're a three and four piece band with



a lot of playing experience over the years, so

we've got a lot of knowledge to call on".

Peter who leads the band from a grand piano also said: "The entertainments free, but you have to pay for the dinner. But if you like jazz and swing, then relaxing with a meal is a great way to spend a Sunday lunchtime. Come and hear us; there will be something you know".

You can see the Peter Crebbin and his Cool Swing Band on Sunday 4th of March and Sunday 6th of May between 1.00 and 3.30pm.

Find out more about Peter and his huge musical history by visiting his website- [www.petercrebbin.co.uk](http://www.petercrebbin.co.uk)

**Local Band?  
Local singer?  
Local Artist?  
GOT A GIG?**



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## February Police Update

### **Detectives investigating an attempted cash in transit robbery in Leicester have arrested a man in connection with the case.**

The incident took place at about 3.20pm on Tuesday February 7 in Blackbird Road when a security guard saw two men in a balaclavas running towards him. The guard ran into the bank and the suspects then got in to a vehicle and drove away empty handed.

The suspects made off in a green Renault Laguna which contained at least one other person. A 22-year-old man was arrested in Nottingham on February 15 and remains in police custody.

Detective Constable Tim Smith is investigating this incident, he said: "Despite the arrest we would still like to speak to anyone with information about the incident.

"We would urge anyone who was in the Blackbird Road area during the afternoon of Tuesday February 7 and saw a green Renault Laguna parked there or witnessed any suspicious activity to contact us.

"Did you witness any part of the incident or did you see the vehicle making off from the area?"

Any information, no matter how insignificant it may seem, could help lead us to the people responsible."

### **Police are appealing for witnesses after a 31-year-old man was robbed in the Rally Park.**

The incident happened at 10.45pm on February 2 by the stone circle near Tudor Road, when he was approached by two men who pushed him back whilst the second man grabbed the victim's bag. Both ran off towards a group of men and women who then headed towards Fosse Road and Bassett Street.

The black and white Adidas shoulder bag contained cash, personal papers and some keys. The victim was not injured during the incident.

The suspects were both Asian, one of them has been described as being about 6' tall, of slim build, about 20 years-old, closely shaven head and a gaunt face. He was wearing a big blue and cream woollen patterned scarf, brown combat trousers and grey cardigan. The suspect was shorter than the first suspect and he was wearing dark clothing.

PC Nigel Finney Says: "If you recognise the suspects' descriptions or you know anything about the incident please come forward."

## COUNCILLOR'S 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.

### Next Community Meetings

**Fosse Ward:** Wed 21st March from 6pm. Venue to be confirmed.

**Westcotes:** 20th March from 6.30pm in the Main Hall, East/West Community Project, 10 Wilberforce Rd.

**Western Park:** 8th March from 7pm at St. Paul's & St. Augustine's Hall, Kirby Road.

Visit each Ward's individual webpage to download a pdf of the issues discussed.

To find it, click the Ward Meetings link at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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# Love Tennis!

The Leicester Forest East Tennis Club has a strong membership base providing a broad range of social and competitive opportunities for both the adult and junior sections of the club.



In summer 2011 its mens' first team won the Leicestershire Premier League for the second consecutive year and following the 2011 winter league season both mens' teams and all three ladies teams were promoted. For the 2012 season the Club will be entering six mens' teams and four ladies teams into the summer leagues, plus a number of teams into the AEGON Team Tennis Competition, various vets leagues, mixed doubles league and the Sports Mercury Cup.



The Club's junior section is also well represented in the National Junior Club League, the Fallows Cup and also hosts a Road to Wimbledon Event. In February 2011 GSM Leisure took over the coaching provision for the club. As one of the leading coaching providers in the county, GSM provide high-quality professional coaching, and at LFE they deliver a broad coaching programme ranging from mini red junior sessions to adult team and beginner sessions to cardio tennis. More recently, in January 2012, the club received planning permission from Blaby District Council to add floodlights to courts 1 and 2. The club is also planning to resurface courts 1 to 3 and are actively in discussions for funding for these developments.

LFE is a forward-thinking, proactive club and always welcomes new members of all ages and abilities. For further information about LFE Tennis Club visit [www.lfe-tennis.co.uk](http://www.lfe-tennis.co.uk).

*Sponsored Article*

*If you get a phone call from Microsoft saying there's a problem with your computer - be very, very suspicious says Richard Perry.*

## Nice Box - What's in it? Richard Perry

**I know for a fact that home computer users in West Leicester are being targeted by a scam which wrecks your pc, compromises your security and can cost a lot hard cash NOT to get fixed.**

You get a phone call purporting to come from Microsoft Tech Support or your internet service provider, saying they have detected a serious virus on your computer. So serious, it will tear your arms off and beat you to death with the soggy bits. After going through various checks, which include your name, address and phone number, you get walked through a "fix" for the problem which involves opening the Windows Event Viewer. It scares you because there will be various "critical errors" displayed which to the normal user can be worrying.

And this is where the problem really starts. These critical errors don't really matter, but you're scared enough to be directed to a website and download various programs to fix these life threatening disasters.

Congratulations. You have now handed over your computer to a cyberscroat who has just installed remote control software and has complete access to your PC... and your online banking details.



Then they have the nerve to charge you £200 to turn it on, so it will "clean" your computer. That way they also get your credit card details.

Even if you do cough up - your computer is stuffed. It is now so full of buried viruses and spyware it won't work. It's an open door, and all of a sudden, part of a "Bot Network" which perpetrates even more nastiness on the web. You have unwittingly become part of a world wide criminal enterprise and getting your bank account emptied in the process.

It's a growing problem, but the advice is simple.

If you get a call from Microsoft about viruses - hang up. It's not them. They won't know you have a virus and neither will your Internet provider.

Always keep your anti virus and anti malware software up to date and run it regularly.

But if you do get caught out, take your pc to a reputable specialist to be thoroughly disinfected.

## Local Writer gets Green Light

### The life story of a railway signalman from West Leicester is now in print.

Ted Cook, who has retired after 43 years working on the railways has put pen to paper and written the first part of his autobiography covering life as a railway signalman.

Ted, originally from Woking in Surrey started his career as a junior porter at Arundel station before, at 17, being appointed the youngest signalman on British Rail.

He met and married a Leicester girl and moved to the city in the early 1970's and continued his career working the manual signal boxes until 1986 before moving on to the new Signalling Centre on Beal Street and then into training.

Ted said: "Southern Signalman-The Ted Cook Story is the first part of my life on the railway covering my time up until I left Sussex. The second

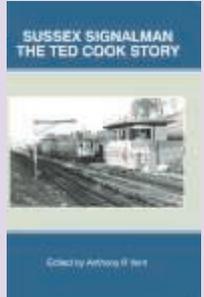


book to follow will cover my time in the Leicester Signal Boxes.

You don't have to know anything about railways to enjoy the humorous and entertaining stories. It's the story about a time when the railway was still a national treasure and country railway stations were still that. Where everyone knew everyone else - an era that's lost in time".

The first book, "Southern Signalman- The Ted Cook Story" is available - cost £10. From the author himself by emailing:

edward8fw@btinternet.com  
Or contact the Gazette and we will pass on Ted's details.



If you're holding an event or perhaps you're doing something special and you'd like people in West Leicester to know about it,

## SHOUT IT OUT!

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## Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



**It's time we talked rot. I'm not referring to my usual monthly wittering but proper rot-composting.**

During the recent cold snap I put the winter pruning on hold and built a second compost bin. Every garden should have one, but two is even better. I'm sure you all know the benefits of composting. Not only is it eco-friendly, you get free organic compost. To some composting is a dark art akin to alchemy that can become an obsession. I don't have time or patience for that level of dedication. Neither do I want to spend money on expensive "hot-boxes" or rotating plastic bins.



A compost heap could be just organic matter piled in the corner of the garden. A plastic sheet over the top will help accelerate the process. Excess green waste can simply be put in a trench in the veg, buried and left to break down for a few weeks before being over planted with a crop. But you

can't beat a homemade wooden compost box. My present composter is made from old pallets, these form the sides. I used extra pieces of wood between the slats so there were no large gaps. I then attached them to four old fence posts.

My new second bin is made from old crates, but you could use bricks, slabs, fence panels or virtually any clean container you can easily get green waste in and out of and has drainage. Old metal or plastic drums with the top and bottom cut off work a treat. Even an old sack can make a temporary composter. Do avoid using old tar soaked railway sleepers, especially if you want to be truly organic, as these can leach poisons such as phenols into the compost. See you next month for more rot and what to compost.



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# BRAIN *TAZERS*

1. By moving one of the following digits, make the equation correct.  $62 - 63 = 1$ .
2. What is special about the following sequence of numbers? 8, 5, 9, 1, 7, 10, 0.
3. You are the bus driver. At your first stop, you pick up 30 people. On your second stop, 18 of those 30 people get off, and at the same time 10 new passengers get on. At your next stop, 5 of those 10 passengers get off, and 13 new passengers come on. On your fourth stop 4 of the remaining 10 passengers get off, 6 of those new 13 passengers get off as well, then 17 new passengers get on. What is the colour of the bus driver's eyes?
4. A bottle of wine cost £10. The wine was worth £9 more than the bottle. How much was the bottle worth? (It's not £1.00!)
5. Using only addition, add eight 8's to get the number 1000.
6. Suppose four men were frozen and two died. How many survived?

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

# SUDOKU

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