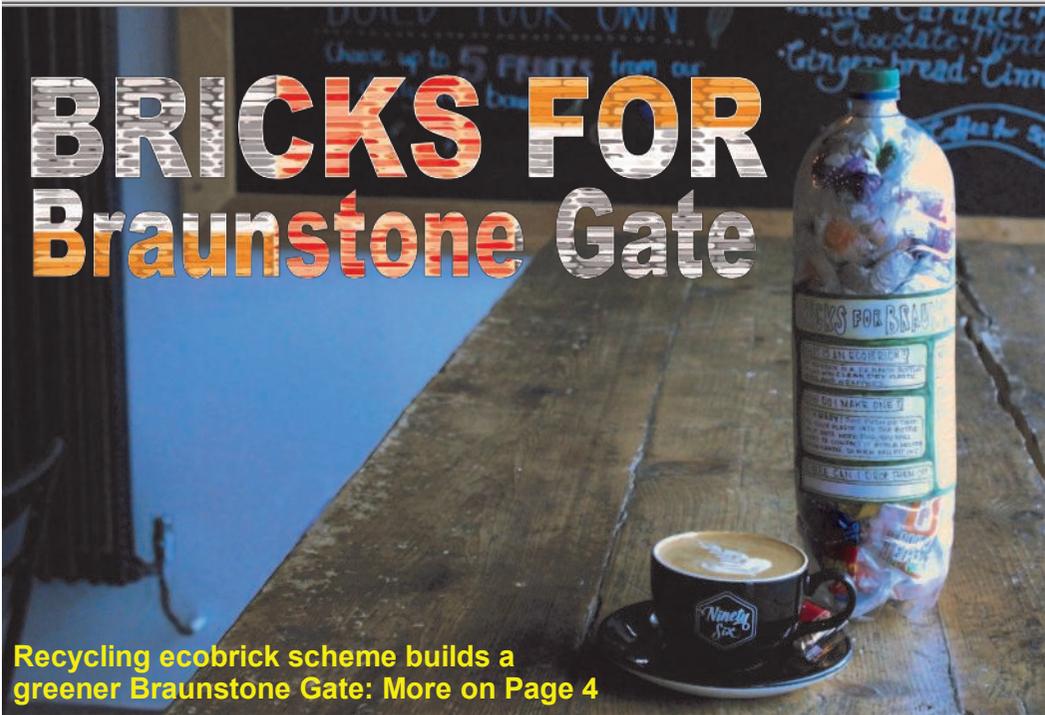




BRICKS FOR Braunstone Gate



Recycling ecobrick scheme builds a greener Braunstone Gate: More on Page 4

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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the February edition of the Western Park Gazette.

This month local artist, Traci Howard, explains the environmental benefits of her Bricks for Braunstone Gate project, New College is shortlisted in a new National Creative Learning Awards scheme, There's a brief update from Project Hive and the Traffic Action Group.

In our regular features: Roger Blackmore, looks at the history of Newfoundpool, Helen Knott engages her husband's superhero mode as he morphs into Foxremover Man, (Can't wait for the movie starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and a shovel), Tony Huxley hunts around a garden centre and finds a few blooms that sound more like Valentine's Day munchies than plants - Peach Flambé and Chocolate truffle for instance. Mark Brennan from Hinckley Road police has their regular update.

We have a competition! The chance to win family tickets to Cirque Berserk at Curve in March and the crossword and Sudoku squat menacingly on the inside back page.

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Events Diary

Fosse Co-op Camera Club: Fri. St Peter's Ch Centre, Westholme St. 7.30pm. fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk

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.

West End Pay As You Feel Café: Thurs 7-8.30pm. Tues, Fri & Sat 11-3pm. WE Centre. Andrewes St.

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

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

Dru Yoga Sessions with Emma: 7.15-8.30pm. St Anne's Hall. 07393 811150.

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

Leicester Comedy Festival: Until 24th Feb Visit website for details www.comedy-festival.co.uk

Cinderella, Nut Cracker & Swan Lake: 20-24th

Feb. **BBC Big Band:** 28th Feb. Vampires Rock: 1st March. **A Beautiful Noise (Tribute)** 3rd March.

Mike & The Mechanics: 8th March @ DM Hall.

Comedy Fest until 24th Feb: Upstairs @ Western 27th Feb - **Choir Night**, 1 & 2nd March - **Feel**, 6th

March - **Woke Women** (Poetry), 7th March - **Gothic Film Night**, 8th March - **The Collaborators**.

Girl on the Train: 4-9th March. **Cirque Berserk:** 13 -17 March. All @ Curve Theatre.

Fiddler on the Roof: 5-9th March. Little Theatre.

Pop-up Beer Fest: March 15th. Eve. St Anne's Hall

Pop-up Tea Room: March 16th. 10.30-2.00pm. St Anne's Hall.

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BRICKS FOR BRAUNSTONE GATE

Bricks for Braunstone Gate is a non profit project that uses plastic bottles containing compacted plastic bags and wrappers to use as bricks. They provide the inner basic structure and are covered in cement and used to make furniture, small walls and other outdoor structures.

Traci Howard is the local artist behind the project. She says: "I first saw the idea of ecobricks on Facebook and thought what a brilliant idea it was and promptly began to put any piece of plastic or wrapper that was not able to be recycled, into empty 2 litre water bottles. It took a while to get used to washing the bags and making sure they were dry before putting them into the bottle, but now it's second nature. I began compacting the contents with a spoon handle and was amazed at how much plastic fitted inside.



"After a few months I had about ten bottles and

decided I would look up where I could take them to but I soon realized that wasn't anywhere so I decided to do it myself".

At the end of last summer Traci went to the opening of the Bede Street Community Garden Project in Braunstone Gate, the community project aims to create a garden and space in one of the archways on Bede Street. Armed with a bottle and flyers she'd made; Traci proposed her idea. The volunteer loved the concept that part of the building work could use ecobricks.

On the last Saturday of every month and between 10-2 on Wednesday, members of the community, and anyone interested in helping, gets together and works on the project. All Traci needed now was to find a place where the public could drop their bottles off, which could then be taken to the arches. The manager of 96 degrees Cafe, a local coffee shop, offered to help.

Traci said: "The objective is to make us aware of our use of plastic and offer a solution to a very important environmental issue, whilst bringing the community together at the same time.

"As the project grows it would be great to see people take the initiative and start their own projects, like building benches and other structures in allotments and in local communal areas".

More info on the bricks for Braunstone Gate Facebook page.

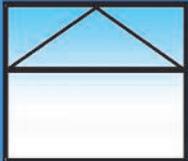
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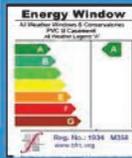
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Newfoundpool

This, one of the most unusual of Leicester's nineteenth century suburbs, will forever be associated with the name of Isaac Harrison, whose initial letters (IHARRISON) spell out the names of the streets between Pool Rd and Beatrice Road, for example Ingle, Hawthorn and Alma.

Harrison, a market gardener, bought the land at about the same time as the Leicester and Swannington Railway was being planned in the 1830's. He had started building a hydrotherapy centre on his newly acquired land with a view to creating a spa but the venture was doomed to failure. In time the family took up residence in Newfoundpool House (which was to become the Empire Hotel prior to becoming a 21st century supermarket). Isaac passed on the property to his nephew, another Isaac, and later to Beatrice.

Orson Wright, a local builder, bought the land off the Harrisons in 1885 and began building mainly two storey terraced houses with provision of a shop on every corner. The houses proved very popular. Before long there was a mounting demand for school places for the 500 or so children living in the area and Orson Wright sold the land where Inglehurst Junior School is now, to the newly established school board.



Surprisingly, Newfoundpool was not part of the city until 1891 when the city determined to extend its boundaries. The area quickly developed a strong sense of community. The old Fosse Cinema, replaced by Fosse Bingo and later Tesco, was a popular venue. Institutions, like the Newfoundpool Working Men's club and the local Neighbourhood Centre, still play vital roles in the social life of the area. These each, in their way, together with the local school provided a wide range of local activities from a lively debating society at the Working Men's Club in the 1950's to dance and theatre classes at the Neighbourhood Centre in more recent times.

To this day, Newfoundpool possesses a character of its own, still treasured by many long term residents.

Roger Blackmore

20mph Zone Update

The residents' consultation across Western Park should get underway later this year. Those within the 20mph zones should have already received a letter from Leicester City Council and Arcadis about the proposed traffic calming scheme. The two areas are; all roads between the Hinckley Road and Glenfield Road including Dovelands Primary School, and those between Glenfield Road and Aikman Avenue. Both areas stopping at Woodville Road but not including the main roads.

The area is beset by speeding, bad parking near the schools; causing terrible congestion and a particularly difficult crossing point for many pupils, pedestrians and cyclists at the junction near St Anne's church.

Residents want the traffic slowed down; they want ways of addressing the inconsiderate parking and safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists.

We are hopeful that the scheme should at least make a robust start to achieving these aims.

Please get in touch if you have questions that Traffic Action Group (TAG) may be able to help with - but most importantly; make sure that you let the City Council know your views through the consultation. Everyone living on the affected roads can give their views about the proposals.

Email: westernparktag@gmail.com

Search for Western Park Traffic Action Group on Facebook



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KNOTT'S LANDING

I was having a lovely afternoon making Seville Orange Marmalade, the house smelled of citrus and the kitchen was warm for the first time in ages. All was peaceful in my world. Then the window cleaner knocked on the door to tell me there was a dead fox in the jitty. Oh God! I thought. Not this again.

A few years ago a fox got hit by a car on the road outside our house. What followed was a steady stream of people ringing the doorbell and waking up the sleeping toddler to tell me there was a dead fox outside the house. It went on ALL day. The dead fox was on the public footpath, quite why everyone thought it was my responsibility is beyond me! We could have called out the council to sort it but Mr Helen put on his big gloves and dealt with it.

This time the damn thing was in the jitty! All the kids who came to the house trooped out to look at the remains. We all agreed it looked peaceful, curled up as if asleep. I called my friend who has done a taxidermy course as part of her art degree. This is normal right? She has a freezer full of random dead beasts. She looked at the photos I'd sent and said sadly, it was not fresh enough... She said had it been fresher I could have had a pair of fox fur gloves but sadly, it had been sitting there for too long and, even though we had been experiencing very cold weather, was in danger of starting to stink us out!

Once more we needed the services of Foxre-

moveyman (also known as Mr Helen) with his big gloves, his resilient nasal passages and his garden fork of destiny! Once more he rose to the occasion.

He formulated a plan. First we needed to move the corpse to the front of the house. We paraded down the jitty behind him to behold his performance. It was harder than anticipated to get the thing onto the fork. There is no need to feed the local foxes if this one is anything to go by. It was the size of my friend's cockerpoo and looked pretty sleek, for a dead fox. It was very heavy but Foxremoverman persevered and eventually got it loaded. Now we had to wait for the cover of darkness.

A few hours after sunset, Foxremoverman was ready to execute part 2 of the plan; getting rid of the body. The road outside fell silent and he picked up the fork with the dead fox on it. Stealthily he moved to the end of the drive and then began to cross the road. At that exact moment two cars appeared; both slowed to watch. Foxremoverman stood still, caught in the headlights; a man with a dead fox on the end of a garden fork. He straightened up, nodded at the people in the cars and carried on across the road where he dumped the fox into the overgrown bit of the park. Then he turned slowly and waved to his audience. Job Done!

What I love is that the people in the cars just sat there and watched because this is totally normal. Well, normal for Western Park! I think I might make a cape and a mask ready for next time... Wherever there are dead foxes he'll be there... Foxremoverman! **H.N**

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New College Gets Creative

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

Kate Brown, Director of Learning for Expressive Arts at New College has been shortlisted in the category for the Education Leader Award. Kate said: "I am delighted that New College have been chosen to become one of the shortlisted finalists. Having recently launched our Arts & Culture Strategy, we firmly believe in the value of engaging in the arts to young people's employability and their health and wellbeing".

Gilly Bryerley, Managing Director of The Creative Learning Guild, who are organising the awards, said: "On behalf of all here, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all of those shortlisted for the National Creative Learning Awards. There is so much talent and dedication in the world of creative learning, with practitioners taking on enormous responsibility, working long hours with almost no down time, and often for little financial reward. We want these awards to recognise these un-sung heroes and support them in their ongoing fight for creativity. I wish our shortlisted members the best of luck, but would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for the wonderful and essential job they do every day".



The awards are organised by The Creative Learning Guild a charity based in Yorkshire that supports the grassroots creative learning movement across the UK through a Guild membership scheme and the new awards. Judges will use criteria that have been informed by a consultation of arts and education organisations to choose the winners from each of the categories and the winner in each category will be announced at the Creative Learning Summit on Friday the 8th of March.

The judging panel include an Olivier award winning theatre producer, a representative from the international Lego Foundation, leading disability arts professional; Ruth Gould and acclaimed poet Ian McMillan.

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CIRQUE BERSERK! COMPETITION

After sell-out London West End runs and a sensational reception at the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Cirque Berserk! the UK's biggest theatre-circus spectacular is back in Leicester.

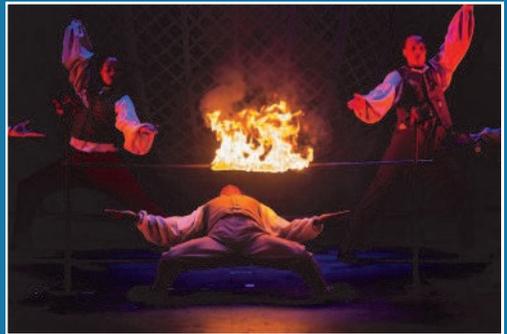
And you could win a Meet-the-Stars Family Ticket to see the show **free** at the performance of your choice (subject to availability) at Curve Leicester from 13th to 17th March.

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IMA



PROJECT

hive

Update

Project Hive is run by the
WWCE, a group of local
residents trying to raise

funds to redevelop the former Eco House into a community space.

February is here already and this year is shaping up to be a busy one!

Our team has grown, bringing new faces and fresh ideas. Some for regular involvement and others who are able to help out at our events. We would still like even more of you to join us.

At the start of the year we were invited to give a talk about the plans we have for Project Hive, and information about the wider redevelopment works, to a local group.

We received a warm reception from The Wednesday Club at St Anne's Church, along with lots of positive feedback about our plans. There were plenty of questions too, most of which we were able to answer, save the one that's probably on everyone's lips: When will work actually start? Well, we're still waiting for the council and developer to exchange contracts. Something we had been told would be done by now.

That aside, we have plenty of community events coming up and we are looking forward to seeing you all for a chat at this year's "Pop Up Tea Room" at St Anne's on March 16th, Once again very kindly being run in our benefit.

Find out more about WWCE and Project Hive at our website wwce.org.uk or on Facebook @wwceleicester



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STRETCH YOUR ARTISTIC MUSCLE

Managing our well being can be difficult at times and having an array of tools to help can be very useful.

Western Park's Dru Yoga teacher and Recovery Practitioner Emma Harrison-Thompson will be teaming up with local Artist Traci Howard, whose work is frequently exhibited in Cank Street Gallery and a recent crafter on Kirsty Allsopp's Handmade Christmas, to offer a unique combination of Dru Yoga and Reflective Art at St Anne's Hall on the morning of 24th March 2019.

Whether you are new to yoga or unsure of your artistic flare it sound like a great opportunity to take some time out to self reflect, spend time with others and may be learn some new ways to manage your well being in an interesting way.

For more info call Emma on 07393 811150 or email: druyogawithemma@gmail.com

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Feb Police Update

In January your local Fosse, Westcotes and New Parks team have assisted the national week of action led by the National Crime Agency (NCA) to disrupt criminals exporting drugs through children and other vulnerable people, otherwise known as 'County Lines'. This also includes targeting the practice of 'Cuckooing' where criminals take over the homes of vulnerable adults to store and move drugs using intimidation, control and violence.

The police have responded to this issue at a number of locations in the area by securing the support of the local community to provide evidence to then action drugs warrants and/or drug closure orders. This month a drugs warrant was completed at one address in Braunstone, numerous vulnerable addresses were visited in New Parks and two significant drugs arrests were made in the Narborough Road and Groby Road areas.

More great work has been completed on Operation Wham which runs regularly and involves high visibility and plain clothes operations to target criminals who use the roads to commit crime. Since the first operation, back in May 2018, 36 people have been arrested on suspicion of offences such as drug possession, burglary and driving offences.

Finally we continue to uncover cannabis factories in the area on the back of local concerns about unsafe properties. In the last month we have completed a drugs warrant at an address on Pickwell Close where one man was arrested who has since been deported for being in the country illegally. Another address on Mellor Road



Mellor Road

has been searched with numerous cannabis plants recovered and enquiries ongoing. This work continued with the discovery of over 100 cannabis plants growing at a property on Tudor Road. This action takes funds out of the hands of serious organised criminals and also prevents potentially catastrophic fire risks.

Please continue to report your concerns about all of the above matters via Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111.

No Beatles references this month and just one Wham reference. See you in March!

Sgt Mark Brennan

(Find us on Facebook @ Fosse, The West End and New Parks Police)

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



No matter how grey and miserable February gets, it's now just a short wait till we see the colours of spring.

I've had my fill of pastel shades, so I was happy to hear that 2019 is predicted to see bolder colours being used in the garden. I thought I should check out what's available. Today I was working next to West Lodge Plant Nursery near Desborough and decided to spend my coffee break talking to the owner, Richard. It's great to find a well-stocked, independent nursery, that's not just the floral display for an over-priced tearoom.

As luck would have it, they'd just taken delivery of this season's herbaceous perennials. They arrive as young plants, then they are typically potted up and grown on before sale. However, for a short time, Richard sells some on at a discounted rate. It's an economical way of buying plants, especially if you're able to pot them



Peach Flambe

up and grow them in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame for a month or two.

The most striking of the new arrivals was *Heuchera* "Peach Flambe". The leaves are a riot of burnt orange, which become a darker, peachy pink as the season progresses. Another example of bold foliage was *Lobelia* "Chocolate Truffle".

This perennial species has a rosette of bronze foliage that's topped by a spike of crimson flowers in the summer. Although extremely hardy, it likes to be kept well-watered; some people even grow it in the margins of ponds. In contrast, the foliage of *Coreopsis* "Bengal Tiger" is delicate and feathery, but in summer it dispenses with false modesty and puts out a profusion of vibrant yellow flowers with red banded petals. Completing my herbaceous wish list is *Geranium* "Ballerina". A great ground-cover plant, especially in semi-shade, which stands out with the purple washed white flowers that have deepest purple veins.

So next time you visit the garden centre, be brave, think bold and put a little colour back in your garden.

Tony Huxley



Chocolate Truffle



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1		2		3		4
5						
6						
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1 Across: Distinctive **1 Down:** Summer Shoes
2: Expansive **3:** Ancient Peruvians **4:** Rungs to climb
5: Subtly different **6:** Performer **7:** attainment
 © Paul Towers

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