



CRISIS ON BRAUNSTONE GATE?



More on Page 2

Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the first Gazette of 2012!

It seems businesses on Braunstone Gate are becoming very worried about the effect the new Tesco is having on their trade... and it's not even half finished yet.

It's not all gloom, Hinckley Road Policing Unit have a new boss, it looks like local girl Bethany Mickleborough might have found a bone marrow match and it's the Year of the Dragon!

Our regular scribes are back; Roger Blackmore looks at the life and times of Mary Linwood, our Garden Guru, Tony Huxley, has one or two New Year resolutions which he'll never keep, Richard Perry has the info on who built an iPad for £82 and some techy news, finally, Helen Knott agonises over the best local school to send her son. We also have the frighteningly fit Loretta Curtis joining us with some ways of losing that post festive tum.

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

Sharon e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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The Western Park Gazette

Crisis on Braunstone Gate?

Businesses on Braunstone Gate are saying they are in danger of going bust.

Many of the bars, restaurants and other traders are struggling due to the lack of parking caused by the new Tesco construction and by what some see as a lack of proper investment in the area.



Paul Draper who owns the Loaf Bar and Restaurant says: "Braunstone Gate could be another Lace Market or Brick Lane with the right investment. Businesses around here must have pumped millions into the City Council coffers and the local economy over the years and we've got nothing really to show for it".



He also believes the influx of large restaurant chains to the Highcross has had a negative impact on independent restaurateurs, not just on Braunstone Gate, but across the city.

Paul says: "Small local businesses just aren't supported where it counts. It's almost like independents are getting two fingers. All I want them (Council) to do is pay some attention and not ignore our very real concerns".

Andrea Cooper who works at Vickers Florists, the longest serving shop in the street says: "Parking is a nightmare since we lost the MFI car park. What happens when the new swimming pool is finished? With all the people using it, how much worse will it make the traffic problems?"

Another complaint is not just over the current lack of customer parking.

Martin Lavender from FuBAR on Narborough

Road is furious: "Braunstone Gate is in a right state at the moment. There's rubbish, cars parked on pavements because there's not enough spaces. There's vandalism; we've even had ashtrays ripped off the wall. It's a bloody nightmare".

Tesco's have 20 stores around Leicester. The new 43,000 square foot West End store which opens in the summer will employ around 150 people with parking for 200. But that doesn't impress many on Braunstone Gate.

Adam Thompson, owner of the Left Bank believes that the old arrangement where local shoppers could use the MFI car park for up to three hours is the best answer to the problems. "The extension of the nearby residents parking permits and the closure of the MFI car park means that even if shoppers can find somewhere near to park, they can only stay for an hour anyway. No good if your having a hair cut or a bite to eat. Customers on all fronts are voting with their feet and going elsewhere as a result".



Although not much can be done whilst the supermarket is being built, in a letter to Westcotes Councillors, Adam said Tesco must "enable people who want to do business in the area - not just at the supermarket - to park for a reasonable amount of time and to meet, spend time and trade with other business in the area".

Craig Saunders from Cease is slightly more optimistic: "The lack of local parking has had a significant effect on my trade as, I would imagine, it has on other businesses as well.

Businesses in Braunstone Gate rely solely on that car park for their survival and the longer it takes them to build the supermarket, the more the area and businesses will suffer.

Shops have closed and I think it's because of the lack of car parking.

Although I think that it will be great when the Tesco opens, it's a struggle for us at the moment. If Tesco doesn't allow us to park there then unfortunately they will be the only business down here".

To comment e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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: Informal, interactive worship and shared meal. Feb 25th, April 7th, May 12th.

Good as New Bric-a-brac Sale: Sat 28th Jan. Church Hall.

Church of the Martyrs

Westcotes Drive Leicester

Tomatoes Cafe Church: Live music alternate

Saturdays 28th Jan, 11th & 25th Feb. 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. 9th Feb and from 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

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

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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: 5th Feb & 4th March. Residency at the Hilton Hotel. 1-3.30pm.

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

Chinese Year of the Dragon: 28th Jan. 2-3.30. Fosse Library. Children's stories and more. Free.

Strictly Vintage Fair: 28th Jan. Market Corner.

Coffee and Discussion Group: 4th Feb. 11-12pm. Fosse Library. Free.

Post War Leicester Slideshow: 3rd Feb. 11-12pm. Fosse Library. Free.

Tea and History: 3rd Feb. Newarke Houses. 1.30-3.00pm. Free.

Try Tuesdays Tiger's Pub Quiz: 7th Feb. 7-10pm. Tiger's Ground. £5pp. 0116 217 1317.

Lord of the Dance: 7th-9th Feb. De Montfort Hall.

Leicester's Best Dance Crew: 12th Feb. Curve. 7.30-10.30pm. www.2-funky.co.uk

Leicester Comedy Festival: 13th-19th Feb. Various locations. www.comedy-festival.co.uk

Word-Spoken word Night: 1st Tues - monthly. Y Theatre. www.leicestermca.co.uk

Amy Winehouse Tribute: 2nd March. 8.00pm. Y Theatre. www.leicestermca.co.uk

Knit & Stitch Club: Thursdays. Braunstone Library.

A Stitch in Time

Mary Linwood, probably one of the most remarkable woman of her age, was born in Birmingham in 1755, but moved to Leicester at the age of nine when her wine merchant father went bankrupt.

Following her father's death and assisted by young Mary, her mother established a private boarding school for young ladies in Belgrave Gate. In time Mary took over the running of school and remained a teacher until her death.

What made Mary particularly remarkable was that in her early teens, she had begun embroidering pictures and quickly became established as a talented needlework artist.

Before long, this school mistress from Belgrave Gate was becoming increasingly well known on both the national and international stages.

An exhibition of her pictures, including full sized copies of Old Masters, were exhibited all over Europe causing a huge amount of interest amongst the rich and powerful of the



day.

Catherine the Great of Russia is reported to have offered to buy her entire collection and in 1803, Napoleon himself conferred the Freedom of Paris on her.

Mary's work was continuously exhibited in London for over forty years from the Regency period right into Queen Victoria's reign. Such was Mary's popularity, Victoria even invited the renowned artist to Windsor Castle.

Miss Linwood, as she was usually known in Leicester, was also an accomplished musician and even wrote a musical composition dedicated to Queen Adelaide, the popular widow of King William IV, who, herself, very much enjoyed her visits to Leicestershire.

Miss Linwood was also reputed to be the last person in Leicester, possibly even the entire country, to be carried around the city a sedan chair!

This amazingly talented woman also wrote a number of novels at about the same time as Jane Austen was writing those titles which have become the film and TV blockbusters of today.

Active to the end, Miss Linwood, died of flu at the age of ninety and is buried at St. Margaret's Church. She must surly rank as one of the best known artists of her age. © **Roger Blackmore**

New Local Top Cop

Inspector Andy Parkes has taken over as Commander of the Hinckley Road Policing Unit.

No stranger to West Leicester, he joined the force in 1996 as a Special Constable before enlisting full-time in 2001. He has have spent most of his

career working on the city area at various LPUs, including Hinckley Road and in many different roles; as a PC, Sergeant and Inspector.

Andy Parkes says: "It is a pleasure to be returning to Hinckley Road as the LPU Commander and I am looking forward to taking on the

challenges that such a busy and vibrant part of our city brings with it. Working hard with colleagues, partners and of course the community, I



will be making sure we deliver a quality service as we address your priorities and seek to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

You may well see me out and about on patrol with colleagues or at the various meetings and events that are planned, so please feel free to speak to me about policing in our community. I will also be posting key updates and messages on Twitter, @HinckleyRoadLPU, and via my LPU Commanders Blog and, of course, you can contact me at Hinckley Road LPU should you so wish".

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Helen Knott

Getting your child into the right school has become something of a national obsession in this country. Some people go to great lengths to get their little ones into the "right" schools. Some people work two jobs to send their children to private school. Others move house so they are in the right catchment area.

Fortunately I live in the catchment area of good schools. I know I'm lucky. Doveland is over subscribed, happy, friendly and does well academically. Christ the King is smaller, also over subscribed, friendly, happy and does really well academically too. My fingers are crossed that we will get into one of them. All I have



done is fill out a form and clicked send to prepare myself for this day. Unlike my friend in London who recently proudly displayed pictures of his little boy in a fantastic school blazer, long socks, shorts, cap and leather satchel. His boy started school this September but my friend had been planning his first day since he was conceived. As soon as they knew they were expecting, my friend and his wife upped their church attendance to at least once a week. They helped out at the Sunday School and led a church playgroup. Four years of hard work paid off and they received the appropriate letter from their local Father recommending them. Although his wife is a good Irish Catholic girl, my friend describes religion as a "delusion of choice". He is not remotely religious but he sucked it up and took one for the team. Hopefully his boy will do well.

I can't help thinking that we are getting excited about the wrong thing though. Surely we should be trying to get the government to change the rules so kids don't have to start school at four years-old? My little boy will be four and a month when he starts at school.

He will be in a class with five year-old girls and boys who are much bigger, more developed socially and mentally and he will be expected to perform to the same level.

If the school get it wrong and put him off learning it will take years to overcome.

In the Scandinavian countries kids don't start school until they are six or seven. I've never met a Swede who couldn't read or speak two languages. School these days seems to be a factory designed to produce adults ready to work in call centres. I'm not sure this is what education should be for. In order to meet the challenges this century has coming our way I think we need creative thinkers, entrepreneurs, science wizards, computer geeks who can programme us the next world wide web. We might get a few out of the current schools system but I can't help thinking that if our politicians were braver, better, forward thinking people who redesigned the school system from the ground up we might end up with more.



More from Helen in the next issue.

To comment e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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DONOR FOR BETHANY

Bethany Mickleburgh, the Western Park teenager suffering from leukemia is due to have a bone marrow transplant in February.

Doctors found a match, from an anonymous volunteer, in Europe just before Christmas, following the huge donor drive at the Tigers rugby ground in November.



Family and friends tirelessly campaigned to get more people on the bone marrow register resulting in over 2000 attending the event, but a suitable donor was eventually found in Germany. Germany is thought to have several million registered bone marrow donors, but there are only four hundred thousand registered in the UK. Fourteen year old Bethany, who has been fighting leukemia since she was three, is currently undergoing chemotherapy at the Infirmary while she waits for the life saving operation. Bethany's plight caught the national spotlight when it was raised in the House of Commons by West Leicester MP, Liz Kendall, at Prime Minister's Question Time on 11th January. She asked the Prime Minister What plans the Government had to encourage more people to join the bone marrow register and increase the number of potential donors in the UK. David Cameron replied: "It's not widely understood enough about the need to get more people on to the register. The Government is going to be spending about £4 million this year to help promote that and to help make that happen".

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Fosse Cllrs Surgery Monthly, first Sat, 10.30-11.30, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre & last Sat (10-11.30am) 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 Tues each month 1.30 - 2.30pm.

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

WARD MEETINGS

Your local Councillors hold regular Ward Meetings to update their constituents on local issues and concerns.

JOIN IN!

To find out when and where your next community meeting is, click the "Ward Meetings" box on the homepage of our website.

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January Police Update

Burglars view January as a prime time to pick up extra New Year bargains, so now is a good time to review your household's general security with a few simple steps at little or no cost.

For those with computer access, register your items free of charge on www.immobilise.com. If the items are stolen, police can access full details from the site, including exact model details and serial numbers. You can even upload photographs of the items, which will help identify them. Otherwise consider property-marking your items. This can be done with permanent markers or pens which show up only under ultra-violet light. These measures will help police return your goods if they are stolen and recovered. They could also help prove that they have been stolen, which increase the chances of taking an offender to court.

Even the fact that you have marked your property will, in itself can deter some criminals from taking items.

Ensure all windows and doors are locked, even if you are only leaving your home for a short time.

Don't leave spare keys outside the property and use a timer to ensure there is a light on even when your home is unoccupied.

A man has been charged with burglary of a newsagents in Hinckley Road, in November.

The 36-year is accused of stealing a handbag from the shop. He was remanded in police custody and appeared at Leicester Magistrates Court on Friday December 30.

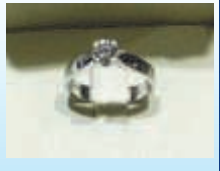
Police in Westcotes are dealing with a spate of missing wing mirrors.

Local police are unsure as to why anyone would be stealing them, but motorists are being asked to keep an eye out for anything suspicious.

Have you seen this engagement ring which was stolen during an Aikman Avenue home burglary before Christmas?

A number of items were stolen including an Indian gold 24 carat necklace and earrings set. The necklace has a gold pendant with several small black stones in it, the earrings are in a teardrop shape.

If you can help contact PC 1724 Steve Kilsby by dialling 101 and following the instructions.



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COMPETITION

Here's your chance to win a top Blu-ray disc title from the Western Park Gazette.

To be in with a chance of winning a copy of *Cowboys and Aliens* starring Daniel Craig and Harrison Ford, just answer this simple question.

Which two roles are Harrison Ford and Daniel Craig best known for?



Send your answers by post to Editor, Western Park Gazette, c/o 62 Ainsdale Road Leicester LE3, 0UA.

or e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk.

You can also enter online via the website.

Closing date: 10.2.2012

T's and C's: No cash alternative. Judge's decision is final.

You might have received a nice shiny new iPad for Christmas costing an arm and a leg, but did you know, it's possible to build one yourself for less than £100?

Nice Box - What's in it? Richard Perry

It took Chinese art student Wei Xinlong just ten days to build his girlfriend an iPad.

Yes, he's an art student but, helpfully, Wei has a background in electronics, so he cannibalised old laptops and raided second hand junk markets for bits, even managing to build a heat conductor from a drinks can and a chopstick!

It comes with a fully functional touchscreen, built-in camera, microphone, four USB slots, LAN socket and is powered by a lithium battery. It also has diamante studs around the screen... tasteful.

Although it isn't as powerful as a genuine tablet it can be used to read e-books, watch films, listen to music and play video games. It cost Wei 800 Yuan, just £82.00.



Current iPad prices range between £400 to £650, so he's well in pocket and a very happy girlfriend!

And Apple, the creators of the iPad, have something new up their sleeve for 2012. Developers across the industry are working on face recognition software which will make keying in your password a thing of the past. The technology will scan your face, picking out the distance between key features like eyes, nose and mouth and compare them to a stored image before activating your device.

Fingerprint recognition is already common, but Apple and Google are working on smartphones that can combine fingerprint and facial recognition technology, improving security if your phone is lost or stolen.

The TV manufacturers LG have unveiled the worlds largest "ultra definition" telly.

Coming in at a whopping 84 inches with a 3840 x 2160 pixel 3D display, this emerging "4K" technology is mainly designed for cinema 3D; still using those annoying glasses though.

The massively increased pixel range makes up for a loss of image quality during 3D viewing.

There's no 4K content to watch at the moment, unless you own a high end digital projector and a cinema, but some smaller 4K TV's, around 60 inches across, can cost around £7500... ouch!

Beat the BULGE!

Whether it's physically or mentally, Christmas takes a toll on our bodies. The preparation for Christmas can be stressful; financial stress, family stress, health stress, fitness stress...

The New Year has arrived and it's time to shake of the cobwebs. It's time to feel good. It's the time to focus on the positive and it's a fantastic time to set some solid structural fitness goals.

Typical Workout Goals

1.Lose weight

2.Get fitter

3.Tone up

If you've had the same goals for more than 1 year, they are not working! Make your goals stronger by being more specific...

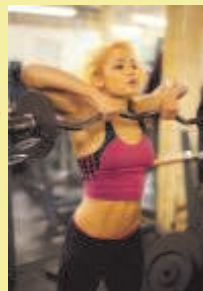
- By 28th February I will have lost half a stone from my current weight 'x'. I shall

achieve this by completing challenging workout routines 3 times per week alongside a healthy balanced diet.

- I am going to eat a healthy breakfast every morning so I can achieve my goal target weight loss of half a stone by 28th February.

- I am going to lift weights 3 times per week and notice more tone in my arms by 1st March.

Now, you are set up to get fit and healthy. You know what it is you have to do. It is also important to recognise any potential obstacles before you reach any. For example, illness, family commitments, time etc. Make a list of all the possible things that may challenge your route to achieving your goal/s and identify potential solutions. For example, Illness – 'Ensure I eat healthy food, rest and take any appropriate medication to easily overcome the illness. Therefore, if the 'obstacle' ever arises, your armed and ready with solutions. © **Lauretta Curtis**



Make a Splash!

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2012 - Year of the Dragon

On January 23rd, the Year of the Rabbit hopped off into the sunset and the Year of the Dragon flew in.

For the Chinese, the Spring Festival is the first traditional festival of the year.

Historically called New Year, it is the first day of the first lunar month that marks the beginning of the year.

The Spring Festival celebration has a history stretching back more than 4,000 years and originated with Emperor Yao.

When Yao took the throne, he led members of his court to worship heaven and the earth. Since then, the Chinese took that day as the beginning of the year. After the 1911 revolution, China adopted the Gregorian calendar, and changed the lunar New Year into the Spring Festival, which according to the Gregorian calendar, falls between late January and mid February.

The night before Spring Festival is *chuxi*, or New Year's Eve. This is an important time for family reunions and is accompanied by a rich New Year dinner, after which, many stay up overnight night to see out the old year and welcome in the new



one. The following day, people usually visit relatives and friends to exchange greetings.

During the festival, the most traditional celebration activities include lion and dragon dancing, boat racing and stilt walking.

There is also the tradition of pasting red paper couplets and letting off fire crackers to ward off the legendary ferocious horned beast Nian who had the unsociable habit of gobbling up cattle and people every New Year.

Money wrapped in red paper to convey best wishes and good luck is given to unmarried children, following the tradition that one can only be counted adult when married.

Eating *Jiaozi* or boiled dumplings is a must! This is a habit popular as long ago as the Ming Dynasty between 1368-1644. *Jiaozi* has to be prepared before 12 pm and put on table when the New Year bell is rung at midnight.

There is also "Dusting" which refers to a New Year sweep out of bad luck and evil spirits from the home; "Pasting" where couplets and pictures with the character "Fu" or bliss are pasted on doors, posts and windows. And "Inviting" which calls for the gods of food and fortune to smile on us all.

Gong Xi Fa Cai!



Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



Happy New Year! This is the time when we try to turn over a metaphorical new leaf, so I thought I would share with you my 10 gardening resolutions for 2012.

1. Never believe a long range weather forecast. A few months ago meteorologists would've staked their grannies' pensions on a long hard winter. Any warmer and I'd have spent Christmas gardening in Bermuda shorts.

2. Make sure I have plenty of water butts for the devastating drought I predict we're going to have this year, and never apply rule 1 to myself.

3. Bring order to the vegetable patch. Try not to let it be the most neglected part of the garden. Don't forget to plant the magic beans and steal the golden goose from the giant while it's still Panto season.

4. This year, plant out tomato seedlings before they're in flower and rooted to the window sill. (Resolution 4a. Don't make a mess of the newly painted sills, and be more careful watering houseplants etc, by order of the wife).



5. Sharpen my edging shears. At the moment they cut as cleanly as a pair of pliers.

6. Keep on top of the weeding. Pull weeds out before they set seed, and endeavour to stop the patio and gravel driveway looking like an extension of the lawn.

7. Build that second compost bin so I can properly rotate the compost heap.

8. Fix that slab I keep tripping over.

9. Fix the slab my wife keeps tripping over.

10. Get my monthly gardening column to the editor before the last minute. Well maybe I'll start that one next month. *(Never gonna happen!-Ed)*

Wishing you all a green fingered 2012.

The Western Park Gazette



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BRAIN TAZERS

1. Rearrange the letters below to give three words. All four letters must be used in each word.

N.B.S.U

2. Place a three letter word at the end of one word to connect with the start of the other to form a longer word in each case. The initial letters of the three letter words will give another when read downwards. What is it?

HACK ____ DUST
COB ____ SITE
OVER ____ SOME
PEA ____ SHELL

3. What Number appears next in this sequence

190 94 46 22 10 4 ?

4. Put the two words together on each line and rearrange them to make three new words.

WASH + TUNE =

ZING + SEEN =

TIDY + VAIL =

5. A dressmaker takes two seconds to measure and cut each one metre length of a fifty metre roll of ribbon. How long will it take for the whole ribbon to be cut? *Answers.westernparkgazette.co.uk*

SUDOKU

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	9	4	1					
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