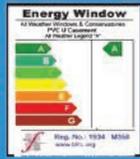




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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the first Western Park Gazette of 2017!

Now that the Christmas pud has settled and the long haul towards the summer holidays has started, what delights lurk with these pages?

OK - 'delights' is a bit of a strong word but nevertheless, De Montfort Uni packed off, probably, the biggest ever bunch of students to New York for inspiration whilst DMU's Square Mile Project stays extremely busy in West Leicester as well with a ton of activities.

Our regular features kick off the New Year with Roger Blackmore enjoying the delights of Leicester's Bardi Orchestra, Richard Perry sits in for Helen Knott with a rueful look back at 2016's celebrity departures and Pete Morris stands in for Tony Huxley with some January planting advice. According to Mike Hooper from Hinckley Road Police Station, the Boys in Blue had a fairly successful Christmas as well - you don't expect screeching tyres and blue flashing lights in Western Park, but we got that too.

Happy New Year to our readers, contributors and advertisers and let's hope 2017 is a peaceful and prosperous year for us all.

Follow us on Twitter @mygazette & Facebook by searching for the Western Park Gazette.

If you've got a local news story then email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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Events Diary

Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band: 1st Sun Monthly. at the Hilton Hotel, Meridian. 1-3.30pm

Thursday 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.

Westfield Gallery: Mon-Sat. 81 Westfield Rd. Call 0116 285 8548 to view.

Pub Quiz: Monthly last Tues. WE Brewery Braunstone Gate. 8-10pm.

Don't Dress For Dinner: 23-28 Jan. The Little Th.

Grease The Musical: Until 21st Jan. Curve Th.

Fosse Beat Surgery: Jan 28th. Fosse Neigh' Centre on Mantle Rd. 10-2pm.

Woman in Black: 30th Jan-4th Feb. Curve Th.

The Leic Electric Violinist: 2nd Feb. WE Brewery.

Sleuth: 6-11 Feb. **Leic Comedy Fest** throughout Feb at The Little Th. *thelittletheatre.net*

Stuart Lee: 8/9th Feb. **Jimmy Carr:** 10th Feb. **Ken Dodd:** 11th Feb. All at De Mont Hall.

The Bowie Experience: 17 Feb. De Mont Hall.

Sue Perkins Live: 18th Feb. De Mont Hall.

The Wedding Singer: 10-18 Feb. **Romesh Ranganathan:** 12th Feb. **The Sitcom Exp - Basil & Co:**

13-16 Feb. **The Sitcom Exp - Edmund & Queenie:** All at Curve. *curveonline.com*

Mike & The Mechanics: 23rd Feb. De Mont Hall.

Leic Comedy Fest: Various dates throughout Feb.

Y Theatre. *leicesterymca.co.uk*

Leic Comedy Fest: *www.comedy-festival.co.uk*

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NEW YORK! NEW YORK!

More than 1,000 students from De Montfort University flew the flag for global unity when they gathered in New York's iconic Times Square early in January.

The students, who are part of what is thought to be the biggest ever international visit organised by a UK university, gathered en masse at the world famous landmark to fly the flags of the 46 nations they represent and make a stand against intolerance.

Students decided to mark their stay in New York with the gesture to show that, despite recent political changes in Europe and the US, they will always be part of a global community and that openness and tolerance are crucial values in society.

DMU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dominic Shellard chose New York because the city represents resilience, acceptance and above all an open and global outlook – principles at the heart of DMU's international strategy.

Molly Daniel, studying Performing Arts, said the Times Square stand was an important part of what had been an incredible experience.

Molly said: "I think it's important to make a stand. It sets an example for everybody else. Being the age we are and living in the city we live in, we need to show a united front."

The 1,000 New York visitors, from schools as diverse as Fashion, Engineering and Music Technolo-

gy, have spent five days taking part in activities relevant to their degrees to help them on their journey towards employment.

It wasn't all worthy and aspirational - one group were wowed by seeing Chewbacca's head from the original Star Wars movies' costume department during a visit to the Museum of the Moving Image, as well as many other fascinating displays.

The huge operation to transport and accommodate 1,000 students in the Big Apple was organised by the pioneering #DMUglobal scheme. Launched two years ago by the university, #DMUglobal offers opportunities for students to broaden their horizons and gain vital experience through overseas travel.



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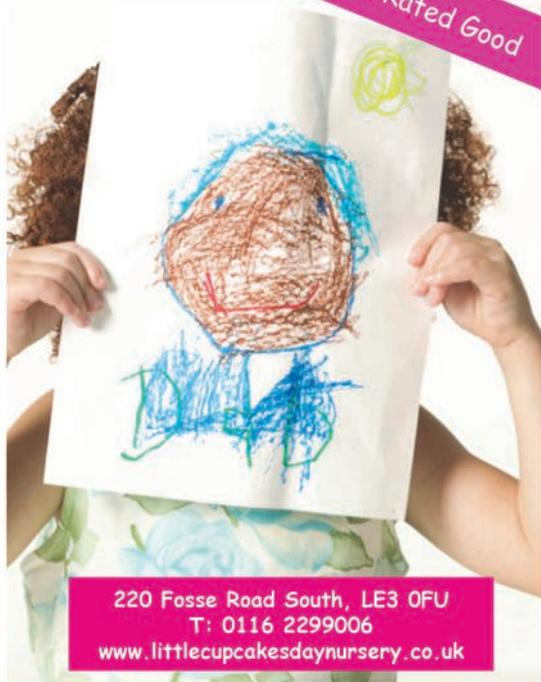
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THE BARDI ORCHESTRA

Described as one of the country's finest non professional orchestras and founded here in Leicester in 1986, the Bardi Orchestra is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this winter.

Orchestral Director Rober Calow said: "This special anniversary season sees the Bardi perform landmark concerts with local choral societies, a dance group and a film presentation; all of which show the dynamic forward looking nature of an ensemble that regularly pushes the boundaries of music making in Leicester, Leicestershire and beyond".

Established by Dr Andrew Constantine, the orchestra started off as a small chamber orchestra with most of its initial concerts played at Leicester University.

Named after Count Giovanni Bardi (1534-1612), a Florentine nobleman who incidentally was a contemporary of William Shakespeare, Count Bardi was patron to a group of musicians and scholars. This group interestingly included Vincenzo Gallilei, the father of the famous astronomer Gallileo.

Here in Leicester, the Bardi Orchestra and the Bardi Wind Orchestra have gone from strength to strength, performing regularly at De Montfort Hall. This year the wind orchestra broke new ground with the first Open Air Proms performed in Bradgate Park in front of a 500 strong audience.

Now in his ninth season as music director of the Bardi is Danish born Claus Efland. The programme for the orchestra's 30th anniversary concert included works by Wagner, Beethoven and Rahmaninov with Nikolai Demidenko on piano.



The players come from an intriguing range of backgrounds. Having studied music to the highest levels, many have chosen to pursue careers outside music but relish the opportunity to come together and play at a professional level.

With tours all over the UK and Europe the Orchestra offers great opportunities for local musicians and the Bardi also runs a prestigious Young Musician of the year award.

Visit www.bardi.org.uk

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KNOTT'S LANDING

As the sun rises on 2017, what have we got to look forward to?

Will a giant orange orangutan tweet us into oblivion? Is Brexit actually a thing? Will the Foxes stay in the Premier League? And how many musicians, movie stars and TV performers won't make it till Christmas? Quite a few I suspect.

2016 did feel extraordinary, not least due to the number of unexpected celebrity deaths.

Like the rest of us the famous pop off all the time, it's just this year they somehow seemed more relevant.

The scream of anguish in the press and on social media following Bowie and George Michael - I put down to the immediacy of audio visual media. Pop music videos basically and YouTube.

Concert footage, music videos and the eternal clarity of movie digital re-mastering mean that Carrie Fisher will be a 19 year old Princess Leia for as long as we've got eyes to see her and George Michael will forever look cool posing in a leather jacket. Youth



trapped in a bottle of bytes but we forget our hero's get older.

Fisher was 60, Quo's Rick Parfitt 68, Bowie was 69, Alan Rickman 69, Muhammad Ali 74, Terry Wogan 77, Gene Wilder 83, Debby Reynolds 84, Ronnie Corbett 85, Andrew Sachs 86. The list goes on.

These were not young people but decades of work in the spotlight seeps in. Their images and sound gets trapped in a bubble for eternity and some of it becomes so iconic it embeds itself into our culture... But that seems only to work in colour, for about 35 years or a generation or two.

There are exceptions – Gone with the Wind is nearly 80 years and it's still shown on TV, Andy Warhol's 55 year old Marilyn Monroe painting is still on T-shirts and Elvis is still swinging his hips through the ether.

Here's what you do. Grab a teen; then ask them who were Laurel and Hardy or Clark Gable? They won't know. Not their generation; mostly because it's all from black and white historyland with bad sound.

They were never exposed to early 20th century media. If you're in your 40's or 50's would you recognise Gracie Fields or Leslie Howard? Possibly, but only if you had a passing interest in the culture of the time – and these people were enormously famous.

I suspect the quality of today's audio visual media means the iconic stars of the last 30 or so years will still shine for generations to come.

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After seeking city council planning permission we bought Neighbourhood Watch signs for the lamp-posts and had a fun time with our local police helping to fit them.

We joined the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' scheme and planned ways in which we could improve the area. We held a planting morning when we set up a table outside one of the houses, with everything needed to plant your own basket or tub, and residents came to choose their own colour scheme and were able to make a display which suited their homes. We now feel much more of a community and enjoy getting together to plan more events.

We have made new friends amongst people who we had not before spoken to or even known their names.

Why don't you let us know how you get together or if you would like to know how to set up a FREE group similar to ours?

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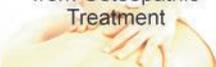
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The Western Park Gazette helped raise £228 for the Children's Media Trust on Christmas Eve.

We got together with the West End Brewery on Braunstone Gate to hold a special fundraising quiz night and raffle for Leicester's Takeover Radio 103.2 charity trust.

We had a great time and would like to extend our thanks to all those who joined in and the business who provided prizes for the lucky winners! **The Sunshine Studio, Vickers Florist, Studio 57, Arti Jewellers, Little Tokyo, Efis Mangal, Woodgate Computers, Daymans DIY, Haart Family Brewers, Brewers Select and Heather Kent.**



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LET IT GROW!

Cultivating Communities is a community growing project based at the polytunnels next to the Braunstone Skills Centre on Fullhurst Avenue.

In November their hard work was rewarded when they were granted £8000 from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme to make improvements to the plot.

They have a busy programme of activity outlined for the winter and spring. If you're feeling green fingered and want to join in, they'll be meeting at the plot the first Saturday of the month from 11am until 1pm in Feb, March and April.

For more information call: 07894 540 109

E: Cultivatingcommunities2015@gmail.com

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PENSIONERS XMAS TREAT

A free slap-up festive meal was served to pensioners and disadvantaged people from across Leicester by university students and other volunteers.

De Montfort University #DMUlocal team organised the party ahead of Christmas at the West End Community Centre in Andrewes Street.

DMUlocal is part of the university's Square Mile scheme which involves student and staff volunteers using their skills to take part in various projects with the wider community.

The university paid for the festive event, linking up the community centre, with The Real Junk Food Project which cooked the meal and The Shires pub in Peatling Parva, which provided the cooked meat.



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SAFER SCHOOL PARKING

Christ the King on Glenfield Road is one of 10 city schools to benefit from a road safety action plan.

Work to tackle problems around road safety, speeding, congestion and parking at 10 Leicester schools are being drawn up.



The city council will spend £2.2million on a Parking Improvement Action Plan and is working with the schools to come up with a package of measures that will tackle problems such as inconsiderate or dangerous parking – and that will also encourage more children to walk or cycle to school.

Ideas being explored include the installation of bollards or railings to prevent pavement parking, and the introduction of 20mph advisory signs in areas where formal 20mph zones aren't planned, or won't be in place for some time

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Various times depending on instrument, ability and numbers. £40.00 for 11 week term.

The song writing, spoken word and choir are free if child is learning an instrument at the Centre

Music for Under Fives

Under 18 months, Thursdays 1.30 – 3.00pm. 18 months to 5
Fridays 2.30 – 4.00pm. Cost £3.00 per session. First Lesson Free

Group Violin For Adults (Beginners)

Saturdays 3.45 – 4.45pm. Cost £5.00 full or £3.00 concessions, per session.

Violins available for loan. Ring 07866378392 for more details.

Senior Citizens Lunch Club

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

Senior Citizens Club

Mondays 2.00 – 4.00pm. Cost £1 per session

Senior Citizens Keep Fit

Thursdays 11.00am – Noon. Cost 60p per session

Our Co-op Friendship Group

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

Computer Classes

Wednesdays in afternoons. 60p per session.

Contact Centre for times, further details and to book.

Salsa Classes for Beginners

Tuesdays 7.30 – 8.30pm. Cost £6.00 per session of £40 for eight sessions.

No need to bring a partner. Ring 07414 596481 for further details.

Yoga

Mondays 6.00 – 7.15pm and 7.30pm – 8.45pm. £4.00 per session, unwaged £3.50.

Must book in advance.

Tetsudo

Martial Arts. Sundays 11.00am – 1.00pm. Cost £4.00, Under 12s £2.50.

Ring 01509 260 875 for further information.

Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.00pm. Ring NA helpline 0207 7300009 and ask for
Woodgate – Leicester Meeting.

Abbey Social Club

Monthly: 2nd Weds of month. 1.45 – 3.45pm. Members 75p, non-members £1.00

The Centre is also available for bookings. There are two rooms. The main room is particularly suitable for children's parties and other family events. The small room is suited for meetings and training events. Contact Centre for rates and availability or visit www.woodgate.org.uk

For more information contact the Woodgate Residents Association

Woodgate Resources Centre, 36 Woodgate, Leicester LE3 5GE,

Tel. No. 2530717, E: woodgateresidents@hotmail.com

The Woodgate Resources Centre is funded by Leicester City Council. The Youth Music Programme is funded by Youth Music, the Arts Council and the Council.

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DEAD LEICESTER

Dare you take a night-time walk into the dark depths of old Leicester... And you thought Halloween was over!

What macabre secrets lurk in the shadowy corners at the heart of the Ancient City?

It's time to find out with the help of a troupe of Westcotes performers who are delving into Leicester's spooky side.

Dead Leicester are story-tellers who guide their audience on a theatrical tour through the lantern-lit back streets of our city. They say we should be prepared to marvel at the myths and legends from the recent and distant past. Hear true historical tales, spine-chillingly conjured and re-enacted. Watch displays of terrifying comic stupidity, performed for our merriment and titillation. Sounds like a journey that will create more nightmares than a cheese sandwich before bedtime!

Over the summer of 2016 Ryan Bryne and his Uncle Craig, researched, devised and adapted a show that centred around the history of Leicester. The tour uses History, comedy, music, puppetry and horror to tell a tell of Dead Leicester and of course Richard the Third makes several appearances.



Ryan said: "The team includes 5 members in total. Myself and my Uncle Craig lead the tours.

"We both come from dramatic backgrounds, I have recently graduated with a first class degree from John Moores University reading drama and Craig has been working in theatre his entire life having graduated from the Central School of Speech and drama. Annie Kinchington is our wardrobe mistress and all round costume designer. Alan Byrne runs the admin, advertising, sales and business side of the company.

"Its a family run business and we are all Leicester born professionals.

"Oh and the 5th member is the mysterious Black Annis but you will need to see the show to uncover her secrets".

Described by critics as "Dead good", you can see for yourself at this year's Leicester Comedy Festival.

More at www.deadleicester.co.uk

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Jan Police Update

Happy New Year from your local Police! We hope that 2017 is a safe and prosperous year for all who read the Western Park Gazette.

We finished off 2016 with an excellent arrest of one of our most wanted individuals. The burglar, who broke into the house of a 91 year old, was located by PC 1115 Clarke and PS 1931 Hooper both from Hinckley Road Police Station, after he was found intoxicated on Fosse Road North next to The Rally. He was remanded in custody resulting in Leicester Crown Court locking him up for 28 months.

There was a spree of vehicle thefts in December on the Watkin Road estate off Upperton Road. Both high visibility and plain clothes patrols were conducted in the area. Consequently, five arrests were made throughout late December and early January. There has been a significant decrease in thefts in the area as a result, but please remember to embrace the mantra "Leave It On Show, Expect It To Go" as a way to remind you not to leave valuables out on display for any opportunists.

We continue to rapidly respond to reports of motorcycles across Western Park and surrounding area. On 16th December we had a call to report youths riding a moped and causing a nuisance on Bloxham Road in New Parks. Arriving within a few minutes, we located a stolen moped and recovered it. Another great example of the community and Police working together.

We have been made aware of issues on the zig-zag areas of Sandhurst Road related to parking around Inglehurst Junior and Infant Schools. Cones and extra posters have been utilised by the school during drop off and pick up times to enforce the zig-zag lines. We are continuing to monitor the situation and conduct appropriate patrols.

On Friday 6th January, there was a police pursuit, which started on Kingswood Avenue after officers noticed a suspicious vehicle. When they put the blues on it accelerated away from them. It was then chased through the Western Park area by crossing through Letchworth Road, to Fosse Road North, up Stephenson's Drive, onto the New Parks estate; and back around to Park Rise. At this point officers conducted a tactical contact with their police vehicles against the subject vehicle and brought this dangerous driving to an end. The driver was arrested and interviewed; where he currently awaits on bail.

We are aware that parked cars belonging to members of the public have been damaged, therefore if you believe your vehicle has been damaged from this incident then please call 101 and quote LEP-050117-0318. *Sgt Mike Hooper*

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



It gets cold up north, by that I mean Scotland. The growing season can be a week later than here in the East Midlands and up to two weeks later than the South East, so when you heave out your gardening books for advice on how to prep the garden for spring, that's something to bear in mind.

As a rule of thumb, if you think it's too cold to work in the garden - it generally is. But no matter how harsh winter can be, during the odd warmer days, there is always something you can do. Having said that, there's not much you can plant and sow in a garden covered in frost... or is there? How about shallots or garlic?

Don't try to use supermarket bought garlic, it's imported, unsuitable for the British climate and not certified for planting. Choose a decent UK stock like Solent Wight from your favourite garden centre.

Plant the garlic cloves, pointy end up, an inch or so deep and a few inches apart, into large pots or raised bed of well hoed earth and compost. Then



cover it with netting. Planting under glass, then transplanting in early spring, is also an option. Crops tend to be better if planted in the autumn but January should still be fine as the bulbs need time in the cold. Remember to give your crop a feed in the spring and then it's a wait until the summer when the leaves turn yellowish and they're ripe for picking.

Shallots are more than just posh onions. They fare well in the winter and planting in February is the norm but traditionally they were panted on Boxing Day along with garlic, so a chilly January day shouldn't be a problem. Their milder flavour makes them a chef's favourite and there are many varieties available like Red Sun or Zebrune.

Shallots like well broken, firm, fine soil with a liberal dose of fertiliser, a few days ahead of planting, to get them going.

Make small holes about 9 inches apart and gently place the bulbs in with the top third sticking out.

They should be ready for harvesting in July but remember to weed carefully without damaging the sets during the growing season as they can be a little delicate.

And that's shallot!



Peter Morris



Martin Page

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BRAIN TAZERS

1		2		3		4
5				6		
7				8		
9						

1 Across: Of the holiday **1 Down:** Drape
2: Winged sign of spring **3:** Unwise bargain
4: Take ownership **5:** Coastal water **6:** Young dog
7: Lubricant **8:** Not high **9:** After Christmas.

© Paul Towers

9	8					
7			2			6
		1	8	7	6	
4		8	1			
	7			4		1
				5	4	8
			6	1	4	7
	6			2		5
						9
						1

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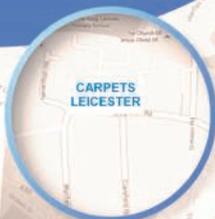
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