



FESTIVAL!!



Western Park Festival 2018

More on Page 4 & 16



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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the July edition of the Western Park Gazette. It's hard to believe that the Western Park Festival is now seven years old. It still seems as fresh as when it first started. It's a great local festival bringing the community together with a compelling mix of local music and family fun and we've got the pictures to prove it!

In other news: A young Western Park lad gets treated by the Police, a fire on Narborough Road causes chaos and the Western Ward Community Enterprise's fundraising continues apace.

In our regular features, Helen Knott celebrates her Chrystal Anniversary, Roger Blackmore looks at the ancient office of Lord Lieutenant, Spencer Dyer from Hinckley Road police updates us on their activities and our gardening gnome and martial arts expert (It's true... Not the gnome bit!), Tony Huxley puts on his deerstalker and tries to solve the mystery of the ever changing plants.

And DMU's Square Mile Project have a ton of activities ranging from art clubs to IT sessions to improve the mind and spirit or if you just want to get annoyed, try the Sudoku and Crossword on the 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
Free Thurs Club: 2-4pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narb' Rd.
Pub Quiz: Monthly - last Tues. WE Brewery.
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.
Heritage Sunday Tours. Last Sun of the month until Oct. 11am Tickets. Contact Visit Leicester.
Some Mother's Do 'Ave 'Em: 17-21 July. Curve.
Lady Jane Grey Ghost Walk: until 19th July. New-town Linford. www.hauntedheritage.co.uk
May The Toys Be With You: 21 July - 28th Oct. New Walk Museum & Art Gallery.
Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band: 22 July. WP Band stand. 3-4pm.
Shephed Watermill Open Days. 22 July/19 Aug/23 Sept. 11.30. Hathern Rd Shephed.
Enchanted Forest: 25 July. Belgrave Hall. 11.00.
Stanford Hall Firework Champions: 28 July. 4pm.
Old John Tower Viewing Days: 29 July/ 26 Aug/ 30 Sept/ 28 Oct. www.bradgatepark.org
Open Streets Festival: 29 July/ 26 Aug/30 Sept/ 28 Oct. New Market Square. 11.00-4.00.
Railway Children: 31 July. Belgrave Hall. 11.am
Fiddler On The Roof: 10-19 Aug. Curve
Dru Yoga Summer Sessions with Emma: 5th & 12th Aug. St Anne's Hall. 07393 811150.

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WESTERN PARK FESTIVAL

The crowds gathered from across Leicester to enjoy the sunshine and fun at the seventh Western Park Festival.

The horde thinned a little as England took on Sweden in the World Cup quarter final but returned later to enjoy the family fun and music into the evening.

Organiser Adrian Alexander (Pictured below with Sir Peter Soulsby) said: "A great day for all yesterday. Thank you to everyone who supported the Western Park Festival. It was a brilliant turn out made even sweeter by the England win!"

(Additional photos by Leicester Media Online and Amy Morrison. More on pages 16/17)



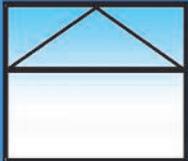
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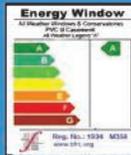
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SUN 5th AUGUST

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THE LORD LIEUTENANT

Office of Lord Lieutenant dates back to the reign of Henry 8th when the king decided to appoint an individual in each county as the personal representative of the monarch. This

summer, Leicester's latest Lord Lieutenant, Lady Gretton, who is now 75, leaves office after over fifteen years in the job. Her predecessor was Sir Tim Brookes of Wistow.

One of the key functions of the post traditionally was to raise the County militia. This role became increasingly important as England saw the growing threat of a Spanish invasion. This culminated in the appearance of the Spanish Armada by which time a Lord Lieutenant was in post for every English county

Oliver Cromwell did away with the post in the aftermath of the Civil War but Charles 2nd brought it back and the appointment of Lords Lieutenant has continued ever since

Today the Lord Lieutenant has a key role in the arrangements for Royal Visits to the County and in



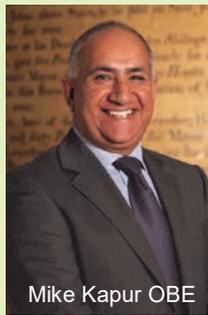
Lady Gretton

escorting Royal visitors. He or she also presents a variety of awards and medals on behalf of the Queen in addition to carrying out a wide variety of engagements. These relate to military groups and a whole range of voluntary and community organisations within the city and county.

The post is unpaid and non-political and the post holder can also appoint a plethora of deputies to assist with their work. One of Lady Gretton's appointed deputies is none other than the BBC Radio Leicester broadcaster, Dave Andrews.

Lady Gretton comes from the Stapleford area, near Melton Mowbray. She has been President of Loros since 1999. She is also patron of a whole range of local organisations including the Leicester Early Music Society. She chose to mark her retirement with a gigantic "knees up" at Curve in June.

She is succeeded by Mike Kapur OBE, a local entrepreneur, who is the Chairman of the National Space Centre, Leicester City Football Club Trust and Pro Chancellor of De Montfort University.



Mike Kapur OBE

Roger Blackmore



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In a panic about your special day? Fear not because Helen Knott proves that a little lateral thinking borne out of desperation can go a long way...

KNOTT'S LANDING

Wedding anniversary panic gripped our house recently. It turns out we've been married for 15 years, quite an achievement for the pair of us really considering when we were at university 15 hours was considered to be a long term relationship.

We don't go big on anniversaries, we probably should celebrate more but ours falls at the end of the school term and one of the busiest times of the year. It's also a faff trying to follow the whole gift thing. Each year you are expected to find a gift made of paper, linen, cotton, molybdenum or toilet roll depending on the appropriate year. Fifteen years is the crystal wedding anniversary.

It's hard to find a crystal wedding gift that isn't ugly or going to be an infernal dust trap and remain unused in that 'special' cabinet in the lounge. I went to various jewellers looking for inspiration for a gift for him indoors. A watch? A crystal earring designed to make you look like a middle aged member of E17? Not on your life.

I went to charity shops to see if they had any crystal knick-nacks but the cupboards were bare.

What happened to all those crystal dishes that used to inhabit the shelves of charity shops? All those crystal mice, dolphins, vases and paper-weights bought on holiday and then discarded? I couldn't find a thing!

Cristal champagne was an option but you can't get it in a Leicester supermarket. This is clearly a huge oversight. Where are all the LE1 millionaires rappers and footballers supposed to get their fizzy alcohol from? It's a disgrace.

In desperation I stood in Wilkos clutching a packet of Cristal ball point pens. Would that do? I now know that somewhere, in another supermarket, him indoors was also stood holding a packet of Cristal ball points wondering the exact same thing. This is why we are together.

In the end I found some crystal wine glasses that didn't cost the earth. This means we can actually use them for the purpose for which they were intended rather than just looking at them. Now bring on the wine #weddinganniversarygoals #winning #cheers

Helen Knott



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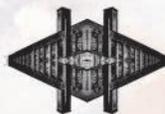
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A BIG THANK YOU TO AUSTIN

It's not every day a seven-year-old youngster gets to ride in a police car with blue lights flashing. But then Austin Ayling from Western Park is no ordinary boy.

As soon as he heard about the disaster in Hinckley Road in February which killed five people, he knew he wanted to help those officers out on the streets working hard to bring the scene under control in tough conditions.

Austin decided the best way he could do this was to provide them with food so he baked some fairy cakes and took them out for them to eat.

As a thank you to Austin, officers arranged for him to visit them at Leicestershire Police' Headquarters alongside his mum, Vicky, and dad Jos.

Austin was greeted by Assistant Chief Constable, Jason Masters, who presented him with a special certificate as a thank you for his efforts to help on that day.

He was then whisked around the site in Enderby for a special tour, including a peak at the Tactical Support Team's base to see the training they undergo and the equipment they use.



Austin with Sgt Jordan Robson

In addition, he got to wear some police uniform complete with officers hat, and was given a 'goodie bag' of items including fluorescent stickers for his bike, torch and light up pen. He also got to speak to officers from the road policing team along with call handlers over the police radio.

Austin said: "It was really exciting to be asked to visit. I'd never been in a police car before."

Mum Vicky added: "Austin regularly visits the Menphys charity shop on the same road as the disaster so when he found out what had happened he genuinely just wanted to help and baking the cakes was his way of doing that."

Sergeant Jordan Robson, from Tactical Road Policing at Force Headquarters, was responsible for whisking Austin around the site on the day.

He said: "Officers were working in extremely difficult conditions for many hours on the day of the explosion. They were incredibly grateful to Austin for such a lovely gesture and to other members of the public who brought out cups of hot tea and coffee, along with other refreshments".

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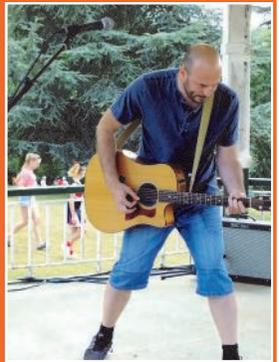
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WWCE NEWSFLASH

After a busy month of fundraising, we wanted to give you an update on how we're getting on and what's coming up!

During June, members of the community held fundraising events in aid of our project to refurbish the Eco House into community space. Kingswood Neighbourhood Watch held an event at St Anne's Church Hall with stalls, refreshments & plants for sale. It was wonderful to meet different members of the community and hear their ideas! The event raised a brilliant £472!!! Thank you to all those who came along!

Following this, Bill Sawday opened his garden up to hold a plant and cake sale for us with beautiful views over Western Park! It was great to see more new faces and spread our message further afield again! Thanks to all those who came along to buy plants, eat cake and chance your arm on our raffle, raising a fabulous £529!!! This took our total to £4,396!

Then, way back in November, we asked the community to vote for our project in the Aviva Community Funding Scheme.. and.. your votes meant we were awarded £1000! Our current total is now £5,396!

We are currently putting together our crowd-funding campaign which we will be launching in August. As part of the crowd-funding, we are holding a family Vegan Street Food event - SoundBites - with acoustic music and Vegan beer on Saturday 25th August from 4pm-9.30pm! We will have our ideas board with us so if you have a cracking idea you think would be brilliant to run in our new community space, once it is open, please come along and have a chat!

We'll also be 'playing out' at this year's Western Park Festival family session between 12-5pm on Saturday 15th September! There'll be traditional games to play such as chalk drawings, hopscotch, skipping ropes & much more! We hope to see you there. Keep a look out for other events coming up, too, in the Gazette, Facebook and Twitter.

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BLAZE AT BUTCHERS

A man crawled out of a third floor window to escape a blaze which tore through a butchers and flat in Westcotes.

Narborough Road was closed for five hours, during the early evening of July 5th, as eight fire crews tackled the blaze at Sharazun Butchers near the corner of Gaul Street.

There was a heavy police presence as hundreds of people gathered to watch.

Onlookers spotted smoke billowing from the building and dialled the emergency services. The fire effected the butchers and the first floor.

A 32 year old man from Rumania escaped through a window after his exit was blocked by smoke.

An investigation into the cause of the fire began on Friday 6th July. A police spokesman said: "Inquires into the circumstances surrounding the fire are in the early stages".

Forensic teams were also spotted next door, at the Platinum Tanning Studio.



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July Police Update

Fosse Ward: The local police team have conducted a number of drug warrants on the beat in the past month. 4 people were arrested from a drugs warrant in the area of Fosse Road North and 1 person from another on Ivanhoe Street. As a result thousands of pounds worth of drugs have been taken off the street!

We shall continue to complete drugs warrant but need information from the public as to where it is happening. Please report via the police non-emergency number Tel:101 or anonymously via crimestoppers Tel 0800 555 111.

You can gain regular updates about policing in your area via the neighbourhood link webpage <https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk/> This takes a few seconds to create an account and you will receive regular e-mail updates from your local police as well as crime prevention advice."

Westcotes Ward: We have also seen a number of drug warrants executed across the area with arrests and drugs recovered. Please continue to notify us if you have any local concerns.

Detectives are investigating an assault on a 30 year old woman near the Iceland store on Narborough Rd, just after midnight on Friday 6 July.

A passer-by intervened which allowed the victim to run away. The suspect followed her and the Good Samaritan intervened again and stopped her from being assaulted further.

Officers are urging the man to contact them as he may be able to help with the investigation.

Anyone who witnessed the incident is asked to contact DC 718 Andy Houghton on 101, quoting crime reference number 18*314067.

The local Problem Solving Plan continues around Bede Park. There have been continual patrols of this area, especially during evening times to ensure a reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour by those using or passing through the park. Additional work with partners including parking wardens and local street cleaning have also targeted illegal parking and littering – which have hopefully enhanced the area and improved the location for residents.

House Burglaries in the West End continue to be down year on year so whilst this is positive, please ensure you help yourselves by taking simple steps to prevent opportunist thieves. Lock away bikes and ensure all doors are locked.

We are aware of some individuals using motor-bikes on the Braunstone / Western Parks. We are working hard to identify these people and ensure we seize any bikes used for this purpose when able. If you have any information regarding this issue please get in touch, confidentially if needed.

Lastly we hope you enjoy the weather and summer entertainments however please be respectful of others, particularly neighbours at this time.

Sgt Spencer Dyer

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



Last year I noticed some unusual looking plants that had self-sown in the flower beds and alongside the gravel driveway. Curiosity got the better of me and they were saved from a one-way trip to the compost bin. Their fleshy upright stems with grey green lance shaped leaves produced long, ribbed buds. When the buds eventually decided to open and show off their yellow daisy like flowers it was only in bright sunlight and by mid-afternoon they were shut tight again. I identified them as *Tragopogon pratensis*. Commonly known as Goats Beard, a wild flower that was once grown as vegetable, with nearly all the plant considered edible.



This year they're back, looking the same and growing in the same places. I looked forward to their cheery yellow sun loving blooms. But this year they're all purple! Now they had changed into *Tragopogon porrifolius*, a close and possibly even more attrac-

tive and edible relative known as Common Salsify. I still can't figure how that happened. Who knows what they'll emerge as next year.

Some garden conundrums are more easily solved. For the last few years I've been tasked with trying to encourage a rather indifferent Wisteria to thrive and flower. It seems to have got the message and this year produced many long lilac racemes of flowers. But as the customer stood beside me admiring her wisterias new found lease of life she confessed that it had originally been a white flowered variety. It had obviously reverted to its rootstock. The customer was just happy to eventually have a decent flowering climber against that wall.



When I return I'll be giving it a summer prune. A fortnight after flowering cut back the side shoots to within two buds of a main stem. This helps check excessive summer growth and encourage autumn flowering.

So, to miss quote gardening rock legend Mick Jagger, it seems sometimes nature doesn't always give you what you want but sometimes it'll give you what you need.

Tony Huxley



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1		2		3		4
5						
		6				
7						

1 Across: Triumph **1 Down:** Left 2: Nibbles 3: South Pacific islands 4: Northern Americans 5: Water carrier 6: Pennies 7: Perturbs © Paul Towers

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			9			6

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