



A Royal Success!



Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the July issue of the Western Park Gazette.

As we move on from the rain sodden Jubilee celebrations, there was at least one street party that was a success and we have a few pictures of the fun. We look at the recent fire on Kirby Road and talk to those affected.

Also this month, Roger Blackmore on the life of one of the city's greatest philanthropists, Thomas Fielding Johnson. There's our Gardening god, Tony Huxley, appropriately enough, on the problems of a flooded garden. Helen Knott's suffers quite justifiable outrage at the behaviour of some young mothers and Richard Pery has the techie thump on free computer operating systems and he went to Glastonbudget; so what did he think? And with the Olympics just a round the corner, our own Aarti Thobhani prepares to grab the torch and go for a jog around Leicester!

Don't forget the ridiculously frustrating Sudoku, the Brain Tazers and a new crossword.

We're also teamed back up with The Gate Bistro giving you the chance to win a meal for two.

Sharon e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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A Royal Success!

The torrential rain over the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations might have caused the cancellation of many local street parties, but there was at least one sunny success.

Residents of Western Park Road, beat the weather by holding their street party a week earlier and enjoyed a bright and warm day as a result.

Alexis Hutson started the ball rolling: "I recruited some great neighbours for the team who pulled it together and we managed to raise over £300 for Rainbows and Loros".

Around ninety people attended the party. Alexis said: "We had a bouncy castle, Mehndi hand decorations, footie, egg and spoon, piñata thrashing, throw a sponge at an adult! The weather was brilliant and everyone wants to do it again because we made new friends and got to know each other properly".



Photos © WPR@streetparty

Oakfield Road's Jubilee

It might have poured with rain during the Queen's Jubilee, but that didn't stop the residents of Oakfield Road putting on their party hats!

Organiser Roz Kennedy said: "In true British style we carried on, motivated by the enthusiasm of all involved and to be honest a really good turn out. A reggae/calypso band got everyone dancing and the drumming got everyone working together. We had loads for the children to do, under-cover of a multitude of gazebos and games provided by the Neighbourhood Watch Committee and organisers. A thoroughly good day- soggy but well worth it!"



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Virtual Venture



Woodgate Car Chaos

Residents and shop owners on Woodgate say they suffered during recent roadworks at the junction of Fosse Road Nth and Groby Road.

The road was closed in both directions in mid June because of emergency repairs to a burst water main.



The work, which included repairs to the road surface, caused diverted traffic to and from the city to stack up along Woodgate and around Central Road even in off peak periods.

Local residents say they had difficulty parking near their homes and shop owners say business dropped of considerably during the repairs.

THOMAS FIELDING JOHNSON

Few people in Leicester at the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 had as long memories as the owner of the Fielding and Johnson company with factories in West Bond Street, Abbey Mills and Nuneaton.

Thomas Fielding Johnson had been born in Nottinghamshire in the reign of George IV (formerly the Prince Regent), lived through the reign of William the Fourth and the long reign of Queen Victoria and was to live on to experience two further coronations (of Edward VII and George V) only quitting this earthly life a couple of years after the end of WW1.



Adopted by his childless aunt and uncle in Leicester at the age of 12, Thomas was educated at the Nonconformist Proprietary School in New Walk in the building that is now the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery before entering the family business and assuming full control at the age of 24 on the death of his adoptive father. He went on to marry Julia Stone the daughter of Thomas Stone the Town Clerk to the new Corporation of Leicester.

Fielding Johnson was keenly interested in community issues and was for a time a town Councillor and became a Justice of the Peace for both the City and the County. He was also a prison visitor and a Special Constable as well as a member of the Leicester Volunteer Rifle Corps, the forerunner of the Territorial Army. He was a governor of the Leicester (now Royal) Infirmary for over thirty years. In addition he remained a highly successful businessman.

In 1919 at the grand old age of 91 he was awarded with the Honorary Freedom of the City.

His greatest gift to the people of Leicester was in purchasing the old Leicester Lunatic Asylum and its grounds. He donated it for the foundation of a University College ,which was to develop into the present day University of Leicester, to be built as a memorial to those who had fallen in the First World War. Thus it is that the motto of Leicester University to this day is "ut vitam habeant" meaning "let them have life".

From 1869 until Thomas's death in 1921 the family lived at "Brookfield" on London Road in the increasingly fashionable emerging suburb of Stoneygate which with its grounds was later to become the Charles Frears School of Nursing and part of the De Montfort University.

© Roger Blackmore

KNOTT'S LANDING

Helen Knott

When I was little I used to get told off for eating sausage rolls in the street because "it's not good manners" so when did it become OK for mummies to drink vodka in the street?

In the last fortnight I have seen two things that made me do a proper double take. I had to stop myself from saying something to the people involved. Not an easy task!

The first incident happened outside a local discount supermarket. I was wheeling my trolley back to the trolley bay by the doors when I saw a group of young mums with their babies in prams. I smiled at a baby and as I looked, it became apparent that one of the young mums was pouring coke into a baby bottle. As all mums and dads know, this is the kind of behaviour that will have health visitors spinning in their grave and gives dentists savage indigestion. I felt sadness and anger rising inside me but I carried on putting my trolley away and as I turned back I came face to face with someone else topping up the baby bottle with vodka. I think I may have made a weird choking, squeaky noise as they all stopped and looked

at me. Then one of them held my gaze and swigged from the bottle. I rolled my eyes and walked away, dying a bit inside for the fate of their kids.

The second incident happened at the Riverside Festival. We were walking round the park looking at all the craft stalls for kids, the bookbus, the giant bouncy slide and the theatre troupe. The sun was making an appearance and everyone was having a good time. Perhaps too much of a good time? As we walked round I saw a family sitting on a picnic rug with lots of plastic containers of sandwiches they were passing round amongst the kids while the grown ups were passing round the vodka bottle. It was brazen, obvious and seemingly without concern. Well I was concerned. How can you look after kids while you are drinking neat vodka from a bottle? I'm now wondering if giving up on the "no eating in the street" rule is just the tip of an iceberg of moral decline so beware... first it's a bag of crisps, then it's a Greggs sausage roll and suddenly you are swigging vodka out of a bottle in public. You have been warned!



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Riverside Festival

Organisers of this year's Riverside Festival say that almost 13000 people attended the free weekend extravaganza.

A couple of days of sunny weather boosted attendance allowing people to enjoy the eco village, brows the dozens of craft stalls, try out canoeing or even take a boat trip down the river.

Attractions laid on in Bede Park and along the River Soar towards West Bridge included live music from local bands and choirs, family activities and many river based events.



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Change at Sandhurst Nursery Sandhurst Playgroup at St Anne's Church Hall on Letchworth Road is to get a new leader from the Autumn term.

After 20 years in charge, Xani Arnachellum, is stepping down and handing over the reins to Louise Arnold, who currently works at the playgroup.

Xani set up the playgroup 20 years ago and says that after taking two years to make this very difficult decision, it feels like the right time to take a step back.

In a letter to parents Xani said: "I wish to thank you for your love and support and most especially for the opportunity to care for your wonderful children, they will always have a special place in my heart. It has been a tremendous honour and privilege which I will never forget."

She will still be operating her kindergarten from home and developing the opportunities this presents.

There will be a celebration of 20 years of Sandhurst Playgroup and Xani's involvement on Friday 13 July in the upstairs room at St Anne's Church Hall from 9am to 12pm.



The Glastonbudget Experience!

A muddy field in Wymeswold over a rain sodden Jubilee weekend was definitely the place to be. It was the world's biggest tribute band festival... Glastonbudget!

Before you start saying: "Who'd go to see a bunch of lame tribute bands?" Stop! It was brilliant!

These aren't just any tribute bands, these are the best in the country. If you missed the chance of seeing Guns and Roses, The Sex Pistols, Queen, The Rolling Stones or Michael Jackson in their prime, then Glastonbudget is as near as you can get without a Tardis.

Now in its eighth year at Turnpost Farm, there was something for all. Acoustic, folk, every density of rock; just take your pick. And they're not all tribute acts. Out of 160 performers, many original acts auditioned locally to showcase their material. 13,000 festival goers, many in fancy dress, mixed with young and old as they browsed the many food and knickknack stalls whilst knocking back gallons of real ale from the massive tented bar.



It's impossible to see every single act, it was a case of heading for the ones you want and hope they don't clash with something else, and we missed loads, but the standard of these tribute bands is really quite extraordinary.



All in all, this three day boogiefest is a must for any music fan. Okay, it's not Download or Glastonbury, but Glastonbudget is very good. It's a lot cheaper than most festivals, there's more than adequate camping space, it's on our doorstep and the music is top notch.

Next year, I hope the weather is better and this remarkable festival goes from strength to strength. Read the full review on line at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk (Richard Perry)

July Police Update

Detectives investigating the theft of a car from a pregnant woman in Braunstone Avenue are appealing for help in tracing the people responsible.

The incident took place at about 5.10pm on Thursday June 7 after the 23-year-old victim had just parked her blue Ford Focus near a post box and left the engine running while she posted some letters.

Two men blocked the road with a Mercedes estate car. The passenger in the Mercedes got out and drove off in the Ford Focus.

The victim was threatened and shoved out of the way but wasn't injured.

Both suspect are described as being white males. One was slim, 27-33 years-old, with slightly dark facial stubble, wearing a plain navy blue baseball cap. The other between 18-23 years-old and about 5'1" tall, wearing a plain navy blue baseball cap, navy blue track-suit top and light trousers.

Police are appealing for witnesses following a robbery close to the Nat West cash point near the junction of Narborough Road and Hinckley Road.

At around 6am on Tuesday, May 29th, the female victim was approached by a man who threatened her, before taking cash she had just withdrawn.

He is described as black, between 5'6" and 5'8" tall with a shaven or bald head, medium to stocky build and about 40 years old. He was wearing a grey hooded top and knee length combat shorts in desert camouflage.

At around 3.20am on June 5th, burglars smashed a patio door and stole a porcelain statue of Lord Krishna from a home on Ashleigh Road.

The occupants were woken by their intruder alarm and noticed two people running away from their property.

The statue, which was decked with gold beads and a crown was later discovered smashed nearby and the jewellery taken.

The burglars were dressed in dark clothing, around 5'5" tall and made off towards Sykefield Avenue.

Anyone with any information about local crime is asked to ring 101 and follow the instructions. Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers, which is free and anonymous, on 0800 555 111. Mobiles may be charged.

Fosse Library Summer Events

Children can sign up to the Storylab summer reading challenge and go for the Gold Reading Medal which runs through the summer with special events on: 18th & 25th July, 1st & 8th August between 2 & 3.30 pm.

There is a photographic exhibition, on loan from the Leicestershire Record Office throughout July, detailing the history of the suffragette movement in Leicestershire prior to WWI available during library opening hours.

Ring for details 0116 225 4995

COUNCILLORS' 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.

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FESTIVAL TIME!

Friends of Western Park, invite you to start your summer holidays with a Free Family Festival on 15th July, 12pm until 8pm, near the bandstand on Western Park.

There will be lots to do for all the family, with a number of FREE workshops for you to take part in, such as pottery, a martial arts self defence class, zumba for kids (and parents!), yoga taster sessions and, a make-and-take smoothie workshop, with Tesco Narborough Rd.

Children's stories, face painting, mendhi, hair braiding, glitter tattoos, are some of the other things happening on the day.

Food will be on sale to cater for all tastes.

Stalls to interest everyone, plants, cakes, jewellery, toys, games, clothing, gifts, fabulous local artists, from dog portraits, to stencil art, by Leon Keay.

Live music from local artists, Echolocation, Martin Luke Brown, Titan, Mark Elliot, The Fazed, Live Forever, plus many others, including Irie Vibes Reggae DJ and Half Soldier, from York.

Come and sample the real ales, cocktails, freshly ground coffee and soak up the atmosphere!

www.friendsofwesternpark.co.uk/mobile

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LOTS OF STALLS!!
FREE ADMISSION
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LIGHTING THE OLYMPIC TORCH

The feeling is quite unreal as I await my chance to debut as an Olympic Torch bearer for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Having received an unexpected email telling me I had been selected to carry the torch in my hometown of Leicester, I was filled with mixed emotions. I felt shocked, stunned and blessed to have been given this unbelievable honour.



Having been actively involved and interested in sports from a young age and achieving my Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do after years of dedicated training, being considered for such a role is a dream come true. I still cannot believe that I have been given this once in a lifetime opportunity. To help take the flame a step further to the stadium, which will be a moment in history to share with generations to come, will also be a memory I shall always treasure.

From the 19th of May 2012, the Olympic torch has

been travelling around the UK on a 70 day tour of 8,000 miles, where 8,000 people have been selected and given the honour of representing their hometown and contributing to lighting the flame at the Opening ceremony at the Olympic Stadium.

Day 45 will see the torch arrive from Coventry to Leicester on Monday the 2nd of July, where the torch will be carried through the city centre, along Belgrave Gate and to Abbey Park, where a special celebration will be held for all to support and be a part of this opportunity that Leicester has to showcase for the Olympics. And for me...I simply cannot wait!

Aarti C Thobhani

Local Band?
Local singer?
Local Artist?

GOT A GIG PLANNED?

If you're based in West Leicester and you're performing in the city, drop us a line!

And we'll give you a mention!

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TECHIE THUMP
 Richard Perry



There's a new all singing and dancing operating system on the way for your PC, laptop, tablets and all things blinking from Microsoft.

Windows 8, out later this year, has "been reimagined from the chipset to the user experience"... which is geekdrabble for it's really different and will cost you an arm, a leg and a headache.

Fear not... there are alternatives!

These are "Open Source" programmes developed and using the Linux pc platform by people just for the hell of it and mostly distributed free.

Ubuntu is the leader of the pack and is the most popular all purpose operating systems behind Microsoft and Apple. It has a nice



and simple interface and with over 20 million users it's considered to be stable, fast and secure. It also benefits from regular updates and a catalogue of thousands of free programmes and games. There are also versions for Android phones, so it's definitely going places. You can try it by downloading it onto a USB stick and running the test version. www.ubuntu.com

Equally impressive is the fourth most widely used operating system, **Linux Mint**, who's latest version, Maya, is available from their website. This is another highly sophisticated bit of software with everything you need built in. Smooth, attractive and fast; it does what it says on the tin. It contains a fist full of really good utilities from browsers to media players and is fast becoming a favourite. It lives at www.linuxmint.com

Kubuntu is rather special, but you'll need a PC with a bit of grunt to run it. Games, graphics, multimedia, internet and an office suit are all included in the free bundle. It even has a "Low Fat" setting to enable it to run on less powerful machines and access to all the free software you want. More at www.kubuntu.org

Compatibility with commercial programmes is an issue, but with a bit of wrangling many (not all) mainstream Windows programmes, will work.

Whilst these systems are all free, you'll need to be quite handy on the keyboard. You can run these operating systems side by side with the Windows OS, but I wouldn't advise swapping anything around unless you know what you're doing. Try them on an old computer and see what you think...

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Events Diary

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

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

Leic' Ladies WI: Meets monthly on 3rd Mon. 7.15pm Upstairs in The Almanack, 15 Bath House Lane.

Breastfeeding Group: West End Sure Start Children's Centre, Catesby Street, Leicester, LE3 5PB Every Tuesday 1:30pm - 3:00pm. 0116 225 2225.

Peter Crebbin & His Cool Swing Band: 1st July & 5th Aug at the Hilton Hotel. 1-3.30pm and at the Western Park bandstand, 8th July from 3pm.

Olympic Torch Celebration & Relay: 2rd/3rd July. Abbey Park, From 4.00pm. Free but tickets required. Full details from www.leicester.gov.uk/london2012

Summer in the Square Mile: 5th July. Fosse Arts Centre, Mantle Rd. 10.30am - 7.30pm. Free.

Farmers Festival: 10th July. Market Place. All day.

BBC Radio Leicester Down To Earth: Recording. Church of the Martyrs Com' Hall. 12th July 7.30pm.

Votes for Women: Illustrated Talk by John Sutton. Fri 13th July. Fosse Library. 11:00 - 12:00pm. Free.

Western Park Festival: Sun July 15th. 12-8pm.

Leicester Belgrave Mela: 15th July. City Centre. 11am - 6pm. Free event.

Sci-fi Fest 2012: Sci-fi film marathon. 28th July.

Phoenix Arts. Noon-Midnight. www.phoenix.org.uk

Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



When a gardening pundit says prepare for a drought (sorry folks, guilty as charged) we know we'll be taking the canoe to work.

With excessive rain the "root" of the problem is soil. Good soil, high in organic matter retains moisture and nutrients yet is free draining, allowing excess water to soak away. Flooding can make clay soil waterlogged and stresses plants by suffocating their roots. With sandy soils constant heavy rain washes out the nutrients. Adding compost helps both types of soil and the addition of sharp sand can improve drainage in heavy soils. Leaching of nutrients can also be a problem with pot plants which may require extra feeding.

Wet mild weather encourages excessive growth that's prone to collapse. Pre-emptively stake herbaceous perennials like delphiniums and asters. Tree limbs heavy with rain soaked foliage can break more easily in a summer gale. Sometimes it's better to reduce the weight of branches, where it is safe to do so, to save the limb.

Damp conditions cause pests and diseases problems. It prolongs the season for slugs and snails

and encourages fungal diseases like blight. Ventilate greenhouses, remove and destroy mouldy leaves or fruit.



Maintenance is a problem when windows of opportunity are small. Ironically the best growing conditions for lawns are the worst for mowing. If the lawn is wet when you need to mow flick over the grass with a long cane, or drag a hose across it. This knocks the moisture off and is called "switching". Cut lawns on a higher setting before mowing again on your normal setting. This reduces clogging of your mower, gives a better cut, and often works out quicker in the long run. So don't put those wellies away yet, I predict a long wet summer! (Hopefully that'll guarantee unbroken sunshine till November).

More from Tony next month.

To catch up with Tony's gardening advice, you can download previous Gazettes from our home page.

Make a Splash!

In The Western Park Gazette

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Gazette Competition

Here's another chance to win a great prize from the Western Park Gazette.

Once again we've teamed up with Adam Lynch at The Gate Bistro on Braunstone Gate to offer one lucky winner a free 3 course meal for two.

The Gate Bistro is one of Leicester's up and coming eateries and is fast becoming a must have dining experience.

Just correctly answer the question below and you could be in with a chance of winning this great prize!

Lettuce is a member of which flower family

1. Sunflower
2. Rose
3. Pansy



Send your answers by 15th July to:
The Editor, Western Park Gazette, c/o 62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester, LE3 0UA or by email:
editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

(Terms) 1 entry per person. Prize excludes drinks. 1 correct answer chosen at random. No cash alternative. Prize is not transferable. Judge's decision is final.

KIRBY ROAD BLAZE

Eight West End residents including four children clambered out of their flats onto a ledge to escape a fire which broke out behind a bathroom fitting shop off Hinckley Road.

The fire which broke out in a rear storage area of the Bath Time shop on Kirby Road on May 27th destroyed much of the shop's stock, severely damaged the flat above and caused smoke damage to the Westcotes Chippy and accommodation next door.



Photo Christopher Taylor

A neighbour spotted the fire at 6.40am and raised the alarm following a loud bang and flames coming from the rear of the business.

People living in the flat above the shop were blocked from escaping downstairs by the fire and climbed out of their front windows onto the ledge where they were joined by their neighbours from Westcotes Chippy who were trapped by smoke.

The family of six were also prevented from leaving by the back door due to the intense fire.

Other neighbours rushed to get step ladders to help the victims get to the ground.

One woman refused to leave the ledge without her dog, but attending firefighters

rescued the animal and she made her way down the ladder.



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BRAIN TAZERS

1		2		3		4
5						
6						
7						

Across: 1 Evolve. 5. Windstorm. 6. One more.
Down: 1. Diminish. 2. Wordy.
 3. Tanned animal skin. 4. Computer instructions.

			2		8	5
	2	8				6
	6	9		7		
3						4
7	9	4		6	2	3
4						1
		3		9	8	
6				5	1	
7	9			6		

1. A mountain goat tries to scale a cliff 60 feet high. Every minute, he leaps up 3 feet but slips back 2. How long does it take for the goat to reach the top?
2. One day a boy celebrated his birthday, but 2 days before, his twin sister celebrated hers. How come?
3. The maker doesn't need it, the buyer doesn't use it and the user uses it without knowing. What is it?
- 4: In 5 years time I will be 3 times as old as I was 3 years ago, so how old am I?

Answers on line: www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

St. Anne's, St. Paul's and St. Augustine's

At St. Anne's Church Hall -

Mon - Fri: Playgroup 285 7440. (term time)

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**)

Church of the Martyrs

Westcotes Drive Leicester

Street Self Defence: Mondays in the Hall. 7.30-8.30pm Call 07788 637 686 for details.

Martyrs Football Training: every Weds eve 6.30pm at Nelson Mandela Park..

Craft Group: for any type of craft. Thurs 12th July and 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.

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

Weds: Boys' Brigade 6.00 - 9.30 (ages 5 - 17)

Tel: John Ogleby 0116 233 7978

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