



## DOWN TO THE RIVER



More on pages 10 & 11

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## **Hello From The Editor**

Welcome to June's Western Park Gazette and in this edition...

We wandered off to Glastonbudget for three days of music and beer (It's a horrible job involving VIP treatment and backstage photography but somebody's got to do it!), then a week later it was off to the annual Riverside Festival on the banks of the river.

In other news; Josh at the West End Brewery had his shoulder length hair hacked for charity and now looks like a matchhead, Western Park's Got Talent raised £330 for continuing work on the new Hall at St Anne's but otherwise, locally, it's been a fairly quiet few weeks.

In this month's regular features; Helen Knott finds some strange things in the park, Roger Blackmore visits the archaeological dig near the Stibbe factory, Tony Huxley gets his nose working on some very surprising plant scents and we welcome Mark Brennan from Hinckley Road Policing Unit as he makes his debut writing the police update.

And the Sudoku and crossword lay in ambush on the inside pack page ready to thwart you!

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If you've got a local news story then email:

[editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto: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.

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

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

**Pub Quiz:** Last Tues of the month. West End Brewery Braunstone Gate. 8-10pm.

**Upstairs @ Western:** Find The Right Words - 14th June. Word - 17th June. Edinburgh Preview shows - 22nd & 25th June. Car Park King - 27th & 28th June. Junk Food Variety Project - 15th June. More Info: [w.upstairsatthewestern.com](http://w.upstairsatthewestern.com)

**Antiques Roadshow:** 15 June. 9.30-7pm. Abbey Pumping Station. Free event.

**Bridget Christie (Comic):** 22nd June. Little Th.

**Trainspotting Live:** 20th-24th June. Curve.

**Western Park Open Gardens:** 24th June. 1-5pm. Tickets from the Hall at St Anne's.

**Jive Talkin Bee Gee's Trib:** 24th June. Little Th.

**Big Lunch:** 25th June. Rally Park. 12-4pm. Free.

**Bootleg Blondie:** 30th June. Y Theatre.

**Gangsta Granny:** 28th June-2nd July. DM Hall.

**Noel Coward's Hay Fever:** 3-8th July. Little Th.

**Miss Saigon:** 1st-22nd July. Curve

**Enderby Youth Band:** 2nd July. Western Pk. 3pm.

**Western Park Fest:** Sat 8th July. From 11am.

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# THE HACKENING

Braunstone Gate pub owner and brewer Josh Gray got the chop for charity in May.

Josh who runs The West End Brew Pub went from D'Artagnon to Mr Potato Head in the space of 20 minutes as top Leicestershire stylist Scott Bailye hacked away - streaming it live on Facebook.

Josh, who spent years growing shoulder length locks raised the money through a raffle and donations both online and in the pub. He said

"It was a fantastic night! We raised a thousand pounds in total for the Air Ambulance and my hair's been donated to the Little Princess Trust who make wigs for children going through cancer treatment.

"Everyone who came along to watch and donate in person or online has helped save a life - Thank you so much!"

You can see "The Hackening" video on Scott Bailye's Facebook page.



# WE GOT TALENT!

On May 17th in the Hall at St Anne's and after experiencing some technical difficulties, this year's Western Park's Got Talent got going..!

16 acts, over 25 young people performing a range of different talents and a great crowd to applaud their hard work! From singing and table tennis skills, to piano performances and dances!

This year we embraced new performers to and welcomed back familiar and well-loved faces, too!

A huge thank you to the community for your continued support in our 3rd year of running! Thank you to those who donated raffles prizes & created our wonderful graphics!



Overall, we raised £330 which will go towards supporting WWCE in their continued efforts to acquire the Western Park Buildings.

There's the chance to see all performers again at this year's Western Park Festival on July 8th.

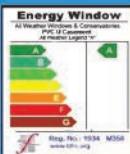
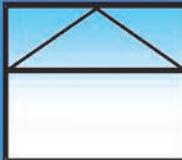
*Anna Macaulay*

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## **Ratae - Regional Capital**

It was in my first year as a student at the University of Leicester, back in 1960, that I paid sixpence in old money (I think it was) to go down into a cellar beneath what is now the Holiday Inn. My purpose was to view a spectacular Roman mosaic. This mosaic can now be seen in the Jewry Wall Museum. Currently, archaeologists are uncovering yet more evidence of the size of the Roman town of Ratae Coritanorum. This is taking place on the site of the old Stibbe Factory on Great Central Street.

This latest "dig" has proved immensely popular with local people who, when the site was opened to the public at the beginning of May, were queuing round the block to view the latest discovery. As a result more and more opening times had to be added over the next couple of weeks.

In addition to this other significant mosaic, the Stibbe workings have uncovered the remains of two substantial Roman buildings which provide extra evidence that the city was considerably more than merely a crossing point for the Fosse Way across the River Soar.



Photo: Robin Mathewman

It is now clear that our city was a regional capital of some importance. We know that the Jewry Wall is reputed to be the tallest Roman structural remains above ground in Britain. Indeed the growing number of visitors to Leicester, in the aftermath of the discovery of King Richard's remains, (and also, dare one say it, the historic Premier League victory of Leicester City!) are proving to be very impressed with the mounting evidence of our Roman heritage.

Certainly the queues to visit this latest site last month clearly shows the mounting interest amongst local residents in the history of our city.

I understand that local archaeologists and students involved in the work are delighted with the enthusiasm shown by the public. It makes me wonder whether there are yet more treasures to be found in some cellar elsewhere under our city streets.

**Roger Blackmore**

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# KNOTT'S LANDING

Under what set of circumstances is it possible to leave your bra festively adorning the iron fencing of the park? How does your duvet cover end up in the bin at the park gates?

There are a lot of things you can do in a park legally and safely but I can't work out how you might end up losing your underwear and your duvet cover! I can kind of understand if you were sleeping rough in there, but if you were sleeping rough you would probably want both your underwear and your duvet cover. It's been chilly at night recently!

If it were young people enjoying themselves in a furtive fumbling sort of way, I can see that you might accidentally leave things behind but you wouldn't leave your smalls gaily flapping away on the fence for all to see! Were they helpfully put there by a third party in case they were lost? I did that once with a stuffed Rabbit I found in the play area but I'm not about to pick up someone's bra and leave it dangling in case they 'pop by' looking for it!

Maybe the bra belonged to a woman who was walking home from work in the hot weather and suddenly, it all got too much and she just decided there and then to take her underwired, uncomfortable bra off and walk home without it. Choosing

comfort and happiness over restriction and sweat rash, her inner feminist leapt into action and she discarded the bra on the fence as an unwanted trapping of the patriarchy before sashaying home to shower? I'd like to think this was true.

The duvet cover is more problematic. It does show a level of preparation for furtive encounters but it's a bit on the low rent side of things. Surely a sofa in the living room is a more traditional location for such things? Or in your bedroom? Or the shed? And doesn't your mum go nuts when she can't find the duvet cover that matches the pillowcases she's just washed? Also, why did you turn it inside out before you put it in the bin?

I'm never going to know the answers but I've had hours of idle speculation out of it. Every cloud has a silver lining and all that... maybe that's what the duvet cover was?

**Helen Knott**



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## DOWN TO THE RIVER

The 20th Riverside Festival, one of Leicesters' major free summer highlights, took over the River Soar, Castle Gardens, Bede Park and Western Boulevard for another year of sun (mostly!) and watery fun!

The first weekend in June saw the traditional dragon boat races, trips on canal boats and a host of fun filled family activities from canoeing to crafts accompanied by live music on the piazza. Younger children were well catered for with the funfair, Bookbus and face painting whilst adults relaxed in the park with a pint and samples of street food from across the world.



Visit the *Western Park Gazette's* Facebook page for the video

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## OPEN GARDENS RETURN

Every two years the gardeners of Western Park throw open their gates to visitors.

This year's immensely popular Open Gardens Event is on Saturday 24th of June, between 1 and 5pm, and is raising money for LOROS, Healing Little Hearts and the refurbishment of the front part of the new Hall at St Anne's on Letchworth Road.

Two years ago over 300 gardening enthusiasts made their way through 18 gardens, enjoying entertainment and ice cream along the way. Organisers hope this year's will be equally successful and will include music from local Jazz maestro Peter Crebbin and his Cool Swing Band, afternoon tea in the hall and a variety plant and produce stalls.



Tickets and guide map are £4.00, children under 16 Free and will be available from The Hall at St Anne's.

If you're holding a local event or have news from Western Park, Westcotes and the Square Mile: email [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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## WESTHILL HEDGEHOG

We have a hedgehog living in our garden! We first became aware of it in January when our recycling bags were being clawed open. My husband then saw it on top of a bag trying to get in.

I have been putting out hedgehog food, once it gets dark, each night but this week the hedgehog appeared on the patio just as I was leaving the food dish. Our garden backs onto others from The Meadoway and Glenfield Road and having done some research into habits, habitat and food, I hope people with gardens might be interested in making them hedgehog friendly.

Hedgehogs are endangered and are often short of food, water and shelter. Everyone can help by checking that there is a gap under fencing so they can travel through several gardens each night.

Making a feeding station is easy. Cut a hole in a large plastic or wooden box, big enough for the hedgehog to get in but not cats or foxes, weight it down with a brick. Put a dish of dried hedgehog food and a dish of water inside. (They also love mashed banana and chopped boiled egg or small pieces of soft fruit.) No milk! Do this preferably once it is dark and clean the dishes each day.

*Sue Findley*



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# Glastonbudget 2017

Four days after the horrific bombing in Manchester and a week before the latest London outrage, Leicestershire issued a defiant up-yours to the psychotic fruitcakes who target innocent people having fun.

Glastonbudget hit capacity as 12,000 people from across the county and beyond made their way to the Turnpost Farm near Wymeswold for the world's greatest tribute band and new music festival.



Yes, there was an armed police presence but that didn't stop the crowd retreating with demented enthusiasm to some fine performances.

With the return of familiar faces and the arrival of some newer ones, the whole lot of them gave their all. Familiar tribute artists like Ben the Michael Jackson tribute and the Bootleg Beatles knock out superb renditions of these iconic artists.

T-rextasy is the full embodiment of Mark Bolan's glitter rock, Totally Tina struts, Mercury poses and the Bruce Springsteen tribute is the Boss!

From Led Zep to the Black eyed peas, your musical taste is catered for, no matter how odd. I discovered I really liked thrash metal treatments of elderly 70's disco as perpetrated by US group Tragedy. Who knew?

Obviously, the elephant in the room was the murderous bombing in Manchester a few days earlier. This was sympathetically and appropriately handled with a minutes silence during the Oasis set. You could hear a pin drop.

Glastonbudget returns next year for another three day boogiefest and you'd be mad to miss it.

Visit the Gazette FB page for photos and videos.

*Richard Perry*



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## June Police Update

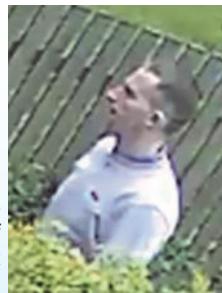
Hello! I'm Mark Brennan the new Neighbourhood Sergeant for the Fosse Ward team replacing Mike Hooper who has moved onto a new role. You can see who is currently in your local policing team by pasting your post code into the Leicester police website.



This month the shocking incidents in Manchester and again in London are central to our policing work. We have been providing extra patrols in key areas to provide reassurance to the public. It's important we all continue to be vigilant and we want to hear from you if you see anything suspicious, be it a vehicle, package or person. You should rely on your instincts and call us if you are in any doubt.

Officers would like to speak to a man in connection with six distraction burglaries involving elderly people in the Westcotes and Beaumont Leys areas. The offences happened between 7 and 10 of May and money was stolen in the majority of the incidents. The suspect gained entry to the properties after claiming to be carrying out work at the address or a neighbouring property.

Please take a look at the photo and if you recognise the man or have any details that can help please call 101, quoting incident 17\*194537. I want to advise all readers, regarding these types of incidents, that if you're not sure who is at the door - don't open it. Check the identity of the caller by ringing the company they are claiming to be from i.e. gas, electricity, water and police using the telephone numbers listed in your local directory rather than any supplied by the caller.



In other news, a traffic operation on New Parks Boulevard this month led to 40 vehicles being pulled over for issues of speeding, driving while on a mobile phone and driving with no seatbelt. These operations will continue in the area so drive safely and according to the speed limits.

The next local event for the Fosse ward team is the The Big Lunch on Sunday 25th June, between 12pm-4pm at The Rally Park, Off Tudor Road. We will be there and hope to see as many of you there as possible!

**Sgt Mark Brennan**



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# Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



On a recent trip to Norfolk a friend recommended a cliff top walk to see the gorse which was in full bloom and smelt of coconut. Coconut? They were right, the smell was almost identical. I couldn't believe I hadn't noticed this before.

We often overlook plant scent: there are some great mimics. Plenty of plants are known for their familiar scent, like Lavender, Roses or Fennel. But plants that produce the distinctive smell of another are a pleasing curiosity. *Philadelphus* blossom has the aroma of oranges. Apple Mint really does smell of apples. And Chocolate Mint does live up to its name.

There are other plants that get chocoholics salivating. The best of these mimics is *Cosmos atrosanguineus* or Chocolate Cosmos. This half-hardy perennial is almost extinct in its native Mexico, but easily available to gardeners here. In exposed areas, it is best to cultivate it like dahlias -



**Philadelphus**

give it winter protection or bring it into a frost-free greenhouse.

Those who like old-fashioned sweets should sniff out *Thuja plicata*, a conifer whose foliage smells of pear drops when crushed. Its cousin, *Thuja occidentalis* has the aroma of pineapple. *Cytisus battandieri* flowers also smell of pineapple, hence its common name Pineapple Broom.

The perfume of some plants can surprise you when it's not their main feature. *Elaeagnus* is grown for its evergreen and often variegated foliage. It's often used as a hedge, its flowers hidden and insignificant, yet they pack a potent punch. When you search for the source of that wonderful smell it's usually overlooked.

*Cordylines* are another popular plant, grown primarily for their foliage, but every now and then mature ones throw up an impressive flower spike. One of mine is doing just that at the moment and its scent is absolutely intoxicating.

So maybe the next time you go down the garden centre you'll be guided as much by your nose as you are by your eyes.

**Tony Huxley**



**Cordyline  
Pink Passion**



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# Martin Page

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**General Auction**

Sat 22nd July 2.00pm

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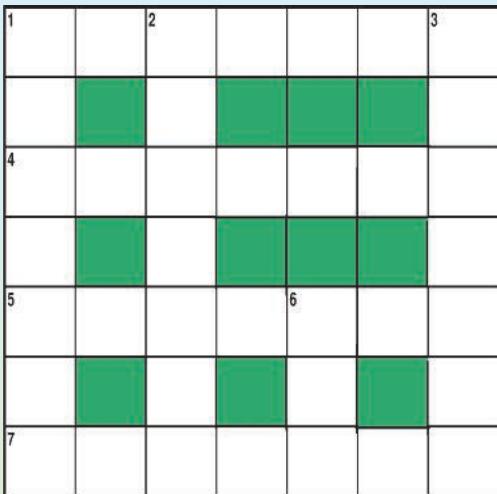
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**1 Across & 5 Across:** June is ..... Out....  
**(From Carousel) 1 Down:** Father of computing 2:  
 One who stifles 3: Of the bowel 4: Scottish magi-  
 strates 5: See 1 Across 6: A large container 7:  
 Eccentric

© Paul Towers

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

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Got a local story or a great picture?

Are you holding an event?

Are you doing something special?

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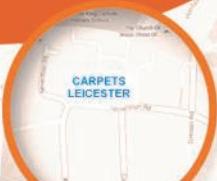
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