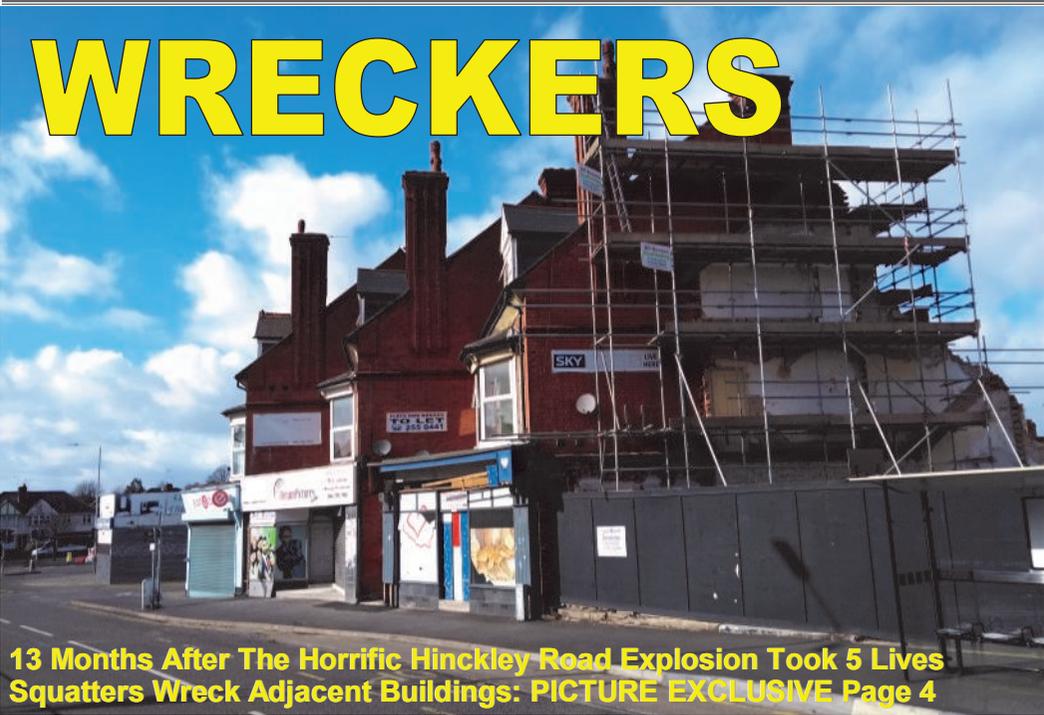




WRECKERS



13 Months After The Horrific Hinckley Road Explosion Took 5 Lives Squatters Wreck Adjacent Buildings: PICTURE EXCLUSIVE Page 4

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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the March edition of the Western Park Gazette

It's been a little quiet over the last few weeks, hence, a lower story count than usual but we have secured a look around the surviving fire damaged shops on Hinckley Road ahead of their demolition. It is a disgusting mess but we've only published a few photos due to space limitations. The whole horrific fire and squatter damage can be seen on our website, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

As Brexit, may or may not loom, towards us, a group of local creatives grab the BS by the horns and provide their own filmic take on the controversy.

In our regular features: Roger Blackmore, looks at the city's historic clocks, Emma Greasley has some timely advice for your spring garden and the police from Hinckley Road have spent a lot of their time closing down cannabis farms in our area, as Mark Brennan reports.

As always the crossword and Sudoku squat menacingly on the back page.

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Published by RapsCALLION Media
 62 Ainsdale Rd
 Leicester LE3 0UA

Printed by Flexpress Ltd
 6 Coal Cart Road, Interchange,
 Birstall, Leicester, LE4 3YB



Events Diary

Fosse Co-op Camera Club: Fri. St Peter's Ch Centre, Westholme St. 7.30pm. fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk

St Anne's Weds Club: Monthly, 1st Weds. St Anne's Hall. Letchworth Rd. 2.30-4pm.

Free Thurs 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 10-12 noon. St Anne's Hall.

Women's Taekwondo. Fridays. Brite Centre. 10am.

Walking Group: Sundays. 2pm. 96 Deg. B-Gate.

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

Free Children's Art Club: Saturdays 10.30-12.00. Fosse Neighbourhood Centre. Mantle Rd.

St Anne's Spring Fair: 6th April. 11-2.00pm.

Upstairs @ Western in March 20th - **Find The Right Words** 23rd - **Janet**, 27th - **Choir Night**, 28th - **Red Turtle**.

Little Theatre. 1-6 April **The Unexpected Guest**, 9-13 April - **Adams Family Musical**.

Curve: 19-24 March. **The Worst Witch**, 26-30

March - **Comedy About A Bank Robbery** 7 April -

Julian Clary, 13-00 April - **Captain Corelli's Mandolin**.

Haymarket Theatre: 27 March - **Circus of Hor-**

rors, 29-31 March - **Dinosaur World Live**, 5 April -

Evening With Ryan Giggs

DM Hall: 22 March - **KT Tunstall** 25th March -

Gabrielle, 3rd April - **Steeleye Span**

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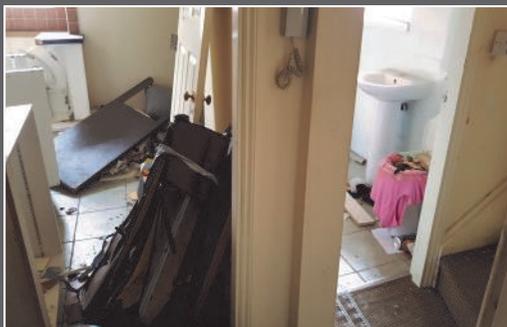
WRECKERS

13 months have past since the Hinckley Road explosion, claimed the lives of five people and horrified the country.

You would think the remaining severely damaged buildings, earmarked for demolition, would be hallowed ground and that no one would dare set foot in them. You would also be wrong.

As our exclusive photos show, squatters moved in and created even more carnage, including knocking down walls to gain access to more of the property and a nearby lock-up. Witnesses say that an unusual number of high value items were left in some of the rooms; including dozens of bikes, TVs and stereos.

Equally worrying; needles and human waste were found and the electric supply had been bypassed. It is a massive insult to those who lost their lives.



More pictures and a video walk through online at Facebook, Twitter and at www.westernpargazette (Photos Adrian)

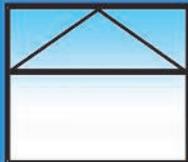
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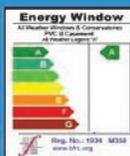
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The Tick-Tock Of History

It was quite an event in the city in 1868 when Joseph Goddard's iconic Clock Tower was completed. Carved on four sides are four historic figures: William Wygggeston, Thomas White, Alderman Newton and Simon De Montfort - each associated in different ways with the life of the city. From the door at the base of the tower: access to the city's network of drains and sewers! In 1926 Coalville followed suit with a brick clock tower of its own - one of the most impressive structures, according to the architectural historian Nicholas Pevsner, in an otherwise fairly bleak architectural landscape.

The first clock greeting many travellers visiting the city is the lofty clock atop the Midland Station, similar to those at a number of Midlands railways mainline stations. The Leicester one is easily visible from streets leading to the station. Not far away, above the former Leicester Mercury building, is a digital clock, giving the temperature as well as the time.

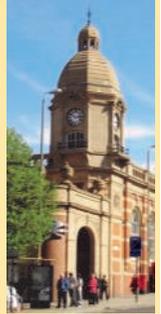
Very impressive is the clock on the attractive bell tower above the Town Hall which itself was built not long after the clock tower was opened. This offers superb views over the whole city if you manage to climb to the top.

One of the oldest parish clocks in the country is to be found in the redundant All Saints Church in Highcross Street. High up under the roof is a Jacobean masterpiece with striking jacks under a picture of Old Father Time. Luckily for those seeking access to the clock, a replica is to be found in the Guildhall, where the striking jacks still regularly mark the hour.

Not far from the Guildhall is an interesting clock above the entrance to Clockwise Credit Union on Jubilee Square. This was presented to the Leicester organisation by a linked Credit Union in Castlebar in the Republic of Ireland.

I have only touched on a few local clocks in this short piece. However when you next pass a clock in the city, remember that there may be quite a story behind it.

Roger Blackmore



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EUROFARCE

Two of West Leicester's resident drunks – Kev and Mark - have banded together in the wake of the Brexit vote to present Eurofarce: The plucky Brit's natural response to all the confusing and divisive politics.

Set to be hosted at Hinckley Road's PoloneZ Bar, Eurofarce will be a night of light and perhaps not so light, non-partisan entertainment before the Brexit show is set to go down. Expect beguiling poetry, comedy, magic and drunken stupor to see Brexit Eve through with friends, family and loved ones from all backgrounds. Bear in mind: There will be free food!

Kev and Mark are celebrating the release of their short film, The Man Who Voted Brexit, that tackles racism and prejudice with spot-on accuracy and attention to detail, set straight in the heart of a smoked-in living room that hasn't been touched since 1949.

Alicja Walendziak, who recently published her first poetry pamphlet, Herbata, will be performing some heartfelt and introspective but striking poetry about immigration and what it is to be a Polish immigrant in the UK – as well as mocking insular attitudes in both British and Polish culture in an unforgiving tone. She won't bite, but her words definitely leave a sting.

Also joining us for the evening is Wales' own Poet-man, Will Horspool, who will be showcasing one of his renown acts of magic mixed in with doggerel poetry and masterfully humorous songs, all written and produced by the man himself. Though if he's had a few, expect him to screw up his looping equipment. If he remembers to bring it.

No matter where you're hailing from or what you believe, Eurofarce aims to liven things up a bit in the face of all the scaremongering, doom and gloom coming from left, right and centre.

Eurofarce will take place at the PoloneZ Bar on Friday the 29th of March, 2019 @8 PM.

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Day For Leicester



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600 students take part in projects to make a difference to the city



600 Students in D



More than 600 students took part in the biggest one-day volunteering project in Leicester's history.

The 26 teams of De Montfort University students took part in 42 different projects throughout the city, including at Fosse Neighbourhood Centre, Westcotes Library and the Brite Centre.

DMU's Faculty of Business and Law teamed up with Leicester City Council for A Day for Leicester.

Bus company Arriva also offered the students free travel across Leicester for the day.

Activities included helping out at a lunch club, removing thousands of stickers blighting the city centre, meeting councillors, supporting neighbourhood surveys and clearing rubbish from community spaces.

They also met community leaders and residents.

Students also carried out a mass public opinion survey



one of the city's biggest ever volunteering projects

DMU
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Day For Leicester

on behalf of the council, speaking to residents to get their ideas and suggestions for their neighbourhoods. At Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre, business students helped serve lunch to residents, cleaned up Cossington Park ahead of preparations for the Holi festival and explored future volunteering opportunities.

Ammar Farook, Business and Marketing student is from Evington. He said: "It gives you a nice feeling making the areas better.

We found all sorts when we were clearing, broken bottles, even socks."

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Kirk Master said: "I could not believe just how many students gave up their time on Friday to volunteer.

"By helping to tidy up public spaces across the city, engaging with community groups and supporting our work with neighbourhood surveys, they are showing how much they value being part of our city."



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CIMA



Update

Project Hive is run by the
WWCE, a group of local
residents trying to raise

**funds to redevelop the former Eco House into
a community space.**

By the time you are reading this you will hopefully have been and had a chat with us at this year's Pop-Up Tea Room event. Once again this has been very kindly organised by local residents in support of our efforts. If you didn't make it, there will be plenty more chances to catch up with us. We have just confirmed the dates for another two events later in the year.

First, on September 7th, the first Western Park Scarecrow Trail. We are looking for budding scarecrow makers to help us make this a huge success! There will be prizes for the most creative and imaginative scarecrows. We'll be dropping information on how you can get involved through letterboxes soon.

On November 30th we will be holding a Christmas Ball at St Anne's Church Hall. Get the festive season under way with food, drink, music, dancing and more. This will be a ticketed event, details on how you can get yours will follow later.

Between now and those events, we are close to confirming a Football Tournament and stands at the Leicester Festival of Leisure, Riverside Festival and of course the Western Park Festival, along with much more...

**Find out more about WWCE and Project Hive
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LETTER BOX

As reported by Sgt Mark Brennan in the last issue the police found that 1 Mellor Road had been used as a cannabis factory.

Local residents on Westfield and Mellor Roads have written to the owners and the letting agents, to express their disappointment in the lack of diligence shown in the 2 lettings of this property. In the case of the cannabis factory local residents were exposed to catastrophic fire risks.

The residents expressed their concern about who the house will be let to next. We are awaiting confirmation from the owners and letting agents that they will work hard to ensure that the property is not used for illegal purposes.

Celia F



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March Police Update

Despite February being the shortest month there has been no shortage of action from your local policing teams across the New Parks/Western, Westcotes and Fosse wards.

A co-ordinated series of 3 drugs warrants were completed in New Parks after concerns were raised about drug dealing in the area. Officers recovered class A, class B drugs and a firearm which are now off the streets! Two persons were arrested and are still under investigation. You can see a video of the officers working on the warrants on our Twitter page Hinckley Road Police or via Facebook on our page Fosse, Westcotes and New Parks Police.

On Friday 8th of March, and following up on reports of a strong cannabis smell, officers identified and raided a terraced house on Fosse Road South.



250 plants were discovered in 6 rooms behind heavily fortified doors. The fuse box had been bypassed to supply power for the grow. This was a sophisticated setup and investigations are continuing. Please continue to report your concerns through Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111.

In response to an incident of Robbery on Bede Park local officers responded swiftly leading to two persons being arrested and charged for that and a number of previous robberies in the area! Proactive police patrols continue in the area and we, our partners at De Montfort University, have already made significant improvements to the lighting and CCTV in the park.

For those looking to join our team as a police officer, we are recruiting! If you are interested then your next local recruitment event is on 20th March at the Shree Jalaram Community Centre, 85 Narborough Road, Leicester LE3 0LF between 7pm-9pm. Other recruitment events can be found on the Leicestershire Police website.

Well done to PC Matt Eld who after winning the Leicestershire Police beat bobby of the year award has now won the national award for community police officer of the year!

Sgt Mark Brennan

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



After an unseasonably warm February followed by a dip back into more normal temperatures, spring has finally pulled its act together as the daylight finally starts to stretch out into summer.

There's a lot to do for the enthusiastic gardener. Mowing the grass, after giving your tools a thorough clean and oiling, might be first on the list as the warmer weather last month kick-started grass growth. Mine's already a couple of inches high.

March's weather can still be erratic, so pick your gardening time when the chance of frost is lower. But now is the time to start weeding and hoeing over the borders, remembering to dig mulch into any bare soil and remove as much moss and weeds as possible. Not forking out dandelions, for example, can result in an ongoing battle lasting for years. Nutrients can be washed out of the soil at this time of year too, so dig in an organic fertiliser or surface material, after having removed any straggling weed seedlings. As March warms up and plants show new growth, gently remove any winter mulch from the beds and borders, to acclimatise them. The weather can still be cold and the

wind occasionally strong, so take your time and remember to tie any delicate plants to supports. Take off dead blooms from bulbs and strip perennials of old leaves, stalks and seed heads. Roses can be pruned back and fed to create long stemmed and bushy flowers followed by a blast of black spot killer.

For vibrantly colourful blooms throughout the year, plant tender bulbs and tubers every two weeks until the middle of June. Gladiola, lilies and dahlias are a good start.

This is also the month to plant primroses and pansies. Spring plants like tulips should also get a healthy dose of feed before and during flowering.

The vegetable patch should be thoroughly dug over and weeded before adding well rotted manure and compost ready for the peas, onions, leeks and carrots. These should already be in seed trays and kept in a cool greenhouse prior to planting in April. But early potatoes can be planted in a well mulched trench about 6 inches deep at the same time as the onion and shallots.

Emma Greasley





Martin Page

YOUR LOCAL TREE SURGEON

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BRAIN TAZERS

1		2		3		4
5						
6		7		8		
9						

1 Across: Spring Festivals 1 Down: Stretchy
2: Knight 3: Lamprey 4: Small bag 5: Type of paint
6: Immature frog 7: Welsh river 8: Organisation of
American States 9: Folds © Paul Towers

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

Local Story or Event?

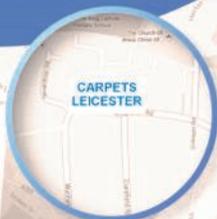
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