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Hello From The Editor

Well, here's the March/April Gazette, getting back on course after falling a month behind.

We have changed our delivery footprint, losing parts of Westcotes but including more of New Parks. Scan the code into your device to download previous editions of the magazine.



The old curse, 'May you live in interesting times' has certainly come true over the last few weeks. Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine has put the world on edge.

The response of Leicester people has been outstanding as donations mounted up in ever increasing piles inside the Ukrainian Social Club on Fosse Road South. It was a humbling sight.

Also in this month's issue, we have our normal update from the local police and Project Hive, Carey Tunstall gets to grips with springtime gardening, there's a new orchestra in Woodgate and we say goodbye to one of the city's oldest local cafes.

As you would expect the crossword and sudoku lurk menacingly at the back - so, have at it!

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To Contact - Call 07939 115 724

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Published by Rapsallion Media

**62 Ainsdale Rd
Leicester LE3 0UA**



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



Events Diary

Free Thurs Club: 2pm. **Meet & Eat:** Weds 5pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narborough Rd.

Fosse Camera Club: Zoom Meetings, Fridays, 7.30pm. fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk for details

Hall @ St Anne's, Letchworth Rd: **Knit & Natter:** 1.30pm, 4th Tues. **Weds Club:** 2.30pm, 1st Weds.

Musical Memory Box: 1st Tues 2pm **Pram Club:** Weds 9.30-11.00am. **Fri Coffee Morns:** 10.00am.

Free Tea/Coffee @ St Paul's Worship Ctr / Community Hub, Kirby Rd Weds, 2- 4pm. T-Top sale. 2nd Sat.

Family Friends: Term time 4th Mon. St Paul's & St Augustine's Centre, Kirby Rd. 2nd Sat at New Parks Methodist Ch. Contact Sarah on 07465 431 585.

Free drop-in Coffee Morns: Tues. 10-12 noon. St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Glenfield Rd East.

Perfectly Edible UK's Community Shop. Fri & Sat. Fri 11-2/3pm. West End Centre, Andrewes Street.

@Curve: Cher (Musical) 15 - 23 April. The Gruffalo - 20-24 April. The Homecoming - 25-30 April.

@DM Hall: Paul Weller 9-10 April, Justin Live - 11 April Jimmy Carr -13 & 22 April.

@Y Theatre: Keri-Pritchard Mclean - 16 April. Wrestling Resurgence - 23 April, Protomartyr - 27 April.

@Little Theatre: Dead Guilty - 25-30 April David Bolton's Hypnomagic - 1 May - Ceri Dupree 2-4 May.

Nat Space Centre: Astronauts & Icons until 24 April. K R Visitors Cent: Easter Extravaganza - 9-24 April.

Orton Square: St George's Fest: 23 April.

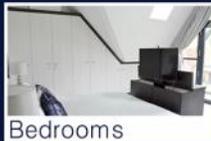
LCB Depot: Fashion Season Exhibition. 16-25 April.

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SAVING UKRAINE 1 BOX AT A TIME

They came from all over Leicestershire, spurred on by the appalling tragedy unfolding in Eastern Europe. Cars, vans and lorries of every size and shape line up on Friday evenings, outside the Ukrainian Social Club, on Fosse Road South, depositing their life-giving cargo.

Ever since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, on the 24th of February, the social club has been at the centre of local efforts to supply as much support as possible to those fleeing the increasing and indiscriminate violence.

A steady stream of food, toiletries and medical supplies are being donated by Leicester people and businesses ahead of being rapidly boxed up and shipped over to a distribution point in Eastern Poland. From there, Ukrainian volunteers transfer the packages to other lorries and transport them over the border into West Ukraine. The first lorry load of humanitarian aid from Leicester arrived on March 17th.



Inside the club's main hall, there is the overwhelming impression of controlled, noisy chaos, as food is checked for dates and boxes are made

up, filled and marked, before being stacked ready for transport. Every second counts and this is a fast process conducted by at least 100 volunteers.

The needs of the refugees, and those still facing extreme danger in Ukraine, are constantly changing as the situation deteriorates. The club has posted an up-to-date list of requirements on their Facebook page which includes battlefield trauma kits, bandages, burn gels, wipes and pain killers.

Mariana Dzus, who was marshalling the donations as they arrived at the club, is a committee member from The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain; she said: "My adoptive parents were Ukrainian and I know what they once went through. Now, this younger generation are going through it.

"We're so grateful to the British public for their generosity in dropping off donations".

By March 26th, 112 fully laden pallets of goods were ready for shipment, on top of those that had already been sent over.

The effort is ongoing, and to find out how you can help, visit the Leicester Ukrainian Club's Facebook page.



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Update

Project Hive is run by the WWCE, local resident group, raising funds to redevelop the former Eco House into a community space.

In 2020, with the help of budding photographers in our local community, we put together a popular local calendar called "Parklife" which raised a spectacular £500 for Project Hive.

This year, we would like to do something similar and from today we are inviting your entries for our 'Art In Nature' calendar. Your photograph should be your interpretation of that title, it can be anything; animal, vegetable or mineral. The single most important thing to remember is that it should be something that you think other people would love to look at for a month next year. We will be accepting entries until Sunday 2nd October, after which time an independent panel of judges will choose their favourite dozen which will go on to make up the 2023 calendar. This will be on sale by the end of November. Email your entries at full resolution together with your name and age to projecthive@outlook.co.uk All photographs must be presented in landscape format (like a TV screen) and should not have been previously published. Good luck!

K.N

HISTORIC CAFÉ CLOSES

For 63 years, Leicester's ultimate retro restaurant, Modino Café on Hinckley Road, has served coffees and homecooked food to tens of thousands of hungry customers, but now the doors have finally shut.

Changing tastes, lack of parking and the increase of supermarket restaurants have taken their toll on Leicester's oldest, continually open café.

During the late 50's, as memories of austerity during the Second World War faded and ration cards were torn up, Modino became home to youth cultures like the Teddy Boys and later, in the 60's, the Mods. Their scooters would be lined up on Hinckley Road, whilst inside the café, the jukebox would blare out the latest hits from bands like The Who, Yarbuds, and The Easybeats.

80 year old Luigi Gallo who took over the café from its original owner in 1985, and has run it ever since with his daughters Carmella and Paula, says it's time to serve their last frothy coffee and spag bol.

Modino was a unique glimpse into the world of the 50's and 60's. One that will be missed.



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CROWS NEST IN SHIPSHAPE

The Crows Nest pub is still the entertainment capital of Leicester's West End, in spite of the huge uncertainty caused by covid and now the horrendous events in Ukraine.

Landlord, Ray Cooper, has put on a brave face and jumped headlong into revamping the Crows Nest for a new generation.

New seating has been installed, there's an outside extension complimenting Ray's latest project, J.Ds Diner. This is a contemporary Americana themed restaurant, open Monday to Saturday until 10pm, offering typical US style food ranging from burgers, hot dogs, ribs and pizzas to slices of American pie - all cheaper than well known national brands.



It has taken Ray some time to get this huge upgrade moving. He said: "After the pandemic and the bad times, we needed to refresh and do something different. Everything was about covid; now the Ukrainian situation has pushed all that into the back of people's minds, but we're one of Leicester's great multicultural family pubs and we're still attracting people through the week, in spite of what's going on."

Many small pubs and cafés have suffered and closed due to supply chain issues and lack of custom caused by two years of covid. The Crows Nest survived by the skin of its teeth, but now with the war in Ukraine causing more world-wide disruption to fuel and food supplies, prices are edging up across the world. Ray continued: "Yes, prices are being affected, some costs are going mad, but we're going to try and absorb as much as we can and offer better deals.

"It's going to be bumpy, but I think we should realise how lucky we are in this country. We think we have problems; just look at what's happening in the rest of the world." *(Advertorial)*

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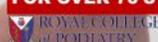
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New Inclusive Leicester Orchestra
It started as a celebration of the 70th birthday of Geoff Forse who has managed the Woodgate Resources Centre for over 30 years, many of them as a volunteer.

He has ensured that people of all ages have had access to music lessons - learning a range of instruments: guitar, violin, keyboard and even djembe drumming.

Julie Hoggarth from Drum and Brass put together a Crowd-funding campaign, and music teacher Helen Butterfield brought children and adults together to create an orchestra. This diverse group of people played in a concert for Geoff at Bishop Street Methodist Church back in October 2021.

Helen is a member of the Leicester Symphony Orchestra and she and Julie teamed up again to plan a musical project called "Film Tracks". Julie applied for a grant from the Leicester City Council's "Cultural Ambitions Fund" and from this the Drum and Brass "No Bars Orchestra" was born! More than 30 young people and adults have joined "Film Tracks" and went on to perform at De Montfort Hall on March 5th.

The enthusiastic response of the community has



made it very clear that there is an appetite for a city centre based orchestra for musicians of all ages and abilities. The directors of Drum and Brass intend to do all they can to secure funding to continue this project and establish a truly inclusive orchestra for Leicester.

LETTER BOX



Dear Editor: This letter is to warn all dog walkers who use the Rally Park to keep their eyes open and be extra vigilant.

On Thursday 10 March, myself, and my partner together with our Staffie cross dog, were attacked by a massive light brown American Pit Bull and another Pit Bull as we tried to leave the Rally towards Fosse Road.

Both dogs had no collars on nor was anybody with them! Luckily, there were no injuries, so I ask that everyone who uses the park to be extra vigilant in case they reappear.

A useful number is the dog warden 01162541001 in case of emergency. **K.S**



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April Police Update

A traffic operation was held at the beginning of March, led by the Road Policing Unit and based in Tesco Carpark. During the operation, a large number of vehicles was seized. The team have run a smaller traffic operation on the Fosse beat resulting in 4 vehicles being seized, and 1 male dealt with for driving whilst disqualified. I hear the message that parking problems are an issue around the Tudor Road area and Woodgate and I have asked the PCSO's out on patrol to deal with any of the violations.

In total the team have recovered 5 other vehicles with no insurance.

A 20 year old man from Leicester who led 3 police vehicles on a chase through the West End, which resulted in an officer receiving minor injuries, has been sentenced.

Lamin Conteh was sentenced to 2 months in prison suspended for 2 years, having previously pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and driving without a licence and insurance. He has been disqualified from driving for 2 years, ordered to pay £406 in fines and surcharges as well as to complete 200 hours of community service.

The incident occurred on Jan 21st after an unmarked police car was overtaken at speed on Raw Dykes Road. Officers activated their vehicle lights, then sirens after Conteh refused to stop. Conteh's Ford fiesta was followed as he drove on the wrong side of the road on Western Boulevard and Upperton Road. One police vehicle was forced to make tactical contact with the Fiesta before the car came to rest in a nearby car park.

A warrant was executed at Vaughan Street where 152 mature cannabis plants was seized with a street value of £106,400. A male was arrested, charged and remanded to court. The team conducted a stop check on a vehicle which contained a number of baby cannabis plants. Enquiries led police to Burnmore Street where a substantively large cannabis factory was discovered.

Due to repeated reports of anti-social behaviour cause by street drinking in the bus stop on Narborough Road near to Cambridge street, the seating has been removed from the bus stop to try and stop this.

Finally, a hard-hitting theatre production to raise awareness about the issues of 'county lines' will be watched by nearly 7000 pupils at 40 secondary schools across the city and county.

Leicestershire Police have commissioned leading theatre company, AlterEgo Creative Solutions to deliver a series of productions to children in year 7 upwards, as well as teachers and professionals on the national drug trafficking issue.

Sgt Shauna Ashton

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



If you've enjoyed a winter break away from cutting the lawn, now is the time to get the mower out, as the grass should have steady growth. I make sure that the first cut is not too short. This helps to keep the grass healthy and prevents any damage from frost; trimming little and often keeps it greener. I've also been giving my lawns nice clean edges to prevent the grass from merging with the borders.

Talking of borders, I'm mulching them to help reduce evaporation of much needed water, especially with the recent rise in temperature. Using an organic mulch to cover bare soil also reduces the amount of weed growth as well as feeding the hungry plants. You may also find a proliferation of pests with the arrival of warmer weather; it's better for the environment if natural pesticides are used. If this is unavoidable and chemicals are required, it is better to spray later in the day when most of the beneficial insects have made themselves scarce.



I've been planting out the summer flowering bulbs that I grew on indoors, as we're now in the last few weeks where this can be done. This can create a flush of colour through the summer. Whilst doing this I've been removing any spent flower heads in spring flowering bulbs, such as daffodils, and letting the leafy growth die back naturally. Doing this helps to feed the bulbs for next year's flowering.

Acid-loving shrubs such as Pieris, camelia, azaleas and rhododendrons have been given an ericaeous feed. I like to use a liquid feed so I can re-nourish the roots and drench the leaves (never on open flowers though as it can burn and discolour them). Always follow the instruction label for the correct applications as creating feeds is very energy intensive and we don't want to waste this by over feeding unnecessarily.

Some hedgehogs may be coming out of hibernation soon, so I've created easy access into my garden with a simple hole in the bottom of my new fence panel. In addition, I am making fresh water and food available with a little sheltered spot, hopefully creating a hedgehog haven. It is a good idea to have wild bird food available as the birds burn off a lot of energy this time of year when nest building. I've also cleaned the bird baths and replenished them with fresh water for the birds to drink and bathe in.

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1 Across: Queen's 2012 Jubilee **1 Down:** Interrupt
2D: Rearrange letters of a word **3D:** Edible bivalve mollusc
4D: Mottled **5A:** Ocean **6A:** Foolish (Slang)
7A: Lamprey **8A:** Confused

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