# The Gazette

GLASTONBUDGET No.44 May 2013 www.westernparkgazette.co.uk 



# Hello From The Editor

#### Welcome to the May issue of the Western Park Gazette.

This month arsonists attack the Victorian band stand on Western Park, local historian Roger Blackmore, looks back at the life of radical Leicester politician Herbert Hallam and Helen Knott, tries her best to stay away from supermarkets and support our local shops. Our gardening guru, Tony Huxley, has more seasonal advice and Sergeant Rod Smart from Hinckley Road police station gets us up to date with their latest successes.

Our friends at the Square Mile Project at DeMontfort University have been busy over the last couple of months offering comedy training and free basketball with the Leicester Riders!

This month, we are giving you the chance to experience the greatest rock bands in the world, up close and personal... sort of!

The Biggest tribute group festival in the world, Glasonbudget, returns to Wymeswold and we have a pair of weekend tickets to win! Once again, thank you for your support!

e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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INSIDE

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# **TORCHED!**

The Historic bandstand on Western Park has been attacked by arsonists again after wood was set on fire and left inside the building.

A fire crew from Western Fire Station used saws and axes to cut through part of the floor to ensure the fire had not penetrated the wooden boards.

The fire was deliberately started around 12.00am on the 15th of April and damaged around a fifth of the bandstand.

Although the bandstand is still structurally sound with the damage caused by smoke and charring; if the fire had properly caught hold, the result could have been much worse.

Local Councillor Susan Barton said: "There's £4000 worth of damage but it should be repaired in a few weeks and shouldn't effect the Western Park Festival or band concerts.

"There's a Volunteer Day in May when the bandstand will be repainted, funded by the Ward Community Budget."



Friends of Western Park, (FOWP) who were awarded £500 towards repainting the Victorian bandstand ahead of the July festival, are relieved they hadn't yet started work.

Ady Alexander from FOWP said: "Where's the respect gone? In my opinion the vandalism of the bandstand is disgraceful and totally mindless. Can't people find better things to do?"

The last time the bandstand fell victim to arsonists was 18 months ago when the roof was set alight but the fire was put out before any serious damage occurred.



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# DOVELANDS QUIZ NIGHT

Calling all pub quiz experts, the Dovelands School Parents Teachers and Friends group is looking for teams for their quiz night.

The event takes place in the school hall on Friday  $17^{th}$  May and is open to teams of 6 people with prizes for winning teams.

Entry costs £5 and the doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. There will be a bar and refreshments will be available. Tickets are available from the school office, PTFA members or class teachers.

Dovelands School Summer Fair takes place on Saturday 15 June raising money for the school to provide equipment and support for local children.

There will be a raffle, tombola, BBQ, book and toy stalls, plant stall, cake stall and games.

Entry costs £2 per family and everyone is welcome.

If you're holding an event or you're doing something special and you'd like people in West Leicester to know about it,

SHOUT OUT!

e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Local historian Roger Blackmore looks back on the life of one of Leicester's radical personalities.

# Herbert Hallam

Herbert Hallam was a lifelong socialist born in 1877 in Burton-on-Trent whose family moved to Leicester where his father, a railwayman, began in business as a coal merchant.

He became one of the early students of Ruskin College Oxford which was founded in 1899 to offer a university style education to working class students and went on to become a member of the Fabian Society.

The young Herbert went into the family business and also became actively involved in Labour poli-



tics in Leicester in 1913, exactly one hundred years ago.

He was first elected to the City Council to represent taking an especially close interest in housing issues. He was appalled by the cramped housing conditions and high rates of infant mortality not least in the area around St. Margaret's which he represented.

He stood for Parliament unsuccessfully as the Labour Candidate for the Loughborough Constituency at the 1918 General Election at the end of the First World War and in 1924 became the Vice Chairman of the newly formed City Housing Committee. He thoroughly immersed himself in this post continuing to advocate the building of good standard municipal and social housing. He consistently championed homes with two downstairs living rooms and proper plumbing.

At the same time Herbert Hallam took a lively interest in town planning and played a key role in the plans being developed for council built housing in the Saffron Lane area and South Braunstone. After his death in 1933 one of the key roads on the Braunstone Estate, Hallam Crescent, was named after him.

He was, to the best of my knowledge, no relation to Alderman Richard Hallam after whom the school off Anstey Lane is named. However I suspect he may be the same Mr H.W.Hallam of Egglesburn, Letchworth Road who was elected to the Leicestershire Archaeological Society in 1928 - perhaps one of our readers may be able to confirm this? *Roger Blackmore* 

# **COUNCILORS SURGERIES**

**Fosse Clirs Surgery:** Monthly, 2nd Sat,10.30-11.30, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre & last Sat 10.30 -11.30am at Woodgate Residents Association.

**Westcotes Clirs Surgeries:** Westcotes Library, 1st Sat each month, 10.30 - 11.30am and 4th Fri each month, 10.am-11am. Manor House Neighbourhood Centre, 2nd Friday every month, 10-11am.

Western Park Clirs Surgery: Monthly-2nd Weds St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 7-8.00pm.

#### Events Diary

Zumba Class Tues. 7.15-8.15 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 @ The Almanack, 15 Bath House Lane. Online Sessions: Westcotes Library. Weekly.

Mon, Tues & Thurs. 1-3.30pm. Free.

Fosse Singers: Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm.

Craft Fare Coffee Morn: St. Anne's Church Hall. 11th May. 10-12 noon. Free.

Western Pk Big Spring Clean: 15th May. 1.30pm.

Family History: 18th May.10-12pm. Art Exhibition: 22nd May. 3.30-5pm. Microsoft Office Tasters: 23rd May. 10.15am. All Free at Westcotes Library.

Museums at Night-Jewry Wall: 17th May. 6-9pm. £2.50. History? It's a Bit of a Larf: 18th May. 7pm.

Countryside Chill Out: 18/19th May. Whetstone Pastures Farm. A426 (Whetstone Gorse Lane) EcoActive Organic Plant Sale: 19th May. 9-5pm. EcoActive Centre (Eco House).

William Wiggeston Exhib & Coffee: 24th May. Fosse Library. 11-12 noon. Free.

Peter Crebbin and his Cool Swing Band: Hilton Hotel. 2nd June. 1-3:30pm and 16th June at Western Park Bandstand 3-4pm. (St. Anne's Hall

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It's time to shop locally says sketch writer and broadcaster Helen Knott... If only we can tear ourselves away from Tescos...

# KNOTT'S LANDING

Sometimes in life you just have to try and walk the walk. I've been banging on about shopping locally for ages but I've not been very good at doing it. I want to avoid the big supermarket chains but it's not easy when you can buy jeans, a jelly mould, a plant and your weekly shopping in one place.

So when the mice arrived in the kitchen island, I seized the moment and dragged the family out on a local shopping odyssey. First stop Daymans for a



mouse trap. A trip both easy and difficult because although parking was easy, we had to do it outside the Crows Nest. This meant the little one saw the pirate ship play thing and started to express his desire to visit at top volume. Hard too, as we had to explain that the mice would feel poorly and not want to live in our house any more. No, I am

not going to explain to a four year-old how the snap will break the neck of the mouse unfortunate enough to try and eat my chocolate lure! Call me chicken if you will. We bought the trap and ended up compromising with the small person and visiting the Crows Nest for a quick play and a cup of tea. I can report then loos have just been done up and are very nice!

Then on for stationary at JAKS on Narborough Road and this is when it all went horribly wrong. We couldn't park anywhere nearby and ended up in Tesco's car park. The trouble is that place has a gravitational force all of its own. It's like a black hole, a singularity, drawing you in and resistance is futile. The plan was to get fruit and veg at the International Supermarket and have a browse in the pulse and spice corners and maybe shop around a bit more. The reality of a noisy little one, grumpy at being pulled off a pirate ship and no parking meant I was sucked through the doors of the supermarket. Him indoors went off on a stationary mission on his own and came and met us just as I put two French sticks in my trolley after they had been licked.

Sometimes you have the kind of day when someone licks French sticks and walking the walk is too hard. Next time I shall do better.

# HIT FOR LOCAL MUSICIAN!

John Fryer from Western Park, has just released a new CD of 13 original tracks.

John is well known around the city and county's Open Mic circuit and is

widely regarded as a very talented and stylish musician.

Playing venues like the musician and The Black Horse, he is widely applauded by both local audiences and fellow musicians. John's new CD has everything from Ballads and folk songs

through to rock and roll tracks. Recorded and mixed

by local man Steve Bradley

(www.soundguise.co.uk) and with guest musicians from the local area, too, this is very much a West Leicester CD!

Cost is £10 it is available by emailing John on john@scrappy.org.uk or checking out his Facebook page ww.facebook.co.uk/John Fryer



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# MILE<sup>2</sup> NEWS

## Confidence boosting comedy training

Mile<sup>2</sup> recently trained nine amateur comedians for a show in the Leicester Comedy Festival.

The nine acts provided a broad range of comedic styles to a packed out audience in Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centre.

Towards the end of the course, trainee Cherilyn Gordon, had developed



complete confidence in performing skills and said: "This has been brilliant, I cannot wait to get on stage-no nerves at all."

Due to the success of the comedy training, the Square Mile project will continue the lessons and all are welcome to join.

The training is free and will guide participants through the process of becoming a stand-up comedian, from writing your first piece to your debut performance.

While Square Mile has a view to another performance, nothing has been confirmed yet. Training takes place on Thursday evenings, 7-9pm in the Tudor Pub function room in Tudor Road.

For more information, please contact Beth on 0116 257 7560 or email balston@dmu.ac.uk

#### Free Basketball Sessions with Leicester Riders

Basketball sessions held in partnership with the Leicestershire Police force and Leicester Riders, are currently taking a break due to DMU examinations being held in John Sandford Sports Centre.

Due to the success of the lessons, we will continue them in the summer.

There is currently no set date for the next sessions but if you would like to sign-up, please contact us on 0116 257 7560 or email mile2@dmu.ac.uk







mile

# MILE<sup>2</sup> NEWS



Residents are being asked to take part in a project which will deliver health benefits to the community, improve green spaces and grow flowers and vegetables in the Square Mile.

It is hoped that the work could be based in Tudor Gardens which was initially transformed by the Square Mile project in July 2012.

The garden was given a makeover by volunteers in the summer on our Square Mile day. Since then, city wardens have noted how residents have reclaimed the space and anti-social behaviour in the park has dropped.

There are a number of opportunities in the Dig for Heath project. It requires a project team leader, a blogger/social media officer and a photographer as well as volunteers to take part in gardening activities.

For more information or to take part, please contact Mark on 0116 257 6183 or email: mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk

#### Love to sing?

Anyone with a love for singing is invited to join the Square Mile Choir.

You don't need to have any previous experience of singing, you just have to enjoy it!

The choir is currently working towards a concert for the charity WaterAid on the  $1-2^{nd}$  June.

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays, 11-1pm in Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centre.

If you prefer watching musical performances to taking part, the Square Mile team is giving away free tickets to two Summer Piano Recitals being held at Holy Trinity Church during the Leicester International Music Festival.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm-Nikolai Demidenko-20 free



tickets available. Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June-7.30pm, Imogen Cooper. If you would like a ticket, please contact us on 0116 257 7560 or email mile2@dmu.ac.uk



nile









All materials and equipment provided just bring an A5 book or diary to cover.Learn how to make a lovely fabric book cover, perfect for covering diaries or to keep your favourite book looking it's best. They can be personalised or you can create a beautiful design using Appliqué, beads and embroidery.

## JUNE 8TH 10.30-1.30PM - SEWING MACHINE SKILLS/BRING A PROJECT

If you are bringing a project you will need to bring your fabric and materials along to class. These sessions are aimed at both beginner sewers and those with a little more experience. Come and learn the basics, including threading the sewing machines, using different stitches and how to make a simple envelope cushion. If you are already a sewer, you can bring along a project you are working on and get the support you may need to complete it.

#### JUNE 22ND 10.30-1.30PM - GARDEN PARTY FABRIC BUNTING AND PAPER POM POMS

All materials and equipment provided.Perfect for decorating your garden or home when hosting your summer parties, these two items are a great way to create a lovely atmosphere for your guests to enjoy. You will learn how to make your own fabric bunting with a colour scheme of your choice and make some paper pom poms that make the perfect party combination.

## JULY 6TH 10.30-1.30PM - SEWING MACHINE SKILLS/BRING A PROJECT

If you are bringing a project you will need to bring your fabric and materials along to class. These sessions are aimed at both beginner sewers and those with a little more experience. Come and learn the basics, including threading the sewing machines, using different stitches and how to make a simple envelope cushion. If you are already a sewer, you can bring along a project you are working on and get the support you may need to complete it.

#### JULY 27TH 10.30-1.30PM - HALF/FULL APRON

You will need to bring approx 1/2 metre of cotton fabric.Learn how to make a lovely full or half apron so you can cook in style! You can choose from a range of sizes and styles including a sweet children's apron, a full style reversible adults or a gorgeous 50's style half apron with contrasting frill and patch pocket.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK YOUR PLACE CONTACT; TEL: 01162577102 EMAIL:MILE2@DMU.AC.UK















mile<sup>2</sup>

# Search for new comedians



# Free stand-up lessons with Mile<sup>2</sup> Thursday evenings, 7-9pm Tudor Pub Function Room Tudor Road

For more informtaion please contact the Mile<sup>2</sup> team on (0116) 257 7560 or email mile2@dmu.ac.uk

# Win Tickets to Glastonbudget!

It's back! After a triumphant, if sodden festival last year, Glastonbudget returns with an even bigger line up than ever!

This three day festival between 24th-26th May is simply the biggest and best tribute group boogiefest in the world with 200 bands ready to blow your socks off and melt your ears into a puddle!

The acts on this year's bill include tributes to Michael Jackson, Robbie Williams, Abba, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Blues Brothers, Madness, Simple Minds, Pink Floyd, AC/DC, Gus N Roses, Nirvana, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Greenday, Rage Against the Machine, Oasis... The list goes on and includes special guests ABC, Howard Jones, Heaven 17 and the Christians.



Now is your chance to win a pair of tickets to the festival that recreates the sights and sounds of the world's greatest bands right in front of you at Turnpost Farm in Wymeswold!



#### THE COMPETITION

We have a pair of tickets valid for the entire festival, including camping, for one lucky winner. **This is an email only competition** and your answers must be in by 22nd of May, so be quick! <u>THE QUESTION</u>

A Whole Lotta DC, and The Kins of Leon are tribute bands for which rock acts?

Answers by email only to: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Comp T&Cs: Cut off date 25th May. One winner. One entry per person, Tickets non transferable, No cash alternative. Judge's decision is final.

#### FIND OUT WHO'S ON

www.glastonbudget.org or follow the link on our homepage www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

# Getting Fruity on the Farm!

Whetstone Pastures Farm near Blaby attracts many visitors of all ages especially in the summer months as its one of the few remaining Pick your Own Farms in the County.

Sandra Herbert, former BBC Radio Presenter, works alongside husband Anthony on their 800 acre farm, part of which grows lots of luscious strawberries, raspberries. gooseberries, blackcurrants redcurrants and blackberries.



Once the sun comes out they hope the strawberry crop will flourish and by the beginning of June they should have lots of vitamin packed strawberries for customers to pick themselves. Sandra makes jam with the fruit which goes perfectly with her scones made from locally milled Claybrooke Mill flour which are then sold in the tea room.

A new Play barn keeps youngsters happy while parents enjoy the Cream teas! The Herberts are passionate about good food and supporting British farmers. They welcome groups of all kinds for farm visits, including a school from Braunstone, and can provide grants to cover the costs.

OPEN FARM SUNDAY on June 9th is a great way to enjoy the farm with trailer rides, farm walks, animals, machinery and pizza making using their own wood fired pizza oven. They have supported the Charity Send a Cow since it started 25 years ago and are very excited about hosting the Gilbert and Sullivan opera the MIKA-DO on August 17th with OPERA ANYWHERE.

Full details of all these and all their events are on their website www.whetstonepasturesfarm.com The farm is 2 miles from Blaby on the A426 between Cosby and Countesthorpe. *Sponsored Article* 



# Happy Birthday Maya

The Maya Group celebrated its 17th Anniversary on the 7th of April with a show of support from Fosse Councillors.

The Maya Well-Being project founded and coordinated by Shardra Parmer in 2003, runs therapeutic sessions every Tuesday and Friday between 11 and 4pm at the Aapka Centre on Pool Road in Newfoundpool.

Twenty eight elderly women from the Black and Asian communities attend to take part in fitness exercises and dance therapy conducted by qualified instructors.

The sessions are mostly paid for out of the Fosse Ward community budget. Organisers say "We are immensely grateful to Councillors Ted Cassidy and Sue Waddington for awarding £2340 funding and their continued support of the project."

Both Councillors attended the anniversary celebrations with Councillor Manjula Sood at the Aapka centre.



# DUN COPPIN'

Staff at Hinckley Road Local Policing unit are to say goodbye to one of their longest serving officers.

Following last year's retirement of Western Park stalwart PC Eddie Mertz, his colleague PC Geoff Gaunt is also retiring from the force this month.

Geoff has been with the police since 1985 and has been a community officer on Western Park and the western side of the city since 1990.



# May Police Update

The Smart View with Sgt Rod Smart The spring sees an increase in thefts of caravans and campervans. To prevent this and to help recover stolen units, the police rely on the vigilance of members of the public. Van owners should seek appropriate security advice from the manufacturer or a caravan accessory retailer to make their units more secure. Additionally, members of the public seeing caravans or campervans being transported under suspicious circumstances, especially at night, are urged to inform the police.

On 14 April a member of the public reported a man trying to break into a house near to Blackbird Road. Officers attended and conducting a thorough search of the house, found a seventeen year old youth in the loft. The youth was arrested and has been charged with burglary. The police are grateful for the vigilance of the member of the public who reported it.

On 5 April, a clothing manufacturer was broken into overnight on Beatrice Road and a number of pairs of distinctive Oliver Spencer designer jeans were stolen. These jeans are quite rare, so should anyone come across any, the police would be keen to find out.

During April, a number of people have reported having their phones snatched by youths on mountain bikes. These offences have taken place across the City Centre and parts of Westcotes and Fosse wards, with the youths cycling up behind them and grabbing the phones without warning. The police are looking to identify the offenders and local residents are urged to be mindful of their surroundings when using mobiles in public

In March we reported that three men had been arrested and bailed following a quick thinking local resident reported seeing three men breaking into the disused St. Paul's Church building on Kirby Road. Three men have now been charged with burglary.

In October, an armed robbery took place at a bank on Woodgate and several thousand pounds were stolen. A forty three year old Leicester man has now been convicted of this crime and has been sentenced to a seven year prison sentence.

**CONTACTS:** leics.police.uk/local-policing www.facebook.com/leicestercitypolice or Twitter on @LPWesternPark, LPFossePolice or LPWestcotesCops, or email us at hinckleyrd.lpu@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk.

# Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



# At long last spring is under way, even though we're actually on the cusp of summer.

I've only had to cut the grass once this year. This has allowed all the violets and wild primroses in the lawn at the top end of the garden to flower. It seems a shame to mow them, so that section may

become a wildflower area. Elsewhere the cultivated primulas are looking magnificent. The lilac lollipops of Primula denticulate are looking very impressive. They should have been divided earlier in the year, now I'll have to wait until the autumn. Unfortunately the cone shaped spears of P.vialii or the whorled blooms of P.bulleyana are vet to appear. There's still time for them to make an appearance, hopefully the long



winter or the dreaded vine weevil hasn't claimed them.

This winter has killed many herbaceous perennials in the garden. All the salvias, beside the trusty purple sage, have gone and will need replacing. Luckily I took cuttings of certain varieties like a favourite purple S.patens. This is a worthwhile

insurance policy for easily rooting plants like salvias or penstomens. A dozen summer cuttings stored in a frost free greenhouse or cold frame can quickly help restock a border.

To avoid late frosts, start your runner beans indoors. I'm trying two heritage varieties, Ryder, and a peabean called "Inca". These

were recommended at a seed swap. At these events gardeners can exchange and buy seeds. It is a great way to keep heirloom varieties in circulation, and there's usually tea and cake involved! It's important to keep rare strains going. New EU legislation may soon make it illegal for gardeners and farmers to exchange seeds unless they're registered and pay an annual licence fee for each variety!

If you feel as outraged as I do visit www.gardenorganic.org.uk/news/news



BRAIN TAZERS



Across:1. Move periodically or seasonally 5. Request urgently or persistently 6. Intransigent 7. Clause **Down:** 1. Eye makeup 2. Dashing 3. Antiquated 4. Give the right to

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	6	2	5					9

**1.** A man goes to a police station, sometimes in the middle of the night and destroys a number of fingerprints. He doesn't consider himself a criminal, so who is he?

**2. Gaged Bolts Nut** is an anagram of an event featured in this month's Gazette.

3. These words begin and end with the same letter. What are they? **rom, rou, hrif** *Answers on line: www.westernparkgazette.co.uk* 

## St. Anne's, St. Paul's & St. Augustine's

#### At St. Anne's Church Hall -

Mon - Fri: Playgroup 07837 628689. (term time) Mon: 5.30 - 7.00pm: W.E.A. Yoga 255 6614. 7.30 - 10.00pm: Learn the tango Tues: 6.15-7pm: Lauren's Fitness Session 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue: 2.00 - 4.00pm: MU speakers. 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue: 7.30 - 9.30pm: W.P. Gardening Club. Wed: 5.00 - 8.00pm: Weightwatchers. 8.00 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi with Rick. Wed: 1<sup>st</sup> Wed: 2.30 - 4.00pm: Wednesday Club. 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 10.00am: Coffee Morning. Fri: 1<sup>st</sup> Fri: 11.30 - 1.00pm: Lunch club.

**2 / 4th Fri:** 2.00 - 4.00pm: Folk dancing.

## At St. Paul's Church Rooms-

Tues 10.00am: Mums and Toddlers & Over 60's Club at 1.30pm Sat's: Regular Table-Top sales To book St. Anne's Parish Hall for your event: Call Nick-0758 331 7007 or

e:stanneshallwesternpark@outlook.com

#### 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

**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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