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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the May edition of the Western Park Gazette.

Leicester went completely bonkers over the Fox's Premier League success and although we've desperately tried to avoid jumping on the bandwagon, our resolve crumbled when we saw the amazing mural of Claudio Ranieri painted behind Mark's Electrical.

We keep the soccer theme going in Tony Huxley's Compost Corner as he shows how to turn your garden into a sea of Leicester blue. Talking of blue, the boys who wear it at Hinckley Road police station have their monthly update and Roger Blackmore returns with a look at the history of Leicester Abbey. DMU's Square Mile Project have a pile of activities to interest us and Helen Knott takes on elections.

As always our traditionally frustrating Crossword and Sudoku are still sitting on the inside pack page.

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If you've got a local news story then email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk Visit www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

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Events Diary

Fosse Singers: Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm. Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band: 1st Sun Monthly. Café Chino at Hilton Hotel, Meridian. 1-3.30pm Thursday Club: Thursdays. 2-4pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narborough Rd. West End Pay As You Feel Café: Thurs 7-8.30pm. Fri & Sat 11-3pm. West End Centre. Andrewes St. Heritage Sundays: Monthly last Sun. Mediaeval city open days/tours. 11-3pm. goleicestershire.com Westfield Gallery: Mon-Sat. 81 Westfield Rd. Call 0116 285 8548 to view. Sean Locke: 25/26th May. De Montfort Hall. 8pm. Leicester Job Fair: 27th May. Curve Th. 10-2pm. Glastonbudget: 27th-29th May. Turnpost Farm Wymswold. www.glastonbudget.org Festival2Funky 2016: 23-29th May. Daily 9pm-4am.

Festival2Funky 2016: 23-29" May. Daily 9pm-4am. Music Café, New Park St, Braunstone Gate.

Rockets & Space Children's Day: 31st May. 11-3pm. Abbey Pumping St. *visitleicester.info/museums* Leic Farmers Mkt: 3rd June. City centre.

Uprising (Heavy rock day): 4th June. De Montfort Hall. From 3pm till late.

Riverside Festival: June 4/5th. Western Boulevard. **Diary of a Hounslow Girl:** 9th June. Upstairs At The Western. 7.30pm.

World Gin Day: 11th June. Nat Space Ctr. 7-11pm. Enderby Band: 19th June. WP bandstand. 3-4pm. Western Park Fest: 9th July. Western Park. 11-8pm. Email your event to: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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ALL OVER THE WORLD

The Foxes historic victory in the Premier League generated headlines across the world, eclipsing last year's reinternment of King Richard a hundred fold.

In West Leicester, Richard Wilson's stunning mural of Claudio Raniere pulled in not only Fleet Street but garnered world wide attention with TV crews and journalists flying in from as far afield as Japan.

Hundreds of fans already had their photos taken in front of the mural as their team tasted victory. Later thousands flooded the streets as Leicester beat Everton 3-1 and the biggest party the city has ever seen got underway.





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LEICESTER ABBEY

When Leicester Abbey was founded in or around 1140 it was quite a small scale Benedictine House. It soon developed a growing reputation for dispensing herbal medicines and caring for the sick as well as extending hospitality to strangers and illuminating and transcribing manuscripts.

The Abbey was however richly endowed with lands both in the Leicester area, including the large Ingarsby estate, near Houghton on the Hill, and even lands as far afield as the Peak District. Its growth was considerable and indeed the Abbot was for a time given a seat in Parliament.



This latter privilege was however relinquished and the Abbots were excused service in Parliament because of the "expense and trouble it entailed"!

A certain Abbot Penny was one of the most famous rulers of the Abbey and he went on in the year 1500 to become Bishop of Bangor and Carlisle.

Owing largely to its control of huge flocks of sheep and the wool trade throughout the county and beyond, by the early 1500's, Leicester Abbey had grown to be one of the wealthiest and most powerful of its kind. This would have been noted by no less a personage than King Henry 8th who was to visit Leicester in 1510, the first year of his reign.

For many people, the Abbey will forever be associated with Henry's later Chancellor, Cardinal Wolsey who, a dying man, came knocking at the door of the Abbey on a dark Saturday night in November 1530. He was buried the following Wednesday morning. The actual site of his grave is unknown.

A few years later the dissolution of the monasteries was in full swing. The remaining monks were pensioned off and the Abbey and its estates were passed to a Mr Cavendish. This Mr Cavendish went on to build a sizeable mansion on the site of the Abbey and it is the ruins of this great house we can see in Abbey Park to this day.

Roger Blackmore



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Half the country has just voted in local and mayoral elections. In Leicester we've scrawled a cross in the box for a new Police Commissioner. Democracy in action and Helen Knott likes it... sometimes.

KNOTT'S LANDING

I love an election me. I really like getting my polling card in the post, wandering over to the polling station and exercising my democratic rights. I know I don't make a great difference with my little tick in a box but it makes me feel good and it allows me to whinge and moan with impunity for the rest of the electoral cycle.

Shall we talk about how only 20 per cent of the electorate decided who our new police and crime commissioner is? Why the hell has my polling station moved from a convenient walk away to a blinking distance that requires the car? Did anyone actually get any campaign literature from the candidates themselves? Did anyone see a candidate in action? I swear there was more information out there about voting for someone in the Big Brother house than from the candidates in our most recent election. The presiding officer in my polling station was trying not to drop off as people wandered in looking confused asking where the exercise class was. I have to say though, that,

even loving elections as much as I do, I don't think I would have actually gone through with offering the country a referendum on whether to stay in Europe or leave it. David Cameron must have been having a god awful day if the only thing he could think of to do with his power as Prime Minister was to offer a referendum. Not only did he condemn us to waves of tedium never before known by the electorate, he basically pulled the

pin on the grenade and handed it to one of his fellow party members and said cheerfully "toss that in dear, it'll be interesting to see what happens". The actions of a man who has decided to retire.



Whatever the result of the referendum I can say with some authority that Eurovision generates more enthusiasm even though we know that Bill and Ben (whoever this year's pair are) will lose. There are also a healthy majority of people who will say that it's because of Eurovision they will vote to leave. This is democracy in action. It sucks. People make their decisions for the daftest reasons. You rarely get the result you want and mostly we all end up paying in some way for the result.



Now, where's my polling card again? Helen Knott



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Baking Dough!

On the evening of Friday 22nd April, as St. Anne's choir rehearsed, a group of local ladies transformed the church to hold a fundraiser in

aid of Tin Annie. The following morning, the doors were opened and 400 people attended to support the re-build of the community church hall and bridge the financial shortfall.

The event had delicious homemade baked goods, a cake competition, local stalls, children's fun games, a super raffle and two tombola's. Organisers Helen Pearce and Clair Robins, were delighted with the amount of wonderful tasty



items that appeared on the day to sell and the generosity of local companies, helping with raffle prizes. However, most of all they were stunned with the whopping amount of £1230 raised in under 3 hours. Clair and Helen want to say a big thank you to all involved and said "You never know we might ask you to 'get your bake on' again next year, after all we all love making and eating cake!"

Clair Robbins







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RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL

Leicester's Riverside Festival welcomes in summer on the 4th and 5th of June. As always it will be a lively weekend of activities for the whole family at Castle Gardens, Bede Park, Mile Straight & Western Boulevard.

It's full of attractions and activities, including market stalls, live music, decorated boats and arts activities. The festival, on between noon and 7.00pm, is expected to attract 15,000 over the weekend.

As well as the focus on the river, there is a general environmental theme to the festival, aiming to appeal to all age groups from across Leicester and Leicestershire.

More at: www.visitleicester.info/riversidefestival



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Then join the DMU Square Mile Community Choir!

Rehearsals take place every **Thursday from 11am-1pm** and the group welcomes anyone with a love of singing.

You do not need any experience to join and it is completely free! The choir rehearse at Fosse Neighbourhood Centre, Mantle Road, LE3 5HG.



Please contact the DMU Square Mile team for more information:

T: (0116) 257 7899 E: squaremile@dmu.ac.uk W: dmu.ac.uk/ dmusquaremile

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Secret Beer Club

Nearly 150 people made the trip up Glenfield Road to West Gate School for the first ever Secret Beer Club.

Organised by the Western Park Beer Festival team the ticket only event was aimed at bridging the gap between the Pop-up Pub in Tin Annie in March and the actual Western Park Beer Festival at Dovelands School in August.

Thirsty residents of Western Park and beyond descended on 32 barrels of carefully selected real ale and ciders in what proved to be another incredibly busy and successful evening.





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May Police Update

Firstly an update on the issue raised last month relating to the riding of motorcycles across Western Park. Following concentrated patrols this issue has significantly reduced but not totally gone away, we will continue to patrol the affected areas and prosecute offenders where applicable. Officers are routinely carrying body worn video cameras to capture images of the offenders.

Following the Easter break the Western Ward Neighbourhood Team have conducted regular patrols at drop off and pick up times outside local schools. This is to advise, educate and warn drivers about parking inappropriately. We have enlisted the assistance of the City Wardens and repeat offenders will be prosecuted. We are doing this for the safety of your children and not because we have nothing else better to do, as some people think.

At the end of March with the assistance of our colleagues from the Special Constabulary, we conducted an operation to tackle drivers speeding along Glenfield Road. We followed this up with a further operation at the end of April and plan further operations in the future. From these first two operations 17 drivers were reported for speeding and two vehicles were seized as they were being driven without any insurance.



On Monday 25th April a local teenage girl was sexually assaulted by a man in the Hinckley Road, Fosse Road South and Shaftesbury Road area of Leicester. The man is described as being light skinned and of mixed race, aged in his 40's, with short dark hair. He was wearing a knee length dark coat and grey shoes.

If you saw someone matching the man's description or you have any information relating to this incident please call 101 quoting incident number 607 of 25th April or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Additional patrols have been put in place to provide reassurance in the locality. *Andy Stevens*

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



Unless you've been living off world recently you'll have found it hard to avoid the celebrations for Leicester's band of footballing brothers. If you want to join in the furore you could dance through the streets with a traffic cone on your head while showing off your new Ranieri back tattoo. But if that's not your style why not say it with flowers?

Stocking your garden with blue bloomers wouldn't be hard but for such an achievement maybe a little more effort needs to go into the selection. Forget Fantastic Mr Fox, there are plenty of namesakes for our heroes. Foxgloves and Foxtail Lilies are pretty obvious namesakes, but what about *Festuca* glauce "Blue Fox", a lovely clump forming grass that stays neat and



compact. The plant world isn't short of blue foxes. There's *Veronica spicata* "Blue Fox" for flowering borders, or maybe *Pelargonium* "Blue Fox" for containers and summer bedding.

Maybe we can be even more inventive. If we're going to plant a Foxes appreciation garden we have to start with our last yet most dependable line of defence. For the safe hands of Casper Schmeichel we could have the Daylily "Dream keeper". In front of him are that tight back four. These could be represented by the bearded Iris "Bold Defender".

In the midfield is PFA Player of the Year Riyad Mahrez. This pocket sized Algerian player clings on in there, and is one of jewels in City's crown so Algerian Ivy, Hedera helix "Little Diamond" seems quite appropriate.

For the man upfront, *Viola* "Jamie". And since Mr Vardy is often said to be "having" one, what about *Passiflora* "Party Time".



Let's not forget Grannies' favourite, our *Digitalis purpurea,* "Silver Fox" from Rome. For the cool Italian maestro nothing sounds more suitable than the Peace Lily *Spathiphylum* "Sweet Claudio"! And as the motto most often used to described their performance this season surely the star plant in our Foxes garden should be *Primula auricula* "Fearless". **Tony Huxley**





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