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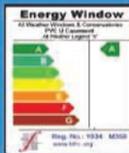


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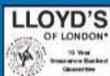
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Hello From The Editor

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

We celebrate the opening of Western Park's new community hall which rises phoenix like from the debris of Tin Annie on Letchworth Road, meanwhile the fate of the derelict buildings on Western Park is due to be announced. One local group is in the running alongside a Leicester based developer.

In our regular features; Roger Blackmore looks back at the career of one the city's most prominent Asian Head Teachers and former High Sheriff of Leicestershire; gardening expert, Tony Huxley, plant's a green idea or two and Mike Hooper from Hinckley Road Policing unit has his last update before he heads off to pastures new. Richard Perry scribbles away in Knott's Landing about a couple of the odd things he's seen on the interweb, the Square Mile Project have a ton of things happening in our area and we offer you the chance to win a family set of four tickets to Music in the Park at Wistow House and Maze.

And the ever present Sudoku and crossword lay in ambush on the inside pack page.

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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 Cafe: 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.

MU Charity Fashion Show: 17th May. Hall at St. Anne's. 7.30pm. £5 entry includes wine & nibbles.

A Clockwork Orange: 18-20th May. Curve.

Upstairs @ Western: Ordinary Days - 26/27th May Uncle Armando - 12th June. Find The Right Words - 14th June. Word - 17th June. Edinburg Preview show - 22nd June. Info: w.upstairsatthewestern.com

Pop-up Plant Sale: Sat 20th May. Woodgate corner. 10-12noon.

Gadjos: 26th May. WE Brewery. 8.00pm. Free.

Seusical Jr: 25-27 May. Sue Townsend Theatre. 7.30pm. w.leicestershiretheatregroup.co.uk

Glastonbudget: 26-28 May. w.glastonbudget.org

The Graduate: 30th May - 10th June. Curve.

Riverside Festival: 3/4 June. Western Boulevard.

Riverside After Party: 3rd June. Upstairs at the Western & Pi Bar. 6pm-Midnight

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

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

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Tin Annie Reborn

Over 120 local people crowded into the newly rebuilt St Anne's Hall on Letchworth Road to witness the official opening of the £380,000 project.

The huge nine month scheme was undertaken by local builder Paul Kilgannon (*Left pic with Rev'd Stephen Burnham*) from Henderson's and a team of contractors with the aim of constructing a future proof, state-of-the art community venue.

Once known as Tin Annie, due to its corrugated iron construction, the original 100 year old building had fallen into disrepair. Local people, along with the Diocese of Leicester, voluntarily raised the funds needed to build a modern community hall.

The official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 6th provided the opportunity for local people to meet up, take a look around the new hall and celebrate a considerable achievement with music, maypole dancing and a buffet.

Councillor Susan Barton (*Right pic*) said she was honoured to be asked to cut the ribbon and believed the new community hall would last at least as long as the original Tin Annie.

After the ribbon cutting, St Anne's Vicar, Stephen Burnham, and the Archdeacon of Leicester, Dr Tim Stratford, led short services of thanks.

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Freda Hussein - A Life Well Lived

It is just over a year since the death of Freda Hussein, former Principal of Moat Community College and former High Sheriff of Leicestershire.

Freda Hussein was born in Lahore in 1947, studied zoology at Manchester University and went on to become one of the most celebrated head teachers in our city.

She first came to Leicester in 1979 when she secured the post of Head of Physics at Sir Jonathan North Community College in Knighton. In 1991 she became Principal of Moat Community a post in which she achieved considerable distinction, so much so that some years later she was awarded an MBE for services to Education. In 2005, Ofsted described the work of the college as outstanding.



It was from 2004 to 2005 that Freda served as High Sheriff, attending a wide variety of functions all over the city and county. In 2006 she was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the county, and a couple of years later was awarded an Honorary degree by the University of Leicester.

Freda also became involved in numerous community activities, serving on a range of local organizations including the Leicestershire Economic Partnership. She also took a particular interest in the Special Olympics which proved such a success when held in Leicester.

Through a number of activities Freda, together with her husband, sought to promote intercultural understanding, believing this was key to harmonious relations in a modern society.

After an illness lasting several years Freda Hussein passed away in April of last year. In a tribute to her, City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby described her as "a remarkable woman who was quick-witted, warm and generous".

She left behind her, her husband Asaf, who was always very supportive of her work and also a daughter and granddaughter. She will also be fondly remembered by the many pupils who benefited from her educational work and teaching.

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KNOTT'S LANDING

There I was, feet up on the sofa, just geeking out on YouTube, looking at movie trailers when I discovered a couple of things that made me go; "What! - People do this? And they broadcast themselves doing it?" Before you think it was something naughty, it wasn't. It was odd though.

They're called 'reaction videos'. I must be getting old because I didn't realise that this was a thing or even could be a thing but basically they're shortish videos focusing on people's reactions to genre TV and movies. A bit like Gogglebox on a budget.

Anything from Dr Who through to the Walking Dead, Game of Thrones and the Marvel and DC Universes is fair game. They will sit, staring at a laptop screen, happily reacting away. Sometimes it's hands over mouth in shock, sometimes with a running commentary or hysterical crying at an emotional plot twist but it is oddly hypnotic. I've watched far too many.

A lot of the reactors seem to be young American women in their twenties and do this in their down time; in fact one is a laboratory chemist, others are at University or High school. Another couple from Norway record drunk reactions. It's all rather strange but they have thousands of avid followers who suggest shows for them to watch whilst getting sozzled.

Strange as this narcissistic scramble for YouTube Channel 'Thumbs-up' is, it's nothing compared to the

insane popularity of 'Unboxing' videos. This is exactly what it says on the box/tin/package. People YouTube themselves (Yes, 'YouTubing' is a verb now) opening boxes of stuff and reacting to what's inside.

Sometimes it's American students gagging out Marmite; no dear - don't eat a full dessert spoonful, or a Brit spitting out a Hershey Bar but it does have some actual worth. It shows a staggering difference in worldwide tastes and cultures. Who knew that the UK's favourite BBQ Beef crisps smell like dog chews to the American nose?

Is it all an utterly pointless ego trip? Not if you do it right. 'Unbox Therapy' has nearly 8 million subscribers. 3 million people watched Lewis Hilsenteger attack an Apple watch screen with a key, knife and sandpaper to see if it would scratch. Unsurprisingly the sandpaper eventually won but so did he. He, like others, makes money through the number of times adverts are viewed and often through indirect sponsorship. When millions watch your channel every week that income starts to mount up.

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Now, who wants to watch me unboxing 10,000 Gazettes? It's really boring though. **Richard Perry**



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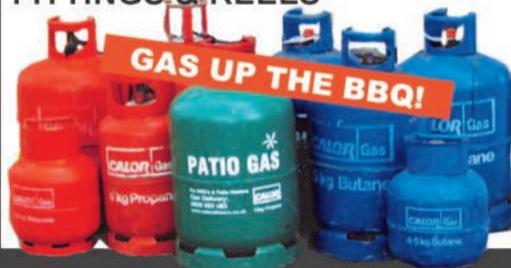
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This time, on Saturday, there's the added attraction of free rides in the Dragon Boats between 12 and 5pm with musical headliners Goldwater finishing off Saturday night's fun.

On Sunday the fun continues with music provided by Gateway College, Sing for water and headliner David Wyatt.

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Park Buildings-Decision Near

A LOCAL developer and community group could be working in partnership to revive land and empty buildings on Western Park.

Leicester City Council announced that two bids have been short listed for the purchase and redevelopment of two areas of land on Western Park which, between them, contain the former open-air school, and the Eco House.

The council put the land and buildings up for sale in June last year, with the aim of finding a buyer who would bring the sites back into use while respecting their history.

The buildings have stood empty for a number of years, and would need extensive refurbishment and partial rebuilding to be brought back to life.

One of the bids is from Leicester company Parmar Properties and Western Ward Community Enterprise (WWCE) and the other is solely from Parmar Properties.

Parmar Properties have successfully refurbished a number of historic buildings in the city including



the City Rooms on Hotel Street and promise to prioritise the refurbishment of the Grade II listed former school, transforming it into eight individual office spaces for let or for sale. They would then develop 20 two-storey houses on the other, bigger site – four of which would be affordable housing – and redevelop the Eco House for use as their own private offices.

Under the joint bid with Western Ward Community Enterprise, they would lease the Eco House to the community group on a 999-year lease, for a peppercorn rent.

WWCE would be responsible for raising funding to refurbish the Eco House. The building would be used for a variety of community purposes, including providing a base for the Western Park Freeriders, a group of volunteers who run the BMX and mountain bike track on the park.

WWCE Chair Person Anna McAuley said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for the people of the Western Ward. We are delighted to be one of the final two bids and hope that we can provide the necessary details to secure the joint business model with Palmer Properties as the winning bid!"

As part of this proposal, WWCE would also be given a 999-year lease for a detached classroom building at the southern end of the park site, from which they would operate a community café.

Got a story? Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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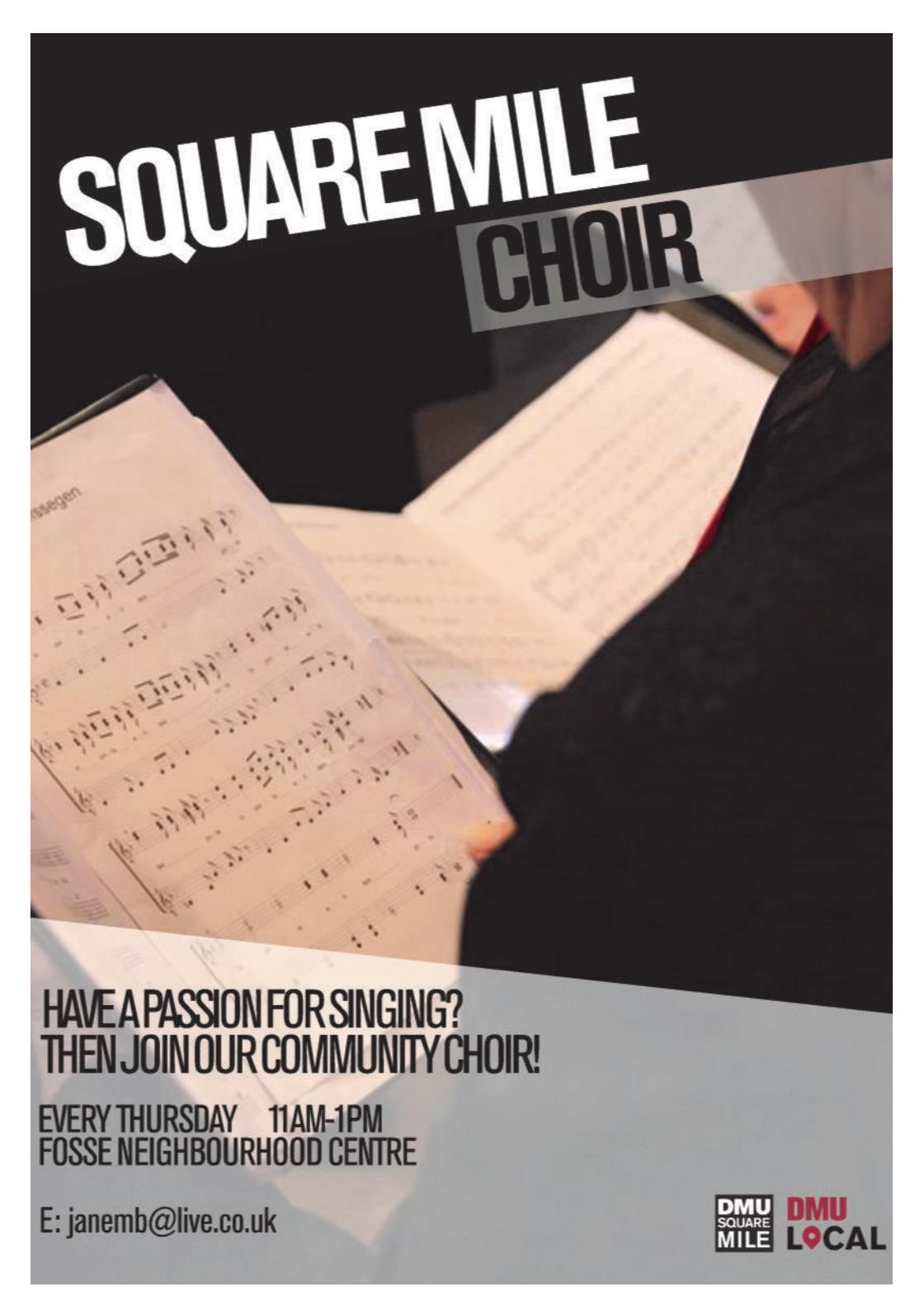
A photograph of a man in a red shirt and tie leaning over a table, engaged in a conversation with a woman wearing glasses and a dark jacket. The scene is set in a professional office environment with a grey wall in the background.

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Western Park Festival

The Western Park Festival returns to the park for another fun packed day on **Saturday 8th of July for its 6th year.**

Thousands are expected to enjoy the fun with family activities ranging from fairground rides to zorbing and from gourmet food stalls to real ales.

This year the RSPCA will be running a dog agility course and over 30 local musicians performing with the Kingsize Ska Band headlining in the evening.

More details on Western Park Festival 17's Facebook page.

GAS SUPERSTORE CLOSES

Once considered to be one of the UK's top online gas appliance retailers, The Gas Superstore on Hincley Road has shut following financial difficulties.

The company which was started in 1969 closed their West End shop and warehouse outlet in Coalville on 27th of April. Their website is also listing all products as unavailable.

No specific reason has been given for the closure.



Western Park Men's & Ladies Bowling Club

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May Police Update

Earlier this month we supported our city centre colleagues with the Royal visit by both The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh who attended Leicester Cathedral for the Maundy Service. A number of officers from West Leicester were involved in lining the streets, assisting with crowd control and ensuring the event passed safely. There were no reported incidents and we received words of thanks from Lady Gretton, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire for our efforts on the day.

We have had nine burglaries in the last month so we are urging residents to be cautious with securing their properties, as some of the burglaries have been committed after doors have been left unlocked. It is also common place during the warmer months that windows are left open and as such it adds to the potential for any opportunists in the area to break in. Once again we urge you to ensure that you windows and doors are locked. It is also important to remove the key from the back of the door, especially if there is a pane of glass next to it. If you see any suspicious behaviour then we encourage you to report it.

At around 01:00hrs on Sunday 2nd April we received the report of a Robbery on Tudor Road. The victim, who was near the STA coffee shop, when he was approached by two men who demanded his phone, wallet and watch, then assaulted him by kicking and punching him in the head. We were given a direction that they had run away in and officers began searching the area. A group of males were spotted near to King Richards Road, who promptly ran away. A male was detained who matched the description given by the victim and was promptly arrested. He remains on bail for this incident. We are still trying to identify a second suspect who is described as having a light complexion, in his late teens and around 5ft 6ins tall. He had short, dark, tight curled hair and was wearing a dark Parka style coat with fur around the hood. Anyone with any information is asked to contact us and quote number 17000137139.

I've sent a similar message before, however I'll be doing it again. I'm afraid I'm off to pastures new next month and as such this will be my last Gazette update. I've been offered a post at Hinckley and Blaby Neighbourhood Policing Area and will be moving away from West Leicester NPA and Hinckley Road next month. My replacement will be PS 2233 Mark Brennan who I'm sure will continue to look after the area in my place. It has been a pleasure to work on the area and I will have fond memories of my time here.

Sgt Mike Hooper

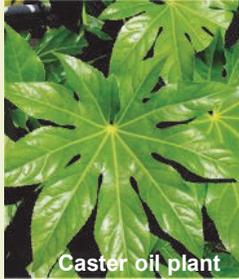
Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



It's been funny old weather so far this year. With the mild winter everything has come through weeks early. And while trying not to constantly bang the climate change drum; there are real and important consequences for domestic and commercial gardeners.

In the UK early spring harvests have meant a clash with foreign imports that Supermarkets had ordered months in advance. In the short term this glut has led to dramatic price reductions. But a 40p cauliflower today may mean a £1.40 cauliflower later in the season when there are no more available to harvest.

But the most immediate and visual problem I've encountered in the garden is frost damage. Today I noticed the frost had killed the new growth on a neighbour's Castor oil plant, *Fatsia japonica*, more effectively than a flame thrower could! The mild winter has caused

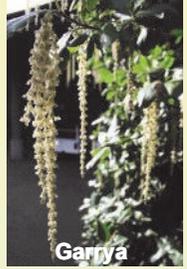


Castor oil plant

early and vigorous growth. A freak cold spell, like the one we've recently had, can damage this; even in hardy plants. Add to this the dry, withering winds, then it's not surprising that many plants are suffering. If the shoots of your favourite shrubs appear scorched, then this is most likely the reason.

You may also see black spotting on evergreen plants like *Camellia* and *Garrya*. Fortunately most perennials should survive. When the threat of further frosts subsides, cut out dead sections back to undamaged growth. Left in place, they could be the source of fungal infection. Apply a general fertilizer to encourage strong new growth. Even tender plants like canna and dahlia can recover from frost damage with a bit of TLC.

Unfortunately many soft fruit crops will have been lost. Some damaged fruit plants may recover enough to give a smaller, later crop, but don't expect to be stocking the larder with homemade jam this autumn. Grapevines seem to have been hit particularly hard so it could be a very tough year for domestic wine producers and those hardy souls who make their blackberry wine in plastic buckets at home.



Garrya

Tony Huxley



Martin Page

YOUR LOCAL TREE SURGEON

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1		2		3		4
5						
6						
7						

1 Across: This Sceptred Isle **1 Down:** Restful **2:** More than trots **3:** Rappels **4:** Somewhere to park the kids **5:** Showy **6:** Popular Holiday destination **7:** Intense appetite

© Paul Towers

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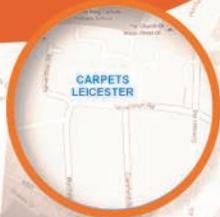
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