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A GOLDEN TICKET

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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the May edition of the Western Park Gazette.

This month we visit the Willi Wonka style chocolate factory which appeared at the New Park's Community Centre over Easter, we find out about the upcoming Westgate School Family Festival, there's the Hive update and it looks like the world famous football mural on Kate Street will be painted over.

In our regular features; Helen Knott contemplates draining a swimming pool to find her missing earrings, Roger Blackmore wanders among the trees, Emma Greasley has a few gardening hacks, Mark Brennan from Hinckley Road police has their regular update and we catch up with DMU's Square Mile Project and their very colourful Holi activities.

It's competition time! We have a pair of weekend camping tickets for the Glastonbudget Tribute and New Music Festival over the May Bank Holiday up for grabs.

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

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To Contact - Call 07939 115 724
 e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk
 e: sales@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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Events Diary

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 & Thurs - 8pm at St Anne's Hall. 07951 426 386

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

Dru Yoga Sessions with Emma: Sundays. 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.

DM Hall: 23rd May - Wallace & Gromit 24th May - One Night of Queen, 18 June - Paul Young.

Upstairs @ Western in May 24th - Tickled Pink, 29 & 30th - Above The Bear Pit, 31st - Rhymes Against Humanity, 5th June - Fernandez & Wheeler, 6th - Gothic Film Night, 7th - The Collaborators, 11th - Harry Harris.

Glastonbudget Fest: 24th-26th May. Turnpost Farm, Wymswold. Tickets - www.glastonbudget.org

Riverside Festival: 1st & 2nd June. Bede Park

Curve: 1st & 2nd June. Ian MacLellan on stage.

Little Theatre: 4-8th June Legally (Musical)

Bands in The Park: Sun 9th June. WP Bandstand.

WP Open Gardens: June 22nd. 2-6pm. Tickets £4 from Hall at St Anne's.

Haymarket Th: 20th-23rd June - Shrek (Musical)

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A GOLDEN TICKET

The New Parks Community Centre on St Oswalds Road was transformed the into a 'World of Pure Imagination' - a Willy Wonka extravaganza for the first Sunday of the school Easter break.

Manager Jo Randall and a merry bunch of thirty West Leicester Umpa lumpas recreated the atmosphere of Charlie's Chocolate Factory with the aim of creating more interest in the Community Hub.



Funding for the day was provided by Western Ward with enthusiastic local volunteers from across Western Park and New Parks creating the fantastic set from scratch and planning the activities. Soft Touch also offered a helping hand on the day.

210 children with golden tickets enjoyed the 4 room delight before receiving their golden egg. An amazing total of 420 people attended the event bringing

the community together for a truly magical day.

Jo and the team have achieved much in the short time she has been managing the Hub and this event just shows how many people can benefit from Community initiatives.

In addition to the prop making and craft group, there are a huge array of other regular groups, activities and clinics ran from the centre.

Jo and the team have more great plans for events and sessions throughout the year. From September they hope to launch, pending funding, Feel Fabulous Fridays for residents to attend and enjoy as well as free Well Being sessions to learn new skills and share ideas to help further improve the community feel-good factor.

A Halloween Scar Fest and Christmas Groto are also planned. If you would like to know more and are interested in getting involved at Hub - please call in to the Centre at St Oswalds Road LE3 6RJ or phone Tel 0116 2221072. You will always be greeted with a warm although possibly chocolaty smile!

Emma Harrison-Thompson

Email your stories: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk



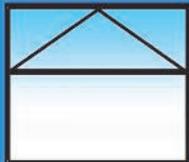
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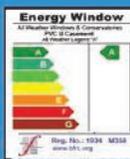
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MURAL TO BE OVERPAINTED

It took a month for London based artist Richard Wilson to paint, but it will take only hours to cover up after the new owner of the former Mark's Electrical showroom building on King Richard's Road decided to redeveloped the site into flats.

The Kate Street mural, which attracted world wide attention when it was completed to celebrate the Foxes winning the Premier League title in 2016, is set to be painted over, but that may not be the end of the iconic work.

Developer Steven Levy and Mark Smithson from Mark's Electrical have agreed to pay the artist to repaint the mural in a more prominent position closer to the Leicester City grounds.



Carshare New Members Drive

Woodgate is a car share club, which operates in the West End and Woodgate areas of Leicester.

If you can't afford your own vehicle, want to get rid of your car (or one of them), or just want to be greener; how about joining a car share club? Woodgate Car Share have a vehicle that they share between members.



It is a non-profit organisation which uses the money to keep the club running. There are fees to become a member and charges to use the car which can be booked online.

To become a member you need to live in the West End or Woodgate areas of Leicester and be over the age of 25 (for insurance reasons).

Email: woodgatecarshare@gmail.com or visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/woodgatecarshare/home>

Western Park Open Gardens

Sat 22nd of June from 2.00 to 6.00pm
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Forest Walks Festival

Our County has become famed for its various festivals in recent years. For instance the Leicester Comedy Festival has developed an international reputation. Our Riverside Festival has grown from relatively humble beginnings to become an ever popular summer event.

More recently the National Forest Walking Festival, part of which covers Leicestershire, was established 12 years ago (www.nationalforest.org) and now sponsors some hundred different walks under its auspices in May of each year.

Last year Hilary and I enjoyed several outings during the Festival period starting with a two and a half mile tree walk at Calke Abbey sponsored by the National Trust. The Trust also arranged an interesting walk around the gardens and woodlands at Stoneywell Cottage near Markfield, the former summer residence of the Gimson family.

(We also, independently, completed a walk from Ratby Burroughs and a three mile circuit of Thornton Reservoir, as a personal acknowledgement of this walking festival).



Walks vary in length from 10 miles to one mile Health Walks. This year they include several walks over the hills of Charnwood Forest and a number in the Bradgate area. Nordic Walking is also the focus of quite a number of walks this year, frequently with training for beginners. Another popular local walk which takes place every year is the farm walk from Achille Wood near Packington featuring bison on the route.

A couple of years ago we enjoyed a historical walk around Whitwick organized by the local history group. Another regular favourite is the walk from Thringstone, featuring a visit to the ruins of Grace Dieu Priory.

Walking Festivals have gained in popularity in recent years with some like the Isle of Wight Festival growing in size and scope year by year. The NF walking festival is worthy of support by the walkers of Leicestershire.

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KNOTT'S LANDING

I went on a bit of a journey the other day, the kind of journey movie characters go on. The one in the sequel where having discovered their superpower, they find suddenly it seems to desert them and they are left feeling empty.

I was away for a few days enjoying all that Cambridge has to offer. Yes I went in a punt! We had the good fortune to be in a hotel with a swimming pool so after a hard day of sightseeing I availed myself of a dip in the hotel pool. For YEARS I have worn the gold earrings my Dad bought me from travelling jewellery salesman Jimmy Wong in Hong Kong when I was a teenager. There is a matching necklace and it's almost like a security blanket now. I have worn the earrings while swimming in pools and the sea, I've worn them in hot tubs and while teaching swimming. They have never come out. Except this time I lost one in the water of this random hotel pool at 6.30pm.

Cue suppressed hysteria and a lot of swimming up and down the pool searching. Lots of random, kind people just out for a dip offered to help, giving up their exercise time to scour the bottom of the pool with me.

After half an hour I trod on something painful which turned out to be the back of my earring. Well at least we were sure that it was actually in the pool now. I had been starting to doubt my sanity and believe that maybe I had left it in my room. The search resumed

and people came and went - some even apologising because they had to go! We pulled all kinds of crap out of the pool. Glitter stars, tags, plasters and a surprising number of small pointy stones. It was getting late, 8pm now, my beloved child needed feeding and I was a human prune. A lady swam slowly up and down looking at the bottom of pool, her husband borrowed goggles to check the central drain cover, a good 6 or 7m away. Suddenly, in the yellow of some old grout there was a glint. With no goggles I couldn't really see so I did the only sensible thing and put my foot on it. It was sharp. Spiky! I shouted to the man with the goggles to come over. He dove down and fished out the spiky thing and there it was... My

earring! The people in the hot tub cheered. I will admit to hugging goggles man. It's weird hugging a nearly naked man you've known for 30 minutes but it seemed like the right thing to do. I hugged his wife too. She was pleased we'd found it. One of my helpers appeared from the sauna and cheered. Another guy came out of the changing rooms in his towel all smiles.. I put the earring in safely and after lots of thank yous, headed off for a very large gin.

My journey was complete, my faith in humanity reinforced and it's good to know that my super power is intact. I truly am the Finder of Things. **Helen Knott**



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WESTGATE FAMILY FESTIVAL

Unless you have a child with autism, it is unlikely you would be aware that every April is World Autism Awareness month. But as recognition increases across the globe, there has been an influx of information about autism and understanding for those who are affected. Whilst this is a positive start to accepting the unique and wonderful individuals who are on the spectrum, there are still limited opportunities for families affected by autism to socialise and enjoy the fun and inclusive activities that are available to other families. Each individual on the spectrum has their own skills, challenges and preferences and this can make traditional social events difficult to attend.

With this in mind, Friends of West Gate Association (Registered Charity No. 509175) has organised a spectacular community festival that supports special needs families, to be held on Saturday, 22nd June from 12-3pm at West Gate School in Leicester. The festival boasts an incredible afternoon of events tailored to the needs of those on the autistic spectrum whilst showcasing some of Leicestershire's outstanding local food, drink, artisan and children's entertainment vendors!



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"Special needs families are close to our charity's hearts and being 'aware' of autism is just the beginning of a much larger concept. Inclusion, support and understanding are essential to the process. These children are worth celebrating and we are so excited to be able to offer this festival for the first time." said Jennifer Norman, Chair of Friends of West Gate Association. She hopes the festival will inspire families to socialise, engage with local organisations and enjoy an afternoon of family fun together free from the obstacles that can make such events difficult for special needs families. West Gate Family Festival is free to attend, with a small fee for some activities and food. All proceeds from this event support the Friends of West Gate Association charity mission of funding new learning and play equipment for special needs pupils at West Gate School.

Jennifer Norman

FREE SATURDAY ART CLUB



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DMU
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Students Get Bede Park



Holi fest is the celebration of colours, celebrated in India every year. It derives from Hinduism and is about happiness and love. We worked with the DMU Indian Society, who provided the colourful powders and helped to supervise the event. Students, staff, and members of the public got involved, promoting unity and integration, as colour was let loose around the park.

The now-annual Holi festi-

val on Bede Park attracted more than 2,500 people and raised money to help the under-privileged in India.

The event is organised by De Montfort University Leicester and is a public event that was enjoyed by people in the area as well as students.

Around £1,000 was raised from the 'festival of colours' held throughout the afternoon and evening and that money will go to-



To Leicester in March and everyone had a blast!

DMU
LOCAL

Colourful For Holi Fest

wards projects in Ahmedabad, in India's Gujarat region, which has a special relationship with the university.

De Montfort University's Square Mile India project worked with the DMU Indian Society to put on the festival.

Colour powders were handed out free of charge to people arriving at Holi and people who then wanted extra paint powders had to pay a small charge.

A total of more than 60 kilograms of paint powder was handed out at the Holi festival.

Square Mile India project co-ordinator Chelsea Oliver said: "It turned out to be a fantastic event and, for once, the late March weather helped us out as it was a glorious afternoon and evening.

"It is such a nice event as everyone just has fun and all the different coloured paints such make the event so vibrant."





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GLASTONBUDGET IS BACK!

Leicestershire's biggest music festival returns over the May Bank Holiday for its 15th consecutive year with another classic line up of top tribute bands and up-and-coming Leicester bands.

Glastonbudget, the three day boogie-fest, between 24th and 26th May, is simply the biggest and best tribute and new music festival in the world with 140 acts, including dozens of original artists, doing what they do best across seven stages and three fields.

Leicester's best and brightest unsigned acts are heavily represented and cover many genres from metal to acoustic and from rap to ska, so whatever your tastes there's something for everyone.

Once again Turnpost Farm near Wymeswold hosts the world's best tribute acts. The legendary Queen tribute, Mercury, headline on Friday ably supported by solid sound-alikes Totally Tina, Kins of Leon, Antarctic Monkeys and Abba Revival. Saturday's Headliner is the Filers with A Whole Lot of DC, Paul Stone as Billy Idol and Pink! On Sunday experience the white rhinestone awesomeness of Elvis with Gordon



Davis right after Oasis, Mike Andrews as Robbie Williams & Fleetwood Back, The Kinks and Cure-heads whip up a storm.

If the music gets too much for you, there's also a huge beer tent and dozens of stalls, fairground rides and food outlets if you fancy taking a break from the nonstop tune-fest.

WIN TICKETS

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 23rd of May.

THE QUESTION

Email answer to this question to: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Which of these is **NOT** an AC/DC song?

- 1: Thunderstruck
- 2: Overkill
- 3: Who Made Who
- 4: You Shook Me All Night

T&Cs: Cut off date 23rd May, 1 winner. 1 entry per person, Tickets not transferable, No cash alternative. Judge's decision is final. Winner will be informed by email.



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GLASTONBUDGET

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THE BE BOP	Ballo On The Ocean	FINCHES OF ATTICA	THE SMOKE	Stobhen Mazzoli
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PROJECT

hive

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.**

Gaining charity status, it turns out, is not for the faint-hearted. It's a demanding process, which is long winded and, at times, frustrating. The WWCE team is currently endeavouring to dot the i's and cross the t's on our application. We believe being a charity will be of great benefit to the enormous task of fund raising for Project Hive and will give greater stability when the works are finished. We'll just keep reminding ourselves of that while the umpteenth page of questions loads on the application!

Our next steep learning curve will be the official start of crowd funding, which we had previously hoped would be early in the Spring. Things are looking positive for a September start when we hope that the relevant paperwork will be signed and sealed. It's been a long road from June 2016 to here, so our collective fingers are crossed that there isn't another delay.

Finally, just a quick reminder that the early bird discount for registering to enter the Western Park Scarecrow Trail ends at midnight on May 31st. Have you signed up yet?

Find out more about WWCE and Project Hive at our website projecthive.org.uk or on Facebook @wwceleicester

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May Police Update

Your local beat teams have been very busy in the past month leading to a number of enforcement warrants linked to drug activity. This has been based on valuable community information given to us by local people! Targeting drug activity has a big impact on reducing subsequent violence as well as anti-social behaviour linked to drug dealing in public places.

A Misuse of Drugs Act warrant was executed at a property in Paton Street where seven men were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs. Detective Inspector Richard Hiom said: "The community provided us with valuable information to allow this work to go ahead so I would like to thank those that came forward with information".

In another case; more than 100 cannabis plants have been recovered and three people have been arrested after officers executed a warrant on Ruby Street. Again this was based on information passed to police from members of the community that there may be a cannabis grow inside a disused commercial premises.

Finally Operation Lionheart has been targeting activity known as county lines, which is the movement of drugs in and out of Leicestershire. Over 130 drug search warrants have been completed across the county leading to multiple arrests and charges for those involved in supplying class A drugs. You can see a full update on the activity as well as video on the news page of our website <https://www.leics.police.uk>

Please continue to give us your information about drug activity in your area by contacting police or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 11.

A 33-year-old man has been charged after firearms officers were deployed to Western Park on April 29th.

The charges relate to an incident following a report of a man seen with a sword.

Igors Jefremovs, of no fixed address, has been charged with one count of possession of a bladed article in a public place and one count of possession of a class B drug.

Officers recovered a lock knife at the scene and it was established the sword was a plastic toy.

In other news the Leicestershire Police website has a brand new crime prevention information page. Follow the link from the home page of the website to find a whole host of crime prevention advice from industry specialists and police officers as to how you can prevent your chances of becoming a victim of crime. You can also report crime, road traffic incidents and anti-social behaviour on the website.

Please take the time to give it a look.

See you next month!

Sgt Mark Brennan

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



After Tony Huxley's inspired look at the many surprising horticultural uses for baking soda last month, I thought I would investigate 'gardening hacks'.

Simple off the wall ideas to make gardening easier or cheaper can't be a bad thing and let's face it; if there's a short cut - use it.

So with 'work smart - not hard' and a 'penny saved is a penny earned' as mottos, here we go!

Turn an old toilet roll into bio degradable seedling pot by just forming it into a squarish shape, making 4 cuts in one end and folding them together. Voila! Or how about using half an orange or lemon rind as a starter? Poke a hole in the bottom for drainage, add some potting soil, a couple of seeds and a little water. When they've sprouted transplant them in the garden and the peel will act as compost. You can actually do the same with a carefully peeled eggshell if you're taking things to the extreme



or you can even crush egg shell into a powder to sprinkle in the garden for a calcium boost.

If you have problems with starting seeds, or serious available space issues, how about a really small greenhouse? All that's needed is a 2 litre lemonade bottle. Cut the base away and take off the labels but leave the top on. Then place it snugly inside the rim of the plant pot. Your very own micro greenhouse!

There's a very easy way to make your own organic weed killer; it takes just two ingredients and a spray gun. White vinegar and a little washing up liquid. The washing up liquid helps the vinegar stick to leaves but remember this is a pretty indiscriminate plant killer, so watch where you point it.

If you're away for few days and are concerned about keeping the indoor plants watered, then fear not because the answer lays with paper towels... Soak a good handful, without breaking them, and put them a draining board. Then place the plant pots on top. The towels retain moisture and spread it out allowing plants to drink.

Fresh herbs are great at any time of the year, but why would you head to the supermarket for them when you can grow your own and freeze them? Just fold a few leaves and put them in an ice tray, fill with water and freeze or blend them with olive oil and freeze. Works well for basil, chives, lemon balm, mint and tarragon.

Emily Greasley

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BRAIN TAZERS

1		2		3		4
5						
6						
7				8		

1 Across: Bunch of flowers **1 Down:** Illuminated from behind **2:** Guitar-like instrument **3:** Offence **4:** Leaver worked by foot **5:** Apple **6:** Direction to where the wind blows **7:** Sounds like a T **8:** ... of the tiger © Paul Towers

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

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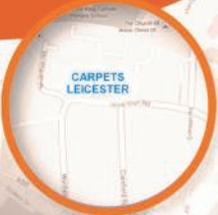


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