



No 22 May 2011 [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)  
News and Views for Western Park • Westcotes • The Fosse

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CIRCULATION



## Hello From The Editor

April sees the Royal Wedding of Billy and Katy and there's a Bank Holiday, so it was the ideal time to make a few changes.

We have combined the Western Park and Fosse Way Gazettes into one magazine and upped the circulation to 10,000.

All this means is your favourite community magazine goes even further! We still have Helen Knott's giant tantrums, Roger Blackmore still digs into Leicester's historical archive and Tony Huxley will continue to stick his green fingers in your plant pots.

The other features remain, from the Hinckley Road policing update though to the gadget news, and we're reaching more homes in the area.

Contributions are always welcome, so if you've ever fancied writing for a magazine or you have some local news, please get in touch.

And if you're new to the Gazette, visit the back issues at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk).

Have a great Bank Holiday and enjoy the wedding!

Sharon e: [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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Virtual Venture



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## Events Diary

**Zumba Class** Tues 6.45-7.45 & 8-9.00pm at New College. Call Sarah 07810 307 113.

**Free Computer Courses:** Westcotes Library: 0116 299 5510.

**Mumday Mondays:** Free children's craft activities, John Lewis, High Cross. Weekly.

**Western Park Bowls Open Day:** 1 & 22nd May. Western Park.

**Peter Doherty:** 4th May. 02 Academy. 7pm. £18.

**Talula Blue's Burlesque Show:** 6th May. The Musician. 8pm. £7.00 on the door.

**Absurd Person Singular:** 6th-28th May. Curve.

**May the Forth Be With You:** 14th May. Star Wars fun. Space Centre. 10-5pm. £11.00 and £13.00.

**British Pink Floyd Show:** 9th May. DeMontfort Hall.

**The Levellers:** 12th May. O2 Academy. £23.00.

**Shaolin Warriors:** 12th May. DeMontfort Hall.

**Leicester's Historic Old Town:** 14th May. Guided walk and talk from Newark Houses. 10-4pm. Free.

**Funfair:** 13th-21st May. Western Park.

**Tony Christie:** 17th May. DeMontfort Hall.

**Rainbows Walk of Life:** 21st May. Victoria Park and Knighton Park.

**Mr Stink:** 26th May - 4th June. Premier at Curve.

**Summer Food and Drink Festival:** Sun 29th. Leicester Market. Free.

**Belle and Sebastian:** 2nd June. DeMontfort Hall.

## Events in the Parish

St. Anne's, St. Paul's and St. Augustine's

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

**Mon - Fri** Sandhurst Playgroup 285 7440.

**Mon:** 5.30 - 7.00pm: W.E.A. Yoga 255 6614.

7.15 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi. Call Rick 285 5159.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tues:** 2.00 - 4.00pm: Mothers' Union Speakers

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tues:** 7.30 - 9.30pm: W.P. Gardening Club.

**Wed:** 5.00 - 8.00pm: Weightwatchers.

**Wed:** 8.00 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi with Rick.

**1<sup>st</sup> Wed:** 2.30 - 4.00pm: Wednesday Club.

**4<sup>th</sup> Wed:** 7.00 - 9.00pm: Mothers' Union Speakers.

**Thurs:** 9.00 - 10.00am: Pilates for fitness.

1.30 - 3.30pm: Pram Club. (Term time)

6.30 - 8.00pm: Rebounder Aerobics

**Fri:** 10.00am: Coffee Morning.

**1<sup>st</sup> Fri:** 1.30 - 1.00pm: Lunch club.

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

**Tuesdays** 10.00am: Mums and Toddlers & 1.30

pm: Over 60's Club. (**St. Paul's**)

**Thurs 5th May:** 7.30-9pm: Journey through the Gospel of Mark, St. Anne's Church. 5 weeks.

**Sat 14th May:** 10-12: Coffee Morning for CHRISTIAN AID, 10-2 Table-top sale at St. Paul's Worship Centre & 2-4 Book Sale in St. Anne's Church Hall.

**Sat 21st May:** 7.30pm: Fish and chip supper in St. Anne's Hall.

## Church *OF THE MARTYRS*

**MAY EVENTS** Westcotes Drive Leicester

Tomatoes Cafe church with live music Sat May 14<sup>th</sup> and Sat 28<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm Shake Rattle & Roll for babies toddlers & carers every Thursday 9.30-11.30am. More details at [www.martyres.org.uk](http://www.martyres.org.uk)

## Parish of St. Peter

21 Hinckley Road Leicester

Details of events and services can be found on line at [www.stpetersleicester.org.uk](http://www.stpetersleicester.org.uk)

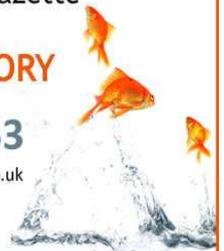
## Make a Splash!

In The Western Park Gazette

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# Open Gardens 2011

June sees the return for the very successful Open Gardens Event.

During the weekend of the 11th and 12th of June, over 20 gardens in Western Park will be open to the public.

It's your chance to visit some stunning gardens and perhaps pick up a few ideas along the way.

Cream teas, live music, garden bric-a-brac, gardening books, quizzes and plant sales are all taking place, raising money for LOROS and the St. Anne's Hall rebuilding project.

Tickets and programmes are available on the day from St. Anne's Hall and are £3.00 for one day or £5.00 for both days – under 15's free.



# Roger Blackmore Retires

**Popular local Councillor, former Leicester City Council Leader and Lord Mayor, Roger Blackmore, retires from public life after the May 5th Local Election.**

After 53 years in politics, a Parliamentary candidate on six occasions and Western Park Councillor for the last 18 years, Councillor Blackmore is calling a halt to his political life before he hits his landmark 70th birthday.

He rates his political high points as the arrival of the John Lewis regeneration scheme and the Building Schools for the Future Project.

Roger intends to spend his free time indulging his passion for photography, rambling and writing.



Roger Blackmore at his last ward meeting

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**Westcotes, The Fosse and Further**  
Keep us up to date with news and views from Westcotes, Newfoundpool, Fosse Road and the Tudor Road area.

If you're holding an event or have some community news, drop us a line and we'll do our best to include it in the next issue.

email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk or click our website [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

Or by post to

Editor c/o 62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester, LE3 0UA

## COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

**Fosse Cllrs Surgery** Monthly, last Mon (6-7pm) and 2nd Wed (5.30-6.30pm) Fosse Neighborhood Centre.

**Westcotes Cllrs Surgeries** Westcotes Library, 1st Sat each month, 10.30 - 11.30am and 3rd Fri each month, 5.30 - 6.30pm. West End Neighborhood Centre, 4th Tues each month 1.30 - 2.30pm.

**Western Park Cllr's Surgery** Monthly-2nd Thursday, St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 7-8.00pm.

*The Wedding of William and Kate sparked Roger Blackmore to examine Leicester's sometimes bloody royal history.*

## LEICESTER'S ROYAL HISTORY

**Following the Norman Conquest of 1066, Hugh de Grantsmil was appointed Governor of Leicester.** It was he who built the first Castle in the town, but later fell out with King Henry the First who drove the Governor out of the town and destroyed the castle.

History nearly repeated itself some years later when a new Governor foolishly championed the cause of Queen Eleanor against her husband, Henry 2nd, who in 1173, laid siege to Leicester - the town which he then sacked and burned, slaughtering a large number of its inhabitants. This particular King Henry did not do things by halves.

After a period in the doldrums Leicester rose to prominence once again, firstly in the time of Simon De Montfort in the 11th Century, and later in the days of John of Gaunt during the late 1300's. Indeed it was Gaunt's grandson, eventually Henry 6th, who on one of his many visits to Leicester, received his knighthood in a ceremony at St Mary de Castro.

In the 15th Century, Leicester took the Yorkist side during the Wars of the Roses. The last Yorkist monarch, Richard 3rd, visited the town twice; the second occasion being on the eve of the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. It was this historic event, of course, that ushered in the age of the Tudors.

One must assume that Leicester followed the short rise and rapid fall of Lady Jane Grey of Bradgate with some interest. Highly educated, she was never theless, the victim of political scheming, leading her to occupy the throne for 9 days before being beheaded for high treason. She was later regarded a political victim and martyr, but the rest of the Tudor period brought relative calm to Leicester.

King James 1st came with his wife and family on a four day visit shortly after his coronation in 1567 and made several more visits to Leicester thereafter. However the city fathers found these visits rather too costly and it was not long before further royal visits were not exactly encouraged.

In the Civil War (1642-1651) Leicester declared for Parliament, (The Roundheads) but during the hostilities, both King Charles, who once lodged at Aylestone, and Prince Rupert found themselves in the town.

There have, of course, been numerous royal visits to the City since those days. I well recall the present Queen riding in a motorcade along Wyngate

Drive sometime in the early seventies and also welcoming her to the National Space Centre a few years ago when I was Leader of the Council No doubt it will not be too long before the newest royal newly weds make an official visit to our City.



9 Day Queen-Lady Jane Grey

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*"Supporting Business and Loving Life In  
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*A Royal Wedding unleashes a tidal wave of tat! Our  
own permanently enraged Helen Knott went to find  
some...*

# KNOTT'S LANDING

*Helen Knott*

**So another Royal Wedding marches towards us dressed up in its best frock of pageantry, royalism and good cheer. I'm no great fan of the monarchy but then I'm not going to be a stick in the mud about it either.** I wish them nothing but good luck and happiness and I don't mind having the day off, but I'm not going to go mad and celebrate unless the Royal Family offer to babysit my little one for the evening so I can go out for a nice meal with my husband. You know the sort, a meal where no-one throws food or wears a bib. That offer, along with my invitation to the wedding, is in the post!

Given that most of the country appears to have the entire second half of April off, (did you realize that for three days of holiday allowance you could get 11 days off? We did, but only in February when everyone else had already booked it off and husband's work had stopped anyone else doing

## VOTE for ALICE'S SAKE

**Nearly 150 years after her birth, Alice Hawkins, of Mantle Road, now has her own place on YouTube.**

A shoe worker and mother of six, she was a tireless campaigner for women's rights, addressing major open air rallies and was jailed five times for her beliefs, including a spell in Holloway Prison.

Her great grandson, Peter Barratt, has spent years researching her life and collecting memorabilia, says: "Alice's is the story of one woman's fight for the most basic of human rights; the right to vote." The results can be seen by searching for Alice Hawkins on YouTube, or by visiting - [www.alicesuffragette.co.uk](http://www.alicesuffragette.co.uk)



it.) and there will be blanket TV, radio and newspaper coverage it does seem that I cannot escape. I can't even go shopping because of the royal wedding tat for sale in every emporium, high and low end. Boden, makers of lovely clothes who have a large warehouse on the Meridian, sent me a catalogue recently with Royal Wedding bingo cards on the front for you to use during the ceremony. You can print more at their website. Sainsburys is filled with royal wedding stuff. T-shirts with crowns on them in sequins! I've seen cushions with union jacks and crowns on them, all the usual plates and mugs, and even a knit your own royal family pattern. The Early Learning Centre has a set of Royal Wedding Happyland Characters including corgis and a carriage. I haven't been in John Lewis but I suspect bunting may be involved.

Resistance is futile and so I shall be buying one piece of Royal Wedding tat, a white t-shirt with the slogan "It should have been me".

Internet Tat at it's Best!



Royal Pez Dispenser!

# Gazette Competition

Here's a royal treat of a competition! If you like your traditional fish and chips, we've teamed up with Fat Fish on Fosse Road North to offer you a sumptuous fish and chip meal for four.

Correctly answer the question below and you could be another Gazette winner!

Joseph Malin opened the first fish and chip shop in London, but in which year?

1. 1560
2. 1760
3. 1860
4. 1960

Closing date May 15th 2011.

Answers to [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk) or by post to Editor c/o RapsCALLion Media, 62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester, LE3 0UA.

You can also enter on line.

*One correct answer picked at random, no cash alternative, prize cannot be used with another offer, editor's decision is final.*

## Eye Protection from the Summer Sun

**Damaging ultra violet rays radiate directly from the sun, but they are also reflected from the ground, from water, snow, sand and other bright surfaces.**

Long-term exposure to UV rays can lead to cataracts, macular degeneration or skin cancer around the eyelids

A wide brimmed hat or cap will block about half of UV rays but eyewear that absorbs UV rays gives the most protection.

All types of eyewear, including prescription and non-prescription glasses, contact lenses and lens implants, should absorb UV-A and UV-B rays. For UV protection in everyday eyewear, there are several options like UV-blocking lens materials, coatings and photochromic lenses.

In bright weather, sunglasses should be worn when you are outdoors; but choose carefully. Opt for glasses that reduce glare, filter out 99-100% of UV rays, are comfortable and do not distort colours.

Children are at special risk, so ensure the sunglasses are undamaged and fit. The lenses should be large enough to shield the eyes from most angles, be tough and impact resistant.

And always check the labels! *S.I Opticals Sponsored Article*

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## Western Park Band Stand

Summer is on the way and once again the bandstand on Western Park will play host to some traditional afternoon's entertainment.

All the concerts start at 3.00 pm and end at 4.30.pm.

**Youthbrass 2000:** 1st May.

**Syston Scout and Guide Band:** 3rd July.

**Hathern Brass Band:** 17th July.

**Peter Crebbin's Cool Trad Jazz Band:** 31st July.

**Enderby Brass Band:** 21st August.

**Praise on the Park:** 4th Sept - 4.pm-5.30pm  
(Music from St. Anne's Church)



# May Police Update

**Police will be concentrating on stopping speeding motorists** along main roads including Hinckley Road, Glenfield Road, Letchworth Road and Henley Road, between 8am and 11pm.

Illegal parking on zigzag lines outside Dove-lands, and Christ the King Schools on between 8.30-9.10am and 3-3.45pm, Monday to Friday, term times.

**A 20 year old man was robbed of his Samsung Vegas mobile phone, cigarettes and loose change** outside the main gates of Western Park at around 9am on Sunday March 27th.

The unshaven offender, who headed off towards the railway bridge, is described as 5ft 8in tall, 20 to 25 years old, of broad to medium build with distinctive protruding cheekbones, discoloured teeth and a rough complexion.

He was wearing a grey hooded Nike top and white trainers.

PC 4643 Anne Williams would like hear from anyone travelling along Hinckley Road who might have witnessed the incident.

**Police are appealing for witnesses after a woman was indecently assaulted on Nar-**

**borough Road** between 3.35pm and 3.50pm on Tuesday March 22, when the 21-year old victim was standing at the bus stop near to the junction of Briton Street.

Both suspects are of Asian appearance and in their early to mid twenties. One had upper gold teeth, acne and spoke with a West midlands Accent and the other wore dark clothing and sunglasses.

Detective Chris Webster would like to hear from you if you saw two men matching that description at that time on Narborough Road.

**A large amount of cigarettes and cash were stolen during a burglary** at a premises on Blackbird Road in the early morning of Sunday April 17th.

It is thought two men forced their way into the back of the premises, damaging fuse boxes and security lights. One of the men has been described as being of large build and was wearing a grey hooded top, black balaclava with white stitching across the centre. The second has been described as being of medium build and was wearing all black and a balaclava. Contact PC 3022 Paul Brown if you can help.

Call 0116 222 222 and follow the instructions.

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## Election Day May 5th

**This is one of the most important elections in 100 years.** Not only can we take our pick of 45 local candidates across our West Leicester wards, but we elect the city's first Mayor from a list of 11 contenders. Importantly, we could change the national political landscape for ever by voting in the referendum for A.V or the alternative voting system, which would replace the current 'first past the post' system of electing the House of Commons.

This is only the second time a referendum has been held in Britain in our entire history. It is also the first time there is the chance to vote for an elected Mayor of Leicester.

There are currently 12 elected Mayors in England, but referendums are being held in four cities to abolish the post.

You can find a list of Councillor and Mayoral candidates and links to the for and against AV lobbies at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)



A communications revolution has almost, but not quite, slipped under most people's radar. Richard Perry gets to grips with Skype...

## Nice Box - What's in it? Richard Perry

It already has over 660 million registered users and is a bit like the traditional Windows Messenger Service on steroids – welcome to the world of Skype!

This is a software application which lets you make voice calls and video chat with your contacts also on the Skype system.

Skype to Skype is free to use, unless you're buying into the high use multi function business applications. It became popular for the additional features including instant messaging, file transfer, and video conferencing, but calls to mobiles or landlines are charged by direct debit.

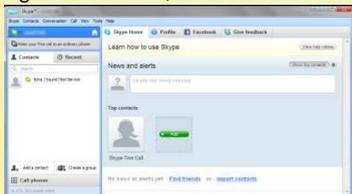
Skype-to-Skype calls accounted for 13% of all international call minutes in 2009 that's a total of 54 billion Skype calls; clearly making a hole in traditional telecom businesses.

It's a very flexible "Peer to Peer" system which makes use of background processing on home computers, running Skype software, instead of the traditional client-server system.

Registered users are identified by a unique name, and can be listed in the Skype directory. Skype allows these users to communicate through both instant messaging and voice chat between pairs of users and conference calling. Skype's text chat allows group chats, emoticons, storing chat history, offline messaging and editing of previous messages. All the usual features familiar to instant messaging users, like user profiles, online status indicators, and so on, are also included.

Last year, they released an application allowing Facebook users to text, chat or call to their friends as well as the facility to allow Skype calls to be made on an iPhone over the 3G network.

It might sound a little complicated, but it's easier than it sounds. To use it, make sure you have a web cam and voice capability, install the software and off you go, but remember you can only connect with people also on the Skype network, anything else will cost, so read the instructions!



## Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



For just about every noteworthy event and person there is a plant, and Royal events are no exception.

This year you can show your patriotism for longer than a Chinese made plastic Union Jack takes to fade, by cultivating a plant with Royal pedigree to remind you of the special occasion for years to come.

Papaver orientale or "Royal Wedding" says it all. This large perennial poppy has snowy white petals that sometimes have the faintest hint of pink which contrast with the black markings at the centre. It may struggle to flower by April 29<sup>th</sup> but it should be in bloom soon after.



Papaver orientale

What could be more regal than a rose? So it's no surprise that one is being released for the happy event. "Catherine" is a *floribunda* rose with a bushy habit that has been bred to commemorate the wedding. Not only does it acknowledge the soon-to-be Royal bride but also the day of the event, St. Catherine's day. It has soft pink blooms, and will continue to flower until the first winter frosts, which may also mark the end of the honeymoon period. It's being sold exclusively by that famous purveyor of regal artefacts, Focus DIY.

If you want a male counterpart, why not pair it with a variety of *Amelanchier canadensis* (also laughing-ly know as a Chuckleberry) called "Prince William". You could also refer to the royal lineage by including "Prince Charles" Clematis, a deciduous variety with violet-blue flowers, or a "Prince Charles" shrub rose that has stunning deep red blooms. When it comes to varieties named after William's mother you're spoilt for choice. You could pick from



*alstromeria*, *fuchsia*, roses or even "Lady Di" runner beans.

What of future Royal weddings? There's a Hydrangea called "Harry's Pink Topper". Maybe someone could develop a ginger variety?

# BRAIN *TAZERS*

1. Add one letter to the start of each word. When completed, the name of a country can be read downwards.

- \_\_\_ ndeed
- \_\_\_ ractor
- \_\_\_ rches
- \_\_\_ ate
- \_\_\_ omp

2. Take the missing letters from the alphabet below to make up the missing word

A B C D E F G H J K L M O Q T U V W X Y Z

3. If Paris is 1600 miles away from you, Berlin is 200 miles away and Madrid is 1300 mile away – How far away is Leicester?

4. Put a five letter word at the end of the words below to form four longer words.

Bomb, Egg, Sea, Tortoise.

5. What letter should appear next in the Sequence?

B, F, J, P.

Answers at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

# SODUKU

		2			3			6
1					4	5		
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9				3		7	6	
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