



OH THE HORROR!



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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the November edition of the Western Park Gazette.

West Leicester erupted with all manner of walking dead, vampires, ghosts and ghouls over the Halloween weekend. A double whammy as the grown-ups came out to play on Saturday night while the kids' held off until after school on Monday evening. As always we were there with the camera to catch all the spooky doings.

Our main story is the fate of the buildings on Western Park as the city council mulls over their future. The local community group are hoping their bid is the best of three, but time will tell.

As Christmas approaches, Helen Knott raids her cupboard, for now is the time to get the dried fruit out for a particular Yuletide delicacy. Roger Blackmore traces the Leicestershire connection to the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685, Mike Hooper has the latest local policing update and Tony Huxley has advice about poking holes in the lawn. He thinks you should do it.

Finally, the Sudoku and crossword lie in wait on the inside back page.

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If you've got a local news story then email:

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Published by Rapsallion Media
62 Ainsdale Rd
Leicester LE3 0UA

Printed by Flexpress Ltd
6 Coal Cart Road, Interchange,
Birstall, Leicester, LE4 3YB



Events Diary

Pub Quiz: Monthly last Tues. WE Brewery Braunstone Gate. 8-10pm.
Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band: 1st Sun Monthly. Café Chino at Hilton Hotel, Meridian. 1-3.30pm
Thursday 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.
Westfield Gallery: Mon-Sat. 81 Westfield Rd. Call 0116 285 8548 to view.
Rough Justice: 14-19 Nov. Little Theatre. 7.30pm.
Mr. Poppers Penguins: 15-20 Nov. Curve. 4.30pm.
Mission Starlight: 19 Nov. Space Centre. 10-5pm
Catherine Tate Show: 21 Nov. DMH. 7.30pm.
Jools Holland: 24th Nov. DMH. 7.30pm.
Xmas That'll Be The Day: 25 Nov. DMH. 7.30pm
Xmas Craft Fair: 26/27 Nov. Guildhall. 11-4pm. Free.
Grease: 26 Nov-14 Jan. Curve. 7.30pm.
Summer Holiday (musical): Little Theatre. 7.30
Westival: 26/27 Nov. Braunstone Gate. Entertainment in the bars Sat eve & street market & activities Sun.
Katie Melua: 28 Nov. DMH. 7.00pm
Xmas Ghost Stories: 29 Nov. Guildhall. 8pm.
Carol Concert for Menphys: 2 Dec. DMH. 7.15pm.
St. Anne's Winter Fair: 3 Dec. DMH. 10-12noon at St. Anne's Church. Free Entry.
Jack & The Beanstalk. 10 Dec - Jan 3. DMH.
Sleeping Beauty: 16 Dec - 8 Jan. Little Theatre.
Gilbert No Sullivan: 16/17 Dec. Upstairs At The Western. 7.30pm.

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WESTERN PARK DEVELOPS

The future of two sites on Western Park still hangs in the balance as Leicester City Council mulls over which of three bids will provide a sustainable solution to the derelict buildings at the edge of the park, including the Eco House and the Grade II listed Open Air School.

The three bidders; the Eco community bid, Western Park residents community bid and a local developer have submitted detailed, long term business plans to show how they would raise the money to renovate and finance their projects, in particular the Open Air School.



Given the size of the development, The Western Park residents bidders say their 'makeshift' committee felt: 'We should explore a potential partnership with the developer to put forward a more economically viable and sustainable option that might be taken more seriously. This possibility was always been subject to consultation with the community'.

At a public meeting on 12th October, the votes from five options were counted with the majority of the community in favour of a partnership with the developer.

Meeting organisers say: 'This supports our view that this is the only viable option for our community and should enable us to positively influence the development on the edge of our beautiful park whilst ensuring we secure community space for generations to come'.

A formal committee, The Western Ward Community Enterprise (WWCE), is now in place with members originally in support of this option and who could take on an active role in a complex process.

The committee is due to launch a regularly updated website and community consultation evenings will be held at critical stages along the way.

It still remains to be seen whether this, or any bid, will be accepted.

To find out more email: info@wwce.org.uk



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With A Rebel Yell

It is June 1685. A young son of King Charles II has landed at Lyme Regis in Dorset and is laying claim to the throne of England. Following the death of his father, three months earlier, this popular but illegitimate son is raising troops and marching towards Bristol in a revolution to overthrow his uncle King James II. James Scott, The First Duke of Monmouth, is on the warpath.

What did all this have to do with Leicester? I hear you ask. The answer is more than you think. The Government of King James II was very worried that the rebellion might spread. If it did, then fears grew that there might be considerable support for such an uprising amongst the people of Leicestershire in particular. The Lord Lieutenant's men were alerted and within days, various suspects were being taken into custody or in the words of the time 'fetched in'. In total 21 individuals were imprisoned and 12 fetched in.

I am grateful to an article in the current edition of the Leicestershire Historian by Alan Betteridge which describes how these suspected trouble-makers were rounded up. Many were connected to nonconformist sects and included ministers of religion thought to be hostile to the rule of King James. One of those imprisoned was William Inge of Knighton, who came from quite a well to do

family.

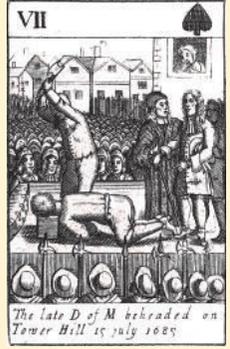
The revolt itself came to an ill-fated end in Somerset at the Battle of Sedgemoor and a few days later its leader, Monmouth, was captured hiding in a barn, and soon executed for treason at the infamous Tower Hill on the 15th of July.

The Leicestershire suspects were all quickly released as the initial panic died down. The citizens of Leicester even held a victory bonfire to celebrate the failure of the rebellion and no doubt to prove their loyalty at the same time.

Others were not so fortunate. After the defeat at Sedgemoor, the last pitched battle ever fought on English soil, they were arrested and sentenced either to death or transportation by Judge Jefferies in what became known as the 'Bloody Assizes'.

As West Country people, six Blackmore's fought at Sedgemoor, all on the rebel side. At least one was executed and two transported. My Leicestershire ancestors, as far as I know, did not get involved.

Roger Blackmore



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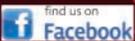


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KNOTT'S LANDING

The clocks have gone back, the evenings are getting darker by the day so it must be time to make the Christmas pudding. There is nothing worse than a pudding that hasn't had time to 'mature', a Christmas cake that hasn't been fed enough booze, a plum bread that hasn't had five weeks to 'settle'. These are all crimes against Christmas food and my ancestors wait ready to disapprove should I commit any of them. A good thing, then, that I've got a reminder set into my iPhone calendar so I know when I've got to get onto it. Others of my acquaintance make their cakes in October, because it's how their family remember, others make big batches of puddings two years at a time when the kids go back to school and leave them to 'mature' hidden at the back of cupboards.

I did wonder how people remembered stuff like this before the days of calendars, diaries, paper or sync'd Google and iPhone and it turns out the ladies of the past had a secret weapon.

Stir Up Sunday. The day when mothers teach their kids the family recipes for the puddings and cakes, when everyone gets a go with the wooden spoon and there is much bowl licking to be done! It turns out that the rigid structure of the Church has some uses beyond spiritual. Every Sunday there is a set

collect or prayer. It's been the same prayers on the same days for centuries and one week before Advent, five weeks before Christmas it could almost have been written to remind cooks to make the pudding.

'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded...'

Those clever ladies and gents remembered when to make their puddings, cakes and plum bread thanks to a prayer they knew they would hear year in year out, because let's face it, back in history everyone went to church. It's kind of like knowing to make your puddings because the Strictly Come Dancing semi-final is on TV or the John Lewis Christmas advert has been shown, except none of these things are as reliable! Who knows when the BBC may be forced by politicians to only produce news and 'educational' shows or John Lewis don't have enough cash for an advertising extravaganza, or heaven forbid.. my iPhone is old tech and no longer works. Just in case you were wondering.

Stir up Sunday is November 20th. Wooden spoons at the ready



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OH THE HORROR!

West Leicester was awash with ghosts, ghouls and zombies over the Halloween weekend as young and old got into the swing of the annual spooky do!

School children, local businesses, shops and pubs all got into the spirit of the occasion.

Strangely, nobody in Donald Trump masks... Maybe next year.

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ROAD SAFETY WEEK



The local Traffic Action Group in Western Park has been encouraging schools in the area to take part in Road Safety Week. It is hoped that Shafsbury, Inglehurst, Christ the King and Dovelands Primary schools will all take part in the national campaign between 21-27th November.

Road safety is a vital life skill for children and young people. It's a subject even the youngest know something about.

Everyone uses roads and road danger impacts on everyone. National road safety charity Brake says: "Road crashes are a major cause of death and injury among the young. The risk rises as children reach secondary school age and have more independence with young drivers and passengers facing significant risks."



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C is for choice and campaigning (how to make safer choices and to help others make these choices too)

Dovelands children will be having whole class in-depth discussions about road safety. They will be holding a writing competition "What I love about walking to school" across the year groups.

Christ the King have had all of the infant children out with the LA Road Safety Team to teach them how to cross the road safely and talking about the importance of road safety whilst walking to school. They will be continuing to promote safe walking to school.

Christine Holton

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Nov Police Update

We have been extremely busy across the force recently with two critical incidents in the city centre and the tragic news from Hinckley concerning the deaths of two boys and their father. We have also had to help police the Diwali celebrations, as well as Halloween and Bonfire night. During this we have also been occupied across the county assisting our colleagues from other teams in dealing with these incidents and events.

The most important news from West Leicester, is the incident in Bede Park on the morning of Saturday 29th October. Subsequently a 32 year old male has been charged with a number of offences including three counts of rape, one count of assault ABH, sexual touching, assault by penetration, attempted theft, theft and robbery. Following on from this, NPA Commander Insp Rob Randell attended a patch walk across Bede Park, along with counsellors, CCTV managers and Parks Officers; who will all be looking at measures to review the safety of the park.

We have been working hard to drive down the number of burglaries across West Leicester. In the last seven days alone we have significantly reduced the number of burglaries in comparison to other areas of the county. In the weekend 4th November alone we have made two arrests for burglaries from two different incidents. We are rolling out our Darker Nights campaign, which can be found on the website at: www.leics.police.uk/categories/darker-nights This is designed to encourage residents to keep their households secure and to keep a light on to deter any opportunists in the area.

Finally, our #LivesNotKnives campaign continues, with an amnesty bin located at all city centre police stations. We are encouraging people to hand in knives to the bins, without the fear of prosecution, in an attempt to reduce the number of knife related incidents. This week we have had fifteen bladed articles, including a samurai sword brought into the Hinckley Road Police Station; notably this collection here...



Sgt Mike Hooper

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



This year the autumn colours have been breath-taking. I'm told this is due to the unusually dry weather we've had. I can't prove this theory but I know I'll be clearing up vast quantities of leaves for the next month! While it's tempting to let nature mulch the beds and borders, it's important to remove any leaf build up on the lawn. This can leave the turf patchy and grass bare. The simplest method is to mow them off. This minces up the leaves perfectly for composting. If you've used any lawn treatments make sure it's safe to compost the clippings. Some products have a residual action that can affect the plants you use the subsequent compost on.



I'm often asked if you should mow a lawn during the winter. A lawn should be mown whenever it

needs it, just avoid doing so when it's waterlogged or frozen. Set your mower a little higher to save churning up the soggy winter ground and leaving the slower growing grass a bit more length to photosynthesise with.

A mossy or thatch ridden lawn would benefit from scarifying. Half an hour with a spring rake on a Winter's day is great exercise. Work in lines up and down the lawn, remembering to change arms regularly or you'll be visiting the physio. If that sounds like hard work mechanical scarifiers are quite cheap to buy and larger machines can be rented.



If your lawn is prone to waterlogging or suffers from compaction try aerating the ground with a garden fork or hollow tiner, or hiring a mechanical version. This can improve drainage and the grasses ability to root better. Top-dress with sharp sand or a mixture of sieved topsoil. Then sit back with a cuppa and watch squirrels, cats, birds, and foxes dig holes in your masterpiece.

Next month, how to make squirrel, cat, bird, and fox pie!

Tony Huxley



Martin Page

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4			5		
6					
7					

1 Across: Guido's pyre **1 Down:** Tebbit's mode of transport **2:** Closest **3:** Expelled **4:** Religious bowl **5:** Internal **6:** Conker **7:** Walked inside.

© Paul Towers

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