

No. 97 Nov 2017 www.westernparkgazette.co.uk News & Views for Western Park • Westcotes • The Fosse







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#### Hello From The Editor

Welcome to November's Western Park Gazette and this month...

The Season of Goodwill begins its inexorable crawl towards us signalled by hundreds of small people dressed up as monsters and ghouls roaming the streets of West Leicester. No Donald Trump masks as we predicted last year, which was a shame. As always we captured the atmosphere for our traditional Halloween photo special. We also headed out to catch the grown-ups at play. Some of the make-up is getting very creative, even if white contact lenses are a little too freaky!

Apart from our regular features from Helen Knott, Roger Blackmore, Tony Huxley, DMU's Square Mile Project and the police; Fullhurst Community College is set for a major expansion, Western Ward Community Enterprise held their first fundraiser pumpkin roll at Western Park as they start to raise money to refurbish the park buildings and we're encouraged to recycle with ReFiesta!

Unsurprisingly - the Sudoku and crossword inhabit the inside pack page ready frustrate you!

A special thanks to the contributors and advertisers who make the Western park Gazette possible.

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#### Published by Rapscallion Media 62 Ainsdale Rd Leicester LE3 0UA

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



## **Events Diary**

Fosse Coop Camera Club: Fri. St Peter's Ch Centre, Westholme St. 7.30pm. fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk 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 Café: Thurs 7-8.30pm. Tues, Fri & Sat 11-3pm. WE Centre. Andrewes St. Coffee Mornings: Fridays 10-12 noon. St Anne's Hall. Relaxed Dru Yoga Sessions with Emma: Sunday's 7.15 - 8.30pm. St Anne's Hall. 07393 811150. Leic Vegan Fair: 18th Nov. Fullhurst CC. 10.30-4.00pm. Free entry.

Upstairs At The Western: 18th Nov - The Murderer. 20th Nov - Uncle Armando, 24th Nov - Frankenstein Man or Monster.

Stand-Up Comedy Night & Bar: 18th Nov. Hall at St. Anne's, Letchworth Rd. 8.30pm.

Scrooge: 18<sup>th</sup> Nov-7<sup>th</sup>Jan. Curve Theatre. Jools Holland: 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. DM Hall. 7.30pm. Dirty Rotten Scoundrels: 21-25<sup>th</sup> Nov. Little Theatre. 7.30pm.

Leicester's Xmas Lights Switch-on: 23rd Nov. The Vaudevillians: 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. Y Theatre. 8.00pm. That'll Be The Day Xmas Show: 24th Nov. DM Hall.7.30pm.

The Snow Dragon: 28<sup>th</sup> Nov – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. George's Marvellous Medicine: 9<sup>th</sup> Dec-20<sup>th</sup> Jan at Curve. Winter Fair: 2nd Dec Hall at St Anne's 1-12noon Beauty & The Beast: 16th Dec-2nd Jan. DM Hall.

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#### **A FULLER FULLHURST** Designs Revealed For School Expansion

Fullhurst Community College, in Imperial Avenue, plans to expand into the vacant site formerly occupied by Ellesmere College.

It's part of Leicester City Council's plans to invest up to £90million in a major programme of school expansion, including building a new primary school in the Waterside area, as well as extending a number of other city secondary schools.

The former Ellesmere College site is very close to Fullhurst's current campus and would become a base for years 7-8. This would mean the school could extend its capacity, from 900 to 1,500 pupils by 2019/20.

The new facility, designed by local architects Maber, would cover 5,000 square metres, and would include refurbishment and extension of the current building as well as the construction of a new teaching block.

The state of the art teaching accommodation would be constructed by Willmott Dixon and would include 21 new classrooms, three science labs, a music room, food technology facilities and a drama studio.

There will also be external landscaping, with car parking and play areas, plus a courtyard with al fresco dining facilities.

The project is set to cost around £14million, some of which will be funded by the council's Basic Need

allocation from the Department for Education.

Deputy City Mayor with responsibility for education and Westcotes Councillor, Sarah Russell, said: "This is a really exciting opportunity for Fullhurst and a great chance to provide extra places at a popular and successful school. It also gives a new lease of life to a building that was standing empty.



Steve Piggot, principal of Fullhurst Community College, said: "The learning environment is vitally important for both students and staff. Getting these state of the art new facilities will not only allow us to welcome more new students to our school, it will also help us to continue to raise standards."

Should it be approved at the Dec 10th Planning Meeting, work to clear the site would begin before the end of the year, to allow construction work to start in January 2018.



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#### ADA LOVELACE - TECH ICON

Ada Lovelace was an outstanding pioneer of computer science. Her portrait, some suggest, would be most appropriate to feature on a future British banknote.

Born in 1815, the year of Waterloo, Augusta Ada Byron was the only legitimate child of the famous, many would argue notorious, poet Lord Byron. However within a few weeks of the child's birth, in order to escape from her philandering husband, Ada's mother fled to her parents' home in Leicestershire. Ada never saw her father again. For the early years of her life she lived at Kirkby Mallory the home today of the famous racing circuit and fishery.

Her mother, Anabella, herself a gifted mathematician, encouraged her daughter to take a keen interest in science and mathematics. She insisted tutors engage the girl in meticulous study with the aim of preventing the manic behaviour and mood swings which afflicted her father.

Ada showed great talent in mathematics and languages and by the time she was seventeen met and became friends with the inventor, Charles Babbage, and helped develop "the Analytical Engine" a kind of prototype computer. Babbage called her "the enchantress of numbers" and Prince Albert himself took a keen interest in her work. As a talented mathematician she became the world's first computer programmer, or as some have suggested - the

world's first de-bugger, having found an error in Babbage's calculations. Her translation and additions to an Italian article about Babbage's machine had vital consequences to Britain's war effort a century later. Indeed so valuable was her work that in the 1940's Professor Alan Turing was inspired by her notes in his work on the first modern computer, "Colossus" at Bletchley Park and elsewhere.

Ada had a full life outside science. When she was twenty she married William King with whom she had three children. King was a wealthy landowner in west Leicestershire who became the first Earl of Lovelace. She also



developed a peculiar interest in developing a mathematical gambling system which spectacularly failed and resulted in her husband bailing her out.

Ada Lovelace died of cancer at the tragically young age of 36. A monument to her memory can be found at the churchyard at Kirkby Mallory Church, although she was buried at Hucknall in Nottinghamshire, next to her father.

Every October an Ada Lovelace Day is held to commemorate the life and work of this extraordinary woman. A "science cabaret" event is held in London, here in Leicestershire and across the country where a number of children are given special classes in science and computing, in celebration of her life and work. **Roger Blackmore** 



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## **KNOTT'S LANDING**

I am suffering from coffee machine rage. Usually I both love and need a cup of coffee. Years as a media type have meant that unless I'm fully caffeinated there is no point talking to me. Whatever you say is going to slosh around in my mental junk file and if you are lucky I'll sort through it in a month. Hit me when I'm two cups in and you have my full attention and ALL the skillz!

As a self defence mechanism, I have shifted my preference to tea so that the caffeine hit is not too strong but some days, only the roasted bean will do.

We have been through various incarnations of the coffee machine. There was the lengthy period when I bought a



second hand Gaggia and we managed; then we moved on to grinding our own beans and a different coffee machine; now we are at the pod stage. This is where the rage comes in: I try, in my own little way, to be a bit eco friendly but the pods are coming for me. They are made of either plastic or aluminium depending on your machine and NONE

of them are recyclable locally because they are mixed materials. Metal or plastic film lid, damp coffee grinds and then a metal or plastic pot. Oh the posh ones, you can put in a bag and send off to the company that makes them for recycling..... although quite what that means no-one is clear; or you can bin them. I have nightmares about being buried under a pile of pods. Future generations finding my caffeinated husk screaming in horror as they cover me. I try to twist that round and have the CEO of Nespresso in the same position for his crimes against Mother Earth.

My coffee machine clarth, makes coffee but I then found my Dad's machine makes milky coffee and he has to use two pods for each cup and my blood pressure went up again. I tweeted angry thoughts to the makers. They didn't respond. I sat and had a cup of tea safe in the knowledge that it's all recyclable. Oh wait. They make tea bags



with plastic now. It's an EU directive. All Saino's bags have it in. Bangs head against the wall and rummages wildly for cafetiere... Much muttering. *Helen Knott* 





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## Join The ReFIESTA!

We are two local people from the West End who would like to share a new voluntary project that we are involved in, ReFIESTA!

Our goal is to inspire behaviour change for a greener city and a cleaner planet through working with Leicester's festivals and events, and we are delighted to be working with the Western Park Festival among others!

We support local events to bring in changes, big and small, to reduce their environmental impact and encourage sustainable behaviours among punters. We are here to show that sustainability doesn't have to be hard work or get in the way of a having a good time!

We were at Western Park Festival in 2017 for the first time, and this year we are hoping to up our game and provide a real crockery and washingup service for people who want to Ditch The Disposables! We are currently recruiting more volunteers to join our team, both to help on the day and working with festivals throughout the year, so please get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

#### Join The Party!

Love Festivals? Love the planet? We are looking for people to help with Western Park Festival, Leicester Comedy Festival and other events in

Leicester. ReFIESTA is run with the energy and expertise of volunteers. We do it for the love of the environment... And any excuse for a good old knees up! There are many ways to get involved with ReFIESTA. Not everything requires longterm commitment. Give us a bell to find out more! Look forward to seeing you at Western Park Festival and other local events across the year, if not before! **Mel and Sally** 



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## VOTE WWCE!

Never mind X Factor or Britain's Got Talent, put your cross in a box that actually counts. Forget the juggling dog or pogo dancing pensioners; go to *https.community-fund.aviva.uk* and support the Western Ward Community Enterprise's efforts to renovate the disused buildings in Western Park. They aim to provide a much needed community hub for the people within the Western Ward

Fundraising efforts to raise the £300,000 needed have only just started. WWCE are within an inch of getting £1000 from the Aviva Community Fund but they need more people to show their support online. If they get enough votes from friends, family and supporters in the community the project is entered into the Finals, where a judging panel will award the funds.

Log in and register at https://communityfund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-6553

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#### Community Use for Western Park Buildings

A group of very excited people are making plans to renovate part of the Western Park Open Air School and Eco-house to be run by and for the community. The refurbished community space will provide new opportunities for the local community. Some ideas are: a cafe for Park visitors; space for artists and creatives; community groups; music studios; a place for young people, older people, mums and dads to meet and socialise. These are just a few of the ideas for what might happen there. Perhaps you have a few ideas of your own to share!

Western Ward Community Enterprise (WWCE) has worked really hard to reach this point, but there's a long way still to go and even more hard work ahead, most importantly fund raising to get the project off the ground. Building work alone could cost £250,000! Funding opportunities are being



followed up at present, but there will also be organised community fundraising events in the local area. WWCE is being set up as a charity so everyone involved is a volunteer.

This is a long term project: a fantastic opportunity to create some great community initiatives in this area.



So how can you help? If you are keen to help with fundraising or are an expert at writing funding bid applications, WWCE would love to hear from you. Any offer of help will be very welcome.

WWCE will keep people informed on progress through the Western Park Gazette, our Facebook page and website. At key milestones throughout the project, WWCE will hold public meetings.

Keep an eye open for publicity about our fundraising activities and come along! WWCE would love to meet you and hear your ideas.

Contacts: E: info@wwce.org.uk, Facebook @wwce2017, Twitter@wwceorguk

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### **Community Speed Watch:**

The Traffic Action Group who are tackling bad parking and driving around the Letchworth Road/ Glenfield Road junction, particularly during a school week have outlined their plans over the next few weeks:

They say: "The signs are up on Westfield Road and Glenfield Road near the sites for the first phase of the Community Speed Watch. We'll be out with the camera soon. We would welcome some more volunteers for this.

"Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Lord Willy Bach will visit on Tuesday 14th November from 15.30. He will look round the area to see the traffic issues we experience on a daily basis. We have booked St Anne's Church from 4.30pm so come along and let him know your views. We are hoping the 20 mph consultant will be there too.

"20MPH Zone - We understand the consultant will start in November. Look out for more information on our Facebook page.

MP Liz Kendall - visiting on Friday 24th November at 3pm. We will meet near St Anne's Church and look round the area. If you see us stop and chat."

Improvements to the crossing has already cause some drivers problems. Within a few days of the work being completed, it appears a vehicle collided with the railings.

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#### THE GREAT PUMPKIN ROLL

A huge and over-whelming thank you to everyone who support the first ever Western Ward Community Enterprise fundraising

event! We weren't sure how many people would turn up and enter, but you did us and our community proud! Over 100 people of all ages entered the Pumpkin Rolling races on Western Park and in total we estimate there were approximately 250 people attending our event. As well as a fantastic turn out, there was such



a wonderful community vibe, full of fun, excitement, familiar and new faces: this is what makes the Western Ward community different from so many others! In total, we raised £365!!! All community money raised will go towards the cost of renovating the park buildings and create a much needed community space.

We would like to thank so many people, from the volunteer event marshals and people who helped set-up, to people who baked cakes, plus generous donations from the Tesco Community Fund, Star Bucks, Morrison's, Lidl and beautiful rosettes donated by Bird Brook Rosettes and Quality Rosettes! This helped to make the event such a success!

#### Anna McAuley

#### WATERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Plans for a new 900 pupil, £13 million school on Fosse Road North are moving forward with a neighbouring school site earmarked for conversion into an early years centre.

It is proposed that the new Waterside Primary School will create an additional 400 pupil places on top of those currently offered at nearby Slater and Fosse primary schools, which will be brought together in the new school.

Plans will also be developed for the refurbishment of the existing Fosse Primary School site, which will provide extended early years provision and the foundation stage for Waterside Primary School.

Over £90 million will have to be invested in education to cope with an increased demand for school places.

The council is leading a major programme to regenerate the Waterside area of the city as a thriving neighbourhood and a great place to live.

A first phase will deliver over 300 new homes and 5,500sqm of office space, along with new parks and green space, and bring an anticipated £45million of private investment into the area.

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## Nov Police Update

Police in West Leicester, particularly the Westcotes & New Parks areas have seen a rise in house burglary over the previous few weeks. We have put additional patrols in place in response to this which has led to a number of key arrests of individuals and these investigations continue. We will continue to provide additional visibility in an effort to prevent further offending but please let us know if you see anything or anyone suspicious.

As always your help is required to ensure doors and windows are secure, side gates locked and general crime prevention is considered. This includes removing anything valuable from vehicles. If you need further assistance or advice get in touch with your local neighbourhood officer or PCSO.

The Fosse Ward team have executed a number of warrants at addresses on Kate St in October. Two people remain under investigation for drug offences.

I would also encourage residents living in Newfoundpool to report any sightings of a man barred from Pool Road, Ruby Street, Rowan Street and Ivanhoe Street. 46 year old Garry Pick from New Parks has been banned by Court Order from the above roads until July 26



next year following an injunction taken out by the Riverside Housing Association and Leicester Police.

A man from West Leicester has been jailed along with another for nearly 20 years between them after they were found guilty of a serious assault in King Street last year. 20 year old Kyle Feveriere from Glenfield Road was jailed for 12 years after he was convicted of wounding with intent and possession of a bladed article.

Officers will be on Buckminster Road on Nov 25th from 12-2pm visiting residents to identify policing issues and at St Anne's on December 8th from 10-12noon for a Beat Surgery.

All the local Neighbourhood teams continue to work hard responding to the issues you raise so please continue to engage with us either in person, 101 or via the phone numbers / links provided on the Leicestershire Police website under 'Local Policing'. If anyone has any further information on who is committing criminal offences or Anti-Social Behaviour then you can ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or speak to any of your local Neighbourhood team in confidence. Sgt Spencer Dyer

### Tony Huxley's **Compost Corner**

#### I was recently asked by a customer to "put the garden to bed". Over the

Years I've come to realise that, while some plants may enter a near dormant state, the garden as whole is never truly asleep. Even when nothing appears to be happening on the surface, underground bulbs are starting to push up next year's flower spikes and the buds on shrubs and trees are slowly forming and expanding, ready to burst into activity in the spring. But what this phrase often implies is the scything down of everything and raking the soil clean to leave an earthen desert.

I shy away from this excessive neatness and tidiness (my wife would say I carry on that approach indoors as well!). I like seeing the frost covered old flower heads of fennel Miscanthus and catching the winter sun, or the black birds rooting through the leaf litter. If cutting everything to ground Winter Miscanthus



level at the first hint of winter was such a horticultural benefit, plants would have evolved a way to do this. Leaving the stems on herbaceous plants provides extra frost protection. Green growth above ground means there's still a valuable food store to be absorbed back into the roots, bulbs, corms and rhizomes.

The trick is to remove the old growth at the right time. With plants like Hemerocallis. Crocosmia and most ornamental grasses, I wait until the old growth comes away with the lightest pull. With Sedum spectabile I leave the flower heads on until late spring when the worst frosts have passed.



Plants like Cannas, dahlias and hardy banana plants need the protection that a mulch provides, and where possible I use as much of the abundant and free leaf litter as I can find, and it's a great soil improver and weed suppressant.

So before you give the whole garden a buzz cut you may want to consider giving the reigns to nature and enjoy the fading summer embers.

Tony Huxley

All of Tony's Compost Corners are available to view on-line in the Gazette's PDF Archive.



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**1 Across**: Firework food **1 Down**: US hotel luggage carrier **2**: Sister **3**: Snake-like fish **4**: Fairy tale sleep maker **5**: Wool fat **6**: Courageous action **7**: Ewe's mate. © *Paul Towers* 

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