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# Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the Gazette's November edition.  
 The slippery slide to Yule is now upon us, heralded by the onslaught that is Halloween, Bonfire Night and Diwali!

Halloween in West Leicester was even bigger with families roaming the streets like ghoulish but friendly muggers, so we were out catching the atmosphere.

Never one to rest on his laurels when there's a party to be had, Ray Cooper at the Crows Nest quite simply tore the sky a new one with a huge free Bonfire Night party. Over a thousand there!

In our regular features: Roger Blackmore, who is a former teacher at Charles Keene CFE, casts an eye over the history of Leicestershire's three universities. Helen Knott is right at the end of her tether as Christmas approaches - nothing new there; our gardening guru, Tony Huxley, dangles from a giant conifer and Sergeant Mark Brennan from Hinckley Road police has their regular update.

The Sudoku and Crossword lurk on the back page.

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# Events Diary

**Fosse Co-op Camera Club:** Fri. St Peter's Ch Centre, Westholme St. 7.30pm. [fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk](http://fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk)  
**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.  
**Walking Group:** Sundays. 2pm. 96 Deg. B-Gate.  
**Dru Yoga Sessions with Emma:** Sun. 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.  
**Upstairs at the Western: Rhymes Against Humanity** - 23rd Nov, **Music in the Dark** - 4th Dec, **Film Noir** - 5th Dec, **Now. Here. This.** - 5th Dec to 22nd Dec (Various dates) **Demon Theatre Showcase** - 11th Dec, **Uncle Armando** - 12th Dec, **Find the Right Words** - 19th Dec.  
**Curve Theatre: White Christmas** - 6th Dec to 13th Jan. **Cat in the Hat** - 8th Dec to 12th Jan.  
**De Mont Hall: Australian Pink Floyd** 27th Nov, **Jools Holland's R & B Orchestra** 28/29 Nov, **Kevin Bridges** 30th Nov/ 1st Dec, **Decon Blue** 2nd Dec, **Human League** 4th Dec, **Bootleg Beatles** 8th Dec, **Peter Pan** 15th Dec to 1th Jan.  
**Rum & Reggae:** Sat 27th Oct. Hall at St Anne's. 6-11pm. £4.00 OTD.  
**Diwali Lights:** Oct 28th, 3-9pm, Cossington St Rec.  
**Mother Goose:** Little Theatre, 14th Dec-6th Jan.  
**Treasure Island:** Haymarket Theatre. 13 Dec- Jan 6.

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# OFF LIKE A ROCKET!

Remember, remember the 5th of November... And over a thousand revellers did as Glenfield Road East became the centre of a giant fireworks party hosted by the Crows Nest.

In what is now an annual tradition, the Crow's manager Ray Cooper, aided and abetted by Leicester Fireworks on Narborough Road, puts on a free firework display on November 5th for pub regulars and the community.

It's the biggest free firework display in the city and along with the bangs; burgers and entertainment, probably the best so don't miss it next year!



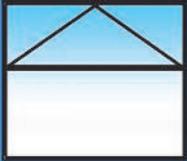
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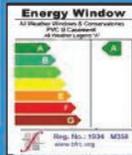
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## UNIVERSITY CHALLENGERS

Leicestershire is, as far as I know, the only English county outside London to boast no fewer than three distinctive Universities.

The University of Leicester is unique in that it has its origins in an institution that was conceived as a memorial in to the war dead in 1918. A group of city notables supported the plan for a university college, bearing the Latin motto: "ut vitam habeant" or, "that they may have life".

Slowly this began to take shape on a site on Victoria Road, which was later to become University Road. Much of the work was carried out during his time as Principal by a certain Mr Attenborough, the father of Richard and David. One of these boys was to spend many hours studying bugs, beetles and wildlife, in and around Welford Road Cemetery.

De Montfort University is a more recent creation. This grew out of the renowned Leicester "Art and Tech" which over the years developed provision in a wide range of specialities including fashion, art and design, and law. In 1975 this became one of the thirty new Polytechnics, created by the Government. In the early nineties, Leicester Polytechnic was to become De Montfort University and it began expanding its campus in the Mill Lane area of the City, providing a huge addition to the student population.

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DMU campus

Nine miles up the road, in Loughborough, the local colleges were also developing fast, especially in areas such as engineering and sports studies. Loughborough University had started life as the Loughborough Technical Institute in 1909, and became a fully fledged University in 1966. The new University developed a large site on the west side of the town, where it soon became the largest employer in the district.

Each of our three county universities has gone on to develop its own specialisms. Leicester University Local History and Archaeological Departments recently gained international fame with the discovery of the remains of Richard 111, De Montfort caters for pharmacists from all over the world and Loughborough is renowned for producing world class Olympic athletes.

Not a bad record! **Roger Blackmore**

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# KNOTT'S LANDING

Holidays are coming. I should be full of festive joy but actually I'm dead inside. Seriously, how can I feel joyful when I'm midway through a full-on marathon to the festive season? Full disclosure here, my main gripe is with the school holidays but I'm also pretty peeved that someone fired the starting gun in October, before the fireworks from Bonfire night and the Diwali snacks were put away.

Half term was early for various non-sensical council based reasons. This left me with eight weeks until the big day. Eight weeks of work, only a few weeks until all the 'jolly japes' of the works Christmas do. Eight weeks of school for the little people. It should be noted that after about five weeks they start to fray at the edges, after seven weeks, their teachers hit the wine hard, after eight weeks I expect to see the zombie apocalypse erupt from outside school on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

As a parent, breaking up on that Friday is bloody outrageous. It basically means I've got two days to

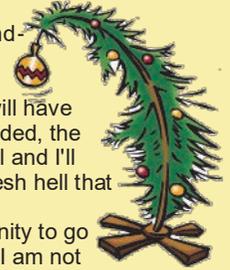
prep for the big day. Monday 24<sup>th</sup> is a day to get nothing done. The children will be so tired they'll be like tiny slavering Tasmanian devils and we'll all have to get festive and rested in two days before it all kicks off with the fat man in the red suit.

After that, I've got a bored small person hanging around the house eating sugar and constantly demanding access to the computer games hell of Fortnite until JANUARY 7<sup>th</sup>! All the toys will have been played with and discarded, the weather will probably be foul and I'll end up forking out for the fresh hell that is trampolines park entry.

Rich folks take this opportunity to go on holiday to the Bahamas. I am not rich. A week in Skegvegas in December doesn't have the same appeal. My friend said I was unnecessarily grumpy. She mentioned that at least with school starting back so late, this year we can make a big deal out of Epiphany on the 6th of January. Apparently I could make a cake. I smiled weakly and said I would try knocking up a Galette des Rois while trying to ignore the voices inside my head who were imagining how she would taste as it's filling.

**Helen Knott**

**What's left of Helen will return in December...**



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## Light Work of Bulb Planting

Over 2000 bulbs were planted on Saturday by volunteers behind the 510 year old "Old Major" oak tree in Western Park.

Friends of Western Park have bought native bluebells and wood anemones to complement other bulbs provided by Stefan in the Parks Department.

Community Payback have been working hard to clear the spinney and put in 3000 English bluebells, 300 anemones and 500 snowdrops. Next spring we will see snow drops, bluebells, daffodils, cyclamen and anemones. They will naturalise and create quite a stunning carpet of spring flowers for years to come.



FOWP member Christine Holton said: "Both Dovelands and Westgate schools have been involved in planting bulbs and Leicester Council have planted lots more. FOWP have applied and received 105 tree saplings from the woodland Trust and will be planting these on 24th of November.

"The rockery area, between Old Major and the gym, have had a total of 300 of wild cyclamen, 1500 Snowdrops, 600 daffodils. Doveland School Eco warriors also planted 1000 bluebells.

"Buglife have also been involved together with more work for Community Payback groups. 81,000 Crocus have been planted! The park will look amazing."

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# SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN

Halloween in West Leicester seems to grow bigger every year as the communities get together to celebrate the 21st century version of the Celtic festival of Samhain.

From the popular pumpkin race on Western Park to a giant children's party at the Crows Nest the Halloween period is the ideal excuse to dress the kids up and for grown-ups to get out and mingle.

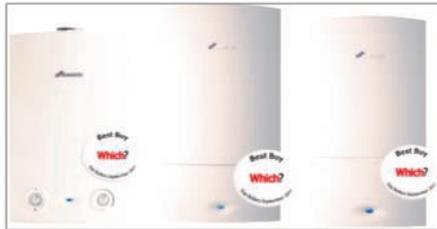
Neighbourhoods were awash with hordes of young ghouls creeping around as this year's festivities got underway.

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## 20MPH Zone UPDATE

A feasibility study by the city council and the Arcadis consultancy has resulted in an outline plan for a 20mph speed limit for the Letchworth Road and Doveland's Primary School areas. This covers the residential roads bounded by Letchworth Road/Perth Avenue, Aikman Avenue/Petworth Drive, Henley Road/Woodville Road, Hinckley Road, and Western Park Road.

Data based on existing speeds in the area, combined with surveys and observation has resulted in a 'Stage 1' consultation, which is being considered by various internal council departments as well as the emergency services. The results of the consultation will be documented, and assuming there are no objections, the scheme will be put forward to the Deputy City Mayor in early January 2019 for approval to consult externally.

The 'Stage 2' public consultation is expected in January 2019 and will primarily involve a letter drop to all properties within the proposed 20mph Zone. A period of six weeks for members of the public to comment on the scheme will be provided, meaning the results will be analysed in mid-March. The consultation feedback will then be used to determine the way forward.

At this stage the main roads Aikman Avenue/Petworth Drive, Henley Road/Woodville Road, Glenfield Road, and Hinckley Road are not planned to be part of the study area.



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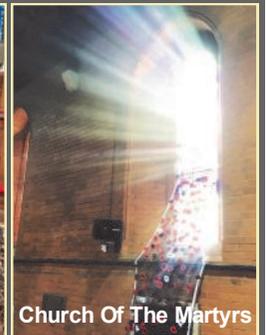
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## REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

St. Anne's Church and The Church of the Martyrs held special displays commemorating Remembrance Day and the end of the Great War exactly a century ago.



St. Anne's Church



Church Of The Martyrs

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## Nov Police Update

As the nights draw in and thoughts turn to Christmas shopping and celebrations; we ask people to take common sense precautions during the winter. Do you use timer lights to make your house look occupied? Are your valuables kept out of sight? Do you take care to use well-lit routes when walking at night?

The Westcotes policing team are aware of a lot of concern particularly over social media about an increase in robberies and crime generally in the area of Bede Park. There have been 5 reported robberies in the past 2 months from mid-September to mid-November. Although this is 5 crimes too many the actual increase does not reflect the rumours spread over social media.

We totally understand concerns and have worked extensively with De Montfort University and Leicester City Council to agree significant improvement to the CCTV, lighting, tree pruning and signage in the park. Police patrols including through the night have been extensive and will continue. Our advice to park users is to take common sense precautions such as walking with friends wherever possible, sticking to well-lit routes and to consider alternative routes and transport late at night such as taxis.

Your New Parks policing team have been working with local partners, and the community to develop the 'People Zones' initiative. This is a scheme launched by the Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner Lord Willy Bach to bring people and partners together for the benefit of New Parks. The launch event held at New Parks Fire Station on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November was well attended and the sun even shined for us! We shall keep you updated as this initiative develops!

Your Fosse policing team have been busy fighting the production and dealing of drugs. A drugs warrant was completed on Paget Road this month identifying a cannabis factory where approximately £85,000 worth of drugs were taken off the streets! One person was arrested and remanded to court. This activity fuels serious organised crime and also presents significant fire risks to neighbours. So please continue to report concerns about nearby addresses via Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 or police via Telephone: 101.

Looking forward; our planning for the busy Christmas period is extensive as I can imagine most of yours will be! We will get in touch next month with our Christmas message!

**Sgt Mark Brennan**

# Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



If I had a pound for every time a customer exclaimed, "But I thought it was a dwarf conifer", I'd have enough money to buy a new chainsaw to replace the one I've worn out cutting down those evergreen monoliths! Last week I came across an extreme example when I looked at two *Thuja* growing in a nearby village. They're one of my favourite conifers and I wish they were used more often in place of the ubiquitous *Leylandii*. *Thuja plicata* has beautiful spring green foliage with a heady pineapple fragrance and makes a great evergreen hedge. I'm sure that's why the previous owner planted them next to an old stone wall that stands beside the Victorian village Hall. Fast forward a few decades and I'm dangling from the top of a 25-metre-tall tree, trying not to drop any prunings through



the ornate, antique and irreplaceable slate roof below. *Thuja plicata*'s common name (Western or Giant Red Cedar) gives you a better idea about the tree's true nature.

In my opinion it's nonsense to use the term dwarf conifer. Slow growing is much more appropriate. Pretty much any conifer can outgrow its initial position, and few can handle a hard cut back, Yew being a rare exception. Large conifers suck water, nutrients and light from the garden and acidify the soil stifling all but the toughest vegetation around. But with more informed choice and regular pruning they needn't be excluded from the garden.

There's a huge range of shapes and colours. The sophisticated pencil shape of *Juniperus* "Skyrocket" looks very elegant in uncluttered modern gardens. In winter the feathery foliage of *Cryptomeria japonica* turns rust red. Not quite Foxes Blue, but for a fabulous coloured neat cone shape, try *Picea glauca* "Blue Wonder". Or if small is your thing there are varieties like *Abies koreana* "Pinocchio" that'll happily fit in a rockery for many years.

So don't forget, a conifer isn't just for Christmas. It's also for planting, ignoring and spending a fortune on having removed when your neighbours take you to court!

**Tony Huxley**

Tony will be back in the new year.

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1		2		3		4
5						
7						
8						

**1 Across:** Halloween fruit **1 Down:** Letter deliverer **2:** Me without my morning coffee! **3:** Sing-a-long music video **4:** Make neat **5:** Spanish drink **6:** Free newspaper **7:** Place to park the kids  
© Paul Towers

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

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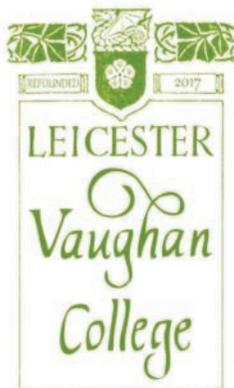
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