The Gazette

No.182 Nov 2025 westernparkgazette.co.uk
News & Views for Western Park & Surrounding Area •10,000 Cop-











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Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the November edition of the Western Park Gazette.

We've had Diwali, Halloween and Bonfire Night but Yuletide and 2026 are creeping ever closer. It's like the last couple of months of the year are racing to the finish line and we're just holding on for dear life!

We're going to try and squeeze another Gazette out before then, but meanwhile... Halloween took over West Leicester again so we went out with the camera to sample the atmosphere. The results are on the centre pages and on our Facebook page.

A couple of local men had their allotment raided and they've lost a lot of lovingly tended vegetables due to the thieves and you could be landed with a £100 fine if you don't clean up after your dog.

In our normal features, there's the policing update, Helen Knott actually likes something for a change, our gardening expert Carey Tunstall has some Christmas tree buying advice and the Word Wang and sudoku lurk with intent on the inside back page.

You'll find us on Facebook, X and now Bluesky.

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Events Diary

Hall @ St Anne's, Letchworth Rd: Knit & Natter: 1.30pm, 4th Tues. Weds Club: 2.30pm, 1st Weds. Pram Club: Weds 9.15-11.30am. Women's Taekwondo: Thurs 8-9pm taekwondo4all.com Fri Coffee: 10am.

Musical Memory Box: 1st & 3rd Tues 2pm. The Grove. Braunstone.

Free Tea/Coffee @ St Paul's Worship Ctr / Community Hub, Kirby Rd Weds, 2-4pm. T-Top sale 2nd Sat. Drop-in Talk: @ St Paul's Worship Ctr. Talk to local police & support orgs. 1st Tue monthly 10-12 noon. Wonderful Walks on Western Park: Monthly 3rd Sunday. 9.30am start at Hinckley Rd gates.

Xmas Tree Fest: St. Andrew's Church, Glenfield Rd:

From Sat 29th Nov 10-12 noon.

@ Metal Monocle: Whiskey Rebellion: 28 Nov. Elkapath, Bovidia, Samer: 29 Nov. Dirty Duvets: 12 Dec @ The International: A Kick Up The 80's: 6 Dec.

Storm Thieves: 7 Dec. Aynsley Lister: 7 Dec.

© De Mont Hall: Step Into Xmas: 29 Nov. Comedy

Crackers: 1 Dec. Bootleg Beatles: 6 Dec.

@ Curve: Curve Tours: *Until 10 Jan.* Sound of Music: *Until 2 Jan.* Aliens Love Panta Clause: 2 Dec-4 Jan. @ Y Theatre: Bollywood Brat Pack: 30 Nov. Aurie

Stylers Xmas Crack-up: 5 Dec.

@ Little Theatre: Dick Whittington: 12 Dec-4 Jan.
Western Ward Com Meeting: New Parks Library:
16 Dec from 6.00pm.

Xmas in Leicester: Details from visitleicester.info

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Saturday 10am-4pm
Sunday 12pm-4pm

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- Toddler Time on Wednesdays, 10am-12pm
- Homework Club on Mondays,
 3.30pm-6.00pm



PICK UP AFTER YOUR POOCH

All responsible dog walkers carry plastic bags with them to clean up after their furry friend, but forgetting bags could land you in trouble.

The city council will extend a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) on dog control for another three years which means they can take enforcement action against anyone who doesn't pick up after their pooch, if they refuse to put their dog on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised

council officer, or if they take their dog into an enclosed area where it is not allowed. like a ball court, skatepark or fenced children's play area.

The council ran a public consultation in the summer, asking whether people agree with a PSPO on dog control. 336, mostly public, responses were submitted and were



highly supportive with 93% in favour of extending the PSPO on dog fouling, 84% for dogs on leads and 84% for dog exclusion areas.

A new order extending the PSPO will be made ued: "There's been systematic vandalism for a this month. The PSPO covers the whole city and will run until 30 November 2028. A fixed penalty notice of £100 applies to irresponsible dog ownership.

VEGGIE PATCH VANDALISED

Two local men were left andry and heartbroken after their polytunnel was broken into and hundreds of pounds worth of vegetables were stolen.

Mike Edwards and Richard Robinson had spent years tending their produce, at Rancliffe Crescent Allotments. Then in mid October vandals broke in and destroyed everything they had worked for while stealing the rest.

Mike says: "We'd grown tomatoes, cucumbers, chillies, aubergines.

"The loss is unquantifiable. Compared to supermarket prices it mounts up to many hundreds of pounds. I wouldn't want to pay for what we lost".

It's not the first time the allotment had been targeted by vandals and thieves. It's an ongoing problem. Mike contin-



while; bales of hay have been torched and a mini was set on fire.

"It's not just effecting us, it's the other guys we share the plot with".

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UK Government's Home Energy Efficiency Scheme - ECO4

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A new Government scheme is available to households with an old "Non-Condensing" boiler. The manufacture of these Non-Condensing boilers was stopped in 2005 as they are very inefficient and will be costing you £100s a year in wasted energy, also parts for Non-condensing boilers are becoming increasingly unavailable.

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KNOTT'S LAND

Celebrity Traitors has been the TV hit of the year so far. There were 11.7 million people watching the final and unexpectedly I was one of them. I have not been a fan of the programme. Not because I've watched it - I hadn't seen a single episode until Celebrity Traitors - but more because I'd taken against the premise. The world is in a bit of a mess at the minute, and I don't particularly want to bring myself down watching other people being deceitful and murderous. I can turn on the news or open my socials and see that kind of thing any time I like.

So, what changed? Well, the Celebrity version is different. Firstly, it's for charity so there is no life changing amount of money to spur the contestants on. Greed is a powerful motivator and instigator of bad behaviour but there was none of that here. Secondly, we know these people and they know each other! I'm already invested in them as people. Watching Jonathon Ross and Stephen Fry joust verbally is something I would like to see more of on TV. Watching them push a giant wooden horse up hill in the rain while answering questions tickles my It's a Knockout funny bone. Their celebrity ineptitude was also mesmerising. For people who work in such a bitchy industry they were all playing nice!

I became a Traitors addict. Furious at being made to wait a week for the episodes, I watched the after shows and listened to podcasts about it. Big props to The Rest is Entertainment for producing episodes immediately after the shows aired. They were massive fans too and brought lots of insider knowledge with them. Him indoors has been similarly dismissive of the show but he too was hooked and so we found ourselves having an appointment with the TV midweek. Unheard of in recent times. When Alan dropped a clanger, when Nick turned on Joe, when Kate was crap again, I yelled at the TV. I loved it. And that is why the BBC is a treasure to be nurtured. We might not agree with everything it does but thanks to the unique way it is funded, every so often it produces a banger of a show like Celebrity Traitors. Will I watch the version with normal people? Probably not. But sign me up for the next episode of Celebrity Traitors. I'll get snacks if you bring wine.





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SPOOKY BOOOD

There's no doubt, Western Park and West Leicester really goes to town during Halloween. Dozens of youngsters and a few quite a bit older took to the streets to enjoy a colourfully ghoulish carnival of fun and frights. A great deal of creativity went on display, along with fistfuls of sweets. We also headed to Polonez on Hinckley Rd and the

We also headed to Polonez on Hinckley Rd and the Metal Monocle on Braunstone Gate, where they take Halloween as a sign to celebrate in a more grown-up way! Visit our FB page for the photos.









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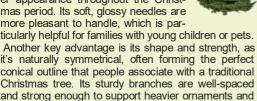


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CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER

When it comes to choosing a real Christmas tree, one variety stands out as the best overall choice for most households: The Nordmann Fir. This type has become the nation's favourite thanks to its combination of beauty, practicality, and durability, making it an ideal centrepiece for the festive season.

The Nordmann Fir is considered the best at needle retention, as it holds onto its needles for weeks, unlike some other trees, even in the warmth of a centrally heated home. This means less mess around the base and a fresher appearance throughout the Christmas period. Its soft, glossy needles are more pleasant to handle which is parameter.



and strong enough to support heavier ornaments and strings of lights without drooping. This makes it an excellent canvas for decorating, as it offers both structure and balance without appearing overly dense or

sparse.

The Nordmann Fir is also a good choice for those who value sustainability. Many are now grown in the UK, reducing the environmental impact associated with imported trees. Choosing a locally sourced tree not only supports British growers but also helps ensure freshness, as the tree spends less time in transit before reaching your home. Proper care such as cutting a small slice from the base before placing it in water and keeping it away from direct heat can further extend its lifespan and keep it looking vibrant.

That said, no tree is perfect for every scenario, and a few caveats apply. If your space is very small you might want a slimmer species (though options of Nordmann do exist in smaller sizes). So, If you fancy a slender scented tree, I would opt for the Fraser Fir. It has soft needles but strong branches, enabling support of heavy ornaments. If you prioritise strong scent over needle retention, the classic Norway Spruce offers that piney fragrance - but at the cost of dropping needles more readily. And then there is the Blue Spruce, visually striking with its vibrant blue/green colour. It holds a fresh but mild scent, so not too overpowering. The main downfall of the Blue Spruce is that its needles, although retained quite well, are sharp and spiky. This makes it less suitable for households with pets or young children. But for most UK homes wanting a real tree that looks great, keeps tidy and is easy to live with, the Nordmann Fir hits the Carey Tunstall sweet spot.



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Nov Police Update

On 11th November, a male was arrested after he made off from the Asda garage on Hinckley Road. Officers together with a drone tracked him down. He was eventually found up some scaffolding and arrested for numerous offences.

Hinckley Road was closed for a short time as officers needed to get him down safely.

PCSOs from the Fosse Neighbourhood Team conducted house to house & CCTV enquiries along Woodville Road after a car was broken into and items stolen. Please be aware that this is happening more often so make sure your vehicle is locked and secure and that nothing of value is left inside or on show.

Officers have also been visiting some of the shops on the Fosse as part of the Safer Business Action campaign, engaging with staff and talking about issues affecting them, as well as providing crime prevention advice.

Police continue to engage with local businesses, as well as holding regular beat surgeries to ensure a line of communication is open to try and reduce antisocial behaviour and criminality.

Earlier this year, Fosse Neighbourhood Teams and partners obtained two temporary flat closures at Fredrick Jackson House off King Richard Rd (a supported accommodation for vulnerable adults).

Now, PC Phil 4493 has attended court which resulted in the council repossessing both flats, thus preventing previous occupants being able to move back in and continue to use these flats for drugs & ASB.

Six people, who were arrested after a man was assaulted in Aikman Avenue, have been bailed.

A call was received at 3.33pm on Wednesday 5th Nov after a man had been assaulted by a group of men near the junction with Pindar Rd.

The victim was taken to hospital for treatment to wounds which were not life threatening or life changing and since been discharged.

A total of five men and a 16-year-old boy were arrested on suspicion of wounding with intent and have since been released on police bail pending further enquiries.

On 25th Oct a cannabis grow was found at a house on Bembridge Close, off Buckminster Road. 500 plants were seized and the haphazard electric wiring made safe.

Since 2020 the Fosse Neighbourhood Team have taken down approximately 151 cannabis factories and pulled £5million worth of cannabis plants off the streets. The police cannot change the law around cannabis, but can only enforce what is already in place. The aim is to safeguard the community who live near to these often very dangerous grows as well as preventing a serious risk of a fire or even death.



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Why We Are Supporting The Childhood Eye Cancer Trust

Over the years, several of my long-term clients have been touched either directly or indirectly by a childhood eye cancer called retinoblastoma (RB.) Their stories have inspired me to partner with the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT), which supports families, funds research and raises awareness. By sharing CHECT's message we hope to help parents recognise early signs and seek prompt care; early detection saves sight and lives.

Retinoblastoma develops when retinal cells multiply uncontrollably due to faulty genes. It usually strikes children under six and is the most common eye cancer in young children. Fortunately, it is rare with around one UK child diagnosed each week. Global estimates suggest roughly one in 16,000–18,000 births per year. With early diagnosis and treatment in specialist centres, over 98 % of children survive.

Most cases occur by chance, but about two in five involve an inherited gene mutation and often affect both eyes. Genetic counselling is therefore important for affected families.

What To Look Out For

Parents may spot

- White or yellow reflection in the pupil on flash photographs.
- A crossed or misaligned eye
- Reduced vision or a persistently red or swollen eye



ALAN BELLAMY

Alan Bellamy is the senior optometris at Bellamy Eyecare, serving Leicester and Irthlingborough communities for over 22 years.

If retinoblastoma is suspected, the child is referred to a specialist hospital centre for examination under anaesthesia. If RB is found and it is at an early stage, then the eye may be saved with chemo or other therapies. If it has developed to a later stage then the eye may have to be removed to prevent the cancer from spreading elsewhere when it is then a threat to life.

This is why early detection is vital.

By supporting CHECT and sharing this we hope to help more parents recognise childhood eye cancer earlier and seek the life-saving care their child needs.

If you have any concerns about an infant's eye health then contact your GP or health visitor. For children closer to school age then you can discuss this with your optician

You can read more about retinoblastoma at https://www.bellamyeyecare.co.uk/blog

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Can You Solve The Word Wang? Hidden in the above box are the following words:

Autumn, Coffee, Guy, Scarf, Wine Berries, Fawks, Mulled, Snowflake, Winter, Birds, Fireworks, Owl, Wet, Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk © Paul Towers

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