



GOLF CLUB SHUTS

End of Historic Local Golf Course



More on Page 4



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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the October edition of the Western Park Gazette.

This month: Leicester City Council shuts the Western Park Golf Course after 105 years following frantic efforts from players to save it. The first Western Park Beer Festival proves to be a massive success, raising thousands for the Tin Annie rebuilding fund and Helen Knott gets her teeth into dental pricing.

We have our regular local policing news from Kev Sharkey, DMU's Square Mile Project keeps us up to date with their activities and green goblin, Tony Huxley, gets fruity in the garden.

Also the devilishly twisted Brain Tazers, Crossword and Sudoku lurk on the inside back page.

If you want to keep in touch with local news and events, why not join us online? The Gazette is always published on our website a week ahead of the delivery date. We also keep you up to date with West Leicester through social media, so join in the chatter on Facebook and Twitter.

If you've got a local news story then email:
editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Visit www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter @mygazette & Facebook by searching for the Western Park Gazette.

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Copy Deadline Nov 4th 2015

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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

Fosse Singers: Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm.

International Folk Dancing: Monthly 2nd & 4th Fri. St. Anne's Hall. 2-4pm. Tel: Geoff on 0116 285 8352.

Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band: 1st Sun Monthly. Café Chino at Hilton Hotel, Meridian. 1-3.30pm
Thursday Club: Thursdays. 2-4pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narborough Rd.

West End Pay As You Feel Café: Thursdays 6-8.30pm. West End Centre. Andrewes St. LE3 5PA.

Heritage Sundays: Monthly last Sun. Mediaeval city open days/tours. 11-3pm. goleicestershire.com

Mary Poppins: Till 24 Oct. Curve. curveonline.co.uk

Ghouls & Ghosts Halloween Day: 20th Oct. Abbey Pumping Station. Free admission.

Queen Tribute by Mercury: 29th Oct. Little Theatre. 7.30pm. littletheatre.net

Limehouse Lizzy 2015 Tour: 30th Oct. Y Theatre. 9pm. leicesterymca.co.uk

Green Festival of Making & Mending: 31st Oct. Friends Meeting House, Queens Rd. 11-5pm. Free. leicesterfootpaths.org.uk

The Element in The Room: 1st Nov. Upstairs At The Western. upstairsatthewestern.com

Diwali Lights Switch On: 1st Nov. Belgrave Rd.

Farmer's Market: 3rd Nov. City Centre.

Abbey Park Bonfire: 7th Nov. Abbey Park from 5.30. Ticket info from visitleicester.info/bonfire

Lady Killers: Little Theatre. 9-14 Nov.

Diwali Day: 11th Nov. Cossington St. Rec Ground.

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GOLF CLUB SHUTS

Campaigners hoping to save the 105 year old Western Park Golf Course from closure on October 31st have all but given up.

Martin Cobb, Vice Captain of the Western Park Golf Club and member of the development committee tasked with trying to save the course said: "In spite of two public consultations, a petition in our favour and support of local people, councillors and Liz Kendall, I think we were on a hiding to nothing.

"We've done our best to provide a sustainable business plan but the Council wouldn't budge.

"Over the years the course has suffered from a chronic lack of investment which caused a dip in membership but the closure will mean there's no accessible course in the area".

City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby, says Leicester cannot afford to run two large municipal golf courses as he looks for ways to cut the city's £2.9 million sports budget. In a letter to Martin Cobb, Sir Peter wrote: "Turning around Western Park Golf Course would be a major undertaking involv-



Martin Cobb

ing many people and considerable financial resources over a long period... I have concluded that were both Western Park and Humberstone Heights to remain open, neither would be able to generate a sustainable level of interest and membership. Very soon both courses could be forced to close".

Leicester City Council plans to pump some of the saved cash into the remaining Humberstone Heights course. But Martin Cobb says: "Many users won't transfer to Humberstone. Less than 10% will move but many are just knocking in it (golf) on the head.

"The grounds here are 148 acres of mature parkland. You could never make a course with an expansive layout like this today; there's not enough space. It's a tough enough test for golfers, in fact, we've had loads of county champions and dozens of pro's learning at the club.

"This course was opened in 1910 by a Mayor of Leicester to provide affordable golf and now it's being closed by one".



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CHEERS!

The first Western Park Beer Festival proved to be a huge success raising over £5000 towards the rebuilding of the Tin Annie community hall on Letchworth Road.

The figures are staggering: 564 paying guests knocked back 1954 pints of ale, 183 glasses of wine, 150 cheese cobs, 350 samosas and 177 pizzas!

One of the organisers, Mat Mabe said: "We are delighted with what the festival achieved. Obviously exceeding our rather ambitious target of a £5,000 donation to the Tin Annie fund - by over £1,000 - is a huge achievement. However, more than this was the genuine sense of community and the incredibly lively, friendly and happy atmosphere that was generated by the people of Western Park and beyond over the three sessions.

"The festival was enjoyed by people of all ages, from the two day old son of Rik, a member of the festival's organising committee, through to a huge number of parents and children on the Saturday afternoon, to octogenarians who rarely have the opportunity to enjoy the company of their local community over a beer or two.

"The planning for next year's festival has already begun and we will be holding an open meeting for people who wish to become involved in the next few weeks. We're also considering some other potential events prior to next year's festival - but suffice to say it will involve beer and considerable good cheer!"



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KNOTT'S LANDING

I'm cross again. I recently had a chat with an oral health promoter in Leicester and it was like **The Enlightenment**.

I have been with the same practice for about seven years. In that time my dentist has checked my teeth, done x-rays, filled holes, made crowns and regularly sends me off to the hygienist for a clean at a charge of around £25. So far so normal. Well no actually, not normal. In their contract with the NHS, the basic treatment you are entitled to, the one I pay £18.80 for, includes a scale and polish if clinically needed. Apparently I haven't clinically needed a scale and polish for seven years but I have needed regular cleaning of my teeth through the hygienist at £25 a go. Can you see why I might be a bit peeved? I do understand that 10 minutes with the hygienist is better than a couple of minutes of my dentist having a go but that's not the point. EVERY time I go I get told off for having tartar below my gums and that I need my teeth cleaning but the dentist never makes any effort to



do it. So off I trot to the hygienist and pay extra. I'm lucky, I can afford it, but there have been a few times when it has been hard to find an extra £25 from nowhere.

Now I can cope with fighting battles over my own teeth but then I heard something that REALLY made me mad. It turns out my now not so little one should have been having fluoride varnish painted onto his teeth twice a year since he was 3 and up to four times a year since we found a cavity (yes, I am totally shamed and horrified but it happened and we deal with it). It should be being applied **FOUR TIMES A YEAR**. This has certainly not been happening.

Leicester has the worst dental health in under fives in the country. That's a horrible statistic. Little kids are going through pain and suffering, having their teeth taken out under general anaesthetic, having tooth plasters, and my dentist isn't routinely painting on fluoride varnish, a free procedure on the NHS, which might prevent it from happening in the first place. Grrrr.

So here's my tip. If you have a child of under 18 go and ask your dentist for fluoride varnish for them. Tell them you heard it's free on the NHS and you can read about it here:



Helena Knott (Scan above code into your device)

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Western Here To Stay

One of West Leicester's most popular watering holes has been named an Asset of Community Value or ACV.

The Western pub off Narborough Road is also the home of the city's only pub theatre, Upstairs @ The Western, a unique achievement in itself, but now the building's future is secure. The AVC gives it special protection to guarantee it stays at the centre of the neighbourhood.

Leicester City Council agreed to a request from Camra, the real ale group, for the pub to become the first in the city to be named an Asset of Community value following concerns over the amount of student accommodation being built in the area.

The award makes it harder for developers to change the use of the building in the future.



Gazette Ruins Vandals Day

A member of the Gazette's staff interrupted two vandals as they were putting finishing touches to their latest graffiti scrawl.

The incident happened at 1am on 3rd of October as he was walking past the derelict land next to the Reform Church on Hinckley Road and noticed the smell of solvent. He took a quick look around and surprised two skinny black clad youths spraying up the rear wall. The youths then packed up their cans and escaped over the wall.



We have examined their work in great detail and consider it to be derivative of the Knuckledragger School of Art. Banksy has nothing to worry about.

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Community Christmas Lunch

11th December 2015
12.30-3.30pm

Westend Neighbourhood Centre
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The Community Christmas Lunch will be a day focused on bringing isolated elderly people of Leicester together to enjoy and celebrate the Christmas period. No one should feel alone during the festive season and DMU Square Mile aim to help provide a network of support to ensure that this is not the case.

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It seems we have a member (or indeed members) of our community who think it is agreeable to leave broken beer bottles in a children's play area.

I am writing this letter as I am horrified by what I saw on Monday 14th September when walking to work. I was passing though the play area at the end of Kirby Road/Fosse Road Central and had to walk around two neglected broken glass bottles. At what point does anyone think this is ok?

I often let my kids have a little play here on the way back from pram club or to break up the jaunt from town. The kid's love it and make a direct descent to the slide, however now it really fills me with dread. The implications of shards of glass in their tiny hands, and a trip to the A&E will be on the cards if people don't start showing some respect for this area. I am now starting to sound like my mum with my ranting moan; however I am angry and rightly so.

Over the past few years it is more evident this area does offer an increasing delightful array of 'dumped' cans and rubbish on a regular basis. I have noticed that the council does seem to pay the site a regular visit to 'tidy it up', however if people were less selfish this wouldn't be required. Sadly, I fear it is only a matter of time before a child is hurt.

Concerned mum and local resident.



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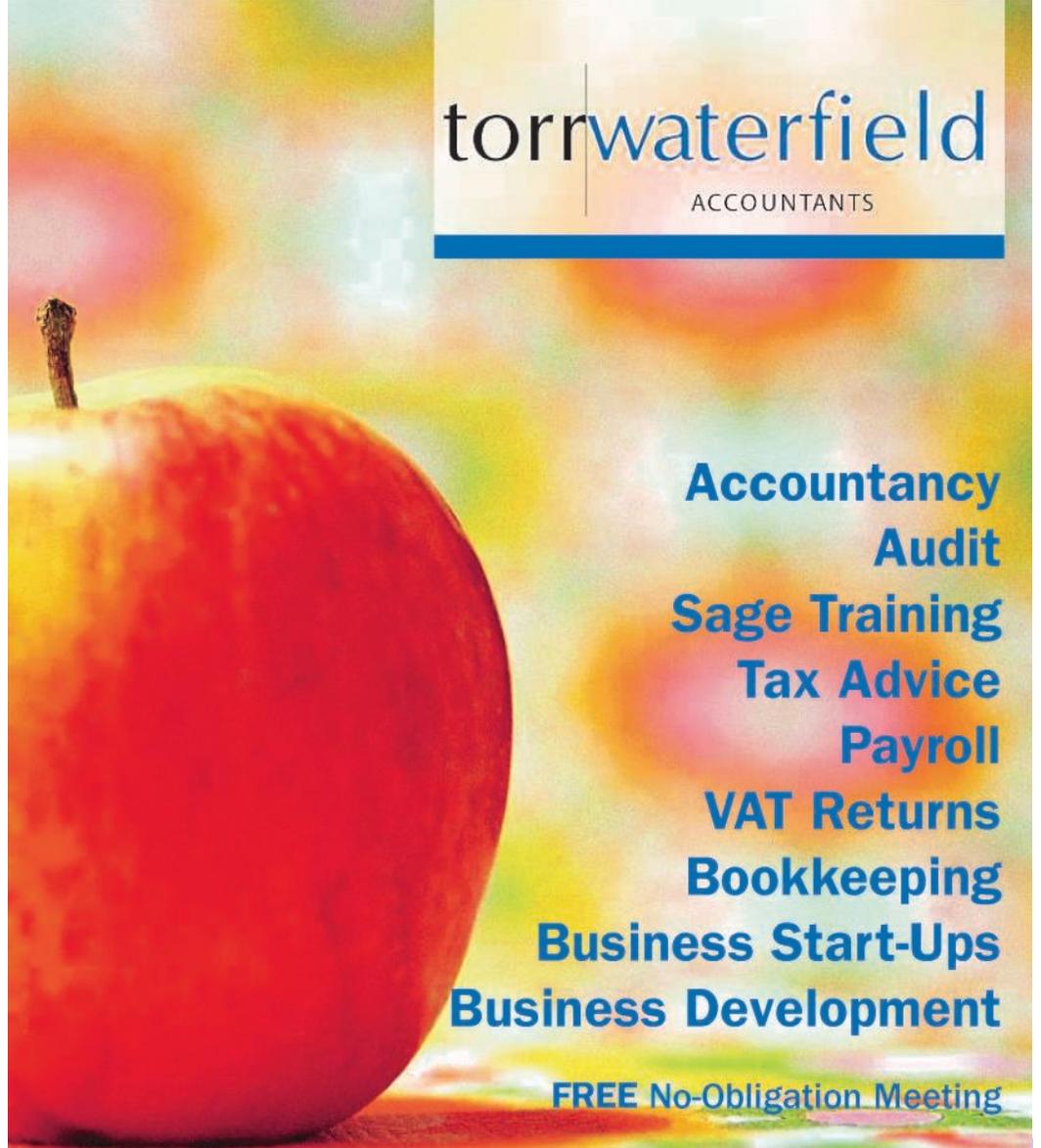
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Second Weds of the month 7-8pm at St. Anne's Church Hall, Letchworth Road, LE3 6FN,
Third Sat of the month 11-12 noon at Braunstone Frith Recreation Centre, Sharman Crescent, LE3 6NW.

Fosse Councillors Surgeries

Councillors: Ted Cassidy MBE and Dawn Alfonso.

Second Sat of the month 10.30-11.30am, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre, Mantle Road, LE3 5GH.

Last Sat of the month 10.30 -11.30am, Woodgate Residents' Association, Woodgate, LE3 5GE.

Westcotes Councillors Surgeries

Councillors: Sarah Russell & Andy Connelly.

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Oct Police Update

SHARK WATCH with Sgt. Kev Sharkey
We received a report from Linkway Gardens of some suspicious males and attended to find six men and two vehicles one of which tried to drive off on seeing officers.

All six men were detained, searched and the vehicles were checked for documents. One vehicle was subsequently seized as there was no driver with a valid licence. This will hopefully send a clear message to these men who had been gathering in the area for a little while.

An update for the street drinking reported around the Fosse Road area and Merry Monarch car park is that the community meeting has taken place in which the licensee of the Monarch, Stan, encouraged residents to tell him when things need sorting on the car park. He will then forward the concerns directly to the brewery who are responsible for its up-keep. A multi lingual poster



has also been produced and distributed to places selling alcohol in the area to warn customers not to drink and cause anti-social behaviour or face alcohol confiscation and possible arrest. We will continue to monitor this situation.

Staff at the Westcotes House NHS Centre on Westcotes Drive behind the Westcotes doctors surgery have asked us to remind residents that the grounds are private property. There have been problems with people walking their dogs in the grounds which can cause some patients distress as they are being treated for canine phobias. Can residents please find an alternative location to walk their dogs and leave the grounds if asked to do so by staff to avoid Police being called to assist in removing trespassers.

On a routine job, officers entered an address on Fosse ward and found a small scale drug lab used to produce meth amphetamine. The scene was made safe by the fire service and the volatile chemicals removed by an expert chemical company. One male was arrested.

We have seen a small increase in vehicles being attacked overnight for fuel particularly around Hinckley Road / Letchworth Road area. Fuel tanks have been drilled and fuel taken.

Please remain vigilant and report all suspicious events giving as clear a description as possible of people and vehicles, including registration numbers, and also direction of travel, if they are leaving the scene, to enable officers to detain and check them as soon as possible.

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



During my years of gardening during the 'season of mellow fruitfulness', I've been hit on the noggin by many things but being crowned by a peach was a first. Lucky it was soft. It was also ripe, juicy and delicious. This year fruit has been raining from the skies. The apples and pears have been fantastic and my fig bush has produced its first crop. Inspired by this bumper harvest I've decided to increase my range of fruit. But I've set three parameters to my search. They have to be unusual, aesthetically pleasing, and of course good to eat.

One contender is Fuchsia. Yes, I too was surprised to discover the fruit is edible, in fact so are the flowers, but times would have to be hard before I ate my favourite "Robin Hood" double blooms.

Rubus phoenicolasius or Japanese wineberry



Fig Bush

must also make the list. I've been looking for an excuse to grow it since seeing one at a local open gardens. Its fruit look like strange exotic jewels and the thorn encrusted stems are a vibrant rusty orange giving year round interest.

If I was shopping by names alone, the treacleberry, *Smilacina racemosa*, would be top of my list. A shade loving plant related to Solomon Seal this is ideal for underplanting trees and shrubs.

A plant I've been meaning to grow again is *Decaisnea fargesii*. This pretty shrub produces broad bean like seed pods that are a surreal blue colour. The seeds are inedible but the pulpy inside of the pod is said to be sweet and tasty. But the plant I'm most looking forward to trying is the Chilean Guava. Although requiring protection in the hardest winters it's less fussy about soil conditions than its cousin, the blueberry, and produces more fruit!



Chilean Guava

I'd better get planting so I can once again enjoy the fruits of my labours!
© Tony Huxley



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1		2		3		4
5						
6						
7						

1 Across: Tenth month 1 Down: Not indoors 2: Definitive article 3: Butyl Alcohol 4: Small breed of deer. 5: Performance space 6: Misdemeanour 7: Rural walker
 © Paul Towers

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

1. **Ma Job Ends** is an anagram of which well known literary and film character?
2. Solve this rebus puzzle: **Cluck, Quack, Cheep and Squawk.**
3. Rearrange these letters to give two four letter words: **YSBU**
4. Replace the dashes with a word/letters that ends the previous word and starts the next: Clock---- shop---- off---- rail--- ward.

Answers at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

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