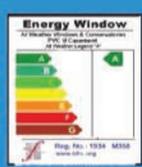




More on Page 4 & Centre Pages

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Hello From The Editor

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

For some unknown reason last month the Western Park area became a little nexus of accidents and arrests. There was a police chase involving a stolen car crashing into Dovelands School railings, one local man is up on child sex charges; another for attempted murder, among other things; there was a serious pile-up on Hinckley Road, which put several people in hospital, and another local man is up on explosive charges. We've featured most of these on our social media sites leaving the magazine a relative oasis of calm and loveliness.

This means... We feature the Western Park Beer Festival, a bit about the plans for the Eco House and surrounding buildings, There's HKRAA or Helen Knott Rants About Acronyms, Roger Blackmore remembers the Battle of Passchendaele a hundred years ago; Tony Huxley, our Green Goliath, is "Amazing", his words, not ours and Chris Day from Hinckley Road Police has their update.

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

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

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

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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.
Hairspray: 16-20 Oct. **Oklahoma:** 18th & 19th Oct. Both at Curve.
Upstairs@Western in Oct: 16th - **Uncle Armando** 18th - **Find The Right Words** 21st - **Bedtime Project** 26th - **Moral Is High (Since We Gave Up Hope)**. 1st Nov: **Toria Garbutt & Shruti Chauhan.**
Live/Wire (AC/DC Trib) 13th Oct. **Michael Morpurgo's King Arthur:** 20th Oct. Both at Y Theatre.
Fashion Show Fundraiser: 26th Oct. Dovelands Sch, Hinckley Rd. Doors open at 7.00pm.
Coffee Morning & Stalls: Sat 28th Oct. Hall at St Anne's. 10-12noon.
Heaviest Pumpkin Event: 28th Oct. Groby Rd Allotments-Gate B. 10-2pm. Free parking.
Martin Bell: 31st Oct. Little Theatre.
Braunstone History Group Museum Open Day: Tues 31st Oct. Braunstone Hall. 10-12noon.
Stand-Up Comedy Night & Bar: 18th Nov. St. Anne's Hall. 8.30pm

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ALL HAIL TO THE ALE!

The team of volunteers from the Western Park Beer Festival recently brought the brothers and sisters of Western Park and surrounding areas together for the annual charity beer festival, with a summer of love theme.

From 15th to 16th September, St Anne's community church hall was decked out with wrapped trees, rainbow flags, groovy peace signs and colourful drapes, providing a lovely, groovy atmosphere for the weekend. The festival organisers also arranged for part of Letchworth Road to be closed, allowing the family session to safely spill out into the road and to accommodate Leicester Wheels for All, who joined festivities for the first time this year.

16 firkins and 12 kegs of beer – a whopping 2208 pints – were consumed over the weekend, along with much cider, bottles and bottles of prosecco, and the odd G&T. Oh, and it was a record year for samosas with over 600 samosas eaten this year – brothers and sisters of the hood, not only were you thirsty but you were hungry too!



More Pictures In The Centre Pages

Along with Everard's, the festival welcomed first time main sponsor Brewklopedia to the festival, and Matt Baker (Manager of the Brewklopedia bottle shop) led tasting for sponsors on the Friday evening. The Brewklopedia team also provided a bottle shop for those wanting to take more than just a souvenir glass home afterwards.

Matt Pearce, Festival Chairman said: "A huge thank you goes out to all of our sponsors, to the volunteers, and to all of you for supporting this event, and through it LOROS.

"We are really excited about sharing the final numbers with the community in the coming weeks and are delighted that it looks to be a record-breaking year for the festival".

The committee are busy counting the pennies and reflecting on a really enjoyable festival, and would also love to hear your feedback as they start to contemplate doing it all again in 2018. If you'd like to provide any feedback you can find the short survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/RYGDGKK.

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SAT 14th OCT

Austrian Stones

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SUN 15th OCT

Reggae/Soul 5pm

SAT 21st OCT

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THU 19th Oct

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REMEMBERING PASSCHENDAELE

At a recent Cathedral Service to mark the hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele, two young people read out the names of the thirty six soldiers from Leicestershire who were killed on the first day of one of the bloodiest battles of the First World War.

The battle, also known as the Third Battle of Ypres was marked by appalling conditions. Torrential rain led to atrocious muddy fields, with thousands slipping to their deaths and even drowning as they attempted to capture a hill known as the Passchendaele ridge. The struggle was to last over three months.

A few years ago Hilary and I travelled to Ypres and visited the imposing Menin Gate which serves as a memorial to tens of thousands of soldiers who lost their lives in the area but have no known grave. Here we laid a wreath in memory of the fallen on behalf of the people of our city.

The First World War touched with tragedy almost every family in the land. My own mother's big brother, Arthur, met his death in the mud hereabouts in September 1917. My Leicester grandmother was to lose her cousin Tom Lewin who died shortly after the end of the war still suffering from the effects of gas attacks and Hilary's grandfather died near the Somme.

At the packed Cathedral service of Commemora-

tion a former High Sheriff of Leicestershire read out a moving extract from the diary of one Private Alfred H Burrage which painted a horrifying picture of life and death in the Battle of Passchendaele. He wrote: "Dawn reveals to us a sight which nobody could visualise without having actually seen it.....It is like being on the sea, but our sea is a sea of mud."



Not long ago an old lady in Beaumont Leys recalled to me her childhood memories of a war veterans' parade returning to Leicester, including the wounded, the blinded and the gassed. It had clearly made a deep impression on her..

And just recently eight bells, cast by Taylors of Loughborough, have been sent in the company of World War One army trucks to St George's Memorial Church in Ypres. Proof, if it were needed, that those from our county who fought and died at Passchendaele are not forgotten.

Roger Blackmore



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KNOTT'S LANDING

Acronyms are everywhere. It seems like everywhere I turn they are closing in on me. Schools are an especially rich seam of impenetrable acronym based gobbled gook.

It starts before you even get in. Are you applying for the EYFSP (Early years foundation stage programme) or straight into F2(Foundations 2)? Then they go up to KS1 (Key Stage 1) and on to KS2 and 3. Is your school VA (Voluntary Aided) or an academy? Their books come home and at the top of each page is the QFL (Question For Learning), also known as the WALT (We Are Learning Today). You might be worried about their SATS (Standard Assessment Task/Test) in year 2 and year 6 or maybe you just don't know what an NQT is (Newly Qualified Teacher). Is your secondary school studying for an eBacc (English Baccalaureate)?

Education isn't alone in creating acronym soup. The NHS is another place that aims to baffle you with seemingly random letters. Need a doctor? Perhaps the OOH (Out Of Hours) is the right place for you. Just make sure you don't get a DNA (Did Not At-

tend) note on your file. If it's serious you might end up in the ED (Emergency Department) of A&E (Accident and Emergency) and if you are really unlucky the HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Service) team might have to come and get you. Once you've been patched up you might need an OT - (Occupational Therapist) or a PT (Physiotherapist).

If you are old, then your health authority might be part of the HASCIP (Health and Social Care Integration Programme). It's a nightmare to have to repeat some of the incredibly long and unwieldy terms but what is often forgotten is that every acronym is another brick in the wall that separates the organisation from its confused users. The more acronyms, the higher that wall, and the harder it is for you to be understood.

Of course it's not all serious. The internet has spawned a whole raft of them. Are you a Noob (new player) on a game? MFW (My face when I see yet another daft cat GIF (Graphics Interchange Format) and fall of my chair giggling IC-WYDT (I see what you did there). Just remember if you have to Google it, you are probably too old to use it!

TTFN! Helen Knott



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ALL HAIL TO THE ALE!

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 Check out the Gazette's website for more photographs and our Facebook page for the videos.



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WESTERN PARK DEVELOPMENT

A local community group and a Leicester developer could soon be working in partnership to breathe new life into land and empty buildings on Western Park.

Parmar Properties and Western Ward Community Enterprise (WWCE), have successfully bid to buy and develop two areas of land on the park, including a former open-air school, and a pioneering eco-house.

The council put them up for sale in June last year, with the aim of finding a buyer who would have the resources to bring the sites back into use while respecting their history.



Parmar Properties is owned by Naresh and Sharon Parmar, who have successfully refurbished a number of local historic buildings with Grade I and Grade II listings. These include The Pavilion on Western Park, Belgrave House and stables and The City Rooms on Hotel Street. They are also nearing completion of a major renovation of Winstanley House (formerly known as Braunstone Hall) on Braunstone Park.

The Parmars' plan to prioritise the transformation of the former school into eight individual office spaces, and then develop 20 two-storey houses on the other, bigger site - four of which would be affordable housing. Five of the houses will be built to Passivhaus standard, and the rest would also meet high environmental standards.

Parmar Properties will lease the Eco House to WWCE, for a peppercorn rent, subject to the group being able to raise the funding to refurbish it. The building could be used for a variety of community purposes. WWCE will also be given a 999-year lease for a detached classroom building at the southern end of the former school site, from which they would operate a community café.

A formal decision on the sale will be taken by Sir Peter Soulsby, Leicester's City Mayor.

The Western Ward Community Enterprise will have their update in the November Gazette.

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PLACES FOR PEOPLE

The Braunstone Gate Places for People Group meet on the First Wednesday of each month, at various venues on Braunstone Gate.

Originally formed to develop a plan for changing Braunstone Gate, by reclaiming space for people through street design, the group are interested in exploring how to bring people together to use public space creatively. If you're passionate about changing your community then please get in touch. They'd love to hear your ideas.

For more information email:

darren.obrien@sustrans.org.uk

Find them on Facebook 'Braunstone Gate Places for People' or through posters on Braunstone Gate.

Places for People is a community-led street and neighbourhood design initiative, funded by People's Health Trust using money raised through The Health Lottery, & delivered by local community champions, in partnership with Sustrans.

WALKING TO HEALTH

Fun, friendly and a little physical exercise is a key to good mental and physical health, particularly in middle and later years, and a new local initiative aims to stimulate people to be more active. The LE3 Health Walks scheme, run by volunteers, has recently started to do just that. The five walks held so far have attracted a number of people of different ages and backgrounds, who show an eagerness to join the next week's activity. As one walker said, "It's been really positive for me socially. There's been a marked improvement in my physical and mental wellbeing".

Offering a series of weekly walks starting from the BRITE centre in Braunstone Avenue, it caters for most abilities. The scheme has accreditation from Walking for Health, the respected national and organisation. Leaders are trained and operate to guidelines that ensure attention to the well-being of participants.



All walks are local, making use of parks and open spaces wherever possible, are mostly on paved and even paved surfaces and are intended to be social as well as physical.

Everyone is welcome. Meeting on a Thursday at 12 noon, a programme of walks of varying length and duration will suit most capabilities. Come and give it a try!

Enquiries to Alan on **0780 694 9710** or email le3healthwalk@gmail.com

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Inconsiderate parking during school pick-up times is a problem across the country. In Western Park it is a huge issue for residents around Letchworth Road and Glenfield Road. So Much so, that a Traffic Action Group 'TAG' has been set up by residents to tackle the problem.

Community Speed Watch

We knocked on front doors during March this year to ask for support for a proposed Community Speed Watch (CSW) project. More than 450 households signed to show their support and we heard many tales about peoples' experiences with speeding cars and anti-social driving behaviour. We submitted our application and then we heard in May that there wasn't any funding available for the CSW in this area.....so frustrating!

The TAG have been like a dog with a bone, we tried other avenues. We met with Lord Willy Bach, the Police and Crime Commissioner and described the local traffic speeding problems and he was very supportive saying he would investigate options. He is coming to visit the area in October, together with Sir Peter Soulsby, Liz Kendall, local Councillors, city council traffic team and local school representatives.

We are still keen to set up the Community Speed Watch programme – average traffic speed has increased bringing greater risks for pedestrians and residents.Breaking news, we have just had an email confirming that the County have found a speed camera for our CSW group to use. Perhaps all those meetings are paying off!

The great news is the City Council have appointed a consultant to work on the 20mph scheme for our area....and the scheme will be implemented in the next financial year – 2018-2019. Consultation should begin in November.

We have asked that this includes a 7.5T weight limit for lorries – of course apart from deliveries. Since the New Parks Way was closed for resurfacing in July the number of bigger lorries using Letchworth and Westfield as a cut-through has increased. We are optimistic that restricting the speed and reducing the big lorries will make this area much safer for residents, pedestrians and cyclists.

Join us on Face Book (Letchworth, Glenfield, Westfield Traffic Action Group) or email us at : westernparktag@gmail.com.

Christine, Deborah, Sue and Celia





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Oct Police Update

The September Stop And Search Operation in New Parks with plain and uniformed officers working across the Western neighbourhood policing area yielded these results.

- 4 x Knives recovered
- 1 x Screwdriver recovered
- 1 x Motor Bikes seized
- 3 x Motor Vehicles seized
- 1 x Stolen Mountain Bike recovered

Rowan Street: is suffering from antisocial behaviour during the evenings and overnight with males kicking front doors of properties. There will be an increase in the police presence from the Fosse ward team. Any information regarding who is doing this please report to the Police.

Narborough Road: It has been a busy month for the West End of Leicester, the team have been busy out patrolling the Narborough Road and surrounding streets. We are receiving reports of street drinking and antisocial behaviour which continues to be a priority for our local businesses, shoppers and residents. The team have been working hard to tackle these issues both engaging with the street drinkers and using our powers appropriately during a weeklong operation between the City and West area neighbourhood policing teams.

Daneshill Road: An update on the investigation into the Daneshill Road incident has seen two men charged after a serious assault and items found during subsequent searches at properties in Leicester.

A 51-year-old man has been charged with section 18 wounding with intent. The charge relates to a report of a serious assault on Wednesday 20 September.

Another man has been charged with manufacturing explosives under suspicious circumstances, under Section 4 of the Explosive Substance Act of 1883. They both appeared before Leicester Magistrates' Court in September.

The charges follow prolonged searches at addresses in Leicester. The investigation is continuing but we would like to reassure you that none of the arrests that were made last week were under the Terrorism Act.

We would like to thank the local communities for their patience and understanding while those enquiries were conducted.

If anyone has any concerns about the incident or the police activity please speak to local officers or call 101.

We are working to reassure local residents, so please speak with the team when we see you out and about.

Sgt Chris Day

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



It's been a terrific summer, but for me it's going to be, cue bad pun, an a-mazing autumn. I've been commissioned to design and build a maze by my friend "Farmer Ed" from Westlodge Farm Park in Desborough.

The earliest known maze was at the ancient Egyptian tomb of Amenemhat III, 6,000 years ago! In Britain, mazes have been a feature of grand country estates since the 16th century.

The most famous is the Hampton Court Maze, which was constructed in 1690. Its walls were originally hornbeam but this was later replaced with yew hedging. There are many other fine mazes around the country including Longleat, Chatsworth, and a recently built one at Burleigh House. My family always make an annual visit to the Wistow Maize Maze.

You don't have to own a stately home to own a



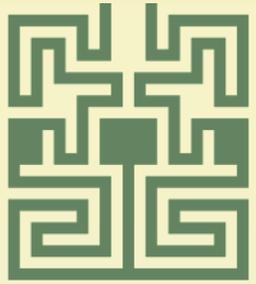
maze. I've seen simple mazes of lavender or box, of no more than a few square metres. A pattern could be set out using coloured stones or mowing a design into the lawn.

The maze I'm building is based on a design in Victoria Park, Glasgow.

It is unicursal: it has one path that leads you along a meandering route without puzzling alternative options. But my design has incorporated a few extra little tricky sections to keep you guessing.

Unfortunately I can't wait decades for hedging to grow. This maze will be constructed with more than 150 metres of fencing, under the shelter of a small stand of Norway Spruce that have been topped to create the close, dark feel of thick woodland. With any luck, the maze will ready for Halloween. By which time Farmer Ed hopes to be back from his shopping trip to Crete. He's seeing a bloke called King Minos who owns a labyrinth and has promised to loan Ed something called a Minotaur. Sounds like a lot of bull to me, but maybe you should check it out for yourself!

Tony Huxley





Martin Page

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BRAIN TAZERS

1		2		3		4
5						
6						
7						

1 Across: Sunlight on raindrops **1 Down:** Payment return **2:** Shakespearean verses **3:** Easily damaged **4:** Bet **5:** Collide with **6:** Social media platform **7:** Hang.

© Paul Towers

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

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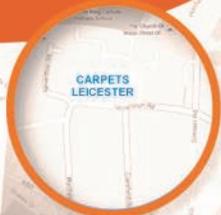
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