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#### closure. Staying on the ale theme, the Western Park Beer Festival proved to be as popular as ever, with hundreds of pints disappearing down thirsty throats.

Western Park Gazette.

In our regular features, there's a brief update from Project Hive as they plan seasonal activities over the next couple of months, Carey Tunstall has her regular gardening musings, this time with a royal floral flavour, Helen Knott returns with thoughts about her visit to London to attend the Queen's lying in state, whilst the local police have had yet another busy month.

Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the October issue of the

Yes, we're late again. Sorry. We're living in interesting

This month, we look at the Cyclo-cross event on

Western Park, we mourn the loss of our favourite local watering hole, as the West End Brewery plans its

times... It'll get better. Yeah, right. When?

Once again we have the wordsearch and another fiendishly difficult sudoku on the inside back page. And many thanks to our contributors and advertisers!

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## <u>Events Diary</u>

Free Thurs Club: 2pm. Meet & Eat: Weds 5pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narborough Rd.

Fosse Camera Club: For details visit Facebook page or fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk Hall @ St Anne's, Letchworth Rd: Knit & Natter: 1.30pm. 4th Tues. Weds Club: 2.30pm. 1st Weds. Musical Memory Box: 1st Tues 2pm Pram Club: Weds 9.15-11.30am. Women's Taekwondo: Thurs 8-9pm taekwondo4all.com Fri Coffee Morn: 10am Free Tea/Coffee @ St Paul's Worship Ctr / Community Hub, Kirby Rd Weds, 2-4pm. T-Top sale. 2nd Sat. Family Friends: Term time 4th Mon. St Paul's & St Augustine's Centre, Kirby Rd. 2nd Sat at New Parks Methodist Ch. Contact Sarah on 07465 431 585. Free drop-in Coffee Morns: Tues, 10-12 noon, St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Glenfield Rd East. @Curve: Sister Act 17-29 Oct. Best Exotic Marigold Hotel 1-5 Nov. Wizard Of Oz 19 Nov-8 Jan. @DM Hall: Frendsical 30 Oct. Music of Harry Potter 1 Nov. Dara O'briain 3 Nov. The Proclaimers 4 Nov. @Little Theatre: Tom Jones & Elvis Preslev Story 30 Oct. Entertaining Mr Sloane - 14-19 Nov. Abby Park Bonfire Night & Funfair: 5 Nov from 5pm. Upstairs@thewestern: Terrifying Women 27 Oct.

Rhymes Against Humanity 28 Oct. Pumpkin Roll: 29 Oct. Western Park. 10-2pm. Children's Music Taster: 29 Oct, 10am, Woodgate Resources Centre.

Open Streets Event: 30 Oct. 1-4pm, city centre.

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# **PEDAL POWER!**

Cyclo-Cross successfully rode back into Western park earlier in the 16th October.

This year's races attracted hundreds of amateur riders from across the East Midlands for Round 3 in the Leicestershire Cyclo-Cross League. Riders and supporters were joined by regular park users in, what fans say, already feels like an established cycling festival in the city's largest park.

"It was a great success', says Gary Coltman, Event Organiser for Leicestershire Road Club.

Cyclo-Cross racing was back at Western Park last year after a gap of over 20 years. Thanks to the support of Ward Councillors, Park Services, Ride Leicester, New College and from local cycling clubs. Glenn Coltman of Pedal Power in Loughbor-



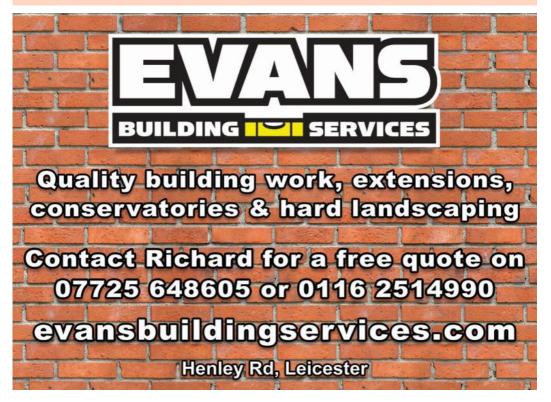
ough, (an ex-international Cyclo-Cross and Mountain Bike Racer) acted as Race Lead on the day.

Lord Mayor George Coles & Cllr Gary O'Donnell were on hand, this year, to award prizes to some of the winners in the popular junior and youth race

categories. Other categories included novice, veteran, women and senior races with the number of new and returning riders increasing over last year.

The City Council's Ride Leicester Team, provided a free British Cycling 'learn-to-ride', Wheels For All 'bike try-out' and B-Buddies ran their 'bike fix'. The Ride Leicester cargo-bikes were also on hand to collect food donations for New Parks & Braunstone Frith Community Foodbanks. Donations were encouraged by the event organisers in recognition of the event support shown by the local community.





# KNOTT'S LANDING

Standing in front of the Queen's coffin in the dead of night looking at the diamonds that stud the instruments of state, glittering under the bright lights, is definitely one of the more surreal experiences l've had. I was surprised at my own reaction to the death of Queen Elizabeth II. There were tears, a sense of being cut adrift and of great loss. Maybe it was a response to all those we have lost to COVID. The loved ones who passed away unexpectedly, but for whom we could not grieve properly. After talking to many others in various queues, I now know I was not alone in feeling like this.

I dismissed the idea of going to see the Queen lying in state as ridiculous. It would be far too busy! Yet I found myself on a train surrounded by people carrying bunches of flowers. My friend has MS and wanted to join 'The Queue' as she put it. Well, I wasn't going to let her do it alone, so I offered to be her wheelchair wrangler.

We joined the back of the line, 'for those who can't queue' as we called it, at about noon on the Saturday. It was about 16 hours long at this point. Our queue wasn't quite as long, but it still went all the way around Tate Britain and the MI5 building and back around in a big circle. Eventually, we got through the Tate 'S' bends and I found myself wearing a fluorescent yellow wristband time stamped 1-2am!

And so, it was at 12.45am that I found myself running down the Embankment pushing my friend in front of me to slide into the main queue, thanks to those little fluorescent strips, and pushed on through airport style security, into the House of Commons gift shop, and out into the wrong end of Westminster Hall.

After the darkness outside, the light and colour of the Hall was almost psychedelic. All the trappings of English heritage were on display. Diamonds, braiding, curled feathers, the purple catafalque, velvet and swords were everywhere you looked. We joined the solemn line of members of the public and walked towards the coffin. It was small and a reminder of our own mortality. The crown sat on top was bigger than I remember. The smell of flowers was strong in the air. We bowed our heads and had a moment of contemplation. Thoughts of those lost loved ones swam through my mind and disappeared into the vast, vaulted ceiling above.

We had arrived just before the changing of the guard. Red uniforms, gold braid, curling feathers and weaponry on display, moving in perfect harmony. There was silence in the hall apart from their shiny shoes on the ancient stones as they moved to their appointed places around the coffin.



THE

As the sound of their feet marching up the stone steps faded away,

we moved out through the main doors. A muffled Big Ben chimed twice and we watched as hundreds of people came back to reality, hugged each other and slowly disappeared into the night. It had been worth it, we agreed, to be part of history. **Helen Knott** 



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#### WEST END BREWERY TO SHUT

On New Year's Eve one of Leicester's best known local brew pubs will close after six years.

The West End Brewery, on Braunstone Gate, will ring in 2023 by selling their last pints of beer at mid-

night on December 31st. For many, the WEB, as it is affectionately called, has been a home from home for many local residents. Its closure has generated a shockwave of sadness from customers.

With their beer actually brewed on site, the WEB had become an important part of Leicester's real ale scene, but for their hundreds of West Leicester based custom-

ers, it is far more than that. It's a meeting place with a unique vibe that's not replicated anywhere else in the area. Lasting friendships have been made here and its closure has devastated many.

The family run brew pub, operated by Josh Gray and his Dad John, haven't made any public comment as to why the pub is closing, other than an announcement on the WEB's Facebook page, but it's believed that the spiralling costs of raw materials and energy have contributed to the decision.

Regulars were told, where possible, of the closure before the announcement was made, and over a

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hundred took to social media on hearing the news: "I'm going home for a little cry.", said Ed Kent, "So gutted.", Karen Klass, Mark Bentley: "Absolutely tragic.", Pepe Gallardo: "Heartbroken".

It's business as usual until December 31st. On the Facebook post Josh said: "There's plenty of time for us all to have a nice catch up in person between now and then and, of course, we'll be going out with a band".

Regular, Anil Chauhan, channelled the sitcom Cheers when asked how he felt about the closure: "It's the place where everyone know your name."

"After three pints of Josh's beer, it doesn't matter what your name is." said another, slowly sliding off his chair.

It's that sort of place, and it will be missed. RP



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We would like to start this month with a final huge thank you for making this year's Western Park Scarecrow Trail the biggest one yet; raising a total of £3015 for the project.

Now that the nights have started to draw in, our thoughts have turned to three more events.

The annual pumpkin roll will take place on Western Park, on 29th of October, with an extra event at St Anne's where you can decorate your pumpkin, have your face painted and a selection of refreshments before heading off.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November St. Anne's Church Hall will be home for the afternoon to Project Hive's Christmas Craft Fair. Between 12pm and 5pm, we will be hosting a mixture of local and visiting crafters, workshops and more alongside seasonal refreshments and Father Christmas himself who will be dropping in with a pop-up Grotto for younger visitors. For more information on this, and other events, along with how to book your space at one of the workshops, keep an eye on our website **wwce.org.uk** or on Facebook **@wwceleicester** 

Also in the early planning stages at the moment is a Family Christmas Party in the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> December. Details to follow. **KN** 

# Places For Autumn 2023 Now Open!

# DON'T MISS OUT!

Registrations close at midnight on 31 October 2022. If your form is not submitted by this date your child will miss out. Please go to

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#### CHEERS TO THE BEER FEST!

Glasses were raised once again when the Western Park Beer Festival made a welcome return after the pandemic-induced hiatus.

And that was not the only thing that was raised, with a huge amount of cash set to go to local charities.

Hundreds of people descended on St Anne's Church Hall over two days from September 9-10 to enjoy a great range of beers at the popular community event.

As well as buying hundreds of pints, visitors also ate about 650 samosas and nearly 140 cobs!



The final cash totals are still being added up and once the counting has been done, the money will be divided between three local charities - B-Inspired, The Laura Centre and Home Start Horizons.

Jonathan Briggs, Western Park Beer Festival chairman, said: "These events always take a lot of effort to put together and the feedback we got was once again overwhelmingly positive. The Western Park Beer Festival is run by volunteers for the benefit of our local community so we would love to hear from anyone who wants to join us as a member."

If you are interested, you can email the group at info@westernparkbeerfestival.org

# UNEARTHING HELP

The Fosse Road Diggers, are busily planting up the flower beds on the Fosse Road South/ Hinckley Road corner, near the Merry Monarch pub.

They are looking for neighbours who would like to grow plants at home and donate them. We can provide compost and seeds. They are in particular need of plants that will grow in the shade (but not exclusively). If this is something you'd like to do, please contact Ellie at



ellieweston86@gmail.com



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# Oct Police Update

Officers carrying out enquiries following a fight in Narborough Road, on Saturday 1st October, are asking anyone who witnessed it to come forward.

Police were called in shortly before 11.45pm after it was reported a group of men were fighting in the street, outside Alino bar.

It is thought one man was injured, but when officers arrived, those involved had left.

If you have information, please phone police on 101, quoting crime number 22\*572659 or head online to *leics.police.uk* 

Police are also looking for witnesses after a 38year-old man sustained serious head injuries following a fight involving several people in Blackbird Road, near Groby Road junction, at around 6.30pm on Monday 26 September.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC 1602 Sarah Lee on 101 quoting 22\*561341.

Five men were arrested following a raid on a cannabis farm off Hinckley Road, Westcotes, on October 4th. Six police cars surrounded an address at 2.30pm after reports that cannabis plants were being loaded into the back of a vehicle. Three people were arrested at the scene followed by two others after a short chase.

The final week of September continued to be a busy one for The Fosse Team. A cannabis grow was located on Woodville Rd on the 29th. The electricity fuse box had been bypassed and numerous large socket boards overloaded to power cultivation lights. One male was arrested, charged, and appeared in court.

Officers stopped two mopeds from driving on the Rally. Both were issued Section 59 notices.

School kids have also been identified as those knocking on a vulnerable male's door on Tudor Rd. This will not be tolerated and police will be engaging with the local schools regarding their behaviour. A vehicle was stopped on the Fosse and suspects arrested for weapon possession and carrying £3,000 in cash, believed to be from the proceeds of crime, and officers assisted immigration at Woodgate Carwash to check worker documents were all in order.

There has been a spate of bicycle thefts on the Fosse recently. Many thanks to a resident on Dunton Street who located two stolen e-bikes.

If you own a bicycle, please register it on Bike Register, which is a national cycling database. It helps reunite owner and bike if it's recovered. *bikeregister.com* 

Finally, as the days shorten and cold, long nights creep in, burglars are ready to take advantage of the dark. So, make it difficult for them by ensuring your windows and doors are secured, your light timer is working, and if you're doing some Christmas shopping, dispose of the wrappings discreetly.

# CAREY'S COMPOST

The passing of Queen Elizabeth II was met with great sadness last month for many people, and I, like others, wanted to put something in place to commemorate and celebrate her life. There are various ways with which we could do this, but honouring her great interest in gardening, seems the way forward.

Although not a 'hands on gardener' the Queen had a great interest and was very knowledgeable on the subject. She adored many plants especially those with small flowers and plants that fall within the cottage garden style, Lily of the Valley being one of her favourites!

Queen Elizabeth II became patron to the Royal Horticultural Society in 1952, and part of this patronage was visiting the Chelsea Flower Show. It was here that it is believed she gleaned much information and guidance for her royal residences and when residing at Buckingham palace her head gardener took her a posy of freshly picked seasonal flowers each Monday morning. Indeed, many of the funeral flowers were picked from the gardens of Buckingham Palace, Clarence House, and Highgrove House. These cuttings included alstroemeria, gladio-

li, roses, pelargoniums, sedums and dahlias to name but a few, these were in shades of gold, pink, burgundy, white and gold to reflect the Royal Standard. I feel it would be nice to dedicate an area of the flowerbeds for bedding these plants or similar varieties. This would create a nice area for contemplation, reflection or even just to gaze at the wildlife they'll attract. Another option would be to plant a specimen piece, named in honour of Queen Elizabeth II. Now is the perfect time for planting roses, and two come to mind. Rosa 'Queen Elizabeth' a delicately fra-

granced bush rose with pink flowers. Or Rosa 'The Queen Elizabeth II Rose' a hybrid tea classic looking rose with creamy pink flowers and hints of gold. If you don't like roses, there is the evergreen camelia, 'Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II' which has rosepink flowers in spring. Or finally Rhododendron 'Queen Elizabeth II', also

evergreen, but having a



show of pale-yellow flowers mid to late spring. Perhaps incorporating any of these options (or all of them!) would be a great addition to the garden and a nice show of remembrance for our longest reigning female monarch. **Carey Tunstall** 



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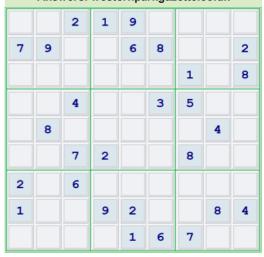


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