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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the September edition of the Western Park Gazette.

In August, hundreds of us trooped to the second Western Park Charity Beer Festival, this year, held at Dovelands School. Beer was swigged by the gallon, prosecco by the bottle and gin... not so much. Oddly enough, we were there successfully helping with the drinking. We did this purely for research purposes... And it was good.

We also take a look at the huge amount of work going on as the new community hall rises from the rubble of Tin Annie and there's the chance that a new free school could one day open its doors on Western Park. Roger Blackmore looks at the life of Alderman Newton, our garden goblin, Tony Huxley, hedges around the delights of beech whist Helen Knott is angry. Very angry at the rules surrounding home care availability. Just how do they make a decision about who's vulnerable and who's not? And the boys in blue from Hinckley Road Policing Unit have their latest update. Finally, the Sudoku and crossword lurk in wait on the inside back page.

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Events Diary

Pub Quiz: Monthly last Tues. West End Brewery Braunstone Gate. 8-10pm.

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: Thurs 7-8.30pm. Tues, Fri & Sat 11-3pm. WE Centre. Andrewes St.

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

Westfield Gallery: Mon-Sat. 81 Westfield Rd. Call 0116 285 8548 to view.

Million Dollar Quartet: 14-24 Sept. **The Shawshank Redemption:** 3-8 Oct. **Russell Kane:** 11 Oct. **The Importance of Being Ernest:** 6-29 Oct. **Abba Mania:** 12/14 Oct. Curve. curveonline.co.uk

Jenny Eclair: 24 Sept. Y Theatre. 8.00pm. leicestersymca.co.uk

Undermined: 16 Sept. **Find The Right Words:** 12 Sept. **Colours Of Kenny Roach:** 24th Sept. **Richard III:** 29th Sept. Upstairs at the Western. upstairs@thewestern.com

Autumn Fair: 1 Oct. St. Anne's Ch. 11-2pm, Free.

Yes Prime Minister: 3-8 Oct. **The Pyjama Game:** 10-15 Oct. Little Theatre. 7.30pm. thelittletheatre.net

Highly Strung (acoustic duo): 8 Oct. Polonez Bar. Hinckley Road. Free entry.

Pumpkin Prize Giving/McMillan Coffee Morn: 22 Oct. Groby Rd Allotments. 10-2pm.

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CHEERS!

Hundreds of people enjoyed a huge range of beers at this summer's Western Park Beer Festival.

Among the crowd at Dovelands Primary School was Norman, aged 80, who said it felt as if he was having a crazy dream because he was drinking a pint of Tiger inside the school he went to in the 1940s.

With 41 different beers, plus ciders, wine, Prosecco and soft drinks, visitors to the Menphys fundraiser got through 400 samosas, 130 cobs and dozens of pizzas over August 19 and 20.

The festival kicked off with a special sponsor session which saw beer sommelier Mark Tetlow lead the group through a beer and food pairing as guests had free reign of the bar before the festival opened to the public.

Co-sponsored by Everards and The West End Brewery, the festival committee are hopeful the event has raised thousands of pounds for charity.

Chairman Mat Mabe said: "This was our second beer festival and we're happy that so many people came to support the event, both at the two evening sessions and at the family session on Saturday afternoon.

"We'd like to thank everyone who came down for a drink, plus our sponsors and supporters, and we

hope to have raised a decent wedge for Menphys while getting the Western Park community together under one roof for a drink.

"Again, I'd like to give special credit to Everards and West End Brewery for co-sponsoring the event, without them it would have been much less fun. I'm also happy to report that a good number of sponsors have been in touch to say they're looking forward to the next Western Park Beer Festival."



Mat added: "We're going to get together soon to see how we can improve on this year's festival. What we'd really like is feedback from the public - they can contact us through Facebook, Twitter or www.westernparkbeerfestival.org - and so can potential sponsors." (Cover pic Beth Walsh)

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ALDERMAN NEWTON

I very much enjoyed visiting All Saints Church at the far end of Highcross Street, for one of its Open Days last month. The church, though largely disused, is very ancient (and was in fact the site of the trial of Margery Kempe, described in a recent issue of the Gazette). Apart from its noteworthy Jack-of-the-Clock, there is an interesting exhibition of war memorials in the brick-built Victorian nave. That day, we had a talk on different memorials to the fallen, often lost or abandoned in churches, clubs, workplaces, schools and other communities in and around the city.

It was in the attractive little churchyard at the rear of the church that I found the tomb of none other than Alderman Gabriel Newton, one of the four figures carved on our iconic clock tower.

Gabriel Newton was born in 1683 and was made an Alderman of the city in 1726. He devoted most of his long life to what we would nowadays call public life, and was elected Mayor of Leicester in 1732. All through his life he took a keen interest in educational issues, charity schools and the sponsoring of apprenticeships.

Sadly his personal life was marred by tragedy. He was married three times and his only son to survive into adulthood died at the age of eighteen. As a result he had no heir to inherit his rapidly grow-

ing fortune. As a result he made sizeable donations to a range of educational charities, including the founding of the school which was to bear his name.

The Alderman Newton Educational Foundation lives on, however, despite the closure/merger of the school that bore his name. The Governing body of the Foundation continues to make grants to a range of educational charities and to individuals seeking help with education and training.

Gabriel Newton died in 1762 at the age of 79. He was afforded a civic funeral and was laid to rest, as we have seen, in the churchyard of All Saints.

As an interesting historical footnote: Alderman Newton's school which first opened in Greyfriars in 1784 but acquired its building land in 1763. Exactly 250 years later, The University of Leicester and partners announced the discovery of the grave of King Richard III in the very grounds that generations of students had walked across thanks to Gabriel Newton's bequest.

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Don't get old. Really. Don't get old. It sucks, and not just because you are no longer valued as a consumer, because you are ignored by a society that values youth above all else, because you are dismissed as having nothing valuable left to contribute. It sucks because when you get old, your health fails inevitably and at some point you will have to rely on carers. Those awesome people who rock up every day to make sure you aren't sitting in your own poo at the bottom of the stairs for three days because you fell over and can't get up.

Getting carers to come and help is not easy. From my experience if you can, at any point, make a cup of tea, get yourself dressed and get to the toilet on your own you won't get any help with care. It doesn't matter if you are vulnerable, if you are sick on and off, if you can't see very well, if you can't hear very well. None of that matters because you are not sick enough to get any help. You can make a cup of tea on your own....

Think about that. You might be able to make a cup of tea in your own kitchen but you might not be able to walk along the street safely alone. You might be able to get your bra on because it's lycra and your clothes are baggy and stretchy so you can get them on yourself, but you can't use a button and buttonhole, or hook your trousers together. You might be able to reheat a microwave meal but you can't peel a potato or cook vegeta-

bles on the stove because you forget they are there. You won't qualify for care. If you pay for it yourself you can pretty much guarantee that 'the social care system' will wash their hands of you because they are just there to help the most needy. I hate that phrase, it's a sliding scale of desperation. Oh they have greater needs than you... Mate, if someone has needs, at any level, they should be helped with them.

We should not be in a situation where older people who need help have the door slammed in their face because they aren't restricted enough. Responsibility for social care needs to be taken away from councils and put into the hands of the NHS right NOW! Not as part of some vague grand socialist utopia in ten years, right bloody now. So that the standards applied in hospitals are the same as those in the community. So people are not forced to pay for care because they are too vulnerable to cook but they can make a cup of tea. So people coming out of hospital aren't just dumped in a chair at home because they are 'fully independent' even though they aren't really. So that we know how much it actually costs to look after people rather than multiple agencies and private companies being involved. So that funding is not constantly ground down by government decisions to reduce council funding, all the while legislating so councils are not allowed to raise their own taxes to cover the shortfall. The system is broken and someone needs to stand up and fix it. *H. Knott*



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FROM MENCAP TO SCHOOL CAP?

Parents in West Leicester could be about to get a wider choice of local schools after one of Leicester's top academies announced it wants to open a new academy in the area.

The Lionheart Academies Trust is understood to have taken an interest in the 5 acre area of Western Park currently up for sale as a residential development but which includes the Constance Jackson Centre and the Western Park Open School.



The Trust already provides schooling for young people in Oadby through Beauchamp College and would like to open three new free academies in Evington, Aylestone and Braunstone. Public consultations have been held in these

areas, including one at the Brite Centre in Braunstone. The Trust says: "The brand new free schools will have a focus on global citizenship, creative arts and enterprise with a supportive pastoral system, inspiring learning environments and a wide portfolio of subjects".

In West Leicester: "Our vision for the 4-16 free school is based on the innovative foundations of the 'Urban Forest School' bringing nature and activity into the classroom to inspire curiosity and creativity. This creative approach to learning allows for young people to develop a keen interest in their natural surroundings as well as developing communication skills through play and enquiry".



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DMU Students Tackle Crisis

Students from De Montfort University were in Berlin early this month to gauge the city's response to the influx of Syrian refugees. This was to get a better idea of how to invigorate Leicester's refugees and asylum projects.

DMU Square Mile, through DMUlocal has a support programme for refugees and asylum seekers in Leicester delivering health outreach, education and legal advice.

Germany could receive 800,000 refugees this year and the UK, 20,000. DMU's Mark Charlton said: "We wanted to use the trip to Berlin to show the UK is not insular and unhelpful, and that people do care about the plight of refugees".



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OUT OF ANNIE'S ASHES

It had served the Western Park community for 102 years but on May 6th 2016 the bulldozers, crowbars and jackhammers began tearing down Tin Annie.

The century old corrugated iron and timber structure, incongruously lodged between two 1960's brick bookends, on Letchworth Road was never meant to be permanent, but over the decades became a valued local asset. Now the £250,000 project to replace it with a brand new up-to-date building is slowly edging towards completion.

MD Paul Kilgannon (Pictured right) from the builders Henderson's said: "The new hall will be very low energy, all on one level with wheelchair access and we're also installing a disabled lift.

"We've dug out over 150 tons of soil and refilled with concrete. That's just to start with.

"It's not been plain sailing; we found over 30 wasp and bees nests when we started, some were really huge and there are access problems to work around, but we're getting there.

Building work is expected to finish in December and the amount of material currently being used on site is staggering. Paul said: " It's a big, complicated job. So far we've used over 2000 breeze blocks and 6000 bricks in the project."

Architects drawings are available to view at St. Anne's Church on Letchworth Road.



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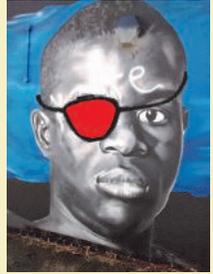
MURAL REPAIRED

The world famous Leicester city football team mural on Kate Street in the city's West End has been vandalised.

An obscenity was daubed over the face of former city player Ungo-low Kantay early Saturday morning on 27th August.

Artist Rich Wilson, whose mural garnered world wide attention, returned to Leicester to repair the damage a few days later.

He is quoted as saying that he's surprised the vandal could actually write...
If you can help the police catch the perpetrators please contact them on 101.



LAST LCFC MURAL FINISHED

Artist Leigh Drummond has put the finishing touches to her controversial mural honouring the heritage of Leicester City Football Club's Thai owners.

The 75sqm painting on the side of the 17th century Grade II listed Newark Houses Museum has been called 'tacky' and inappropriately placed by some councillors and Historic England.

In spite of concerns the project was given the go-ahead and finished in two weeks at the end of August.

The intricate artwork is part of a 6 piece project funded by the city council to celebrate the Fox's historic Premier League victory last season.

The mural covering one entire side of Newark Houses Museum includes the three headed elephant, Erawan, referring to former Thai kingdoms, tiger, monk, Buddha and the Foxes logos.

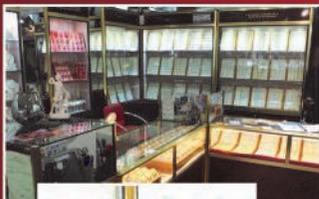
The celebratory murals can be seen on Kate Street, behind Mark's Electrical, Tudor Road, Augustine Road (Nicholas Circle), East Bond Street and Burnmoor Street.



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Sept Police Update

With children back to school, there is a rise in problems caused by parking. Parents and carers who are driving their children to school are urged to be considerate to local residents when parking up. By a school, this can easily cause obstructions and present visibility hazards. Passing motorists may not see pedestrians crossing the road.

The weather for autumn also presents dangerous road conditions with wet and slippery surfaces, which can increase stopping distances under braking. Please watch your speed whilst on the roads during poor weather conditions.

Police are investigating a report that a woman, jogging along Great Central Way, was touched inappropriately by youths on bikes.

Two of the youths rode off towards Upperton Road in the direction of Bede Park.

This took place at about 5.20pm on Wednesday 17 August and officers have been carrying out enquiries to identify the people involved.

The two suspects were described as around 16; one of them was of large build, with short mousey brown hair. He was wearing thick framed black glasses, no top and football shorts. The other was slim, topless with short black hair, wearing navy blue football shorts.

If you know anything about the incident please call 101, quoting crime number 16000239747

Towards the end of August police received a report of an incident off Fosse Road South where a suspect had used, what was believed to be, a BB air gun weapon. As a contingency, armed officers were deployed in case it was a viable firearm. Consequently, a male was arrested on suspicion of ABH and two air weapons were seized. It was an incident that occurred internally within an address and posed no risk to other members of the public.

Officers made the significant arrest of a suspect in August and an active investigation into a number of Westcotes's burglaries is ongoing.

A male has been charged with two offences and was recalled to prison. Since the operation started there has been a 50% reduction in burglaries since 08/08/16. The team has begun a crime prevention campaign looking at deterring repeat crimes.

Fosse Beat Surgery: at The Fosse neighbourhood Centre on Mantle Road on Sept 22nd from 10am-noon and on October 3 at Woodgate PO on Buckminster Rd from 10-noon.

Western Beat Surgery: on Sept 23rd at St. Paul's on Kirby Rd between 10.00am-12.30pm.

Westcotes Beat Surgery: Sept 30th from 1-2pm at the E/West Com Centre.

Brew With A Bobby: Oct 7th from 11.30am-1.00pm at LCIL on Andrewes St.

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



Strangely I seem busier at the end of the summer than at the beginning. No sooner have I cut back the flowering herbaceous plants, in the hope they'll flower again before autumn is out, then I'm rushing to cut the beech and hornbeam hedges before the last drop of summer has been spent.

European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is one of my favourite trees, tall, noble with steely grey bark. But as a hedging plant, it's the King! Just take a look at the famous Scottish beech hedge at Meikleour: (Pic) More than a hundred feet tall and well over twice that in years. Copied examples can easily stand for 1000 years!

There's so much going for beech hedge. It's a native plant, happy with the extremes of the British climate, and fits in with the wildlife. When bought as whips, it's cheap, and when established, grows quickly. It forms a strong



structural shape but can be cut back hard if needed. Its leaf colour gives great seasonal interest: lime green new leaves, deep green mature leaves, and finally, coppery autumn colour. And if you leave its annual trim until the end of the summer, it'll hold those leaves till the spring.

As a hedge, hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) is often mistaken for beech. But look closely and you'll see the leaves appear more delicate, distinctly ribbed and a slightly lighter green. It too holds its leaves better if cut at the end of summer. Both plants tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, with hornbeam a little more willing to accept soil that is prone to waterlogging.

So if you're lucky enough to own such a hedge, then now is the time to oil the trimmer blade, fit the RCD if you're using mains electricity, and get to work. Do, of course, be careful out there, especially if using a petrol trimmer, the blades can continue to reciprocate for a few seconds after the throttle has been released, as the recent scar on my right knee cap can testify!



Hornbeam leaf

Tony Huxley

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8: Fantasist. © Paul Towers

8	6	3		4	
3		8	4		6 5
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	5		1		4
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6	9		8	1	
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