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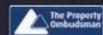
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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the September edition of the **Western Park Gazette**. Regular readers will be aware of our real and craft ale fixation which has just been elegantly satiated at the latest Western Park Beer Festival.

So satiated, in fact, that all we've done for this issue is take a load of photos and stuck them in the front of the magazine... then went for a booze snooze.

Upon waking it was discovered the Gazette had magically edited itself together and inserted all the regular features. This month, Roger Blackmore muses on Leicester's great houses, Helen Knott's titanic raging fury is directed at cleaning. She's not really furious, just a bit vexed... Mark Brennan has the latest from our local police and Tony Huxley has a few ideas for the autumn garden.

DMU's Square Mile Project continues to embed itself in Leicester's life with a community cinema night, supporting cancer awareness, free kid's Saturday clubs and the West End's Pensioners' Christmas dinner. It's all in the centre pages.

But if you just want to get annoyed, try the Sudoku and Crossword on the back page.

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Events Diary

Fosse Co-op Camera Club: Fri. St Peter's Ch Centre, Westholme St. 7.30pm. fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk

Free Thurs 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.

Walking Group: Sundays. 2pm. 96 Deg. B-Gate.

Dru Yoga Sessions with Emma: Sun. 7.15-8.30pm. St Anne's Hall. 07393 811150.

May The Toys Be With You: Until - 28th Oct. New Walk Museum & Art Gallery.

Free Children's Art Club: Saturdays 10.30-12.00. Fosse Neighbourhood Centre. Mantle Rd.

Lady Brewers Day: 28th Sept. WE Brewery. B'Gate.

Upstairs at the Western: RHYMES Against Humanity - 28th Sept, **Me, Mum & The Patriarchy** - 29th Sept, **John Neale's Comedy Workshop** - 1st Oct, **Poetry Solo** - 3rd Oct, **Film Noir Night** - 4th Oct, **Instead Talks** - 5th Oct, **Uncle Armando** - 10th Oct

Curve Theatre: Memoirs of an Asian Football Casual 15th Sept - 6th Oct, **Swan Lake** 2-6th Oct, **Cilla The Musical** 9th -13th Oct.

De Mont Hall Oct: Daniel O'Donnell 5th, **Tony Hadley** 9th, **Bowie Experience** 19th, **Calendar Girls The Musical** 16th-20th.

Quiz Night Fundraiser/Raffle: Sat 6th Oct. Hall at St Anne's 7/00pm. Teams of 6 max. £5.00 pp.

Rum & Reggae: Sat 27th Oct. Hall at St Anne's. 6-11pm. £4.00 OTD.

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SATURDAY NIGHT BEER FEVER!

West Leicester's real ale fans proved themselves to be skilled drinkers and nifty dancers at the fourth Western Park Beer Festival.

The two dayer raised thousands for two Leicester homeless charities, a community enterprise and the UK Sepsis Trust having attracted hundreds to the disco themed event at St Anne's Church Hall on September 14 and 15.

The beer, cider, wine, fizz, cocktails and soft drinks went down well to a dynamic 1970s soundtrack and a steady conveyor of samosas, pizzas and cheese cobs.

With Saturday afternoon's dedicated family event - featuring face painting, free ice cream and a bouncy castle manned by parents from Dovelands Primary School - the beer festival was a hit with all ages.

Matt Pearce, Chairman of the beer festival committee, said: "We've always strived to create a true family event, to put on a bash where friends and neighbours can meet up, have a tipples, and raise a few quid for local causes.

"Importantly, our beer festival couldn't take place without our main sponsors Everards and Geo-Matters, plus Sturgess Motor Group, Framework Brewery, L2 Associates, Inter City Group, Walton Design and Men's Society - and a whole host of other local companies who, through sponsorship,

made things a success.

"Finally, we'd like to thank fellow Western Parkers who cut a swathe through more than 2,000 pints of beer and cider over the weekend."



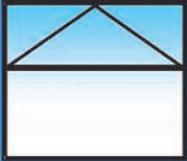
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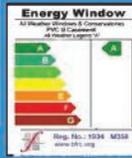
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KNOTT'S LANDING

September used to be about mists and mellow fruitfulness, a gentle season of production and storing things ready for winter. It ain't like that anymore. September is now the month of frantic purchasing of school uniform and random scented stationary, desperate scrabbles to hang on to the last dregs of summer at festivals and worst of all, cleaning.

The kids have been off on holiday for six weeks and like tiny Tasmanian Devils, they have barrelled through our homes trailing debris in their wake. They have emptied cupboards, scattered things, piled stuff on top of dirt, put dirt on top of that and then added more stuff to the pile.

I am no angel, I love a good pile and I have high tolerance to them, but I hate a DIRTY pile as much as the next person.

The supermarkets know this. Look at what's on offer this month! It's not diet related, it's not home-wares, no, it's cleaning products. Men and women, drunk on the freedom of having the kids in school, now have to clean up the mess left behind from a summer of staycationing. Although first, we are going to invite our good friends, the ones who don't mind mess, around and we are going to toast the peace of no kids with an uninterrupted

coffee and the good brownies. I have to remember to set an alarm to wake me from my first day back nap in time to collect my child from school!

Once the mini celebration is over, it's back to the cleaning and wondering how sticky tac has managed to attach itself to your best jumper and cursing the name of the human who bought your child a slime kit.

Some smug people will tell you that the cleaning can be done with nothing but lemon juice, vinegar and bicarb. They will piously direct you to YouTube videos explaining how to get dried Weetabix off the kitchen wall with nothing but an old flannel and a cup of your own pee.

They clearly have too much time on their hands. I went to the supermarket and came back with lots of branded products that could take the skin off a dirty mammal at 40 paces and a bottle of gin. I'll see you on the flip side in October. Either the cleaning will be finished or the gin... I'll be happy either way.

Helen Knott



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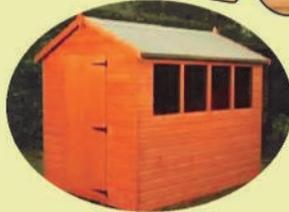
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Mansions of Leicester

Throughout Great Britain during the twentieth century, literally scores of country mansions were demolished. Either their owners found the cost of upkeep too high or death duties prompted wealthy families to look again at their residences. Bodies such as the National Trust and Ministry of Works (now English Heritage) were unable to cope with the volume of requests to take over and maintain such properties. Thus it was that over the course of the century Leicestershire lost some of its finest country mansions.

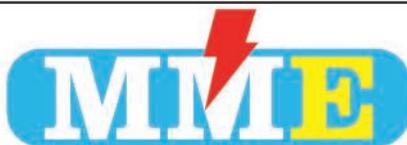
For example, in 1951, in the west of the county Gopsall Hall was demolished. Situated in the middle of a vast estate, it was described by the famous architectural historian, Niklaus Pevsner, as: "the most extensive and lavishly decorated eighteenth century house in the county." Designed by local Leicester architect John Westley, pictures of it could be viewed in magazines such as Country Life.

A few years later, in 1964, I well recall reading in the Leicester Mercury that Garendon Hall near Shepshed was to be razed to the ground to provide hardcore for the M1, then being built through the county. Garendon Hall was originally built on the site of the former Cistercian Garendon Abbey.

Papillon Hall near Market Harborough had an interesting history going back some four hundred years when it was occupied by a refugee Huguenot family. Between 1902 and 1904 it was remodelled by the famous architect Edward Lutyens, who also designed Leicester's iconic war memorial. It too was sadly demolished in the 1950's. Attached to Papillon Hall is the legend of the Cursed Shoes. These shoes were said to belong to the Spanish mistress of a former occupant of the house. Either the curse was issued by this lady upon her lover, or it came about as a result of her untimely death. It is said that the Curse of the Shoes still haunts the site.

It is possible that some readers may actually have visited one or more of these mansions in their younger days. It would be interesting to know if any such memories exist locally.

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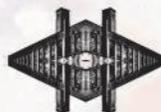
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I've recently heard that Network Rail is planning to clear the trees from the railway embankment that runs parallel with Wyngate Drive, Dorchester Road and Ainsdale road. I personally think this is devastating news and have contacted the Council, the Woodland Trust and several other organisations to find out what can be done to stop it.

However, it's recently come to my attention that some of the residents are actually quite happy about Network Rail's plans. I realise that some keen gardeners find the tree-shadow and autumnal leaves a problem, but in effect we have our own personal woodland literally at the bottom of our gardens.

Shouldn't we treasure it? The birdlife and wildlife supported by the trees are incredibly rich and diverse. For example this morning I heard a buzzard call and watched as a flock of goldfinches flew by followed by a jay and a greater spotted woodpecker. At certain times of the year I've heard vixens and owls call and other residents have reported seeing muntjac deer. I've also watched a sparrowhawk hunting through the trees and landing on my lawn! And all within the limits of a thriving, modern city. Isn't this amazing? Shouldn't we be proud of this micro-ecosystem? Surely this linear woodland is one of the riches of the area and should be saved. **Stuart Hill**

We live in Western Park and our son Hudson Reid, aged 8, has just won the Leicestershire County Closed Tennis competition in the u8 and u9 categories. It's a huge achievement to win one, but two is quite big deal.

We have used Western Park Tennis courts through the summer, which has benefited him enormously. We think this is a really positive and fantastic achievement for him and for Western Park.

Our daughter, Fallon, also won the 12u Doubles and came runner up in 12u Leicestershire County Closed for tennis; again using the Western Park courts. Doing regular runs at Braunstone Park and using other local amenities has helped the children achieve this along with their tennis coach Sam Preston.

Hudson attends Christ the King RC school, Fallon who is 12 is at Sir Johnathan North community college. We think that this is a really positive story and hopefully it will encourage other children and parents to try the amenities out and keep active!

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Sept Police Update

Officers across the three Neighbourhood Wards of Fosse, Westcotes and New Parks have been very busy over the past month looking to target those carrying knives, drug production, burglaries as well as some of the issues raised to us by the community such as road and cycle safety.

We have devoted officers on patrol at key times and places to specifically focus on those carrying knives. If you know of anyone in your community that is carrying knives then please report that to police via 101 or anonymously to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111.

At the end of August a warrant was conducted at an address in the West End where a large cannabis grow was located and two persons were arrested and charged for the production of cannabis. The issue of cannabis grows presents significant dangers of fire. The money used by the sale of this drug also funds serious and organised crime. Please help us by telling us about suspicious addresses in the area again via 101 or to Crimestoppers.

Officers have been conducting a range of high visibility and plain clothes patrols targeting those committing burglary. As the nights draw in please take the time to review your home security to prevent burglary. Window and door locks, security lights and timers as well as asking neighbours to watch over your property are all good ways to protect your home.

Following concerns raised from local residents, your local beat team have been on Glenfield Road to educate some cyclists in relation to the dangers and laws of riding on pavements. The majority of cyclists were recorded to be riding appropriately, 7 given words of advice. We will refer the findings to our partners in Leicester City Council to consider longer term approaches to manage this issue. Again as the nights draw in please take the time to ensure your cycle has all lights fitted and in working order. Reflective clothing is a must.

The investigation into February's Hinckley Road explosion continues. Three men have now been charged with murder. Aram Kurd, 34, Hawkar Hassan, 32 and Arkan Ali, 37, appeared at Leicester Crown Court where they were each charged with five counts of murder.

All three men are also charged with arson with intent to endanger life and manslaughter.

A 33 year old woman from Leicester was arrested on 31 August on suspicion of conspiracy to commit arson and was released under investigation later the same day.

Sgt Mark Brennan

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



With autumn rapidly approaching, your garden maybe starting to look a little tired. Dead heading and clipping back herbaceous plants can encourage a late season flush, but this rarely compares with their main season flowering. If you're looking for extra colour before autumn becomes winter, then late summer flowering bulbs can give you quite a bang for your buck.

For South African exuberance try growing some Nerines (pictured). They're hardy and come in a wide range of colours from white to purple with shades of fluorescent orange and violent pink in between.

Exotic and often highly scented lily flowers can be a perfect complement to an autumn flowering border. Recent problems with lily beetle have made them less desirable and with wet weather, like this year, they can become a magnet for slugs. Growing



them in pots allows you to easily control these pests. The pots can be plunge planted into the garden as required. Research by the RHS found *Lilium regala* is less prone to the dreaded lily beetle than other species.

Crocosmia has no such problem with pests; in fact the insipid orange variety that once filled so many old ladies' gardens is itself a pest in the wild. But there are many bolder, more worthwhile cultivars. The ruby red Lucifer is still my favourite.

There are several species of autumn flowering crocus. *C.nudiflorus* (pictured) has large violet blooms and *C.speciosus* comes in many varieties. They work well in an alpine or rockery situation but will also be happy in any open well drained site where they won't have to compete with larger plants.

Acis, alliums, cyclamen and Gladiolas, (I particularly like the more compact butterfly varieties) are just a few other species worth considering. So pop down the garden centre and see what bulbs can brighten up your garden this autumn.

Tony Huxley





Martin Page

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1		2		3		4
5						
6						
7						

1 Across: Vacation **1 Down:** Cyber criminals **2:** Type of tea **3:** Splasher **4:** Gave in **5:** Able **6:** Electronically posted **7:** Sweetened
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		9		3	1			7
							4	
				5	7			2
	9	8			6	1		
	4							7
		6	2				3	4
	6		3	8				
		1						
8			1	2			9	

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