



GO RIDE!!



More on page 2

Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the September issue of the Western Park Gazette.

In this issue, we get our wheels out and pull on the lycra, as Western Park plays hosts to Go Ride! which encourages under 16s and the rest of us, to get into cycling. Still on wheels, but this time in leather and straddling 650cc's, Sharon Komrska meets the Fosse Riders.

On a quieter and surprising note, we've even found something that Helen Knott actually likes and it's ping pong.

Local historian Roger Blackmore has the tale of one of Leicester's pioneering female teachers, Richard Perry has a delve through some alternative search engines; ones which won't spy on you and Tony Huxley gets all green fingered with his Gardening news.

If you're into boxing, then there's a match on the way as a former Braunstone Gate DJ, Scott King, make his first defence of the EBF Midlands Area heavyweight championship.

And always join us on Facebook or find us on Twitter!

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GO RIDE!

Young cyclists inspired by the Olympic achievements of Team GB's bike stars got a taste of competitive cycle riding at the August Go-Ride Games on Western Park.

Cyclists aged up to 16 took part in short-course cross country races and time trials, with advice and support from qualified coaches.



The entry-level races were organised by British Cycling with the Leicester Road Club, Leicester Forest Cycling Club and the Western Park Freeriders, along with the Leicester City Council. Gary Coltman, manager of British Cycling's talent

programme said: "The races at Western Park are a fun introduction to the sport... New talent is the life-blood of grassroots cycling, and it's from local clubs that the next generation of national champions will be found."

CASTLE PARK FESTIVAL

Thousands headed to the Castle Gardens over Bank Holiday Monday, to enjoy the finale of the Castle Park Old Town Festival.

In celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year and Leicester's many Royal connections, the theme of this year's week long festival was the Kings and Queens of England.

This was highlighted with walking tours, lectures and exhibitions and the return of public access to Leicester Castle, the Magazine Gateway and Wygston's House.

The finale was the traditional family day at Castle Gardens, featuring historical re-enactments and walk about 'royal' characters, live music, arts, crafts and food stalls, boat rides, children's circus



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Events Diary

Zumba Class Tues. 6.45-7.45 & 8-9.00pm at New College. Call Sarah 07810 307 113.

Fosse Camera Club: Fridays. St. Peter's Church Rooms. 7.45pm. 0116 299 2230.

Leic' Ladies WI: Meets monthly on 3rd Mon. 7.15pm Upstairs in The Almanack, 15 Bath House Lane.

Breastfeeding Group: West End Sure Start Children's Centre, Catesby Street, Tuesdays. 1:30pm - 3:00pm. 0116 225 2225.

Online Sessions: Westcotes library. Weekly. Mon, Tues & Thurs. 1-3.30pm. Free

Big Jubilee Lunch: Rally Park. Sept 9th. 12-4.

Seaside Steam Day: Abbey Pumping Station. 9th Sept. 10-5pm. Family Tickets £8.00.

Over 50's Tea Dance: New Parks Centre Library. 10th Sept. 12-5pm. Free.

The Southwell Workhouse: Illustrated Nat Trust talk. 11 Sept. 7.30pm at Highpoint Centre, Glenfield Rd. Call 0116 222 9133.

Craft Fayre: 10-3pm. Sat 22nd Sept. Ukrainian Hall.

Fosse Singers with Blake: 23rd Sept. Loughborough Town Hall. www.fossesingers.co.uk

Western Park Family Festival: Music and entertainment: Sept 29th 11-6pm. Free.

Neil Innis: Guildhall. 30th Sept. 7.30pm.

Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band: Sun 7th Oct & 4th Nov. Hilton Hotel J21 Meridian 1-3.30pm.

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CITY OF SANCTUARY

If you live in the Fosse ward and would like to learn to paint, Leicester City of Sanctuary, a charity that works with asylum seekers and refugees, wants to hear from you.

From September, they are running a series of art classes in landscape and portrait painting at St Martin's House, Peacock Lane, next to the Cathedral. Project financing is via a grant from the Communities First Fund which is administered through the Fosse ward.

One of the organisers, Pam Inder says: "People confuse asylum seekers with illegal immigrants and think they are criminals or job stealers. In fact, they are people who have suffered serious persecution at home.

"Some of your fellow students will be asylum seekers and I guarantee that when you meet them, you will realise that all the bad things you have heard and read are complete nonsense!

At the end of the course your work will be displayed at De Montfort University and in Fosse Neighbourhood Centre."

Each class costs £5 (or £25 for 6) and all materials will be provided. For more information and to book a place, telephone 0116 2519 068.

St. Anne's, St. Paul's and St. Augustine's

At St. Anne's Church Hall -

Mon - Fri: Playgroup 285 7440. (term time)

Mon: 5.30 - 7.00pm: W.E.A. Yoga 255 6614.

7.15 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi. Call Rick 285 5159.

2nd Tue: 2.00 - 4.00pm: MU Speakers.

3rd Tue: 7.30 - 9.30pm: W.P. Gardening Club.

Wed: 5.00 - 8.00pm: Weightwatchers.

Wed: 8.00 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi with Rick.

1st Wed: 2.30 - 4.00pm: Wednesday Club.

4th Wed: 7.00 - 9.00pm: MU Speakers.

Thurs: 9.00 -10.00am: Pilates for fitness.

1.30 - 3.30pm: Pram Club. (Term time)

6.30 - 8.00pm: Rebounder Aerobics.

Fri: 10.00am: Coffee Morning.

1st Fri: 1.30 - 1.00pm: Lunch club.

2 & 4th Fri: 2.00 - 4.00pm: Folk dancing.

Tuesdays 10.00am: Mums and Toddlers: Over

60's Club. 12.30 (**St. Paul's**)

Sing the Musicals: Sat 22nd Sept. 7.00pm St.

Anne's Church. Tickets £6 adults/£1 child.

Autumn Fair: Sat 29th Sept. 11-2.00pm. St

Anne's Church Hall.

Book Sale: Sat 6th Oct. 2-4pm. St. Anne's

Church Hall.

Church of the Martyrs

Westcotes Drive Leicester

Street Self Defence: Mondays in the Hall. 7.30-8.30pm Call 07788 637 686 for details.

Martyrs Football Training: every Weds eve 6.30pm at Nelson Mandela Park..

Craft Group: for any type of craft. Thurs 12th July and every 2nd Thurs of the month.

Karate: Fridays in the Hall. 6.00-7.00pm.

Rainbows: Mondays 5.15pm.

Brownies: Mon & Thurs. 6.30pm.

Guides: Tuesdays. 7.00pm.

St. Andrew's Methodist Church

Glenfield Road East, Leicester

Fri: Pram Club. Term Time. 10.00-11.30am. T: Jean, 0116 255 2912.

Parish of St. Peter

21 Hinckley Road Leicester

Details of events and services can be found on line at www.stpetersleicester.org.uk

Epworth Methodist Church

Blackbird Road, Leicester

Weds: Boys' Brigade 6.00 - 9.30 (ages 5 - 17)

Tel: John Ogleby 0116 233 7978

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Grenadier's Fundraiser

Raffles, homemade cakes, target shooting, stalls and a spectacular model fairground were the order of the day as old soldiers, their families and friends engaged in a fund raising exercise.



Members of the Leicestershire and Rutland Grenadier Guards Association raised £500 during their annual garden party in the grounds of the Conservative Club on Westcotes Drive.

Formed in 1927, the local branch is part of a national charity that supports retired Grenadier Guards, their families and dependents in times of hardship.

The Grenadiers are one of Great Britain's oldest infantry regiments with a history stretching back to 1665. They have been in the forefront of the most intense combat of recent years seeing service in the Middle East. The First Battalion is due to return from Afghanistan in the Autumn following Operation Herrick 16.

Keeping to their motto 'Once a Grenadier always a Grenadier' the forty strong Leicestershire and Rutland veterans regularly raise money for club funds and organisations such as Help for Heroes, The Air Ambulance, the Ghurkers and the Guards Museum.

AGNES KILGOUR

Agnes Kilgour was born in the year of the great exhibition, 1851, and came to Leicester as a schoolmistress having previously been employed in the prestigious Cheltenham Ladies College. The post which she came to fill was that of Head of the Belmont House School on New Walk; a building which may well be familiar to many today as the Belmont Hotel. Together with her colleague Anna Beale she quickly gained a reputation as an ardent champion of raising educational standards.



Agnes had developed a lifelong interest in furthering the cause of education generally and women's education in particular. She was also a strong supporter of votes for women and in 1887 became a founder member and Treasurer of the Leicester and Leicestershire Women's Suffrage Society.

In 1894 she married William Evans and the couple set up home in Peacock Lane just opposite what is now the Cathedral. You can easily identify the house to this day by the blue plaque which was put up there a few years ago as a result of campaigning by the local Workers Education Association.



She soon became both a tutor and a governor at what is now Vaughan College.

Agnes was also a Governor of Wyggeston Girls School. At the same time she campaigned to start kindergarten classes in city schools and became a co-opted member of the town education committee.

In 1906 she became the first President of the local Health Society which worked to reduce infant mortality in Leicester primarily through the education of local mothers. She was in addition a committee member of the Women's Liberal Association.

Agnes Archer Evans died in 1924 having played no small part in bringing huge educational advances within our city.

© Roger Blackmore

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Ping Pong is great fun. We played ping pong at the youth club when I was a kid. It turns out my husband was dead posh and had his own ping pong table! It's fun, it's simple to get started and at the moment in Leicester it's everywhere!

I noticed the ping pong table up at Braunstone Leisure centre a few weeks ago and then it became apparent the tables were popping up all over the place. At first I thought they would be destroyed, raised to the ground and the bats and balls pinched but it turns out I was wrong. They stayed put and every time I go past the ping pong table at the Leisure Centre its being used. Every time I go past the ones in the Highcross, I see people playing or someone hanging around cooly with a bat waiting for someone to join in. Sport really does bring people together, especially when it doesn't look like sport! I have seen communal chess boards in films before, I used to watch the tai chi in the park in Hong Kong when I



was young but there was never anything like it over here. We were too busy working and building our castles to play together, but now things seem to be changing.

It's all thanks to the gloriously titled Ping 2012 organised by a non-profit making sports promotion company Sing London, in partnership with the English Table Tennis Association. Leicester was one of only eight locations chosen to host the tables.

The Olympics has left most of us with a warm sporting glow and there seems to be a genuine desire to get involved. Bike sales have shot up and there have been lots of kids, big and small, on the bike track over at Western Park this summer.

Table tennis is not the most obvious sport to have as a games legacy but when I saw the Chinese and Japanese teams going for it during the Olympics it did make me wonder, given my family's youthful experiences of ping pong, why we aren't better at it? If these tables in Leicester can inspire young people to have a go then they have done their work. Onwards to table tennis greatness. Oh and please don't take the tables away!

Helen Knott



CENTRE CELEBRATES 25th

On the 10th June the Woodgate Residents Association celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of the official opening of the Woodgate Resources Centre by Willie Thorne, the snooker player, who was born in the West End of Leicester.

The building was formerly the Woodgate library which was officially opened on the 30th October 1898. It closed in the early eighties and the Woodgate Residents Association obtained grants from the Government and Council to convert it into a small Community Centre.

In 2002 the association obtained grants of over £100,000, including from the National Lottery, to upgrade the Centre. This included a disabled access to the Centre, solar panels to create electricity, a water storage system to flush the toilets with rain water and many smaller alterations. This resulted in the Centre being awarded the Environmental City Building Award, one of the first five buildings in Leicester to obtain this award. The Centre has now been running successfully for these twenty five years offering a variety of activities. For full details see advert opposite or ring us on 2530717. We have also just launched a website www.woodgate.org.uk

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September Police Update

A 14-year-old boy has received a reprimand after admitting burgling a local school building.

The incident occurred off Glenfield Road, at New College, on July 14 when around £1,500 worth of damage was caused.

The teenager was arrested at the scene and Seven others, aged between 12 and 17, remain on bail while further enquiries are carried out.

A 20-year-old man has faced burglary charges. He was arrested and charged following a break-in at a house in Glenfield Road during the early morning of August 7th.

A 21-year-old man was the victim of an attempted robbery in Bede Park on August 8th.

the victim was walking through the park on Great Central Way at around 6.30pm when he was approached by a man on a bike who punched him in the face before trying to steal his mobile phone. The victim struggled with the cyclist who then made off empty handed.

The suspect is described as black dual heritage, about 20 to 21-years-old, around 6ft tall and of medium build. He had black short shaven hair and was wearing a grey tracksuit. He was riding

a silver mountain bike.

Detective Constable Alistair Wheeler, said: "There were a number of people sat nearby playing instruments. I would like to appeal to them to think back and see if they can remember anything in connection with this crime".

Two men have been assaulted whilst fishing on Braunstone Park.

It happened at about 11pm on July 24, when the 21-year-old and 60-year-old victims were fishing at the smaller pond in the park. They were approached from behind and assaulted. The 21-year-old's fishing rod was thrown into the water and he was then hit to the head, face and body and briefly lost consciousness before being taken home by his friend, who was also hit to the back of the head.

The suspect has been described as being of stocky build and was wearing a dark hooded top with the hood up.

Detective Constable Rebekah Cortez, the investigating officer, said: "One of the victims was quite seriously injured and we are determined to find those responsible".

If you can help solve a crime call 101 or Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Fosse Riders

If there are enough blue skies and sunny days left this year; bring on the BBQ's, picnics, gardening, and of course... biking!

For many motorcyclists nothing beats getting kitted up and riding around the country roads, taking in the scenery, nodding to fellow bikers on your journey whilst adding to the collection of insect and mud splats on your helmet and leathers.

Joining a motorcycle group is perhaps not the place to go if you want to be the next Evel Knievel or Barry Sheene. But, if you fancy attending bike rallies near and far, camping, talking bikes in general or simply enjoy a game of pool, then the Fosse Riders Motorcycle Association based in Western Park is a good place to start.

The organisation began in 1959 after a group of motorcyclists broke away from the Triumph owners MCC and got together to enjoy a ride along The Fosse Way. Being very "anti club", they formed themselves into a motorcycle association.

The 80 members could best be described as



mature and although they dub themselves 'The Fossil Riders' this bunch of bikers aren't going to become extinct anytime soon. They are actively encouraging new and younger members to join and keep this local biking legend alive and kicking.



All are welcome at the meetings or natter nights which take place every Thursday from 8 until late. The only requirement to join is that you have an interest in biking.

The club is based at Western Park (next to Environ) off Hinckley Road.

For details visit: www.fosse-riders.co.uk

Sharon Komrska

Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



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.

Crocsmia 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 (pictured) is still my favourite.



There are several species of autumn flowering crocus. *C.nudiflorus* 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.

More from Tony in the next issue.

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September 9th

12-4pm

Woodgate, Fosse, and Newfouldpool

Big Jubilee Lunch @ Rally Park

September 29th

11-6pm



KNOCKOUT!!!

The DJ who got Leicester's West End dancing has ditched his decks and become a heavy-weight hero.

For two years, Scott King was resident DJ at Lunar Blue –now Sumo – and helped establish Braunstone Gate as Leicester's best night out.

More than 300 revellers would fill the dance floor to King's tunes – but he has given up the night job to go toe-to-toe with boxing's biggest hitters.

King is currently preparing to make his first defence of the EBF Midlands Area heavyweight championship.

He puts his belt on the line against Loughborough brawler Lenny Buttlings in a hotly-anticipated local derby at Liquid Envy nightclub on Churchgate on Saturday, September 8 on what promises to be a terrific fight night.

Lester Walsh, a hard-as-nails welterweight from Braunstone, boxes for the vacant EBF English welterweight title on the show and light-heavyweight Shaun Warner aims to make it back-to-back wins.

King hopes the revellers he got dancing the night away will snap up tickets for his biggest-ever fight and said: "Lunar Blue was one of the first dance venues in the West End. We had people coming from all over Leicester.



"I would get 300 people dancing every Friday and Saturday night. Back then there were only a few bars on Braunstone Gate –and now look at it! They were great days, but DJing was always just a hobby for me and boxing is my job."

King has made a punch-perfect start to his ring career and promises a best-ever performance to keep his belt.

"I know I've still got a lot to prove," he said, "And this is my chance to show everyone what I can do. Lenny's been saying a lot of things before this fight, but there's no way he's taking my belt off me."

Tickets for the September 8th show are available from **07510 166 322** and any potential sponsors can contact King on the same number.

TECHIE THUMP Richard Perry

Google has become part of our lives and we all use it. Although it's the biggest search engine around, is it the best and are there alternatives?

Knocking out the bigger players like Microsoft's Bing, Yahoo! and Ask Jeeves, all of which harvest data from your surfing habits for targeted advertising, we're left with a tiny field of search engines which offer privacy and still do the job without a bombardment of sales crud.

Admittedly the bigger boys offer more bells, whistles and help when you search, but, some of the smaller search engines are just as good.

Don't forget every time you visit a website, your computer talks to theirs via the search engine; information is exchanged and kept. Although search engine's owners aren't legally obliged to store your data, they just do it because they can.

If you really want to guard your privacy, then **www.startpage.com** is a good place to begin. It's Google enhanced, but they keep no record of your search or address.

It's claimed to be the world's most private search engine. Its simple interface does the job, cutting out a lot of extraneous detail and just giving you what you ask for. It's just like using Google without the annoying ads.

www.duckduckgo.com is another great little search engine which jealously guards you privacy. This has an even simpler start page, just a cartoon of a duck, a space to type in and a drop down menu allowing you to search in more detail. It redirects and encrypts automatically. A good tool to use.



If you're not too bothered about privacy, but would like to try something different, how about the elderly search engine at **www.dogpile.com**?

Once very popular, it badly lost ground to Google, but it's clean, quick and roots out the information you're looking for from a variety of popular search engines. Like they say: "With Dogpile, you get the best from the big dogs – without the mess".

If you really want to stay hidden on line, perhaps for business or personal security reasons, the best thing to use is an anonymous proxy browser. They can keep you completely off the grid.

More about that next month.

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COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Fosse Cllrs Surgery: Monthly, 2nd Sat, 10.30-11.30, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre & last Sat 10.30 - 11.30am Woodgate Residents Association

Westcotes Cllrs Surgeries: Westcotes Library, 1st Sat each month, 10.30 - 11.30am and 3rd Fri each month, 5.30 - 6.30pm. West End Neighbourhood Centre, 4th Fri each month 9.30 - 10.30am.

Manor House Neighbourhood Centre, 2nd Friday every month, 10-11am.

Western Park Cllrs Surgery: Monthly-2nd Weds St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 7-8.00pm.

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GOT A GIG?



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BRAIN *TAZERS*

1		2		3		4
5						
6						
7						

Across: 1.Written message 5.Give a detailed account 6.Igneous rock 7.Esteem **Down:** Someone in charge 2.Excel 3.Envisage 4.Component

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

1. If 1 ½ hens lay 1 ½ eggs in 1 ½ days, how many eggs does 1 hen lay in 1 day?
2. I know the score of every football match before it starts. How?
3. What are the three letters missing from this sequence? S - - - W T F
4. 'This sentence contains two mistakes.' How many actual mistakes can you spot? Is it really that simple?

Answers on line: www.westernparkgazette.co.uk