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## WESTERN PARK FESTIVAL RETURNS



More on Page 4



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## Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the July/August Western Park Gazette. You might be thinking that we're publishing every two months now, but that's not the case. It's just a matter of taking a few weeks for the editor to recover from a recent health problem. We should be back to a monthly schedule from September.

In this issue, the Western Park Festival returned with a bang after a two year covid induced hiatus. Very busy as always and luckily, the weather wasn't too bad as thousands enjoyed the fun.

We meet the Fosse Diggers who are slowly beautifying the corner of Hinckley and Fosse Roads, we find out about the Leicester Machine Knitters who are based at the West Leicester Neighbourhood Centre, and if you fancy getting fit, what about the free Bike Fests at New College at the end of every month?

Carey Tustall has her regular gardening update and Matt Hutton has the latest from the local police.

This month we have a wordsearch and fiendishly difficult sudoku on the inside back page.

And many thanks to our contributors and advertisers!

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If you've got a local news story or event email:

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# Events Diary

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

**Fosse Camera Club:** Zoom Meetings, Fridays, 7.30pm. [fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk](http://fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk) for details

**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. **Fri Coffee Morns:** 10.00am.

**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: Billy Elliot The Musical To 20th Aug. Chess - 10-13 Aug. Mama Mia! - 13-24 Sept.**

**@DM Hall: Romeo & Juliette 19 Aug. Awful Auntie 20 Aug. Pride & Prejudice 21 Aug. Adam Ant 2 Sept.**

**@Y Theatre: Dark Side of Pink Floyd - 2 Sept. OK Cane 3 Sept. Desi Central Comedy Show - 9 Sept.**

**Arts Workshops @125 Rally House: Amazing Ants 9th Aug. Beautiful Beetles 16 Aug. Excellent Eco Systems 23 Aug.** Booking & Info: 07856 207 572.

**Free Drum & Brass:** Rally House, 125 Bonchurch St. 10, 17 & 24 Aug. 12-2. Booking & Info: 07825 559 271.

**Charity Beer Festival: 9-10 Sept. Hall @ St. Anne's Western Park Scarecrow Trail: 3/4th September.** Register at [www.wvce.org.uk](http://www.wvce.org.uk)

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# FESTIVAL RETURNS!

It's hard to believe that the last Western Park Festival was in July 2019. Here we are three years and one pandemic later, ready to party!

Organiser Ady Alexander said: "It was absolutely amazing! Over 6,000 people turned up. After what we've all been through, it was heart-warming to see the smiles on the faces of so many people."

The Western Park Festival isn't funded by the Leicester City Council, it all falls on Ady's shoulders: "It was put together in double quick time from mid April. Our costs have really gone up, but profits from the gate receipts still go to the 'Friends of Western Park' to renovate and redevelop the playing areas."

26 local bands and musicians graced the three stages. Rock, acoustic, acapella - take your pick!

There was something for everyone, from the small kids' roundabouts, big slides and zorbing to a dizzying array of fast food and charity stalls and activities.

Next year the festival celebrates its 11th year, so who's going?



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## FOSSE ROAD DIGGERS

On the junction of Fosse Road and Hinckley Road there is an exciting environmentally friendly project taking place.

You may have already noticed, but the area in front of the shops and Merry Monarch pub has been transformed into an array of bright woodland wild flowers and vegetation! The people behind this are part of a group called the Fosse Road Diggers who, after the pandemic, grew into a larger group of family and friends along with anyone who wanted to join in.



They meet weekly and volunteer their time to create an eco-friendly patch that enhances the space, which they also hope brightens up people's day who pass by. By doing this project, and more in the future, the hope is to increase the number of volunteers and inspire people to transform open spaces in their neighbourhoods that were once part of scrubland.

One of the organisers, Emma Ling, said: "We have had lots of interest and support from local people who stop and chat, and sometimes bring us snacks and drinks! We are supported in our project by Andrew & Ashwell who are the property management company for the shops, and would love to encourage other local groups and businesses to take on a similar project, big or small". Visit their Insta @thefosseroadiggers.

**Remé Osbourne**

## TIME TO GET KNITTING AGAIN!

Everything is costing more from necessities to luxury goods, so why not cut down on some expenses with a more do-it-yourself attitude while indulging in a bit of creativity at the same time?

Leicestershire Machine Knitters have a solution! They are a group of ladies and Bob who meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10am to 1pm at Lcil West End Neighbourhood Centre on Andrewes Street, off Hinckley Road. They have a planned programme featuring tuition and support where you can learn the tricks and tips of using a knitting machine to create some incredible knit-wear projects.

If hand knitting takes up too much time, then a knitting machine is a good way of speeding things up, even if it does require a slightly different set of skills to master. If you've ever wanted to use a machine to knit anything from a scarf to a beanie hat, or something bigger, more complicated or unique, then Leicester Machine Knitters is where you can learn.

Perhaps you have an old knitting machine in your loft and feel that it needs to be used again. This is an opportunity to dig it out and regain your dormant skills. Or perhaps it is a new hobby that you wish to explore; Leicestershire Machine Knitters can give advice about different types of machine available and you try the club's equipment before you head out to buy.

**Email: [susanmarlow47@btinternet.com](mailto:susanmarlow47@btinternet.com) or visit [www.leicestershiremk.org.uk](http://www.leicestershiremk.org.uk)**



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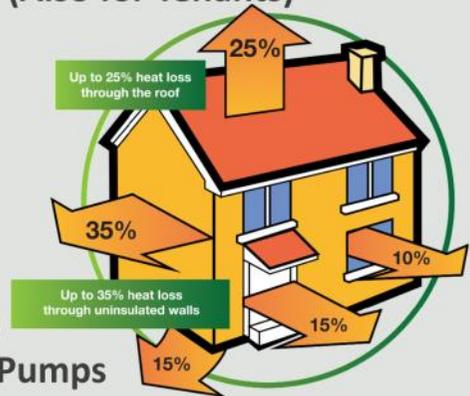
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## GET FIT WITH BIKE FEST

**Bike Fest takes place at Leicester Cycle Circuit (New College) from 1-4pm on the last Saturday of each month (May to October). It's a FREE, family-friendly cycling and a bike try-out event with picnic areas.**

There's no need to book in advance – Just turn up! Access is from St Oswald's Road or Glenfield Road. Just look out for the Ride Leicester Flags and signs.

Bring your own bike or borrow one of ours. Ride Leicester provides rickshaws, family bikes and a secure bike park. B-Buddies provide a bike fix. British Cycling share racing tips and bike-handling skills for children & adults. Leicester Wheels For All support people with disabilities, special needs and others who may need extra support or specialist bikes to help get them rolling. Cyclone Works junk-art bikes are a fun and exciting way to put existing or



new skills into practice. You can even try the Santander Cycles ebikes and get advice on how to use Leicester's expanding bike share system. All on the traffic-free and smooth 1km national quality route.

The Cycle Circuit is run by the City Council in partnership with British Cycling and New College. It provides a home for the Rockets, Leicester Forest Cycling Club's junior section, as well as school and community coaching facilities in the heart of New Parks. With the support of Ward Councillors and City Mayor's Team, the partnership is currently building trackside facilities that will open in early autumn.

Find out more via New College Reception on 0116 2318500.

Or email: [enquiries@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk) You can also find Bike Fest on Facebook and watch introductory short films at Leicester Cycle Circuit > Choose How You Move



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PROJECT

# hive Update

Project Hive is run by the WWCE, a local group of residents raising funds to redevelop the former Eco House into a community space.

It's only a few weeks to go before the Western Park Scarecrow Trail returns for its 4<sup>th</sup> outing on the 3rd & 4th of September

August is always one of 'those' months for us. Trying to juggle the chaos of summer holidays with the build up to our biggest fundraising event of the year can be exhausting, but is also always incredibly rewarding. It is a month

where we have many a sleepless night with fingers crossed hoping that there are enough people in this wonderful community of ours that willing to get involved and join in the fun by making and entering a scarecrow.

This year's theme is 100 years of the BBC, so we ask you now, please don't put it off joining in until tomorrow or next week. It has never been easier to sign up and remember that as volunteers, everything we raise from the event goes towards our efforts to get the building transformation underway and the doors open.

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## Aug Police Update

Several search warrants have been executed in the last month resulting in the recovery of large quantities of Cannabis, with one address containing over 300 Cannabis plants. We have recently been exploring opportunities with the fire service to raise awareness due to the risk that these locations can pose to the wider community as the electrical work isn't completed by a regulated or qualified installer. A female was also arrested for possession with intent to supply Class A drugs having been found in possession of a large quantity of crack cocaine and heroin.

Information from the community is instrumental in this disruption, suspicious activity can be reported by telephoning 101, visiting the Leicestershire police website or reporting your concerns anonymously to CrimeStoppers via their website or freephone telephone number 0800 555 111. #yousaidwedid

There are still reports of theft from vehicles. In many cases the cars have been left insecure. Please keep them locked, your keys safe and don't leave any valuable items in your vehicle where possible. We have also received a number of reports of thefts of parcels and other items left on people's door steps. Parcels left on door steps became normal during in lock down, but please ensure that if you are expecting a delivery, and you won't be in, that you let the company know of a safe place or alternative location where your package can be left.

We continue to listen to community concerns regarding speeding and the illegal use of motor vehicles both on and off road. The most recent enforcement data showed 67 speeding offences recorded in the areas of Glenfield Road, Henley Road and Wyngate Drive.

We have recently completed our Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness week which has resulted in a number of signs being put up in locations where vehicles such as motor bikes and quad bikes are being used illegally. These signs constitute a warning under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act and any vehicles being used in these locations will be seized, this includes e-scooters which can only be ridden on private land.

Finally, officers are appealing for witnesses to come forward following an assault between 10.30pm and 11pm on the 9th of July, at the junction of King Richards Road and Andrewes Street.

A fight took place involving a group of men who knew each other, but an unknown man then became involved, and kicked the victim, a man in his 50s, causing injuries to his face as a result. This assailant then ran off from the scene.

Investigating officer PC Lukasz Lesniak, said: "I am keen to speak to anyone who saw what happened. Any information you have, as well as any footage, could help my investigation." Contact police online quoting reference 22\*401739. **Sgt Matt Hutton**

# CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



Over the past few weeks I've been battling with the unusually high July temperatures in the garden.

As this may now become the norm, I wanted to pass on a few tips and tricks to help your garden to continue to thrive when it happens again. Most



plants continue to thrive up to 24 degrees but when temperatures rise above that the plants start to suffer from wilting and die back of leaves. Watering seems the obvious remedy, but this must still be done either early morning or early evening when the temperature has cooled a little. Watering once a day during these times is enough, but we must hold back on feeding them as this produces more growth and needs more water.

Potted plants can be moved to shady areas of the garden during a heatwave. When buying pots in the future it's better to go for light-coloured sealed versions rather than terracotta, which helps to reflect sunlight and retain more moisture. When planting up the pots it's a good idea to add vermic-

ulite to the compost which helps to retain moisture. For plants in beds and borders, a white sheet can be strategically placed providing some semblance of shade and mulching your borders or around prized specimens helps to retain moisture. The lawns should only be mown and watered once a week, with the blades raised to a higher level.

Looking ahead, it's wise to have drought tolerant plants placed periodically in the beds and borders which will help to keep the garden looking vibrant and healthy. Plants such as cosmos, verbena, sedum, hibiscus, rock rose, lavender and marigolds are a good starting point. Also consider herbs such as thyme, rosemary and sage, which all thrive in extreme heat.

I put additional pots of water around the garden with pebbles or marbles in them. This stops insects from drowning in them and I continued to fill all existing water features with fresh water where necessary. I also added strategically placed pots of diced carrot for my beloved hedgehogs, which they really enjoyed.

Carey Tunstall



Pink Rock Rose



Cosmos sulphureus



# Martin Page

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G	S	W	D	H	G	N	E
T	G	A	P	W	G	I	A
N	Y	E	N	G	I	W	C
A	L	H	V	D	I	C	H
E	Y	T	R	A	P	G	H
M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N
M	E	M	O	R	Y	R	V

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Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk

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