

Western Park and Fosse Way Gazette

No 17 September 2010 www.westernparkgazette.co.uk



Jazzing Up The End Of SUMMER



The summer's musical entertainment finally drew to a close on Western Park to the sounds of brass, strings, keyboard and drums.

The organisers of Letchworth Road Area Watch put on an afternoon of "Jazz in the Park" at the Bandstand to mark the end of summer.

Western Park resident Peter Crebbin and his Mayfair Trad Jazz Band, kicked up a storm as they ran through their repertoire of Jazz standards.

Peter says, "Jazz had not been put on before in the park before and the bandstand, is ideal for the venue. It was well attended with some of the audience enjoying the sun on the grass!



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Greetings From The Editor

Welcome to the September issue of the Western Park and Fosse Way Gazette.

This month our tame local historian and City Councillor, Roger Blackmore, has the story of a West Leicester woman who was instrumental in getting women the right to vote.

On a green fingered note, Helen Knott has discovered the delights of an allotment. This simply means she's found another reason to shout at people. And Tony Huxley has some advice if you have a smaller garden.

If you spend your time Facebooking and Twittering, Richard Perry has some security advice when you're on line and we have the latest news from Hinckley Road Police.

Also the old Blue Moon Pub on Carlisle Street will soon be no more and summer bowed out to the sounds of Trad Jazz on Western Park.

In the competition we've got together with Ray and Yvette at the Crows Nest to offer you a meal for two.

You can contribute to the magazine on line or search for us on Facebook.

Sharon e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

No Blue Moon Blues

After nearly 80 years, one of the best known pubs in West Leicester will be knocked down for housing.

The Blue Moon on Carlisle Street closed its doors several months ago following a refurbishment and name change to The Hunters Rest.



The City Council has given permission for demolition since the Art Deco style pub isn't a listed building or a dwelling.

Councillor Peter Coley says, "There was a sparse planning application for half a dozen houses, which has now been withdrawn. Another more detailed plan is expected."

Cllr. Roger Blackmore circulated a letter along Carlisle Street asking for residents opinions which generated just one response, and that was in favour of the demolition.

Events Diary

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

Fosse Cllrs. Surgery Monthly, last Mon (6-7pm) and 2nd Wed (5.30-6.30pm) Fosse N'hood Centre.

Westcotes Cllrs. Surgeries Westcotes Library, 1st Sat each month, 10.30 - 11.30am and 3rd Fri each month, 5.30 - 6.30pm. West End N'hood Centre, 4th Tues each month 1.30 - 2.30pm.

Zumba Class Tues 6.45-7.45 & 8-9.00pm at St Anne's Church Hall. Call Sarah 07810 307 113.

Spiritual Development Circle every Thursday. 6-9.00pm at Angel Source Holistics, 14 Hinckley Road. Dishna - 07955 634 221.

Knitting Circle Meet every Thursday from 1pm at Mary Clare, 4 Shaftsbury Rd. Tel: 0116 255 1866.

Leicester Badminton Club New College Leicester Mixed abilities - all ages. Tues 7pm, term time, £3.00. Tel: Michael Cheung 07967 592 208.

Indoor Bowls Club: Fosse N'hood Centre. Mondays from 10.30am. Contact Centre.

Quit & Get Fit: Free stopping smoking and physical activity sessions at New Park's Leisure Centre.

Gorse Hill City Farm: Workshops and fun for children throughout August. Details - 0116 253 7582.

Traction and Track Open Day: 19th Sept. Abbey Park. 10.00-4.00pm.

Egyptian Belly Dancing: Newfoudpool N'hood Centre. Thurs from 6.30pm. Contact 07845 886694.

LPSAA Cross Country Challenge: 2nd Oct: Western Park. 0116 277 2082.

Farmers Market: 7th Oct & 4th Nov. H/stone Gate.

Leicester Marathon: 10th Oct. Victoria Park.

Space Age Exploration. New walk Museum until 10th Oct. 2.45-4.15pm.

Events in the Parish

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

At St. Anne's Church Hall -

Mon - Fri Sandhurst Playgroup 285 7440. Term-time

Mon: 5.30 - 7.00pm: W.E.A. Yoga 255 6614.
7.15 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi with Rick.

Tues: 8.00 - 9.00pm: Zumba Fitness.

2nd Tues: 2.00 - 4.00pm: Mothers' Union Speakers

3rd Tues: 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: Mothers' Union 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: 11.30 - 1.00pm: Lunch club.

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

Tuesdays 10.00am: Mums and Toddlers & 1.30 pm: Over 60's Club. (**St. Paul's**)

Sun 3rd Oct: Harvest Festival at St. Anne's and Harvest Lunch.

Sun 10th Oct: Harvest Festival at St. Paul's.

GAZETTE COMPETITION

WIN SUNDAY LUNCH FOR 2 AT THE CROWS NEST!

The winner of last month's competition for a day at this year's Summer Sundae Weekender was Polly Bickerton from the Hinckley Road area. She worked out that Summer Sundae was in it's 10th year.

This month we've got together with Ray and Yvette at Western Park's biggest family pub, the Crows Nest to offer you a three course Sunday Lunch for two. Just answer the question below.

THE QUESTION

Which of these expressions is NOT a nautical term? Is it ..

- A. Anchor's Aweigh?
- B. Blue Peter?
- C. Hinge and Bracket?

Email your answer by Sept 20th 2010 to editor@fwesternparkgazette.co.uk

Or to - Editor c/o Western Park Gazette
62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester , LE3 0UA

One correct answer picked at random. No cash alternative and editor's decision is final.

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In 1902 she was a member of Leicester's Clarion Cycling Club and was reported in the local paper for "outraging public decency" by wearing bloomers! That was before she became a leading light in the women's rights movement.

Alice Hawkins

When Leicester's Walk of Fame was launched outside Curve Theatre earlier this year, the name of

Alice Hawkins was included alongside the first dozen names of famous local figures past and present ranging from Thomas Cook to Engelbert Humperdinck.

Alice, a mother of six, from Mantle Road, who worked at Equity Shoes on Western Road as a machinist during the 1880's and 1890's, was a keen Trades Unionist. She became well known as one of Leicester's leading campaigners in favour of Votes for Women.

Born in 1863, Alice played a key role in bringing about the first meeting of the local branch of the Women's Social and Political Union (better known



to many as the Suffragettes) which took place in April 1907 at the Welford Coffee House chaired by a Mrs. Barnes of Harrow Road. That summer Alice addressed a major open air meeting in the Market Place alongside Mrs. Pankhurst the famous Suffragette leader.

She continued to work tirelessly on behalf of the cause including being a keynote speaker at a mass rally of a quarter of a million supporters in Hyde Park.

Her grandson Peter Barratt describes her as having been "A strong willed, determined woman who would often argue with the family in order to win her point of view".

As the campaign to secure the franchise for women developed, so aspects of it became more and more controversial. Alice Hawkins herself was arrested and jailed five times over a seven year period. These included a spell in prison for attacking pillar boxes here in Leicester. She actually wrote a fascinating account of life in Holloway prison during one of her periods of incarceration.

It was a real delight to meet several of Alice Hawkins' descendants here in Leicester for the launch of the Walk of Fame. These family members included her great - great granddaughter who was preparing to vote for the very first time in a General Election!

By Roger Blackmore

Find out more at www.alicesuffragette.co.uk

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Western Park Gazette readers are being asked to donate some time towards a local charity.

WHY NOT JOIN US?

Glenise Bowyer

The Leicester Local Committee for Cancer Research UK was formed 16 years ago with the aim of raising funds for Cancer Research.

Over the years some of our members have moved away, retired or sadly died and we are now only a small

group of eight looking for more people to join us. We involve ourselves in many activities including collections at supermarkets, coffee mornings, charity band evenings and Aga demonstrations to name but a few. We even lend a hand at events held by others raising money for Cancer Research.

We get invited to Area Conferences where we are updated with information regarding research work carried out by Cancer Research scientists and we find these very enjoyable and motivating.

Over the years our group have become friends.

If you feel you can give some time to this charity and join our committee for our bi monthly meetings, please either ring June on 0116 287 2449 or Glenise on 0116 287 1758

CANCER RESEARCH UK



There are half a dozen allotment societies around Western Park and Helen Knott has her own plot. Oops....!

KNOTT'S LANDING

Helen Knott

I'm in trouble again. This time it's our allotment – we've had a call and apparently there have been complaints about the state of it!

I decided at the start of the year that it might be fun to get an allotment as my garden isn't really set up for growing veg and toddlers don't have the patience to wait a couple of months for something to grow. They pick what they see, when they see it. So we got ourselves a plot. We planned, we sowed and we dug and we've managed to grow a lot of courgettes, squashes, beans, sweetcorn, lettuce and more.

Now as we know the summer hasn't been perfect, so getting up to weed on the nights the boy decided to go to bed early was hit and miss. Then the allotment started producing a fantastic crop of a deadly nightshade type weed and things got difficult. We still made it up every week but we couldn't take the toddler with us in case he ate the berries so things slowed down a bit on the weeding and housekeeping front. Things weren't helped by the people on either side of us.

Mr DIY has the most amazing constructions for his beans. His beds are all marked out in painted wood and he's got the neatest rows of veg I've ever seen. On the other side, less glamorous but still amazing, is the Allotment Baron. He practically lives there and there isn't a weed on his plot. So you see, we look like the Tom and Barbara to their Margo and Jerry. Lowering the tone don't you know.



So when the call came we were a bit taken aback but not surprised. After a lot of assurances that we are indeed planning on digging the other third of our plot in the autumn and that we do want to keep it on I think we poured oil on the troubled waters. We've certainly been up and planted leeks, cavolo nero, Florence fennel and chard in the last few weeks and I wouldn't want those to go to waste. Whether we ever manage to achieve the high standards of those around us I don't know but we'll have tried our best.

I've never been one for politics but whoever it was that complained better watch out – I'll be blowing dandelion fluff in your direction.

ST. ANNES PRAM CLUB

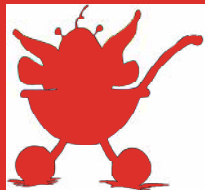
Do you have a new baby and want to get out of the house? Are you a mum, dad or grandparent looking for something fun to do with your toddler on a Thursday afternoon?

Pram Club at St Anne's Church Hall on Letchworth Road is the place for you.

There are toys galore, games and craft activities for the older children and a quieter area with toys and baby bouncers for little ones

The club will be restarting after the summer holidays on Thursday September 9th. Mums get a hot drink and there are biscuits and drinks for the children all for an entry fee of £1.

Pram club runs from 1.30pm to 3.15pm and everyone is welcome.



**Holding an event ?
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LETTER BOX

Hooked on Fishing

I have been an enthusiastic fisherman for over thirty years. I have luckily turned my hobby into my job and now own a busy fishing tackle shop.

Many of the older fishermen who come in for their bait, talk about "The Good Old Days" angling on the canal and the fact the will not go there now because they don't feel safe.



They say gangs, drugs and drunks are the problem. A lone fisherman is seen as a target for muggers. The canal is an immensely important part of the city. Not only is it incredibly tranquil during the summer, a superb place to relax, it's also a great source of tourism.

If security was better, if people felt safer, more of us would enjoy walking the tow path and anglers from out of the city would once again start to fish.

Lets take the canal back. Lets not lose this vital and beautiful resource. *Graham Stretton*

Yet Another Takeaway?

I was surprised to see yet another fast food outlet opening on the Hinckley Road Parade.

Gone are the days of my childhood with the little wool shop, Irelands the Confectioners, Heards the Butchers and the local Boots Chemists.

The last men standing are the Post Office, Tony Hawkins the grocers and the chemist.

How long before they too fade into history and another bar or takeaway replaces them?



Mike Western park

Yes the Parade has changed over the years as new businesses arrive.

It is still very comprehensive with small supermarkets, a Polish deli, a cobblers just around the corner, hairdressers, a beauty therapists etc.

Another takeaway is not ideal, but with most of us using the big supermarkets, the chance of getting a butchers or sweet shop instead is remote, especially in a time of recession, and high rents.

Its not better or worse, its just different.

Editor

GUARDS! GUARDS! GUARDS!

Raffles, stalls, target shooting, boules and a coco nut shy 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 held their annual garden party marking August's Victory in Japan Day in the grounds of the Conservative Club on Westcotes Drive.

The Association which boasts forty members regularly raises money for club funds and organisations such as Help for Heroes, The Air Ambulance, the Ghurkers and the Guards Museum.



Some skills just never leave you....



Ellie Turner helps on the bookstall

The Western Park Gazette



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August Update

From Hinckley Road Policing Unit

There has been a 16% decrease in overall crime in Western Park. There have been reductions in burglary, robbery, assaults, vehicle crime and anti social behavior.

Fosse Ward has seen a reduction in all crime groups from this time last year. There is also a significant 33% reduction in incidents of anti social behavior.

Westcotes has also seen an overall crime reduction, but there has been a slight increase in reports of robbery. Hinckley Road officers have made some significant arrests and the team are targeting those individuals responsible and the areas they frequent.

A 22-year-old man is due to appear at Leicester Magistrates Court following the assault and robbery of a letting agent on Pool Road. The incident happened on Tuesday June 1, when the agent took a man to view a house.

Once inside the man threatened him and stole his belongings, including his BMW car, iPhone, jacket and passport.

PCSO Diana Chadfield is currently working with the Leicester City Council installing alley gates on Newfoundpool, Tudor Road and the surrounding area. They have successfully fitted alleygates on Bosworth Street, Dannett Street, Warwick Street, Repton Street and Marshall Street.

Alleygates been installed on other beats which are covered by Hinckley Road police station where residents have reported antisocial behavior and a fear of crime occurring.

During the summer, Neighbourhood Teams worked with partners to provide activities for young people. One of these is at the Woodgate Adventure Play Day. The Joint Action Group has also helped purchase equipment for the Woodgate Adventure Playground. This assists running activities for the community in the summer and continues into the autumn offering evening events.

Local off-licences are to be rated according to how well they are managed and how committed they are to preventing the sale of alcohol to under 18s.

A voluntary accreditation scheme - known as Best Off Green - is being launched in the Hinckley Road area of Leicester, which has the highest concentration of off-licences in the city.

WEST LEICESTER - BUTTERFLY HEAVEN

The first Big Butterfly Count, has revealed an upswing in numbers.

A rise in city habitats has allowed many species to flourish following severe declines.

Over 187,000 butterflies were spotted by 10,000 people across the UK as they carried out 15 minute searches of gardens, parks and window boxes.



Red Admiral in A Western Park Garden

Those making a return to healthy numbers include the Orange Gatekeeper and the Small Tortoiseshell. The most common was the Small White and it's relative the Large White.

You can check the numbers for West Leicester at www.bigbutterflycount.org/results

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The Fosseway Gazette

*"Supporting Business and Loving Life in
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You might be on Facebook, MySpace or happily Twittering way, but keeping your online self safe isn't a bad idea.

Nice Box - What's in it? Richard Perry

Facebook, YouTube and Wikipedia are three of the biggest brands on the net and it's these social networking sites which account for three quarters of all global web traffic.

One in every 4 ½ minutes on line is spent on social networking sites across the world or 22% of the time. In fact there are 500 million active users and a staggering 700 billion minutes a month on Facebook alone.

The immense popularity of social networking sites has created a great business opportunity for thieves, scammers and pond life of all descriptions. You would think you would be safe hidden amongst the billions of users on MyFace, SpaceBook or YouTwitt, but post too many details about yourself and you could leave the door open to problems. It doesn't take a criminal mastermind to put two and two together and work out who you are, where you live, what you do for a living and when you're going out.

You can stay quite safe as long as you follow a few basic common sense rules.

facebook



1. Make sure you have set your privacy settings to the highest levels possible, especially for personal details and photos.
 2. Have a limited public profile with only the briefest description. That way you make yourself invisible to all but your chosen friends.
 3. Do not include your email or address, telephone number and any personally identifying details or pictures of your home. Banking details are a no-no!
 4. Think carefully about "Friend Requests" from people you don't know. They may be genuine or they may not, so never reveal personal information and restrict access to your full profile.
 5. Don't reveal your password.
 6. Don't reveal where you work or go to school.
 7. Consider what you post might be seen by your employer or teacher. If in doubt, leave it out!
 9. Be extremely cautious when meeting an on line "Friend" in person for the first time.
 10. Never post the phrases, "There's a party at my place this evening," or "We're all on holiday for a week and the house is empty."
- P.S Join us on Facebook!

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Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



Some people say "less is more" - they obviously haven't seen my wage packet! But how can this theory be applied to a small front garden? Most gardens require some planting structure to work well. You could use a focal point like a small tree. Pick one with a containable crown like a topiary Bay or Holly, or tall thin conifers like Cupressus sempervirens or Juniperus "Blue Arrow". Colourful conifers like Thuja "Rheingold" can be clipped annually to keep in check.

There are many deciduous options: Japanese Acers or flowering Hawthorns e.g. Crataegus "Paul's Scarlet" and Cockspur Thorn. Named after the wicked talons it sports, it has an abundance of white blossom, attractive fruits and great autumn colour. Or use naturally larger trees that respond well to pruning like Copper Beech, Catalpa or Eucalyptus - but prune regularly and hard or they may demolish your house!

Climbers and wall shrubs like Pyracanthus and Jasmine nudiflorum, can be grown against the house for a greater depth of planting, just consider how quickly they grow. Your neighbour may not feel the same about your Virginia creeper or Wisteria

when it's eating his Satellite dish.

Pots, planters and window boxes add interest at another height level, but bring the burden of daily watering during dry periods. Use them for specimen plants like Cordyline australis or seasonal bedding - or both.

Parterre hedging is excellent for dividing small spaces into pockets of interest. Try Buxus suffruticosa or Lonicera nitida for formal hedges, or dwarf Lavandula "Munstead" for informal. Fill the space created with planting, avoiding large herbaceous perennials with a short season of interest - these may leave an ugly dormant area for 6 months of the year. Instead, try Penstemons, Hebes and colourful grasses like Festuca glauca. Small can be made beautiful, especially when it comes to gardens.

More from Tony in the next issue

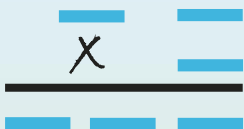


Catalpa or
Indian Bean Tree

An excellent tree for small gardens if pruned regularly

BRAIN

TAZERS



1. Use each of the numbers to fill the gaps in the above sum: **1,2,3,4,5,6**.

2. Golem is hunting for his precious ring. Based upon the inscription on 3 boxes, one or none of them are true, - In which box will he find the ring?

Golden Box "The ring is in this box."

Silver Box "The ring is not in this box."

Lead Box "The ring is not in the Golden Box."



3. A passenger train leaves Leicester Station for St Pancras travelling at 80mph. In half an hour a freight train leaves St. Pancras for Leicester travelling at 60mph. Which train will be further from Leicester when they meet?

Answers at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

If you have a particularly twisted and nearly impossible Brain TazEr or riddle, we'd like to hear from you. Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk or drop us a line at Western Park Gazette, c/o 62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester LE3 0UA. Please send the solution as well!

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