

# Western Park Gazette

News-Views and advertising for the Western Park Area  
No 11 January 2010 [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)



## The Big Freeze 2010 - Winter Arrives!



### Winter Blows In

As New year dawned Western Park finally fell victim to **THE BIG FREEZE!**

After years of mild mushy winters, the icy grip of ice and snow which had blanketed most of the country found it's way to Leicester, tragically missing Christmas by a week or so.

Temperatures dropped to  $-6\text{C}$ , much lower in the county; but would it get as bad as the winter of 1947 when temperatures plunged to  $-32\text{C}$  or in 1987 when they hit  $-19\text{C}$ ?..... No it wouldn't.

This cold snap was caused by a change in position of the jet stream which governs our weather. It moved south from Northern Europe to Africa with the result that our prevailing warm westerly winds which keep away the snow were replaced by cold northerlies from Greenland and Russia.

January is traditionally a quiet time for most local business, and some have taken advantage of snow related travel problems and lack of work to temporarily shut up shop.

But one local hardware store has never been busier with a timely sideline.

Steve Dayman from Daymans and Sons has been working his fingers to the bone making wooden sledges!

"60 of them so far. I'm seeing them in my sleep!".

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Once again the hills on Western Park were the ideal place for children and grown up children to try out their sledges!



# Greetings From The Editor

Welcome to the first Western Park Gazette of 2010. In this edition as the new year blew in with a blanket of snow and freezing temperatures we joined in the sledging fun on Western Park. Send your snow pictures to us and we'll post them on the website for all to see.

Leicester's Lord Mayor and Western Park historian Roger Blackmore looks at the history of a porridge pot and Trinity Hospital, our gardening expert Tony Huxley does a bit of winter tidying and Andy Markowski, our computer whiz, also has news of a new simpler way to surf the internet if you're scared of computers!

No issue of the Gazette would be complete without Helen Knott getting furious and having a good old rant over something. This month its rude cyclists and we review some of the stories we have covered in the first year of the Gazette.

There's also the chance to win a Valentine's Day meal for 2 worth £40.00 at the Crows Nest. Don't forget you can also download a pdf version of the Gazette to your computer or iPhone from [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk).

*Sharon*

[editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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## Events Diary

**Western Park Councillor's Surgery** St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 11th Nov. 7-8.00pm

**Zumba Class** Tues 8-9.00pm at St Anne's Church Hall. £4.00 Call Sarah 07810 307 113.

**Spiritual Development Circle** every Thursday. 6-9.00pm at Angel Source Holistics, 14 Hinckley Road. Dishna - 07955 634221.

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

**RSPB Big Garden Family Birdwatch** at New Walk Museum & Art Gallery Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Jan from 11.00am. £2.00 Donation.

**Story Telling** – Adventures and myth with children's colouring activities. Jewry wall Museum. 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 11-12.00pm. £1.70.

**Steam Toys in Action** Worlds biggest gathering of toy steam trains at Abby Pumping Station. Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1-5pm. £3.00

**EcoHouse Gardening Course** 14 Feb 2010 - Water and Weather - 2-4.00pm. £7.00

**Gorse Hill City Farm** Book Bus 1-3pm 17th & 18th Feb.

**Laughter in the Library** (Westcotes) 13th Feb. Comedy writing workshop. 1pm - Free.

Holding an event? Let us know

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Starting a winters day with a bowl of steaming hot porridge might be ideal, but did you know Leicester has a historic porridge pot! Roger Blackmore delves into it's contents.

## A PORRIDGE POT

*The Duchy of Lancaster and 7 centuries of tradition*

**An impressive cast iron porridge pot still stands in the hallway of the modern building that is now Trinity Hospital just across the river from the Newarke.**



It serves as a reminder that this ancient foundation dates back to 1331 when Henry Grisholm, the Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, and a cousin to King Edward II originally opened it as a hospital for "50 poor and infirm folk"

Forever to be associated with the Duchy of Lancaster right up to the present day, Trinity Hospital was by 1609 described as an almshouse for persons 'of honest life and good name and not with any infections or loathsome disease'.

Readers may remember the former building has been occupied by DeMontfort University since the early 1990's with the current modern building

providing a comfortable home to some 30 residents along the lines of conventional sheltered accommodation.

At the time the University moved in various sightings of the legendary ghost of Trinity Hospital were reported, presumably the spirit of some long dead Duke of Lancaster!

Today the Lord Mayor of Leicester serves as the Master of Trinity Hospital during his or her term on office and a foundation service is held each year in June at which the porridge pot is still a key attraction to visitors.



Catch up with Roger's historical articles on line at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

## Events in the Parish

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

**At St. Anne's Church Hall -**

**Mon - Fri** Term-time Sandhurst Playgroup 285 7440.

**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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tues:** 2.00 - 4.00pm: Mothers' Union Speakers

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tues:** 7.30 - 9.30pm: W.P. Gardening Club.

**Wed:** 5.00 - 8.00pm: Weightwatchers.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Wed:** 2.30 - 4.00pm: Wednesday Club.

**4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**1<sup>st</sup> Fri:** 11.30 - 1.00pm: Lunch club.

**2 & 4<sup>th</sup> Fri:** 2.00 - 4.00pm: Folk dancing.

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

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Table-top sale at St. Paul's Worship Centre 10 - 12 noon and Art & Music sale in St. Anne's Church Hall 2 - 4 pm.

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Valentine's Day - celebration of Love 10am at St. Anne's.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb:** Christian Aid Hunger lunch at the Vicarage 12 noon to 1.30 pm

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If you've ever been knocked off your feet by a cyclist on the pavement, you'll understand why Western Park broadcaster and journalist Helen Knott is fed up with inconsiderate riders.

## KNOTT'S LANDING

Helen Knott

**Bad weather can often lead to bad moods and it's been a bit grumpy in our house recently.** It's not so much in our house, but heading out from our house. You see now there is a double threat as we leave the gate. Firstly you have the bicycle menace. Grown men and women who seem to think it is perfectly legal and, in fact, one of their human rights to ride on the pavement at speed with no lights, reflective clothing or bell. I can understand children not wanting to ride on the road but adults? I fail to understand why anyone over 18 needs to do this when there are so many bus and cycle lanes for them to use. I have seen kids doing their cycling proficiency lessons outside local primary schools so I guess there is a lost generation who are clueless on a bike. Unfortunately they all seem to want to ride outside my house when we are pulling out in the car. It's like a lottery – will a cyclist dent my car and roll across my bonnet today? Let's find out when we play Total Wipeout outside my house.

The second problem was ice. There was a thick layer of ice and snow on the pavement outside which makes it almost impossible to stop the car/bicycle/pram as you come out of the drive. I would have set too with the shovel and cleared it but the television has been full of dire warnings not to in case I do such a bad job that someone falls over and decides to take legal action. In fact knowing my luck the cyclists would probably fall off their bicycles and try and sue me. Now there's a thought. Where's my shovel? *More from Helen next month.*



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## Computer Security in Western Park *Sponsored article*

**A Western Park company has developed a new way to keep all your precious family photos and computer data safe and secure and do away with time consuming back ups and maintenance.**

In2Security Networks has put together a range of IT and Telecom services for home and work which includes automated PC maintenance and 24h alerting that detects important problems with your computer before they become a catastrophe. It will also send you email alerts giving you the choice to solve problems yourself, call your IT company or contact In2Security Networks.

Starting from under £4.00 a month per machine, you can add on online backup to protect important data and remote support for PC or networks if you run a series of computers. Additionally an advanced phone systems or digital phone lines allow you to make free calls across the world. In2Security Networks owner Johnathan Edgerton commented, "We focus on customer service and understanding our customers' needs. Being at the cutting edge allows us to deliver advanced services saving valuable time and money". Find out more at [www.in2security.biz](http://www.in2security.biz)

Would you like to write for the Western Park Gazette?

Have you any ideas for local features or new content?

Tell us about them.

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# Leicester Comedy Festival

*Bigger Longer Funnier*

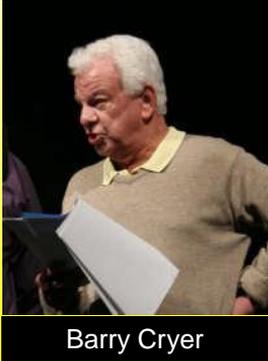
The annual Leicester Comedy Festival returns in February at venues across the city.

The comedy festival started in 1994 with 40 events in 23 venues over 7 days attracting 5,000 people.

Since then many top stand-up comedians have performed in the festival including Jo Brand, Jack Dee, Dave Gorman, Rory Bremner.

The festival is hugely expanded since it began 16 years ago and this year has attracted over 300 shows at 40 venues over 17 days across Leicester and Leicestershire.

The 2010's exclusive festival line-up now includes top comics: Barry Cryer, Julian Clary, Lee Mack, Phil Nichol, Rhod Gilbert, Susan Calman, Count Arthur Strong, Shappi Khorsandi, Jon Richardson, Tim Vine, Ian McMillan, Stewart Lee, Jack Whitehall, Jimmy Carr, Pam Ayres, Nina Conti,



Barry Cryer

Jason Byrne, Pappy's Fun Club, Andrew Lawrence, Sarah Millican, Paul Chowdry and Sean Lock. Plus many more.



Leicester Comedy Festival Director, Geoff Rowe, said:

*"We're delighted to announce that Leicester Comedy Festival is growing. Last year's event was a huge success and we want to extend the number of days to allow for a more balanced programme. Extending it will also allow for more daytime shows over school holidays and make more sense in terms of the infrastructure installed to create venues and a festive atmosphere across the city."*

Shows start from the 5th of February.

More details from [www.comedy-festival.co.uk](http://www.comedy-festival.co.uk)

## Beware of the Care Costs Trap

*Sponsored article*

Each year an estimated 70,000 UK pensioners lose their family homes, savings and investments simply to pay for care home costs. This is due to the little-known fact that Local Authorities can take all of our assets over £14,000 if we need residential care.

Many people think "It'll never happen to me". But while we might not want to admit it, it could. In fact, it's highly likely that we will need residential care in later life – according to the charity Age Concern one in two of us will need residential care during our lifetime.

If we are the "one in two", we stand to lose everything we own over £14,000.

Happily, there are steps we can take to protect our assets, for example having a certain type of Will or Trust set up. Contact

Berkeley Weston Ltd on 0116 2230469 for further information.



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Your **ONLY** Local Choice

# New Showroom For Holmfields

*Sponsored article*

**There's now more choice than ever when you opt for an inspirational kitchen from Western Park's leading kitchen and bedroom design and build company.**

Holmfields have been at the cutting edge of top local design and fitting for over ten years and now unveil new displays in their showroom to illustrate their top notch quality, workmanship and service. Holmfields is the local family firm based on Carlisle Street, just off Hinckley Road where you can browse through a selection of unique brand new designs exclusive to Holmfields and Parapen.



The curvy ergonomic looks with solid acrylic doors, sleek lines, stylish handles and eye catching work surfaces are all created to optimise layout and maximise storage space.

Kitchens, bedrooms and home study rooms are hand built to measure with furniture manufactured on the premises. This offers a flexible approach to the building process as well as excellent customer service.

Holmfields also have the ability to take on projects needing a wide range of services from minor building alterations to tiling, underfloor heating, electrical and plumbing, all by qualified professionals.

With an impressive range of new style options from traditional to modern, Holmfields can create the kitchen, bedroom or home study you've always dreamed of – exclusively designed and individually made.

**For more information call 0116 255 6669**

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## Valentine's Day Dinner at the Crows Nest

### GAZETTE COMPETITION

**Congratulations to last month's Gazette competition winner Mr D. Proctor who won a leg of lamb from S. Patrick and B. Godwin butchers on Aikman Avenue.**

Mr proctor counted 17 Santas in December's magazine. We would have accepted 16 excluding the Santa disappearing down a chimney in the Mick and Dens ad on the inside back page.

For the first Gazette competition of 2010 we've joined The Crows Nest to offer you the chance of winning a special Valentine's Day meal for 2 worth £40.00.

#### THE QUESTION

According to estimations - How many Valentine's Day cards are sent world wide every year?

- A. 200 Million
- B. 600 Million
- C. 1 Billion

Email your answer by Feb 10th 2010 to editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Or to - Editor c/o Western Park Gazette  
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*One correct answer picked at random. No cash alternative and editor's decision is final.*

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## GAZETTE LETTER BOX

RE: Phil Hardy's letter about the name of the Shipstone's pub on the corner of Narborough Road and Hinckley Road.

We had several calls from readers and an email from Denis Fisher, who believe the pub was called The Shipstone Inn.

Following the closure of the furniture shop on the corner of Hinckley Road and Woodville Road - Who will be clearing this mess up?

**Woodville Road Resident**



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## New Year Update

*From Hinckley Road Policing Unit*

**The geographical area of Hinckley Road Local Policing Unit has changed to align with the council 'ward' boundaries.** The aim is to enhance working relationships between the police and the community. As far as Hinckley Road LPU is concerned this means they welcome the residents, users and businesses in the adjacent Fosse Ward.

### **Asbo-mobile**

The dedicated Anti Social Behaviour car which was running on the approach to Christmas has seen fruitful results. Officers attended all reports of Anti social behaviour and when not attending incidents, they patrolled areas where Western Park residents voiced their concerns. The ASB car will be deployed once again later this month.

### **Hinckley Road drug dealer receives lengthy custodial sentence**

On 4th January 2010 a man was sentenced to 6 years in prison for the possession of Class A controlled Drugs and a two year sentence to run concurrently for the possession of Cannabis with intent to supply in the Hinckley Road area.

Over 3 kilograms of Cannabis with a street value of £1,900 and over 121 grams of Cocaine with a street value of £5,000 was recovered.

Cash and other assets recovered during the investigation have been confiscated under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

### **Distraction Burglar charged**

Hinckley Road officers have arrested and charged a man with four counts of distraction Burglary across the city and Hinckley Road area in December 2009.

If you have information about crime in Leicester, Contact the police on 222 2222 or Crimestoppers, which is anonymous on 0800 555 111.

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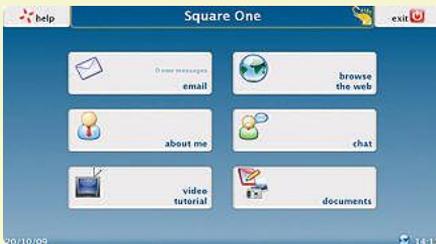
So there you are – the kids use a computer and so do the grandchildren, but you don't. Your scared! You think a computer is a strange complicated device only for the young... Think again!

## Nice Box - What's in it? Andrzej Miarkowski

One of the most popular uses of the internet by home users is finding out about goods and services. Yet over 21% of the adult population have never done this. Local and national government as well as businesses have, for some time, been increasing their investment in the internet and consequently reducing their resources for direct customer provision. Junk mail is almost exclusively the reserve for advertising junk food, and many shops are stocking a decreasing range of products. This trend will continue with increasing disadvantage to those not connected. Around 65% of over 65's have never used the internet at all.



It's not all doom and gloom. Hoping to address this problem are SimpliCity Computers who are selling computers that appear to be specifically designed to introduce people (aged 50+) to the benefits of internet access but also keeping the complexity to a minimum.



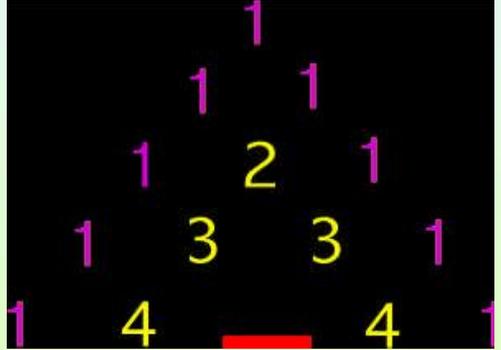
The Linux based product promises free applications, updates and upgrades, but fails to mention the availability of any accessibility aids that help those having physical problems. The price seems reasonable (about £450 complete) and together with an internet subscription is all that is needed to get started.

*Andrzej Miarkowski is a Microsoft Certified Professional Developer.*

# BRAIN TASER

*Penny Palmer*

To get the other numbers, we add the two numbers that are above... For example, we added 1 + 1 to get the 2 and we added 1 + 3 to get the 4. Can you see that this is happening everywhere? So, what goes in the red blank?



We will print the answer in the next issue but you can find the solution on the Gazette's website. The answer to last month's Brain Taser was 312211

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# Western Park News Review 2009

**JAN-** Fire ravaged the Westcotes United Reformed Church at the corner of Hinckley Road and Westcotes Drive at around 1.30 in the morning of December 8th 2008.

Over 30 fire-fighters fought overnight to battle a blaze that eventually destroyed the Church's annex room, with fire fighting efforts leaving water damage throughout the rest of the of the building and flooding the cellar. The remains were demolished in 2009.

**FEB-** Tesco opened a new store on the site of the old Jessops camera shop on Hinckley Road.

Jessops sold the 20,000 sq ft site which employed 19 after Tesco made them a high undisclosed offer.

Many regarded the loss of "The World Photo Centre" as a real blow to the area and petitioned against the sale of alcohol on the site. The Tesco opened following a major rebuild.

**MARCH-** One of Leicester's longest running family businesses closed its doors after 73 years.

Lane's Pork Butcher's on King Richard's Road sold their last home made pork pie at the end of March as Alan and Tom Lane join their brother, Rob in retirement.

The firm originally set up by their Grandfather Bernard nearly 100 years ago, in Daventry has served generations of customers in Western Park from their King Richard's Road shop since it opened in 1936.

**JUNE** The new Lord Mayor of Leicester supports a long running local charity running a traditional seaside children's holiday home. Western park Councillor Roger Blackmore had chosen the Leicester Children's Holiday Centre at Mablethorpe as his Lord mayor's Appeal charity.

He said: "Leicester Children's Holiday Centre was set-up in the late 1800s and continues to do a really wonderful job. All children should be able to enjoy the simple pleasures of a seaside vacation and this wonderful charity helps provides this to those who might otherwise miss out".

**JULY-** Western Park exploded into a riot of colour during the first weekend of July as the latest Open Gardens Event took place.

17 gardens were open to the public following a crowded opening ceremony in the grounds of St Anne's Church.

Over 400 local people enjoyed the sun and ramble around some of the most creative gardens in Leicester raising more than £2000 for Rainbows, the Leicestershire children's hospice and the Community Hall Building Fund



**AUG-** A local author scored a book deal as Dan Tunstall had his first novel published. Big and Clever tells the story of two teenage boys, Tom and Raks, who find themselves caught up in the murky world of football hooliganism.

**SEPT-** The historic West Leicester landmark, Bowstring Bridge, which spans Braunstone Gate, was to be demolished to allow redevelopment of the DeMontfort University sports facilities.

**NOV-** "Old Major" is one of our area's oldest trees. Despite growing quietly in Western Park for over 250 years, its size and age made it unstable. And on 20 August, a large branch collapsed causing significant damage. Leicester City Council officers assessed the tree and recommended reducing its size by up to 25%.

To read these stories in full and to catch up with all our areas news and opinions - visit [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk) to download PDF versions of all the previous Gazettes.



**MAY-** Western Park would not become home to a 450ft wind turbine.

The park had been put forward as a potential site as part of a Leicester City Council drive to use more environmentally friendly sources of power but it has now been ruled out of a scheme for six wind turbines around the city.

It has been reported that this is because wind and soil tests to see if the area could support a turbine came back showing it was not viable.

# Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



**No matter how hard and forbidding winter can be, there is always something you can do in the garden.**

Having said that, maybe it would be better to work off that Christmas pud when the chance of frost-bite has reduced, and the glacier has receded from the veg patch. Come to think of it - that comfy chair looks awfully inviting, so maybe now would be a good time to read a stack of seed catalogues and plan another year of gardening?

But this year my New Year's resolution is to use up all those half empty, impulse-purchased, missed-sowing-time packets of seeds, before I buy any new. And I already have enough trays and pots of over-winter cuttings to reforest half of Brazil.

Some things I will have to buy new. Umbelliferous seeds like parsnip and carrot rarely keep well once



open. A row of Nantes carrots has already been planned for my raised beds and I'm determined to get a crop of Florence Fennel that doesn't run straight to seed. On the other hand, tomato seed seems to last forever if I keep it dry and mould free.

What about all those unmarked packets and odds and sods? Well I'm going to mix them all together and play a game of germination bingo by planting them in a quiet corner of a flower bed and seeing what emerges. Now where did I put my pipe and slippers?

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