

Western Park Gazette

Information and advertising for the Western Park Area

No 9 Oct/Nov 2009 www.westernparkgazette.co.uk



MAJOR PROBLEM IN WESTERN PARK

"Old Major" is one of our area's oldest trees. Despite growing quietly in Western Park for over 250 years, the oak is now the centre of a local controversy.

Its size and age are making it unstable. And on 20 August, a large branch collapsed and caused significant damage. Leicester City Council Tree Officer Peter Canovan was in the area at the time, assessed the tree and recommended reducing its size.

Leicester City Council placed notices in the park incorrectly suggesting the tree might be pollarded – this would mean cutting back all the major branches to the main trunk. Local conservation groups and residents are concerned that remedial work would drastically reduce Old Major's size, and would severely affect its character.



Tree officer Peter Canovan says Old Major has fungal decay at the base and further decay and cavities in the main branches. This is not unusual for a tree of this age. But because it grows in an open site, it has developed long and potentially hazardous branches. Mr. Canovan suggested up to 25% of the tree needs to be removed to reduce the weight of these branches, but so far "no firm judgement has been taken".

The tree has been surveyed by a bat expert, following concerns from local residents about impact on habitat. Two possible bat roosts will not be affected by the proposed tree work.

Leicester City Council has withdrawn the notice deadline for its proposed works while it meets with concerned groups and consults with its Conservation Officer.

Tony Huxley



Old Major - Branching off!

Old Major is a majestic example of a great English Oak, however within a wild environment, a tree will grow, collapse, die and be replaced at nature's own pace. In such a public space, this tree has become an individual specimen that park users interact with, so has to be managed for our, and its, own good. Hopefully Leicester City Council and the other concerned groups can find away to do this without compromising the Old Major's grandeur. ED

**WIN TICKETS TO PETER PAN AT
CURVE AND A MEAL FOR 4
FROM THE GLOBE
magazine Only**

Greetings from the Editor

In this issue, we take a look at a local arboreal controversy surrounding a historic oak tree.

We examine the history of Leicester Market and Helen Knott admits she actually likes Halloween and joins in with a vengeance. We have more expert advice from our gardening guru Tony Huxley and Andy Miarkowski, our resident computer genius, tries out the new Windows 7.

We also give the youngsters a chance to win 4 tickets to see this year's family musical, Peter Pan, at Curve in our Christmas picture competition. And if the run up to Christmas shopping in town is just too much for you already, have a go at winning a meal for four from the Globe on Silver Street.

On our website you can win copies of Cliff Richard and the Shadow's new CD and keep up to date with events and stories from our area by downloading past Gazette's as pdfs or by browsing the pages.

If you'd like to contribute to the Gazette, get in touch - we want to hear from you!

Sharon editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Events Diary

Western Park Councillors Surgery. St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 10th Nov. 7.00-8.00pm

Scary Fun at Fosse Library. 21st Nov 2.00-3.30pm. 5-11 year olds. Free.

City of Leicester Singers Classical Concert at St. James The Greater Church on 14th Nov from 7.70pm. Details - www.cityofleicestersingers.co.uk

LOROS Charity Concert at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Hinckley Road, LFE. Sun 15th. 0116 239 5944

Craft Exhibition in aid of Friedreichs Ataxia and Church of the Martyrs - 20th - 22nd November 10.00-6.00pm (Sun 1.00-4.00pm) Ad: £1.00.

Christmas Lights Switch On - 22nd Nov Town Hall Square.

Westcotes Toddler Time until Wed 16th Dec at Westcotes Library. Weds -10-11.30am. Free.

New Park's Toddler Time until 17th Dec at New Park's Library. Thurs 9.30 -11.30am. Free.

Study Support for 7 to 16 year olds until 19th Dec at Fosse Library. Mon & Weds. 3.00-6.00pm. Free.

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 2551866.

Chatterboxes - Fridays 9.30-11.30am at New Park's Community Centre. (Confidence building social group) Sally - 07850 021 639.

Email your event to

editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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The Zero – Something and Nothing

The development of the zero can be attributed to Hindu civilizations during the 6th century A.D. to symbolize the absence of a value like 205.

In today's world, its role is crucial, it can be viewed as a special or strange concept. For instance it is neither positive or negative. If you have a zero remainder in a division, then you have a whole number as an answer.

Also it can mean different things: the existence of nothing or an absence of an amount. For example if a person has no account in a bank, his balance is nothing. However, if he has a bank account, he could have a balance of zero.

Although the zero was one of the last numbers to gain universal acceptance by mathematicians; it could be argued that the development of the zero has been one of most single significant developments in mathematical thinking. Phew! Who would have thought so much could be said about nothing! (*Penny Palmer*)

Brain Taser

Complete this sequence

0, 1, 3, 6, 10, 15 ?

We'll print the answer in the next edition, but if you can't wait you'll find it on the website.

GAZETTE LETTER BOX

email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

I was really interested to read Roger Blackmore's article about Tom Barclay.

Although Tom deserves to be remembered and celebrated, Barclay Street was not named after him. The street was originally named Bismark Street, I think. With the First World War it was not thought appropriate for it to have a German name and it was renamed Barclay Street, keeping the same initial letter.

The street was renamed in honour of Dr John Barclay whose home was in the old house of Georgian appearance in the Newarke which was part of Gateway College.

Dr Barclay was a physician at the nearby Royal Infirmary. In 1846, together with surgeon Mr John Buck, he was appointed by Leicester Borough Council to be the first Medical Officer in Britain.

Sue Barton

Barclay Street Continued.

Information taken from Wright's Directory.

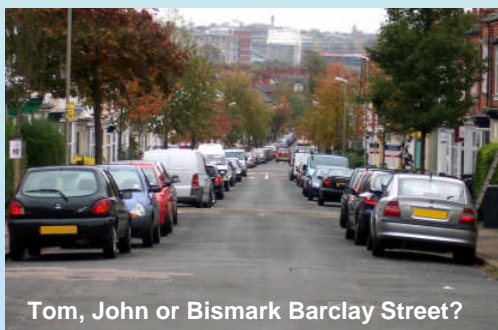
1891 - No entry for Barclay Street. Only 6 residents shown on Westcotes Drive.

1898 No entry for Barclay Street, 9 residents shown in Westcotes Drive.

1902 Only 4 residents on Barclay Street and 5 on Bismark Street, later known as Beaconsfield Rd. Wright's Directory 1902 has a street plan with Barclay Street shown as running between Narborough Road and Sykefield Avenue.

All the land from the canal westwards was owned by the Harris family. It is not conclusive that Barclay Street was named after Dr. Barclay or Tom Barclay.

Bob Plant



Tom, John or Bismark Barclay Street?

I wondered if your readers know about www.fixmystreet.com? A simple way to report problems around graffiti, fly tipping, potholes, vandalism and so on. It takes just a few moments to report an issue and the council have been quick to respond. Have a go it's free and we can help to keep Western Park looking great.

Tim Morton

GAZETTE COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winner of the last Gazette competition. Reader Nicki Little has won herself a fabulous meal for four from the Crow's Nest. She correctly identified that a crow's nest is the look-out platform on a sailing ship.

We have another chance for you to feast for free! This time from Hugh Kerr, manager of the historic Globe pub on Silver Street. The ideal place to stop off and have break whilst doing all that Christmas Shopping!

Answer this question - The history of beer dates back at least 8000 years. But where will you find the earliest discovered examples of brewing?

A. Hugh Kerr's sock drawer

B. The Arctic Circle

C. Iraq

editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

or by post to

Editor Western park Gazette

C/O 62 Ainsdale Road

Leicester LE3 0UA.

Closing Date is 20.11.09.

No cash alternative. One correct answer chosen at random. Editor's decision is final.

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Leicester Market History

For 720 years, Leicester Market has been serving the City's population.

Today the High Street pedestrianisation, lack of convenient parking, the Highcross shopping centre, out of town supermarkets and the threat of a new Sunday market have all had an effect on stall holders. Trade in our historic market is not what it was.

It may be facing difficult times ahead, but Leicester Market's history should pull it through.



There have always been markets in Leicester since the Iron Age when the City was a Celtic settlement on the banks of the Soar. It was the

capital and main trading centre of the Coriletavi tribe, whose territory stretched across most of the East Midlands. In AD 48, the Romans arrived and constructed a fort, eventually building Ratae complete with a bustling market which allowed the Coriletavi people to prosper for three hundred years.

Not much is known about the period following Rome's abandonment of Ratae, but it is with the arrival of the Normans and the 1086 Domesday book, that the history of Leicester Market becomes clearer. The town's population was around 1500 under the control of a Steward appointed by the Earl of Leicester. It was his responsibility to take tolls from stall holders in the Market, reckoned at the time to be worth £2.00 a year.

By 1298 a charter was granted allowing a Saturday market on the current site – much bigger than today and with wool, leather and livestock being the town's specialties. The cattle fairs in May and October were run at Horse Fair Street from 1774 until it closed in 1884, but many other fairs authorised by John of Gaunt, King Edward 2nd, Elizabeth 1st, and other historical luminaries were created over the market's 700 year history.

Leicester Market is still the biggest covered market in Europe with more than three hundred stalls and over 2 millennia of history – who can beat that?

Events in the Parish

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

At St. Anne's Church Hall -

Mondays: 5.30 - 7pm WEA Yoga 0116 255 6614
7.15 - 9pm Tai Chi with Rick.

Tues: 7.30 - 9.00pm Women's Yoga.

2nd Tues: 2.00 - 4.00pm Mother's Union visiting speakers. (or 4th Wednesday)

3rd Tues: 7.30 - 9.30pm Western Park Gardening Club.

Tues: 10 am Mums and Toddlers and at 2 pm: Over 60's Group. **At St. Paul's.**

Wed: 5 - 7.30pm Weightwatchers.

1st Wed: 2.30 - 4pm Wednesday Club with visiting Speakers and 7.15 - 8.15pm Tai Chi with Rick.

4th Wed: 7.00 - 9.00pm Mother's Union visiting speakers.

Thurs: 09.00 - 10.00pm Pilates.

Thurs: 2.00 Pram Club.

Thurs: Re-bouncer Aerobics Club.

Fri: 10.30 - 11.30 am - Elevenses.

1st Fri: 11.30 am Light Lunches.

2nd & 4th Fri: 2.30 - 4.30pm International Barn Dance.

Mon 2nd Nov: 8 pm Mozart's Requiem. St. Anne's, Concert led by the choir and members of

the Tudor Choir:

Sunday 8th Nov: Remembrance Sunday. 8 am BCP 1662 Holy Eucharist (said, with short homily) at St. Anne's. 10 am Holy Eucharist at St. Anne's. 10.15 am Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's. There will be a 2-minute silence at or near to 11 am at both Eucharists.

Sat 14th Nov: Table-top sale at St. Paul's Worship Centre. 10 am to 12 noon. An opportunity to meet people as well as to raise funds!

Sat 21st Nov St. Anne's November Fair In the Church Hall 11 am to 2 pm.

Sun 29 Nov: Advent Sunday. 8 am BCP 1662 Holy Eucharist (said, with short homily) at St. Anne's. 9.15 am Holy Eucharist (said) at St. Paul's. 10 am Holy Eucharist at St. Anne's. 10.15 am Christingle Service at St. Paul's. 6 pm Special Worship for Advent Sunday at St. Anne's with carols & readings.

Holding an event near Western Park?

TELL US ABOUT IT!

Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk
or write to

The editor c/o 62 Ainsdale Road
Leicester LE3 0UA

COFFEE MORNING SUCCESS

The Letchworth Road Area Watch September Coffee Morning attracted around 90 people who helped raise just over £200 towards another concert in the Western park bandstand next summer.

Organisers say that making money is not their main objective, since they only charge £5.00 for a stall, but they like the community to get together for a coffee and a chat. They hope that a caring community is a safer place to live.

Their next event will be a fund raiser for the Lord Mayor, Councillor Roger Blackmore's Charity Appeal which is for The Mablethorpe Children's Holiday Home in the New Year.

Meanwhile Roger has been fundraising.....

LORD MAYOR'S APPEAL

A celebratory reception to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of Leicester's Mayoralty was held at the Guildhall last month, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal Charity, the Leicester Children's Holiday Centre at Mablethorpe.

The City of Leicester was first granted a Mayor in 1209, when King John was on the throne.

The event was joined by various characters in period costume including John of Gaunt, Cardinal Wolsey, Agnes Wyggeston, John Biggs, Alice Hawkins – the Leicester Suffragette and Thomas Cook.

The Lord Mayor and Western Park City Councillor, Roger Blackmore, welcomed guests from the Guildhall balcony and introduced the range of historical characters: these also included Katherine Swinford, the wife of John of Gaunt and Mary, the mother of Lady Jane Grey.

The event raised over £2,000 for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.



Lord and Lady Mayoress - Roger and Hillary Blackmore and historical characters

To ADVERTISE email-
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CALLING ALL CLIFF FANS!

Cliff Richard and the Shadows have got together in a studio for the first time in 30 years to record new versions of their classic hits.

ON LINE COMPETITION

We have 4 copies of Cliff Richard and the Shadow's new Reunited CDs to win.

Go to www.westernparkgazette.co.uk and hit the Cliff link on the home page.

CLASPED TO THE HEART

A FREE programme for Carers run by CLASP the Carers Centre is coming to Glenfield in November.

The first session starts at the Brant Inn, Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester, LE6 0DU on 5th November from 10.00am – 1.00pm

Each session runs once a week for three hours, over a seven week period and carers can choose to attend as many sessions as they wish.

Transport can be arranged and a sitting service can be paid for if necessary.

For more information contact Cathy Harrell at CLASP Tel: 0116 2510999.

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Western Park's resident journalist and broadcaster Helen Knott may scare the life out of us here at the Gazette, but she's a gentle soul when it comes to Halloween.

KNOTT'S LANDING

Helen Knott

I love Halloween. It's a celebration that fits perfectly into the year, a couple of months after the summer holidays, a couple of months before Christmas. It's a flat spot in the calendar and there isn't a bank holiday until the festive season so why not kick loose and have fun, after all, for the retailers it is the third most profitable event in the year after Christmas and Easter and they do want us to spend our way out of recession!

I go a bit mad I will admit. My collection of Halloween props is slowly growing year on year. I have a witch who floats in a tree and moans at you when you walk near her and lots of polystyrene grave-stones. The Halloween box in the loft is almost as big as the Christmas box and I have to start planning earlier and earlier. It can be hard to get the big pumpkins you need for carving the ridiculously elaborate designs I love. It takes time to make enough spooky biscuits for the visiting trick or treaters but I don't care.

I know a lot of people don't like the celebrations and perhaps they do have good reason. I've seen a gang of teenagers running up Hinckley Road throwing eggs through my neighbour's window and disappearing into the park. It doesn't happen every year though and I'm not sure it warrants the hostility that greets some trick or treaters.

A couple of years ago I watched an older gentleman stand menacingly at the end of his drive shouting at a little girl in a fairy outfit! What message did that send the little girl about older people and the holiday? I don't deny that children should always be accompanied and that they should only visit homes with pumpkins and lights outside but the love has to go both ways and if you get knocked up inadvertently, shouting is not the answer.

This Halloween I was standing by with my pumpkins lit and my biscuits at the ready ignoring the weather and feeding the hordes!

Happy Halloween!



How would you like to be amongst the first to see Leicester's Christmas family musical?



We've go together with Curve to offer tickets for a family of four to the preview show of Peter Pan on Tuesday 8th of December at 7.30.

To win this wonderfully seasonal prize we'd like you to paint or photograph a Christmas scene. The competition is open to anyone under 16 and you can use whatever technology you like. Anything from crayons to digital media, the choice is yours!

Our team of expert judges are all artists and photographers in their own right and are lead by The Lord Mayor, Roger Blackmore, who's no slouch with a camera himself.

In addition, the winning picture will be on the front page of the December issue of the Gazette.

Where possible we will upload entries onto the website for everyone to see.

Here's what to do.

Create your picture in landscape A4 proportions, (*sideways rather than top-to-bottom*) scan it into your computer and send the JPEG in the highest resolution you can by November 25th 2009 to -

editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

or by post to

Editor C/O Rapscaillon Media

62 Ainsdale Road

Leicester

COMPETITION RULES

Entries must be original, free of any copywritten elements and are non returnable. The prize is not transferable, there is no cash alternative and judge's decision is final.

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GUIDING LIGHT

A Group of Guides has spent a year raising cash for a children's hospice.

Youngsters from St. Peter's Guide unit have raised about £400 for the Rainbow's Hospice. The 29 girls, aged between 10 and 15, held a variety of events including cake sales, discos and toy sales.



St. Peter's Guide Unit in Action

Guide Leader Dianne Tuohy said, "They have done really well and its for a good cause , I am really proud of them and what they have accomplished".

She presented the money to Rainbow's representative Maggie Deere at St. Peter's church hall in Hinckley Road.

The donation means the Guides are able to sponsor a brick in the new extension at the hospice in Loughborough, which cares for terminally ill children and young people from the region.

They have included an inscription on the brick which reads:

St. Peter's Guides, Leicester – Keep the Faith.



Dianne Tuohy and the girls from St. Peter's

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Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings

Autumn seems to have fallen upon us. Now is the time when plant lovers harp on about the beauty of autumnal foliage.

It always amazes me - all those gold or flame-red hues are the leaves' true colour, revealed as the plant draws back the chlorophyll that tainted them green. The Katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) tree not only gives you a display of butter yellow or even pink foliage at the end of the season, it can also please your sense of smell as its fallen leaves break down to release an aroma of warm toffee.

A job I saved till now is lifting and dividing my *Eremurus* or Foxtail Lilies. The variety I grow is "Selford Hybrids", a lovely mix of fizzing yellows and oranges. Usually they explode into flower in the first half of summer,

but this year they were a damp squib. Plants shaded by maturing shrubs need locating to sunnier spots and all will receive generous amounts of well rotted horse muck. Although fully hardy, they are quite particular and require lots of sun and nutrients. They also loath being waterlogged. Their delicate octopus-like crowns need planting in wide 15cm (6in)-deep holes and sitting on a couple



Foxtail Lilly

of handfuls of sharp sand. If you fancy trying Fox Tail Lilies, you'd better hurry and get some in the ground now, so you can enjoy fireworks in the garden next June.

More from Tony in the next issue.

If you have missed any of Tony's green fingered tips, you can catch up with them on line at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

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It seems that Western Park's home computer users may have just got used to Vista when it's time for change... again. Andy Miarkowski loads up the latest from Microsoft.

Nice Box - What's in it?

Andrzej Miarkowski

It's on sale now and at a computer store near us. Vista is out and Windows 7 is in. So I decided to load a test copy up, just to see how easy it is.

Every time I have upgraded an operating system, the process has been generally frustrating and time consuming, often involving many weeks of tuning before achieving a usable and stable state. So I approached the task of upgrading to Windows 7 with trepidation. I had my list of currently installed software packages. I checked my backup, in case it all went horribly wrong. I made a network copy of all my user profiles, in case it all went right. I took a deep breath and began.

Two reboots and 20 minutes later, I had a new operating system – wow that was quick!

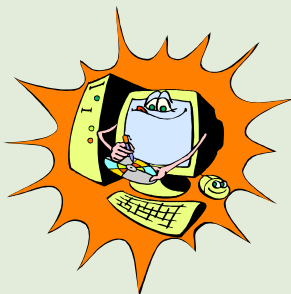
I checked the devices, four drivers were not found – but the system offered to find them on the internet and duly reported that drivers for my printer and wireless network were now installed, but

could not find drivers for my audio interface or mobile phone. I copied the installation files to the computer, but before running the installers I changed the compatibility mode to Vista SP2 and installed – this is a brilliant feature. I copied back all the user profiles, re-installed 27 software packages and was back in business.

I did have two problems: firstly there was an occasional flicker on the screen which was cured by downloading and installing a device driver from the manufacturer's web site, secondly the system failed to restart when waking from sleep mode – I will have to check this again (or not bother!). In normal use the system works well and anyone who has used a modern operating system will intuitively use Windows 7.

Only use administrator accounts for administration – think of the Trojan horse!

Andrzej Miarkowski is a Microsoft Certified Professional Developer.



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