



No. 27 October 2011 www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

News and Views for Western Park • Westcotes • The Fosse

SPIN IT!



More on Page 4

SPINNING TO SUCCESS!

In September, Eco House hosted a dynamic GreenLight event called Spin It.

Two Groundworks Bike Doctors toiled away, giving about 40 bikes MOTs, from top to bottom even oiling and changing cables as required. After nearly 1 1/2 hours of cycling on an bike dynamo, a warm cup of tea was drunk ceremoniously and many people had their photo taken with them and their bikes.



As well as tandem rides around the park, alternative bike jigsaws, free cycle maps and a challenging bike general knowledge quiz, visitors appeared to leave with a greater hope of using their bikes more regularly and thus reducing their dependence on fossil fuels - which was the whole point!

Anne Scott

Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the October 2011 issue of the Gazette.

This month we have a great Christmas picture competition giving one local youngster the chance to take their family to the DeMontfort Hall to enjoy Peter Pan on Ice this Christmas!

On top of that, the winning entry will feature on the front cover of the December Gazette.

We have all the normal malarkey this month; Roger Blackmore writes about the man who first brought Beethoven to Leicester, Helen Knott rants about those new orange bags we're all using now, Tony Huxley looks at the winter garden, Dawn Howard takes a wander down to Braunstone Gate's Comedy Central and a couple of local lads head to Russia's Cape Canaveral.

We catch up with the local police news from Hinckley Road - and if you have a smart phone, although probably not a Blackberry, Richard Perry has some apps suggestions.

We are always looking for contributions, so if you've ever fancied writing for a magazine or you have some local news and information or you're holding an event, please get in touch.

Sharon e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Leicester has produced many well known musicians - and continues to do so. Amongst the lesser known perhaps is the man who first brought the music of Beethoven to England - via Leicester!

William Gardiner

William Gardiner was born in Leicester in March 1770. We know that he sang a solo at a family wedding at the age of six and that he became proficient in the playing of the piano and the viola whilst in his teens. Also when a teenager, he saw his first composition performed in public, in Leicester Market Place which took the form of a march for local soldiers returning from fighting in the American War of Independence.

William's family were in the hosiery business and one way or another he seems to have received considerable encouragement in pursuing his musical ambitions and to travel extensively around Europe - although on one occasion in 1802 it is rumoured that he was banned from entering post-revolutionary France on account of his "liberal views". One of his best known works "Sacred Melodies" was published in 1808 and perhaps his best known work "Music of Nature" followed in 1832.

William Gardiner was passionate about the work of Beethoven: so much so that he personally brought the first copies of the great man's work from the continent to Leicester, where they first reached the ears of an English audience. He always claimed that the proudest moment of his life came when he was visiting Bonn to witness the unveiling of a statue to the great composer. He was recognized by a member of the platform party who called the seventy five year old gentleman from Leicester out of the crowd to participate in the ceremony and sign the unveiling certificate alongside the names of Victoria and Albert.

Throughout his life, Gardiner worked ceaselessly to promote and popularise music especially that of his favourites Beethoven and Haydn. During the course of his long life, he also became an acknowledged expert in musical acoustics and seems to have travelled all over the country offering advice; for example on the siting of the organ in the Brighton Pavilion.

This amazing man died at 84 in 1853 and lies buried in Welford Rd Cemetery.

Roger Blackmore



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Liz Kendall - Cabinet Post

Leicester West MP Liz Kendall has won a promotion to the Shadow Cabinet after only 18 months as in Parliament.

Liz, elected in May last year, was a Shadow Health Minister, but Ed Milliband's recent reshuffle at Labour's top table, gives her the chance to shape the party's future policies on social care.

She says: "This is a hugely important issue that touches the lives of millions of families up and down the country, many of whom are worried about the future of care and support for older people under this Government".

Liz's appointment as Shadow Minister for Care and Older People, means she joins two other newly-elected MPs, Rachel Reeves and Chuka Umunna with Shadow Cabinet briefs.

The reshuffle and new appointments are seen as a way of sharpening Labour's performance and creating a more co-ordinated opposition approach against the coalition.



Events Diary

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

Free Computer Courses: Westcotes Library:

Diwali Workshop: Newarke Houses: Fri 21st Oct 11am-2pm. Activities £2.50.

Learn to Sew: Eco House. 22nd Oct. 10.30-1.30pm. £20 and Make Do and Mend: 2-5pm. £20.

Oxjam Leicester Takeover 2011: Cultural Quarter. 22nd Oct. 1pm-1am. Tickets £8.00-under12's free. www.oxjamleicester.co.uk

Circus: Victoria Park. 18th-23rd Oct.

Diwali Day Celebrations: Cossington Street Recreation Ground. 26th Oct. Free.

Autumn Coffee Morn: Sat 29th Oct. St. Anne's Church Hall. 10-12 noon. Free Entry.

Halloween Horrors: New Walk Museum. Activities and trails. 29/30th Oct. 11-4pm. Activities £2.50.

The Science of Harry Potter: National Space Centre. 15-30th Oct. 10-5pm. Child £11. Adult £13.

Continental Market: City Centre. 26-30th Oct. 9.30-5pm.

Tracing your Family Tree On Line: Braunstone Library. 3rd Nov. 10.30-12 Noon. Free.

Coffee Morning: Fosse Library. 2nd Nov. Free.

Abbey Park Firework Display: 5th Nov. From 5pm. Tickets £5 adult and £3.50 concessions.

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

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.

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**)

BOOK SALE: Sat 26th Nov. Church Hall. 2-4pm. Free.

Church of the Martyrs

Westcotes Drive Leicester

Shake Rattle & Roll for babies toddlers & carers every Thursday in term time - 9.30-11.30am.

Taekwondo 7.30 - 8.30pm, Mondays in the Hall.

Karate 6.00-7.00pm, Fridays in the Hall.

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

Rainbows: Mondays 5.15pm; **Brownies:** Mon & Thurs 6.30pm; **Guides:** Tues 7.00pm.

Weds 2nd Nov - Christmas Shopping Event with loads of stalls 7.30pm

Sat 5th and 19th Nov - Tomatoes cooked breakfast, live music, chat

Thurs 10 Nov - Craft Group 8.00pm

Weds 21 Nov - MU Real Relationships 2.30pm

Sat 26 Nov - Christmas Fayre 2.30pm

Details of events and services can be found at www.martyrs.org.uk

St. Andrew's Methodist Church

Glenfield Road East, Leicester

Weds: Brownies. 6.30-8.00pm. T: Heather Valentine 0116 287 1056. **Fri:** Pram Club. Term Time. 10.00-11.30am. T: Jean Rawson 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

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Helen Knott

Whoever decided to change the City Council's recycling scheme from green boxes to orange bags is clearly a man. Only a man would think that this kind of change is a good thing.

I get that they are trying to make us recycle more. It's good for the planet and it's good for the council budget as they don't have to pay up for every tonne of waste we put into landfill. I also understand they are trying to make it easier for the hard of thinking who don't understand the current system.



It has taken me at least a couple of years, yes I said years, to train my dear husband in the most recent ways of the green box. Plastic bottles and glass bottles and jars only, yes - you can put magazines and newspaper in, no you can't put cardboard or tins in, those peelings go in the compost. He is far from daft but he is easily confused when his routine is changed. Recycling should be a routine, something that is easily understood and STAYS THE SAME come hell or high water. It is going to take AGES to explain it all and numerous

repetitions before he gets it right. Do you know you have to do something 35 times for it to become a habit? That's a lot of explaining.

You see the new orange bag will take all sorts of things the green box doesn't. Cardboard, tins, margarine tubs, plastic film, foil trays, tetra paks and envelopes are all on the list I've been sent. This bag is going to fill up fast. I thought part of the reason the green box accepted so few things was the whizzy Biffa Ball Mill recycling process, the only one in the UK that diverted 70 per cent of our waste from landfill by extracting plastic FLOC for use as fuel, metal cans by means of magnets and eddy currents and putting food waste into an anaerobic digester. Does this not work now?

Let's be clear. The box was good; it tucked under the counter ready to be fished out on a Friday and deposited on the kerb. It only accepted a few easily remembered things so the recycling wasn't contaminated and rendered useless landfill. The big orange bag is going to fill up fast, fill up with the wrong things and look awful inside or out.

At least we don't have three wheelie bins and a compost caddy for food waste, but this is still a change to the running of the house and that means that women everywhere will have to do more work to get it right. Only a man could create that much more work and tell us it's a good idea.

Conservation Volunteering

Be part of keeping Western Park as fantastic for wildlife as it has always been. Join us to get fit, meet new people and learn some more about this great park we have here! With spinney's that need thinning, and brambles that need clearing, we need your help!



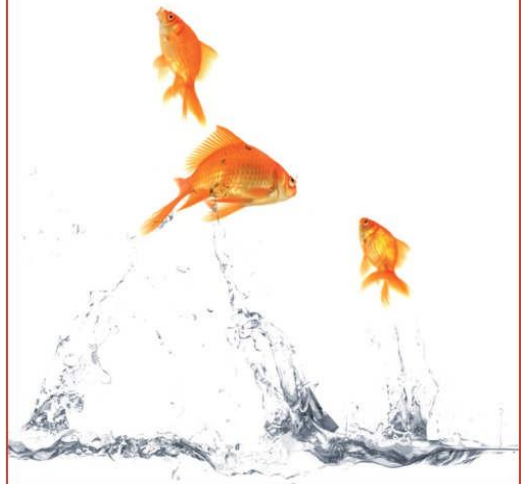
Following on from work that's begun in October, join us on the 27th Oct, 24th Nov and 8th Dec, with more dates to follow in the New Year. Meet us at the Ecohouse car park at 10am, or meet us at any point through out the day until 4pm. Contact me on 0116 2220222 / 07970 740 542, or email at kim.hawksworth@groundwork.org.uk.

Kim Hawksworth

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PASTURES NEW

The Parish of St. Anne's and St. Augustine's said farewell to the Reverends Chris and Paula Oxley who have been serving the area for six and half years.

They have moved to Swinford to look after 13 villages in South Leicestershire.

We wish them well in their new posts.



COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Fosse Cllrs Surgery Monthly, first Sat, 10.30-11.30, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre & last Sat (10-11.30am) 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 Tues each month 1.30 - 2.30pm.

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

MORE FUN ON THE PARK!

Children from West Leicester gather in Western Park ahead of the new school year, to celebrate their last day of freedom!



The Annual Day Before School Picnic

And...The Friends of Western Park, who are lobbying for improvements to the under-5's play area, have two events on the way.

A sponsored walk fund raiser is being held on the park on November 20th.

They hope this will be the final push towards hitting their £5000 target.

Biffa have already accepted outline proposals for improvements and the group has applied for grants which will allow them to fund some big

improvements.

To join in the walk, download the sponsor form at www.friendsofwesternpark.co.uk

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN HUNT

Children can celebrate Halloween at the ever popular Western Park Pumpkin Hunt, after school on Monday October 31st, at the Mencap building near the Hinckley Road entrance.

As always there are prizes for the most ghoulish fancy dress!

Last year's spooktacular attracted over 300 adults and children to search the hidden pumpkin trail and enjoy the stories, food and fun up at St. Anne's Church Hall.



Terror has no name... Western Park 31 October

October Police Update

Throughout the winter, Hinckley Road Police will be concentrating on anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime.

Rowdy youths, including those abusing visitors to the St. Paul and St. Augustine Worship Centre and those causing damage to premises and vehicles, in the Glenfield Road, Wentworth Road and Kirby Road areas will be targeted.

Officers are advising motorists to tighten up on their vehicle security after an increase in thefts from motor vehicles.

Police Community Support Officer Kasie Carter said: "We are currently receiving lots of reports of thefts from motor vehicles around our area which includes Westcotes, Fosse, and Western Park. Some of the items that have been stolen are sat navs, CDs, mobile phones and anything else on display."

Police are appealing for witnesses to a burglary in Ivanhoe Street.

Jewellery including a rose gold oval locket with a smooth surface, a smaller rose gold locket on a patterned chain and a gold necklace with pearls and coral round it were taken in the break in which happened between August 31st and October 1st.

Detective Constable Anna Burton said: "The items taken were of great sentimental value to the victim. I would urge anyone who was in the area at the time who saw anything suspicious to get in touch."

Police are also appealing for witnesses after a 26-year-old woman had her iPhone 4 stolen from her in Bede Park.

The incident took place at about 5.35pm on Tuesday September 13 near the Tarragon Road gate. The victim was approached from behind by a man on a bicycle who grabbed her mobile telephone from her hands. The suspect then rode off along Tarragon Road with the victim's phone.

He has been described as a white male, in his early 20s, of medium build, about 5'10" tall, with sandy brown hair in a crew cut style and a clear and slightly tanned complexion. He was wearing a white long sleeved jumper, grey tracksuit bottoms and white trainers. His clothing has been described as being unkempt and dirty.

The suspect was riding a small blue bike possibly similar to a small mountain bike or a BMX. Can you help? Contact Crimestoppers, which is anonymous on 0800 555 111.

STAR TREKKING TO RUSSIA

Two West Leicester lads are part of a team representing the city in the International Space Olympics Competition being held in Russia this month.

17 year olds George Webster-Aikman and Phil Harris flew out with a team of 12 students from Leicester colleges to the city of Korolyov near Moscow and are competing against 200 international students.



As well as sitting exams in physics, maths and creative writing, the Leicester team will present their own technical, economic or social project on a subject connected with space exploration in front of an audience including a panel of eminent judges from the space industry and universities.

The trip includes an extensive programme of cultural and social activities, providing an exciting overview of Russia. They get the chance to visit museums, tour Moscow, see the Kremlin and visit several cathedrals. Also on the list is Mission Control for the International Space Station, Star City, the training establishment for cosmonauts, the 'Rocket Space Corporation Energia' which produces the hardware for space flight, as well as the chance to see a ballet performance at The Kremlin Palace Theatre.

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You've given up your Blackberry and you've got a nice new smartphone, but what applications can you add? Richard Perry has a few suggestions.

Nice Box - What's in it? Richard Perry

There are thousands of smartphone applications to choose from.

Many media outlets and businesses now use mobile apps to get their content and products across to an increasingly large consumer base.

I've just randomly picked a few free ones which might be of some use at some point... or not!

Pixelpost and Upload Pro, gives you the ability to upload status photos and videos to various social media outlets. There's also **iTookThisOnMyPhone**, which uploads pictures to photo sharing sites and operates on the 4 main platforms.

Bump, lets you actually bump one smartphone against another and swap data, media, bookmarks, as well as activate social media connections.

The Google Maps app is a useful tool for finding businesses and getting directions and of course, there's the legendary **Google Earth** app which does exactly the same as it's big brother.

Mapquest 4 Mobiles delivers voiced directions, turn by turn, so there's no chance of getting lost! Use **Amazon Kindle** and you can download any of the million free books from the Kindle store without stumping up £150 for the reader.

Vouchercloud pinpoints offers and discounts closest to you; just hit a button and a voucher is delivered to your screen.

Redlazer is a barcode reader which allows you to compare shop floor prices, with their online equivalents.

But what about having some fun! One of the most successful game apps, with over 300, 000, 000 downloads is **Angry Birds**.



Players use a sling shot to launch wingless birds at a group of evil, green, egg stealing pigs. It's phenomenally successful, is quite addictive and is available on most smartphone platforms.

A Little Light in the Dark



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Peter Pan on Ice Competition

Here's your chance to win a family pass to see this year's great Christmas show at the De Montfort Hall!

Peter Pan on Ice is a spectacular adaptation of J.M Barrie's magical story of the boy who never grew up performed by the world famous Russian Ice Stars.



To win this wonderfully seasonal prize, and experience the wonder of Neverland filled with pirates, Indians and ticking crocodiles, we'd like you to paint or draw an original Christmas picture.

Not only will the winner receive a family pass for 4 to Peter Pan on Ice, but the winning picture will also grace the front page of the Gazette's December issue!

The Competition is open to anyone under 16 and you can use anything from crayons to computers! **Email your picture as a jpeg or tiff by Dec 1st to editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk**

or by post to **Editor c/o Rapsallion Media, 62 Ainsdale Rd, Leicester, LE3 0UA.**

You can also enter online at the website.

www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

T&C's - no cash alternative, prize cannot be used with another offer and judges' decision is final.

Peter Pan on Ice runs at the De Montfort Hall from 19th-31st December. Box Office 0116 233 3111.

Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



Autumn always feels so transitory, a short phase quickly passed en route to winter.

With a late summer only just fading and forecasters predicting another long hard winter, autumn could whistle past before we know it, so don't delay those pre-Winter jobs.

Now's the time to plant spring bulbs. It's also a good time to plant onion sets and garlic. I've had good success with onion varieties "Stuttgarter" and "Turbo".

Plant in well drained soil to avoid water logging. Push each set into the soil until the tip is just above the surface. A net or pack of onion sets can go a long way so I usually save half for sowing in spring. Plant garlic the same way. I just sneak a bulb or two from the kitchen, making sure to leave some for culinary purposes and Buffy style vampire fighting needs at Halloween. Break into individual cloves and plant like onion



sets. Check regularly as birds and other animals often disturb them. Simply push dislodged bulbs back into the soil.

No self respecting veg patch should be without rhubarb. Autumn is the time to correct any such deficit. For best results plant in a well dug sunny spot and treat to plenty of muck. Resist the temptation to harvest any stalks the first season to allow the plant to establish.

Other vegetables that can be planted now include early peas, broad beans and spring cabbage. Be sure to protect from birds and rodents with fine netting.

Bare root Wallflowers are now available. Plant this autumn for early bedding flowers next year. They're usually sold in bunches tied with an elastic band. Check the stock is fresh and healthy as they can quickly wilt and rot and be fit only for the compost bin.

Now get digging and beat the ice and snow!



You can read Tony's previous green fingered exploits by downloading back issue pdf's of the gazette here: www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

Comedy Central

The recession is still upon us, so now is the time to tell you of a fantastic way to beat the blues!

The Ship Of Fools comedy club at the Looking Glass in Braunstone Gate takes place the first Wednesday of the month. Its luminaries include Patrick Monahan, winner of the recent "Show Me The Funny" TV show, Issy Suttie-Dobbie from The Peep Show and many more.

The compare is the incomparable Alan Seaman, who works hard to get the audience into a frenzy before the comedy stars of tomorrow come to the stage. I say "works hard" because at times the comics outnumber the audience. I can't understand why this should be, as the residents of the West End enjoy a good laugh as much as anyone else - don't they? and a night there represents considerable value for money. The night I went it cost £6.00 and there were 6 acts, which as



Alan Seaman

you can see is £1.00 per comedian and they were worth a lot more than that.

We saw nervous first timers; comics just returned from sell out shows at the Edinburgh Fringe, regulars on the Leicester circuit and comedians from London.

It was a fantastic night out; full of intelligent humour that just creeps up on you. There's a lovely atmosphere, no need to feel worried that you will be picked on by the acts and participation is voluntary, but I ended up on stage at Kristy Monroe's request to sample her "dirty dancing" - very funny. This is not a review of the night; I urge you to review it yourselves. Check the venue and see who's coming on. You can even check the comics out on Chortle to see if you like their style of humour.

Come and support local, exceptionally good-comedy in the West End.

Watch the stars of the future, since the next time you may see these comics could be in your living room in their own show!

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BRAIN *TAZERS*

1. Which letter should be next in the sequence below?

A Z B Y C X D W E _?

2. Change one letter to a small horse and it becomes a pool of water. Add one letter and it becomes a unit of weight, change another letter and it becomes curved, add one letter and it becomes the earth's surface. What was the word originally and what did it become?

3. Which of these words is the odd one out? Hypocritical, Insincere, Phoney, Feigned?

4. Add a four letter word to NOW and AFTER to give two longer words.

5. The body of Colonel Pepper is found in the study along with a pistol and tape recorder by his side. The police start the tape and hear a suicide message followed by a gunshot, but they hand the case over to the Murder Squad -Why?



(Answers at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

SODUKU

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