

Western Park Gazette

News-Views and Advertising for the Western Park Area
No 21 April 2011 www.westernparkgazette.co.uk



Save our Green!



SAVE OUR GREEN!

Residents in the Western Park Estate have lodged 160 objections against plans to develop a much used green space into housing.

The green on Finch Close, which has been used by local children for over 40 years, is the subject of a vocal campaign by residents.

Their aim is to lobby the Council to prevent the building of seven houses and parking, by having the green declared as common ground.

Over 40 local people, with children in tow, arrived at the green to raise awareness of their campaign, which is supported by local councillors and Leicester West M.P Liz Kendall.



Greetings From The Editor

This month, plans to turn a Western Park green into a housing development, get the thumbs down from residents. Helen Knott has a another giant tantrum and our local historian, Roger Blackmore, heads back a hundred years to the time of a legendary Leicester Olympian.

We also get the latest from Hinckley Road Policing Unit, Tony Huxley, gets busy in the garden and Richard Perry looks at what store cards know about us. Too much as it turns out.

Our website now includes RSS feeds which mean the latest Gazette stories directly can be downloaded into your browser. You can also keep up to date with the latest local, national and international events, showbiz gossip, gardening and recipes. There are also feeds to Leicester City Council, the Police and a look at some of the world's odder stories.

It's very simple. Just click a link and off you go! We have even joined up with our friends at Radio Duck! So you can listen to some classic hits and new music as you surf! Not AaarrF!

And we have a another great competition where you can win a meal for two at The Hot Rock Grill on Braunstone Gate.

e:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Under 2006 legislation, local green spaces used by the community can be protected by having them declared Town Greens.

But residents must prove that they have had unrestricted access to the land for over twenty years for recreational use.

Di Driver one of the organisers of the campaign says, "Lots of people use the green. Many have deeds to their houses which says the land was given for community use only. If we succeed in our campaign, this will be the first Town Green in Leicester."

A decision is pending from the City Council Planning Office.



Local Children Enjoying the Green

Events Diary

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

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

Free Computer Courses: Westcotes Library: 0116 299 5510.

Model Railway Day: 2nd April. Abbey Pumping Station. 11-4pm. Small charge for train rides.

Organic Gardening Course 6: April 10th Eco House. 2-4pm Seed sowing and picking out. £7.00.

Spamalot: 11-16th April. DeMontfort Hall. 7.30pm.

Easter Egg Hunt: Sun 24th. Eco House. £1.50. Details - 0116 222 0222.

Mumday Mondays: 12th April. Free children's craft activities, John Lewis, High Cross. Weekly.

Fun Fair: 15th April - 5th May. Abbey Park. 1-9pm.

Steam and Food Fayre: 17th April. Abbey Pumping Station. 1-6pm. Family tickets - £8.00.

Continental Market: 13th -17th April. City Centre.

St. George's Festival: 23rd/24th April. City Centre, all day and between 1-5pm in Orton Square on 23rd.

Calendar Girls: 25th-30th April. DeMontfort Hall.

One Big Street Party: 29th April. Celebrate the Royal Wedding, Humberstone Gate. Free.

Funfair: 13th-21st May. Western Park.

Rainbows Walk of Life: 21st May. Victoria Park and Knighton Park.



Advertising from The Western Park Gazette A Little Light in the Dark

QUIZ



NIGHT

Save your Parish Hall
Family Night
at St. Anne's
Friday 15th April
6.30pm for 7pm start

Quiz night for adults

All Welcome – bring the kids

£2.50 per adult or family up to 5 only £5

(bring your own soft/alcoholic drinks)

50p per child includes a drink & pop corn

Pocket money tuck shop

Tea & Coffee 50p

Contact Teresa 07747 014497 for

tickets by Friday 8th April



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.

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**)

HOLDING AN EVENT?

E: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

FREE PUBLICITY

FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

With the London Olympics only just over a year away, 2012 will mark the hundredth anniversary of the winning of Olympic Gold by a Leicester fish-mongers daughter.

SWIMMING FOR GOLD

Legendary freestyle swimmer Jennie Fletcher whose family ran a fish shop in Belgrave, first learned to swim whilst a pupil at Mellor Road School.

In 1906 she became Leicester's all round swimming champion and in the next few years became Britain's leading amateur lady swimmer, breaking numerous records in the process. In the same year 2000 spectators at Cossington Street Baths saw her become the new English 100 yards Swimming Champion.

She was only able to train after working 12 hours a day, six days a week. Despite their poor circumstances, her parents refused to allow Jennie to tour as a professional with Annette Kellerman in 1907. She remained an amateur, winning six ASA 100 yards freestyle titles between 1906 and 1912 and in 1909 setting a world record for the distance.

Jennie became a household name, attracting large crowds and was not surprisingly picked to

compete in the 1912 Summer Olympics held in Stockholm. Here she won bronze in the 100 metres freestyle before going on to win a gold medal in the 4x100 metre relay.

Retiring from the sport in 1913, she married a local Leicester lad Henry Hyslop and the couple moved to Canada. She died in 1968 at the age of 78.

Whilst holding the office of Lord Mayor, it was a huge honour last year to open up Leicester's own Walk of Fame in the Cultural Quarter including a plaque commemorating Jennie Fletcher and her achievements and at the same time to meet two of her descendants in person. Her niece still lives in Glenfield.

Jennie achieved all this and really put ladies swimming on the Olympic map at a time when women did not even have the vote!

Roger Blackmore.



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Napier Grants Olivia's Wish

Customers and staff of the Sir Charles Napier have raised over a thousand pound so the Leicestershire Charity, Wishes 4 Kids, can send a local girl on a dream Holiday.

Wishes 4 Kids aims to grant a wish to life limited children.

Thanks to the efforts of Deano's Fancy Dress Karaoke Disco and other fundraising, four year old Olivia enjoyed a dream holiday at Disneyland Paris with her family.

Every year the Sir Charles Napier raises money for a local charity. This year, they are aiming to raise over £500 for West Gate Specialist School on Glenfield Road.



Wishes 4 Kids Cheque Presentation

Make a Splash!

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& Fosse Way Gazette

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Gazette Competition

Here's your chance to win a meal for two at one of Braunstone Gate's newest restaurants.

The Hard Rock Grill is unique in Leicester offering your food sizzling away on a plate of volcanically hot rock right in front of you!

To win a meal for two worth £20.00 from their menu, just answer this question.

Which of these is a volcanic rock?

1. Sandstone
2. Limestone
3. Clay
4. Basalt

Closing date April 20th 2011.

Answers to editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk or by post to Editor c/o Rapscallion Media, 62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester, LE3 0UA.

One correct answer picked at random, no cash alternative, prize cannot be used with another offer, editor's decision is final.

Check out our restaurant review at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

Crows Nest - Pirate Kingdom

Sponsored Article

Pirates of the Caribbean have absolutely nothing on this!

Captain Ray Cooper and First Mate Yvette Jayes of the good ship Crows Nest have brought a buccaneering touch to the land lubbers of West Leicester.

They have created, Leicester's first Pirate Kingdom right on the front of the Crows Nest pub on Glenfield Road.



Ray and Yvette realised that there was nowhere for families to take their children and enjoy a quiet drink in the area, so they hatched a plan to persuade the Everards Brewery to help fund a play area for the under 10's.

Ray said: "It's taken three years of negotiations and now we've done it!

We got the pirate theme from the name of the pub, so now families can sit outside and watch their kids enjoy this new facility."

The play area includes a wooden pirate ship climbing frame, bouncy castle and safety flooring.

"Everyone's put a lot of work in," says Ray, "I'd like to thank Richard and Michael Tate and Jason Carroll from Red Monkey for installing the equipment and supplying a lot of extras to the play area for free.

We hope our Pirate Kingdom will bring a lot of pleasure to our customers, old and new."



Captain Ray and Some of His Crew

Western Park Bowling Club

There has been a men's bowling club on western park for 102 years and a ladies Club or 92 years. Both Clubhouses have all the facilities, enabling anyone interested in learning to play, to join in and enjoy the sport.

There are opportunities to play in club friendly matches against other clubs in and around Leicester. We have our own internal competitions, also, one can play casual 'roll-ups' anytime.

The clubhouse green is central to Western park itself and is a wonderful place to be on. With fine weather and fresh air, it is a superb environment to meet and socialise with friends you make.

There is coaching for new and existing members, with some social events arranged throughout the year.

All ages can take part and visitors are always welcome, so come and find out more about the sport.

Contact

Men's Secretary: Derek Bramley -0116 291 2049

Ladies Secretary: Pam Price - 01455 828 484



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If you think Hinckley Road is crowded now during rush hour, you just wait ...

KNOTT'S LANDING

Helen Knott

Everything seems to be a fight at the moment. On Western Park we recently had the shock of proposals for a big residential care home on the old school site. People are fighting against the closure of old people's homes but nothing comes close to the horror of a 4,250 home development out by Leicester Forest East.

I have a friend who lives in the Thorpe Astley estate and I got the chance to look at the map showing the proposed development running from where Beggars Lane joins the A47 at Leicester Forest East all the way down to Enderby and bordered by the M1 and Beggars Lane. It will put around 1,000 acres of beautiful, productive farmland under a concrete blanket and it will surround and perhaps destroy forever the deserted medieval village of Lubbesthorpe.

They are, essentially, building a new town about the size of Market Harborough just up the road and, if you think it won't affect us here, then think

again. The people who live in this development will most likely be coming into the city to work. The chances of them using the A47 to do that are quite high. This means at the very least lots more traffic, more air pollution and more noise for us, even though we live quite a distance from the site. So now we have another battle on our hands.

I understand we have a housing shortage in this country but surely developing brownfield sites is a better policy than wiping out our countryside. Why can't the governments take housing out of the politicians hands and have a national, sustainable housing policy that shifts development away from the south and uses some of the vast tracts of empty housing and barren land up north? Why can't the developments that do get approved have to have sustainable eco-credentials (why isn't there a rule that all new houses come with solar panels on them?) and interesting architecture so not every town looks the same. I have a dream...



www.leicesterforesteastresidentsactiongroup.co.uk
www.lubbesthorpe.co.uk

March Update

From Hinckley Road Policing Unit

Officers are appealing for witnesses after a burglary in Letchworth Road.

six distinctive gold rings were stolen during the daytime break-in on Monday February 28. One of the rings had JLT2 inscribed on it, and others included a rope effect design, a Queen's head design and a Viking head design.

Police are also appealing for help following a burglary on Gimson Road between 6 and 7.30pm on Monday March 21st.

It is not believed anything was stolen, but PC Lisamarie Charlton, who's investigating said: "It could be the perpetrators were disturbed. Do you remember seeing anyone acting suspiciously in the area?"

Another Robbery in the Rally

The 24-year-old was assaulted and had his mo-



bile phone stolen whilst walking through Rally Park between 5.30am and 6.05am on Sunday February 20.

One of the men was holding what has been described as a knife.

The first man is described as white, skinny, around 17-years-old, between 5'6" to 5'8" tall. He was wearing a blue hooded top, grey jogging bottoms. One of the other men was wearing a green bomber jacket. The third man is described as white, about 6' tall and of medium build. He was wearing a black tracksuit with. The fourth man is described as dual heritage, about 19 – years-old and of medium build. He was wearing a black bomber jacket. All the suspects kept their faces covered with hoods or scarfs.

PC Gemma Golding, who is investigating this incident, said: "Although the victim was not seriously injured during the incident, he has been left feeling extremely frightened by what happened and we are eager to trace the people responsible.

Anyone with any information about the Letchworth Road burglary is asked to contact PC 4457 Gemma Golding. For the Gimson Road burglary contact PC 4216 Lisamarie Charlton on (0116) 222 2222 or call Crimestoppers, which is any-

St. Anne's Garden Club Programme

19th April: Spring/Easter floral decoration. Garden Club member, and keen amateur florist, Jenn will help you to create a decoration to be proud of. Come and see what you can do. See hand out for things to bring with you.

17th May: Trish is a very busy lady! She is an author (published just last year) and photographer, manages four allotments; planting according to phases of the moon. She comes from New Zealand but now lives in Wells Next to Sea. Promises to be an interesting evening.

All evening talks held at St. Anne's Church Hall. 7pm for 7.30 start.

Help always appreciated on the night and all visitors and new members welcome.

Further details call George Wilson 0116 2559 245 or Christine Holton 0116 2858 540

The Local Elections are Coming!

Who will you vote for? - Will you bother?

You can have a good old rant about the state of local politics on our forum.

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Is there any point to filling in the Census form? Richard Perry thinks not. If the Government wants the details - they could just ask the supermarkets. They know all about us anyway...

Nice Box - What's in it? Richard Perry

Most of us have supermarket loyalty cards. If you've got a Tesco's card, you're one of 15 million users whilst Sainsbury's say their loyalty card is now the most popular in the UK.

Although card users can expect discounts, the real reason for their existence is marketing. Loyalty cards technology is a sophisticated way of generating data about you.

Every time you swipe your card, for those oh so valuable points, the store will know who you are, your address and contact details, what you bought, how much you spent, when and how often you went there and how you paid for it.



They can work out, from your post code and till receipt, your social grouping, any changes in family structure and have a fair stab at guessing your household disposable income. They will also be able to extract your buying history and "suggest" more product by waving the tempting offer of a few extra store points to get you to spend more. They will be able to detect if you cut down or increase your spending or if you change your buying pattern. If you're going on holiday - they will know because you bought sun screen. If there's a really big change, like you stop using the store, or suddenly start buying nappies, that will be flagged up and an envelope with some targeted offers will drop on the mat. It really is quite clever and designed to make you go back again and again.

With the economic climate really starting to pinch, staying loyal to a store because of their card is becoming harder for consumers. A recent Which survey found that on pricing, Aldi and Liddle out performed the big four supermarkets and another from UBS Bank says the increase in raw food materials like eggs and meat is 3%, but supermarket pricing is up 6%.

Additionally consumers are sitting on an estimated £5 billion worth of unclaimed loyalty points.

I sense a perfect storm brewing...

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The Western Park Gazette

BRAIN *TAZERS*

1. Add three letters to the end of one word to make the second.

Tool - - - ten
Just - - - cap
Fish - - - ball

2. The following words have something in common. What is it?

Chairwoman
Peruse
Anomalies

3. Which is next in sequence?

23, 31, 40, 50

4. There are six chocolate Easter eggs in a basket. Six people take one egg, but there is still one egg in the basket. Why?

5. A cowboy rode into town on Friday, stayed three nights and rode out on Friday. How?

6. In the English language, Hungry and Angry end in the letters gry. - what is the other one?

7. Donoughd is an anagram of which Elvis song?

Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



Tense, frustrated, angry? If so it would be cruel to kick the cat, so why not release the pressure by pruning a *Buddleja*. Go on, give it hell - it can take it, and will love you for it.

Since moving house last autumn I've been trying to prune at least one tree or shrub a week. Eventually I've got to the *Buddlejas*. First was a large *Buddleja globosa*. Introduced from South America in the 18th century it has hundreds of small round orange coloured flowers in the summer. This should have been pruned after flowering last year but it'll just have to tolerate a spring trim. At over 4m (15ft) tall and wide it was engulfing all in its path. I kept the shape of its domed crown but reduced the size by a third, removing some of the larger



Buddleja globosa

branches that were crossing and rubbing. Next I tackled the *B.Davidii*, the "Butterfly Bush" we all know, but not all love. In just over a century they have colonised all but the bleakest areas of Britain. I confess to being a fan. The intense coloured cone shape flower panicles are magnets to bees and butterflies and the heavy, sweet perfume is the smell of hot summer afternoons. This week it met the less poetic charms of Mr Chainsaw. Now that gnarled and rampant tree has been tamed and my spleen vented. Luckily *Davidii* tolerate aggressive pruning as they can easily put out 2m (6ft) of growth in a year. Spring is the ideal time to prune them. *Buddleja* often become congested, so thin it, starting with crossing or damaged branches. Cut to an outward facing bud. Don't be afraid to cut out larger sections that hamper an open framework. Finally reduce the height to allow for the expected summer growth. Then relax...

More from Tony in the next issue.

You can catch up with Tony and our other contributors by downloading pdf versions of the previous Gazettes at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

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