



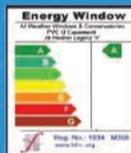
THE WRITE STUFF!

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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the May edition of the Western Park Gazette. This month we catch up with young Barnaby Nyombi from Western Park who could be on the way to becoming the next John Osborne as he stages a play he's written, directed and acted in. Helen Knott, although she's enjoyed the recent sunshine, has started violently twitching about novelty songs we love to hate... But mostly hate. Roger Blackmore looks back at the soon to close Leicester Children's Home in Mablethorpe. Tony Huxley, our garden guru, waxes lyrically on about apple blossom and The Westfield Tennis Club are on the look-out for more members. The local police at Hinckley Road have their monthly update, DMU's Square Mile Project has a ton of things happening and as always the crossword and Sudoku taunt us on the inside back page.

This month there's the chance to win a pair of tickets to Glastonbudget, the world's biggest tribute band and new music festival. It's a great weekend of music and entertainment, so head over to page 18 to enter.

A big thanks to all our contributors and advertisers who've kept the Gazette going for the last 9 years.

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Events Diary

Fosse Coop Camera Club: Fri. St Peter's Ch Centre, Westholme St. 7.30pm. fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk
Thursday Club: 2-4pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narb' Rd.
Pub Quiz: Monthly - last Tues. WE Brewery.
West End Pay As You Feel Café: Thurs 7-8.30pm. Tues, Fri & Sat 11-3pm. WE Centre. Andrewes St.
Coffee Mornings: Fridays 10-12 noon. St Anne's Hall.
Relaxed Dru Yoga Sessions with Emma: Sunday's Term time: 7.15 - 8.30pm. St Anne's Hall. 07393 811150. (Confidence workshop 9th June)
Walking Group: Sundays. 2pm. 69 Deg. B-Gate.
Upstairs At The Western in May 21st: Uncle Armando, 23rd: **Choir Night with Mia & The Moon,** 24/25th **Blink,** 29th: **Faslane,** 31st: **9/11 Was A Conspiracy.** 1st June: **Justin' at The Western,** 5th: **Music in the Dark,** 6th: **Hibwood & support.** 7th: **Silent Movie Night.** upstairsatthewestern.com
Mrs Warren's Profession: 121-26 May. Little Th.
Glastonbudget: 25-27 May. glastonbudget.org
The ELO Experience: 1st June DM Hall.
Riverside Festival: 2/3rd June. Western Boulevard.
Leicester Variety Show: 2nd June. Y Theatre.
Marti Pellow: 3rd June. DM Hall.
Crazy For You: 4-9 June. Curve Theatre.
Jekyll & Hyde The Musical: 5-9 June. **Wyrd Sisters:** 13-16 June. Little Theatre.
My Leonard Coen: 14 June Haymarket Theatre.
Teletubbies Live: 20/21 June DM Hall.
Western Park Festival: 7th July. On the park.

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THE WRITE STUFF!

The list of renowned authors and writers from Leicester includes, Joe Orton, Sue Townshend and Colin Wilson to name just a few; soon we may be able to add Barnaby Nyombi to the list.

19 year old Barnaby, from Western Park, is currently studying for a Performing Arts Degree at DMU, but he is also a writer, producer, director and actor who already had one play, Voices of Reason, performed at Upstairs at the Western, before writing the sequel and doing it all again.

Voices of Reason is a passionate contemporary play which challenges misconceptions and assumptions about immigration. On the 5th May, Upstairs at the Western saw the first production of part two, After The Raid. It's a tragi-comedy describe by cast member Alex Kynaston (Pictured) as the continuation of "a dystopian love story in the alternative reality set up in part one."

But the inspiration was Brexit, along with all the conflicting information in the media, that got the writer in Barnaby thinking. He said of his first play: "The idea for Voices of Reason came out of writing one scene; a joke to start with, then I created other characters and thought I could do more with this and it became a challenge. I had no intention of it ever being performed but I ended up with a play and thought - we could do this!"

Last October a gap appeared Upstairs At The Western's programme and Barnaby answered the call for a replacement. He said: "We had just two weeks to rehearse the first play. It was an amazing opportunity and it went so well we decided to do part two."

There are six cast members including Barnaby who all met in the Urban Young Actors drama group. After The Raid is a collaborative effort from their own production company, Immerse 16 with Barnaby leading from the front. Olivia Sikora (Pictured) said: "He's willing to listen, creative and daring; unapologetic - always open to new ideas."

Richard Perry



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This year marks the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Leicester Children's Holiday Centre at Mablethorpe. It came about as a result of intensive campaigning by Lady Rolleston, whose husband was to go on to become one of the two MPs for Leicester, from 1900 to 1906. Sir John Rolleston became leader of the Conservative Party in Leicester, although his spell as an MP in the city was fairly brief, as he went on to become MP for Hertford between 1910 and 1915.

Lady Rolleston was keen to ensure that poor and orphaned children from Leicester experienced a proper holiday. Initially the children stayed in tents, while later, wooden huts were provided for them. With the continued help of Lady Rolleston, and also local dignitaries and business people, a permanent holiday centre was established in Mablethorpe. A striking Art Deco building, with its setting affording direct access to the beach, it was eventually opened by her in 1936.

Over the years, the Centre, dependent entirely on voluntary fundraising, has provided holidays for literally thousands of local children and each year a special Civic Day has always been held at Mablethorpe, often attended by men and women who had enjoyed their first ever seaside holiday there.

Additionally, in 1908, Shaftesbury Hall in Holy

Bones, named after the great Victorian philanthropist, was opened as an educational base for boys (and later girls). Here they could learn practical skills and partake in recreational activities such as amateur dramatics. The adjoining Victory Hotel was demolished in the 1960's to make way for the ring road.



With increasing operating costs the Mablethorpe Holiday Home is now to be sold. Holidays in the future will be arranged through various providers, so as to ensure that the work pioneered by Lady Rolleston will carry on.

Roger Blackmore

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Summer approaches and with it the joyous prospect of another summertime novelty song! The Cha Cha Slide is on the radio as I type this and I can feel the anxiety building. It's had 162 million YouTube views - They'll never need to work again. Will some horror tune with a catchy hook and dance moves to go along with it storm the charts? I have no problem with cheesy pop songs, mildly amusing yet also irritating dance anthems or tongue in cheek r'n'b.

I do have a problem with the blatant attempt at a novelty song. Spitting Image's Chicken Song, penned by Red Dwarf's brilliant creators Rob Grant and Doug Naylor for a TV satire was supposed to be a parody and got to number one in the Top 40; Joe



Dolche's Shaddap You Face was not.

I guess I am scarred because many moons ago I spent a summer working in a holiday camp where every single morning for the entire summer we were awakened by small children singing The Shoop Shoop song. They were practising for a talent competition (I take issue with the use of the

word talent – there was no discernible talent and I was never really convinced that it was a proper competition with rules either!) that took place every three days. EVERY THREE DAYS! When you live on a holiday camp, staff caravans are the slightly shabby ones hidden amongst the holiday makers vans and it's all a bit traumatic when you get to bed at 2am, after cleaning down the bar and restaurant, to be woken at 6am to the dulcet tones of children singing directly outside your window. Kids are ace, when they are your kids. When they are someone else's kids at 6am, they are a menace. We begged the entertainment team to change the schedule, to only have it once a week on a Saturday so people who came for a week didn't have chance to practice but no, they didn't listen to us! I hate not being listened to, so I used to throw bread onto their caravan rooves so the entertainment team could be woken by dive-bombing seagulls at 4am.

I suppose I should face it, no lasting harm will come of me knowing all the words and actions to the Macarena and the Shoop Shoop Song. I survived the Ketchup Song, Gangnam Style, Agadoo, Jive Bunny and Despa bleedin' cito so I'll probably survive whatever the pop music gurus are brewing up for us. I don't have to like it though.

© **Helen Knott**

Find Helen on twitter @helenjknott

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Join us on Saturday May 26th for the launch of our West End Community Family Cycling Group. We'll be leading taster rides along the traffic free Great Central Way leaving from Tesco Car Park at 1 pm and 3pm Suitable for all ages and abilities.

If you'd like to find out more about the Braunstone Gate and Bede Street Places for People Project and how to get involved, follow us on social media by looking for Places for People Braunstone Gate or keep an eye on our notice board or send us an email to join our mailing list:

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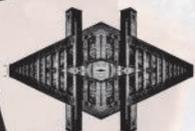
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RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL

Leicester's free Riverside Festival returns on the 2nd & 3rd of June with another lively weekend of activities for the whole family spread across Bede Park, Mile Straight, Western Boulevard and Castle Gardens.

Highlights on the river include colourful boats from across the region, canoe demonstrations and boat trips. This year sees the return of the ever popular and exciting charity dragon boat racing on Sunday, and it is free to try on Saturday.

On land, the festival continues to build on its reputation for great live music by showcasing some of the best bands and artists on the main stage. There's plenty to entertain the whole family, including children's activities, art and craft market, street entertainers and children's funfair plus a variety of tempting food stalls.

Once again there will be an environmental focus to the festival with the involvement of various groups, bringing together workshops, displays and vegan catering; helping to raise awareness of environmental issues.

New this year: Art on the River - Artists, painters and photographers will be displaying and selling their work along the river railings; A fantastic opportunity to see local art in a beautiful setting along Western Boulevard.

Castle Gardens hosts an all new Broken Records Swing Festival, with live bands and swing dance lessons throughout both days.



WESTERN PARK FESTIVAL

Looking for somewhere to take the kids before the end of term?

The Western Park Festival returns for the seventh year on Saturday 7th of July in what promises to be the best yet.

There is plenty to do for everyone, whether it is taking part in workshops in the Kidszone, browsing the various stalls at the street market, sampling the delicious array of hot foods or bathing in the sunshine listening to the many local bands and acoustic artists while enjoying the lager, real ale and cocktails also on sale.

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A major international study in 2015 suggested self-confidence makes a big difference to people's likelihood of success in Britain.

Western Park's Dru Yoga teacher and recovery practitioner Emma Harrison -Thompson has teamed up with London based Corporate Coach Roger Lloyd-Thompson to provide a unique workshop on Saturday 9th June from 10am to 2pm to explore ways of developing self confidence and authentic status.



Emma and Roger will bring together their shared knowledge and passion for personal and professional development. Theory will be introduced in an interesting and interactive way in the workshop and time will be given to experience and practice specially tailored Dru Yoga exercises focusing on letting go of doubt and building confidence.

This is a workshop for anyone seeking support with self confidence or with a keen interest in personal or professional development. Contact Emma by phone/text 07393 811150 or email druyogawithemma@gmail.com or Facebook druyogawithemma.

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To celebrate Westfields Tennis Club, Wimbledon and Tennis as the game to play, we are holding an Open Day on Sunday 8th July 10am - 12 noon with free coaching, when juniors will be for the first hour and adults for the last hour, though courts will be available if you just want to mix in and play. Equipment can be provided, though trainers must be worn and strawberries and Pimms and soft drinks will be served. We are also offering **20% discount** on full membership if joining on the day.

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Tickets to Glastonbudget!

Leicestershire's biggest music festival returns over the May Bank Holiday for its 14th year with another classic line up of top tribute bands and breaking Leicester acts.

Glastonbudget, the three day boogie-fest, between 25th and 27th May, is simply the biggest and best tribute group festival in the world with 140 acts, including 100's of original artists, doing what they do best across six stages.



Once again Turnpost Farm near Wymeswold, host the world's best tribute acts. From David Bowie to Dolly parton and from AC/DC to Muse; the cream of the world's tribute bands are ready to rock your socks off!

Dozens of the best and brightest local bands and artists get their chance to shine in a non-stop menu of music across the massive three field site. There's also a huge beer tent and dozens of stalls and fairground rides if you fancy a break from the nonstop tune-fest.



THE COMPETITION

We have a pair of tickets valid for the entire festival, including camping, for one lucky winner.

This is an email only competition and your answers must be in by 23rd of May.

THE QUESTION

Which of these is NOT a David Bowie song?

- 1: Absolute Beginners
- 2: Lazarus
- 3: A Sky Full of Stars

4: Oh! You Pretty Things

Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Comp T&Cs: Cut off date 25th May, 1 winner. 1 entry per person, Tickets non transferable, No cash alternative. Judge's decision is final. Winner will be informed by email.



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May Police Update

An early heat wave in April saw a large gathering on Bede Park. I know this caused a lot of local issues with noise, parking, general anti-social behaviour and linked criminality – as well as an awful mess left behind by those attending. A recent multi agency meeting was held to discuss this and further information will be disseminated to residents in due course. The local authority and park wardens / street cleansing worked incredibly hard after the event to return the area to normal conditions but thank you for your patience and understanding on the evening – for what was an unusual incident.

Unfortunately the warmer weather has also seen an increase in residential burglary again, especially across the Westcotes ward. Please be mindful of closing windows, locking doors and general security. There are a lot of alley gates leading to the rear of numerous houses so please ensure these are locked and secure. Lock away any bikes in gardens and ensure any sheds are padlocked.

If you do see any suspicious activity please report it via 101 or 999 if a criminal offence is being committed.

You will have seen and read national reports about an increase in violence and knife crime incidents, particularly involving youth groups. Over the coming months there will be a number of Operations run to target both those involved in knife crime and locations where this activity is more prevalent.

As always we need your support to ensure safer communities and to protect potential victims. This includes ensuring your children are Not carrying offensive weapons including knives when out in a public place. Schools will also be supporting and promoting the Lives not Knives campaign so please pass this very important message on.

Please speak to your local Neighbourhood Team for further information - you can also give any information regarding knives in Confidence to the Police or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. You may just help save a life!

There are a number of residential and street consultations planned over the coming weeks and months. This is your opportunity to tell us what matters to you and problems you experience in your communities. Details of these are on the Leicestershire Police website under the relevant local policing section.

You can also follow the work of your local policing team by following our Facebook page – Fosse, The West End and New Parks Police.

Sgt Spencer Dyer

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



I'm sat in front of my laptop gazing at a vase full of flowers while trying to find inspiration for my latest article. The flowers are apple blossom and they've brought a bold splash of early summer into the house. The blooms are as beautiful singularly as they are en masse, and I've been intrigued to observe how the magenta buds opened into pink blushed flowers that gradually faded to a pure white. It's also at close quarters that you can truly appreciate their lovely musky perfume.



The apple blossom seems to be especially good this year. This is probably due to the prolonged cold spell we had this winter, which is how a normal winter should be.

This response to winter is called vernalisation, which encourages specific and enhanced growth patterns in some plants. The seeds of some plants require this period to trigger germination. It's also believed that the stress of cold winter makes fruit trees produce a tastier crop, which is why many believe apples imported from more temperate areas lack flavour.

The sad thing is that I'm only enjoying this view because I had to cut down the tree on which they'd been growing. It had been growing in a neighbour's garden for many years. So long in fact that a drystone boundary wall had been built around it! This was ultimately its undoing. For in this nice, safe, dry wall, with all its holes and voids live a number of small but voracious rodents who must have become very hungry this winter. So they decided to eat off all the bark from a metre-high down to ground level, effectively killing the tree. And I believe the reason why they were able to do this was because last autumn I was asked to strip away all the ivy that had covered the trunk for years.

Well I'm still staring at that vase, waiting for inspiration to strike. Hopefully I'll think of something soon...
Tony Huxley

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BRAIN TAZERS

1		2				3
4						
5			6			
7						

1 Across: Intelligent sea creatures **1 Down:** Garden flowers **2:** Shoe fasteners **3:** Persistent complainers **4:** Coffing computer vandalism **5:** Of low character **6:** Honey making insect **7:** Female sibling.
© Paul Towers

5		9				
	8		5	1		4
	4	3			8	
8			3	7	5	1
1		5	6	9		3
		4			3	5
7			4	6		9
					1	6

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