



Westival - Brollies Out!



More on Page 4



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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the September edition of the Western Park Gazette.

This month: The newest festival in West Leicesters suffers in the rain in spite of huge efforts from the organisers, Roger Blackmore has the Handel on Leicester, Kev Sharkey from Hinckley Road Police updates us on the latest coppering news whilst Helen Knott, fresh from a trip to Hungary, waxes lyrical about the quality of their cakes, an 81 year old manages 100 mile trek on his Mobility Scooter for charity and the green god, Tony Huxley, quite literally plums the depth!

The Church of the Martyrs celebrates 125 years with a special book launch and photography exhibition and the Charles Napier pub gets a new, determined gaffer.

To celebrate the rebirth of The Napier we're offering you the chance to win a Sunday Carvery for two!

The Brain Tazers, Crossword and Sudoku are ready to ambush you on the inside back page!

If you've got a local news story then email:
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Events Diary

Fosse Singers: Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm.

International Folk Dancing: Monthly 2nd & 4th Fri. St. Anne's Hall. 2-4pm. Tel: Geoff on 0116 285 8352.

Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band: 1st Sun Monthly.

Café Chino at Hilton Hotel, Meridian. 1-3.30pm

Thursday Club: Thursdays. 2-4pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narborough Rd.

West End Pay As You Feel Café: Thursdays 6-8.30pm. West End Centre. Andrewes St. LE3 5PA.

Heritage Sundays: Monthly last Sun. Mediaeval city open days/tours. 11-3pm. goleicestershire.com

Bane Comedy Monologues: 22nd Sept. Upstairs At The Western. 7pm. (Western Pub).

The Lost Future (West Leic band): 25th Sept. Musician, Grafton St. themusicianpub.co.uk

World Recipes: 26th Sept. Westcotes Lib. 11am &

Book Illustration Workshop at Fosse Lib. 10.30.

Comedy Workshops: 20th, 27th Sept & 4th Oct.

Upstairs At The Western. upstairsatthewestern.com

125 Years of The Church of the Martyrs Celebrations: Sat 26th Sept 9:30-1:00pm, Sun 27th Sept

1:00pm - 4:30pm Photo Exhibition and Book

Launch both on Westcotes Drive.

Come On & Hear - Glenfield Ladies Co-operative

Choir. Sat 10th Oct. 7:30pm St. Anne's Church. Tickets £7.50. Call 0797 0075039.

Move Over Mrs. Markham: 14th-17th Oct. LCPA Garden St, LE1 3UA. Tickets £8. 07775 679 435.

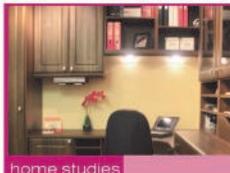
Halloween Day: 20th Oct. Abbey Pump St. 11-3pm.

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Westival Brollies Out!

Braunstone Gate's second Westival failed to draw the expected Bank Holiday Sunday crowds as bad weather and a busy schedule of events elsewhere in Leicester kept people away.

After last year's very popular event, organisers hoped to recreate its success by making it bigger and better but after a busy start the crowds drifted away as the weather closed in and the brollies came out.

Westival is put together by Braunstone Gate bars, shops and restaurants and is supported to the tune of £7000 from the Leicester City Council.

With the 10 day Leicester Festival in full swing and thousands of cyclists saddling up for the city wide Sky Ride, Westival still managed to attract a few hardy souls through the afternoon drizzle, to enjoy the live music and browse the stalls.

Putting a brave face on it, one organiser, Julie Grundy said: "We had a marvellous array of stallholders selling their creative wares and a wonderful variety of performances on the main stage.

"The venues on Braunstone Gate such as Obar and The Black Horse continued the entertainment into the evening. The atmosphere was absolutely amazing when we celebrated the world of jazz music at Natterjacks, with no less than six live artists and bands. We all had such a lot of fun and the crowd was simply fantastic.

"I hope that Westival will continue to thrive and delight its guests in the years to come".



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HANDEL ON LEICESTER

Leicester is justly famous for its variety of festivals, not least its music festivals. Every year the sound of music echoes across city and county from Foxton Locks through to Strawberry Fields, Simon Says and Download, to name just a few. Amongst the least well known events is our Early Music Festival which holds a number of local concerts throughout the year, often featuring music by the world famous George Frederick Handel.

Handel was born in the German town of Halle in 1685 and as a young man became attached to the court of Hanover on the huge salary of 1000 Thaler silver coins. (JS Bach only received 150 per year). This was not long before its Elector George came to the throne of England as King George the First. Handel followed him but was not to become a naturalized British citizen until 1727.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Handel had a gift for making money, marketing and travel. As the favourite composer of his day Handel came to know Leicestershire well, not least through his friendship with Charles Jenner. It was the latter who built the famous Gopsall Hall (since demolished) near Market Bosworth. The Hall was designed by Leicester architect John Westley. The composer stayed at Gopsall many times and the music to one of his most famous pieces "Rejoice

the Lord is King" is actually entitled Gopsal.

Handel's most famous and popular work was undoubtedly The Messiah which may also have been partly written at Gopsall Hall. The first ever performance of The Messiah in a parish church at Church Langton in the south of the county. It was at Church Langton, too, that the famous botanist and parson the Reverend William Hanbury planned to build a new Minster and University of Music. He did indeed work out the details of his proposed new buildings but died before they could be put into effect.

At Christmas the Early Music Festival holds a special candlelit Carol Service at St. Mary de Castro Church featuring, naturally, extracts from The Messiah.

Handel died in 1759 possibly following complications from a botched cataract operation the year before.



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KNOTT'S LANDING

Eastern Europe is a mysterious place. Not many people from here have been there, but people from there come here. Putting the currently horrendous refugee issue funnelling through parts the old Iron Curtain aside; if you believe some of the newspapers, Eastern Europeans come to get benefits, get a free house and to send money home to their children. My friends from Eastern Europe all have jobs, businesses, families and huge hearts. As a result of this I got invited to visit Hungary in August and it was time for an adventure. The place we were visiting is Lake Balaton. It's about an hour and a half from Budapest in the middle of the country and it's a very big lake surrounded by hills. There was very little information online about what there is to do there. A bit scary!

I needn't have worried. Hungary is brilliant. What is not to love about a country that has a national cake competition EVERY year! We may have the Great British Bake Off



and Mary Berry but when faced with Hungarian cake we are but children dabbling in the flour. Our Eccles cakes, Bakewell tarts and Victoria sponges look like nursery food in comparison to the epic layers of mousse and sponge and caramel you find in Szamos Marcipan. Once a year the bakers of Hungary submit their ideas and a favourite is chose for St Stephen's Day in August, the celebration of the founding of the nation. This year it's a caramel cake with apricot palinka (rocket fuel). Think sponge, caramelised hazelnuts and syrup, apricot mousse, hazelnut chocolate mousse and more... It tastes bloody brilliant and available in most cake shops around the country.

Lake Balaton was vast and an amazing turquoise colour. The water was soft and made your skin feel amazing, the bottom was sandy and it was fun splashing around. There are fantastic churches, beautiful towns, hot springs and spas, special Hungarian fish and chips, adventure parks and more. It seemed like everyone we met was on holiday and in a fabulously good mood. We went to the fireworks on Hungarian National Day and ate Chimney Cake (seriously good and a massive queue to wait for it), ate deep fried potato spirals and I drank palinka. It was a proper adventure with new things to see and try at every turn. I'd go back in a heartbeat. You'll find me in the coffee shop eating cake.

Helen Knott

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Sir Charles James Napier, the general who commanded the British Army in India, is said to have sent a telegram to Queen Victoria saying "I have Sindh" when he retook the Sindh province from rebels in 1844. He probably needed a pint after all that. Unfortunately, he would have to wait for over 90 years for the Sir Charles Napier on Glenfield Road to be built so he could sit in a Leicester pub with his name on it.



As a local boozier, the Napier has had its ups and downs over the years, but now there's an enthusiastic new landlord manning the pumps.

Leicester lad Allen Roehrig and son Sam took over the Napier at the beginning of August and are busily building the business back up.

Allen's background is sales and marketing in the UK and America but he's no stranger to the licensing trade having successfully run the Abbey pub for two years; and it's this combination of skills he's bringing to the Napier. He said: "It's like having three pubs in one - a bar, snug and a lounge but we're going to keep their unique character and expand the entertainment and food.

"Trade's really picking up because we're running this as a traditional community family pub where everyone is welcome. We've brought in more real ales, better live entertainment, Sky and BT Sport. "We've just finished installing a commercial kitchen to prepare bar snacks and a good value Sunday carvery".

Find out what's on: www.charlesnapier.co.uk

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Westcotes Squat Squashed

Officers from Hinckley Road Policing Unit have raided a Westcotes squat.

On the 16th August an early morning patrol spotted people inside the boarded up Bradgate House on Westcotes Drive and a cordon was quickly established. The premises were then searched, with the aid of a police dog, and three men were arrested for the new squatting offence. Two were subsequently given community resolutions



for being found on enclosed premises and the third was charged with squatting and remanded to prison as he was also wanted on warrant for assaulting an officer earlier in the year.

A local resident, who didn't want to be named, said he had seen various people getting into the building and had contacted the police about the problem. He said: "I start work early and would often see them hanging around. I'm glad they've gone; it was quite unnerving".

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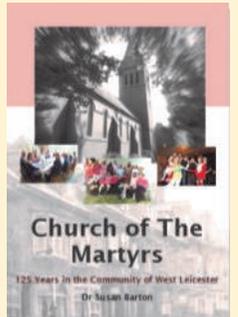
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CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS AT 125

This year the Church of the Martyrs on Westcotes Drive celebrates its 125th anniversary this year with a special weekend of activities.

West Leicester has long been known for its social activism, campaigns for justice and opportunities for those arriving from other lands. Social historian Dr Susan Barton, draws out the story of the Church of The Martyrs' involvement in shaping the community we know today.



By placing the story within the context of local and national activity, she creates a fascinating insight into how the pressing issues of today have their roots. There's also a book launch of 'Church of the Martyrs - 125 Years in the Community of West Leicester and a glimpse of the past with a Photographic Exhibition in the Hall taking place on Sat Sept 26th 9:30am-1pm and Sunday between 1pm-4:30pm.

Lots of people have been sending in photos that date all the way back to the 1920s so it promises to be a fascinating exhibition.

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IT'S A LAUGH!

Have you got the comedy chops to develop your own stand up routine? If so, sharpen your funny bone at the comedy workshops.

With encouragement and guidance from Leicester-based comedian Dan Nicholas (Edinburgh Fringe veteran, Short listed for the BBC New Comedy Award 2013, Best Newcomer, NCF 2013) and Gary Phillpott (co-founder of DMU Footlights, Artistic Director of Off the Fence Theatre



Company), this series of workshops will help you develop and perform a 5 minute stand up routine. Workshops culminate with a performance of your new set live on stage at Upstairs at the Western on 4th October, complete with comper and headline act.

£15 for all 3 workshops or £6 per session
Workshops 11am – 1.30pm at Upstairs at the Western.

To reserve your place or for further information, please email Sally at sj@off-the-fence.com

CROWS BANK HOLIDAY FUN

The wet August Bank Holiday Monday didn't dampen the spirits of hundreds of Westenders who headed to the Crows Nest on King Richard's Road for the now traditional blend of music and mayhem.

Landlord and ringmaster Ray Cooper kept the proceedings flowing for grown-ups and children alike along with entertainment from the Katy Perry Show with Kelly Jenns and a charity head shave. Party Animals gave children the unique experience of handling reptiles and other creatures, while Jack in The Box provided more of the children's entertainment.



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Childrens' Music Taster Day

Saturday 3rd October from 10.00am to 1.00pm. It is hoped that most of the above instruments will be available if sufficient interest. Ages five to seventeen. Must ring or e-mail to book. Free entry.

Music for Under Fives

One and two year olds – Wednesdays, 9.30 – 11.00am Under eighteen months - Thursdays 2.00 – 3.30pm. Eighteen months to four - Fridays 2.30 – 4.00pm. All cost £3.00 per session. £1.50 for a second child with same parent. First lesson free. Suggest ring first.

Singing for Adults

Fridays 6.30 – 7.30pm. Cost £5.00 for twenty minutes. Cheaper for groups. Phone 07905533341 for more details.

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Tetsudo

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Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.00pm. Ring NA helpline 0207 7300009 and ask for Woodgate – Leicester meeting.

Abbey Social Club

Monthly second Wednesday of month. 1.45 – 3.45pm. Members 75p, Non-Members £1.00.

The Centre is also Available for Bookings

There are three rooms. The main room is particularly suitable for childrens' parties and other family events. The smaller rooms are ideal for meetings, small training events or teaching musical instruments.
Contact Centre for rates and availability or visit our website.

For further information contact the Woodgate Residents Association, Woodgate Resources Centre, 36 Woodgate, Leicester LE3 5GE Tel. 253 0717 e: woodgateresidents@hotmail.com

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HOT WHEELS!

81 year old Tony Thorpe from Braunstone wanted to raise money for local Dementia groups - thinking he could probably get around £200. He organised a Mobility Scooter Fun Run around Braunstone Park for anyone to join in on Saturday 8th Aug and a 100 mile sponsored scooter run for Tony to finish the next day!

On Saturday afternoon Cushi and Mia, from Letchworth Road, donated cakes raising £44.00, which along with donations of £20 went towards the grand total.

Local lady, Mrs. Dalby came in first with the fastest time: close behind was Mr Wilson. They both enjoyed themselves so much that went around again - twice!

At 4am on Sunday, Tony set off on his 100 mile trek. Four times around the park and a side trip to the re-charging station is ten miles, so Tony had to complete 40 circuits using four scooters. He finished just after midnight on Monday 10th Aug.

Tony would like to offer a huge thanks to everyone who donated, participated or helped with the organisation. Money is still coming in from pledges but Tony is over the moon to have raised over £1600 so far.

Lin Burrows



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MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Western Ward Community Meeting
Councillors: Dr Susan Barton, George Cole and Malcolm Unsworth.

Weds 23rd Sept. New Parks Community Centre, St Oswald's Road, Leicester, LE3 6RJ at 7.00pm and 8th December, venue to be confirmed.

Western Ward Councillors Surgeries

First Friday of the month 3-4pm at New Parks Customer Service Centre, Aikman Av, LE3 9PW
Second Weds of the month 7-8pm at St. Anne's Church Hall, Letchworth Road, LE3 6FN,
Third Sat of the month 11-12 noon at Braunstone Frith Recreation Centre, Sharman Crescent, LE3 6NW.

Fosse Ward Community Meetings

Councillors: Ted Cassidy MBE and Dawn Alfonso.

Thurs 24th Sept & 10th Dec. Check Council website for venue & time.

Fosse Councillors Surgeries

Second Sat of the month 10.30-11.30am, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre, Mantle Road, LE3 5GH.

Last Sat of the month 10.30 -11.30am, Woodgate Residents' Association, Woodgate, LE3 5GE.

Westcotes Community Meetings

Councillors: Sarah Russell & Andy Connelly.
Check www.leicester.gov.uk for community meeting venues and times.

Westcotes Councillors Surgeries

Westcotes Library, Narborough Road, LE3 0BQ
First Sat of every month, 10.30 -11.30am and
Third Friday 10.00am - 11.00am.

To find out more about your local councillors & their responsibilities go to: www.leicester.gov.uk



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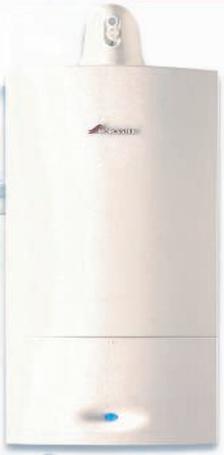
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Sept Police Update

SHARK WATCH with Sgt. Kev Sharkey
August has been a busy month so here are some of the highlights:

Officers have seized 89 motorbikes since February of which 75 were stolen. Please use ground anchors and alarms to stop them being stolen and then ridden around the community especially on the Western Park. Operation Groundhopper continues to tackle this problem.

Extra late night patrols have been conducted to tackle the problem of thefts from motor vehicles and we have seen a drop in reports of this type of crime as a result. Please lock your vehicle when leaving it and do not leave anything on display as we have had cars broken into just to steal sweets and small change. Fitting an alarm is an effective way to reduce your chances of being a victim and will also help to lower your insurance premium.

Since the 15th of August, we have been conducting early morning foot patrols on the Merry Monarch carpark to disrupt persons reported as being anti-social with drinking, noise and public urination. We have seized alcohol, breath tested drivers and taken names and addresses of people involved which have been different on each occasion. Offenders have also been made to clear up cans and bottles left in the area. The ongoing litter problem has been highlighted to our colleagues in the city wardens who are looking to take legal action against the owners of this carpark, which is private land, to ensure it is cleaned up. A multi-agency meeting is scheduled for early September to ensure positive action continues.

We are now also going to join forces with the Westcotes beat team who have a similar issue nearby to try and establish a long term solution to the problem, including the places the alcohol is being bought from in the early morning hours.

On the 11th August on Bonchurch Street there was an incident of disorder where knives, a golf club, hammers and a rifle were seen to be brandished. Armed officers attended and two men were initially detained and arrested on suspicion of threatening behaviour with a firearm and affray. An air rifle and several weapons were found and seized. Another male was later arrested and all are currently on police bail while our enquiries continue. We expect further arrests to follow.

On Narborough road we have been tackling the problem of persistent begging. The law requires us to take an incremental approach of a series of verbal and written warnings and we also offer support to those genuinely in need to try and remove the root causes before prosecuting at Court. We have identified the two main offenders who have refused all offers of support and they are now proceeding along the incremental approach towards appearing at Court.

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



I recently had a phone call from a friend asking if I liked plums? I've never been a fan of the fruit raw but love them in a pie or jam. My wife though, will happily chomp through a bowlful. My friend implored me to visit her garden and help myself. The crop was so big, she had left notices outside her property inviting passers-by to pick what they wanted.

Plums are one of nature's most prolific summer bounties. I frequently have to prune trees that have collapsed through sheer weight of fruit. They can also be invasive if not grown on a rootstock that limits suckering. If it wasn't for regular mowing my friend's garden would be an acre sized thicket able to supply enough fruit for half the county.

One or two plum trees will provide plenty of fruit for the average family. They grow equally well free-standing or as an espalier wired into a fan shape.



Growing against a wall provides extra shelter, giving an earlier crop. And it's not just plums, apples and pears can also thrive. This method also protects the early blossom from damaging heavy frosts. New plum trees are best planted in mid-winter. I've never known anyone to have trouble getting their trees to fruit but, if you

want to be certain, there are many self-fertile cultivars, including the old favourite "Victoria". With the right selection of varieties you can have plums from mid-summer to mid-autumn.

As with all stoned fruit trees, plums should be pruned in the summer, a task that needs completing now! Remove large branches even earlier in the season to allow the wounds to heal. Pruning in winter leaves your tree susceptible to a disease called silver leaf. It's also a good idea to prop up weak limbs and to thin out clusters of fruit so that over-laden branches don't break.

So, in the immortal words of Bob Marley, this weekend I'll be "Jammin".

© Tony Huxley



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4						5
6						
7						

1 Across: Sandwich stealing seabird 1 **Down:** Sandy bottom 2: Assent 3: Withdraw blessing 4: Gymnastic performer 5: Just a single measure 6: Component 7: Fulfil your desires © Paul Towers

	9			3	5	1
				8	7	3
		6		1		
5					4	2
6			9	7		5
	2	1				3
			3		9	
	6	9	4			
8		2	6			1

- Solve this rebus puzzle. **No-it-No.**
- He wins two** is an anagram of which up-and-coming Christmas show.
- Replace the vowels to reveal 3 items of furniture: **SF BKCS FTN.**
- Insert the same 2 letters into the exact middle of these words to make 3 longer ones. **POSH, PONG, RUNG.**
- Which is the odd word out? **Persistent, Tenaacious, Emphatic, Determined?**

Answers at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

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