



## FESTIVAL TIME!



*More on page 2*

### Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the October issue of the Western Park Gazette.

How good was the Western Park Family Festival! It was the first time such an event has been held on our beautiful park and it was a huge success! We were there and we bought cake... lots of cake!

As the nights draw in and the temperature drops, Tony Huxley has his regular advice on sorting out the garden for the autumn. Local historian, Roger Blackmore, has the tale of the Tripe Queen and Richard Perry tells us how to surf the web in, more or less, total security.

Helen Knott has a justifiable rant over her suspicion that some are making money out of pilfering apparel, so CCTV your clothes line!

And we also meet Mary-Anne and Laura Radcliffe, two local musicians who hope to take on the mighty Xfactor winner for the number one chart spot over Christmas! We've seen them and they really are very good!

If you have any local stories or event information, please get in touch.

e: [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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The Western Park Gazette

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# FESTIVAL TIME!

The first Western Park Family Festival proved to be a huge success with over 3000 people attending the end of September event.

Visitors were treated to live music ranging from acoustic to rock on three separate stages along with stalls and activities from traders and local organisations.



The Festival which also marked the official opening of the improved children's play area, was organised by the Friends of Western Park who have held fund raising events over the past few years to raise money for park improvements.



One of the organisers, Ady Alexander said: "We thought it would be fun to have a festival in Western Park; other city parks do, so why not ours? FOWP (Friends of Western Park) have been successful with other park related events, like the annual Halloween Trail and we wanted to do something for the wider community, and the idea of a free family festival fitted the bill. This is our first ever festival and the biggest event to date." Organisers want to thank Cllr Sue Barton and the Community Ward Fund, Tesco who supplied funding for tents, and many tombola prizes, the Parks Dept. staff and all the many FOWP volunteers.



## Aunt Polly - Tripe Queen!

**Mary Ann was born in 1860 the youngest child of Charles Biddles a framework knotter from Knighton.** In 1867 Charles began trading as a tripe dresser in Lower Redcross Street. Charles' sons went into other trades but Mary and her older sister grew up with a full working knowledge of the tripe shop business.

On her father's death in 1898 Mary Ann took over the business continuing to trade as C and A Biddles Tripe Dressers for some thirty years.

The three story building, situated near where the Holiday Inn stands today, close to the King Richard 3rd statue, and locally known as Aunt Polly's, quickly became a prominent landmark in this part of the City. But by 1905 the neighbouring houses had gone and there were plans to develop the area and set up the new Castle Park alongside the River.



Aunt Polly however was not particularly interested in the Council's development plans despite the fact that the authorities made frequent attempts to persuade her to sell the property. Aunt Polly stood firm and the Tripe Shop continued to trade cheerfully in solitude for 21 years, whilst all around her had been flattened. Nevertheless, the Council persisted in seeking powers of compulsory purchase and redoubled their efforts after Castle Park was opened in 1926. Eventually, however, powers of compulsory purchase were obtained and in June 1929, the Tripe House was bought by the City Council for the sum of £1250. Mary Ann moved to Barclay Street where she died in 1947. Described in one letter to Page 4 of the Leicester Mercury as "the white aproned Miss Biddles, Goddess of the tripe copper " she was a much loved and well respected figure. It is nice to think that some of our older readers may indeed remember her personally and even remember the old Tripe Shop near West Bridge.

© Roger Blackmore

## Bosworth Academy Open Day

**Parents of junior school children from across West Leicester headed to Bosworth College in Desford for its official launch and transformation into Bosworth Academy.**

The school became an Academy earlier this year but held off on official celebrations and a special gala evening until the new school year.

Visitors were treated to school tours, photographic histories and performances by some very talented students along with the guest of honour, Jenny Rogers, daughter of previous head Tim Rogers who saw the college embrace the comprehensive system during the 1960s and 70s.



Chris Parkinson with Jenny Rogers

Current Headteacher Chris Parkinson took guests on a trip through the school's history which dates from 1094 until the present day and has seen education in the local area at the forefront of changes. Schools in Market Bosworth were among the first to teach in English rather than Latin and the first to educate girls alongside boys.

He explained the future was informed by the history of the school and he said schools were for "creating opportunity for all, making better people, making the world a better place."

The next event at the Bosworth Academy is the Open Day on October 11th. For more details contact the school on 01455 82284.



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## October Police Update

**Police are looking for burglars who may have been injured by their victim after she discovered them ransacking her house on Harrow Road.**

At around 12am on Sept 2nd, the victim returned home to find two people wearing balaclavas and black clothing in the property.



As they pushed passed, causing her to fall over, she threw an object at them, hitting one on the back of the head.

The suspects, described as being slim and in their late teens, between 5'6" to 5'7" tall; headed towards Barclay Street and Narborough Road taking a quantity of cash and a yellow gold necklace and bracelet with them.

DC Elizabeth Seal, said: "If you know someone who came home that night with a cut on the back of their head, who you suspect to be involved, please call us."

**Detectives from the serious crime team are appealing for witnesses after a 24-year-old man was assaulted by a man and 2 women in King Richard's Road near bath Lane.**

The incident took place around 1.10am on Sept 16th. The man asked the victim for money and when he refused, he was attacked.

The 24 year old victim sustained serious injuries and fractures to his face and was treated at the LRI. The main suspect has been described as a white man, in his mid 20s, about 5'9" tall and of medium build. He was wearing a light coloured T-shirt. The women were also white, taller than the man and of slim build.

**An 11 year old schoolboy has been robbed near Western Park.**

At around 3.30pm on September 10, the lad was attacked by two youths on New Parks Boulevard near to Sacheverel Road. One of the youths held the boy in a headlock whilst the other went through his belongings. They made off with 25p towards Frolesworth Rd.

The first suspect is described as white, between 16 and 17-years-old, wearing a black hoody and yellow or green trainers.

The second is black dual heritage, between 16 and 17, wearing a black hoody with a yellow and black checked scarf covering his face. He also had a piercing above his left eyebrow and was wearing red, white and blue Nike Air Max trainers.

DC Louise Bettany is keen to speak to anyone in the area at the time.

## Woodgate Vandalism

**Local businesses on Woodgate and Blackbird Road face a clean up bill running into thousands after their shop fronts were defaced by graffiti.**

Business owners starting work on Tuesday 25th of September came face to face with the overnight damage as they opened.

The vandal had sprayed silver tags over many of the shutters along Woodgate as far as the concrete plant pots opposite the Woodgate Resources Centre and down Blackbird Road.

One furious business owner said: "Things are tough enough without having morons damaging our property, dragging the area into the gutter and making us pay out for expensive repairs.

These idiots have got to be arrested, charged, fined and made to clean up their own mess".



CCTV footage of a suspect caught on camera has been handed over to the police.

If anybody recognises the tags pictured above, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

## Make a Splash!

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**A local man with severe injuries, including head fractures ended up in intensive care at Glenfield Hospital following a serious assault.**

The incident happened on September 8th in Sandhurst Road between 6.30 and 9.30pm when the 45-year-old victim was approached by a group of men who assaulted him.

DC Tim Smith said: "I am hoping that someone out there will be able to help me piece together what happened to the victim. I am particularly keen on speaking to people who were passing through the area at the time and saw a group of men. I also want to hear from anyone who witnessed any of the assault take place, or believes they may know who is responsible."

Anyone with information about local crime or if you can help with an investigation, please contact the police on 101 and follow the instructions.

Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers, which is free (except for some mobile numbers) and anonymous, on 0800 555 111.

In an emergency, for example where life is in danger or a crime is in progress, call 999.

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## KNOTT'S LANDING

**Clothing is worth money these days. Little shops are springing up offering to turn your old clothing into cash; caravans advertising the fact you could have a fortune in your wardrobe have appeared by the roadside.**

In years gone by people used to hock their gold, their watches or their sousaphone at the pawn shop to help make ends meet in tough times. Now there are shops everywhere that will take any gold and send you cash, but the fact that people are reduced to selling fabric to make ends meet is more than a bit Dickensian to me. I have a mental image of the nurse in A Christmas Carol delivering up Ebenezer Scrooge's sheets and clothes for sale after he has died. It's not a nice image nor can it be a nice reality.

I keep hearing about people who cannot afford the school uniform for their kids, people who are struggling to afford shoes for teenagers and who are totally reliant on charity shops for their own clothes. Poverty is a terrible thing and people who live it will do anything to get out of it. Some decide to work their way out while others choose less honest methods.

The trouble is, when something has a perceived worth, it becomes the target of thieves, thinking it will pay their bills. Unfortunately the truth is, the money rarely goes very far and it costs the rest of society a fortune to fix the damage.

Clothing and fabric is not an obvious wound to society. After all, if someone pinches the clothes off your washing line you might not even bother to report it.

Would you tell the police if your coat went missing? Maybe you might assume that your kids have lost their jumpers in the park. It's easy to lose clothes and it's easy to write them off. It's also easy to pick up a jumper here and there and stash them in your bag. A few of those every couple of days and pretty soon you've got a bin bag full of clothes you can turn into cash through eBay, a nearly new clothes shop or a cash for clothes recycler. It's sad but there will always be people who dishonestly try and make a fast buck.

My message this month is simple. Keep an eye on your washing line and if it was you who took my little boy's coat, I will hunt you down and haunt you as you burn in a fiery hell for upsetting him.

*Helen Knott*



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**TECHIE THUMP**  
**Richard Perry**

**Anonymity and privacy are important when you're on line. You wouldn't want anyone reading your post, so why would you let someone snoop on your web browsing?**

Luckily, security is fairly easy to achieve on a basic level since most browsers have simple private browsing facility which offers limited protection. You can also set your browser to delete, cookies, browsing history and temporary internet files making it harder for a casual snooper to check where you've been.

Obviously make sure you have up to date security software than can locate and delete "key logger" viruses which can track everything you type and return that information to a hacker who will raid your computer for personal details.

If you really want to be stealthy, so that your IP address remains hidden and out of the hands of website surveillance and at the same time avoid the browsing profiles you have built up on the major search engines, then use a web proxy.

These disguise your location by sending traffic through different servers across the world, so the site you're viewing can't see you. This is very useful when protecting sensitive personal or business communications. It prevents your personally identifiable information being harvested for marketing or criminal purposes.

There are free anonymous web proxies out there, but some are down right dodgy. However, the daddy of anonymity protection and the safest bet is Tor which was originally developed to protect US Government communications. It's open source, which means free and works with the Firefox browser.

It encrypts and randomly bounces communications through a network of relays run by volunteers, so the end point is the address a website will pick up, not the sender which is you.

Tor is used worldwide, not just by home users wanting secure browsing but by journalists, the military, police and activists. It was the main method of secure communication during Egypt's Arab Spring and continues to be a vital communication tool in strife torn areas.

To find out more, visit their website, but do read the how to use instructions! [www.torproject.org](http://www.torproject.org)  
Richard Perry

## Gazette Competition

**If you have problems with your computer, or even if you don't, here's the chance to get it in tip-top condition with another of our legendary competitions...**

But if your laptop is running slowly and generally behaving like a welly stuck in the mud, how would you like to give it a professional expert workout by winning a FREE computer service from Woodgate Computers worth over £70?

To be in with a chance of winning, all you have to do is correctly answer this question.

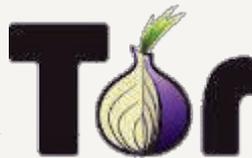
**In a computer - what does RAM stand for?**

- A. Rolling Alphabet Mouse
- B. Random Access Memory
- C. Radical Axilla Mould



Answers by the 25th of October  
to [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

*(Terms) 1 entry per person. 1 correct answer chosen at random. No cash alternative. Prize is not transferable. PC or laptop must boot into Windows to qualify, Judge's decision is final.*



## Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



**In the wake of a poor Summer, garden centres are encouraging us to get planting this Autumn and not to wait till Spring.**

We've become lazy in our plant buying habits. Growers know most sales to the public take place between Easter and early Summer. We're also unlikely to buy plants that aren't in bloom. Because of this, we maybe limiting the plant selection growers offer us!

I fear soon all plants will be bought from mega-garden centres, selling over-priced afternoon teas and acres of tat, amid a tiny selection of standardised Dutch hot-housed plants that all flower before the end of May. But with a little knowledge and advice from a good nursery, you can find some bargains and get planting now.

Autumn is the best time to plant trees and shrubs. Nurseries release their stocks of bare root plants which are considerably cheaper than pot grown specimens. It's also a good time to plant hardy perennials.

Having moved two years ago I realise now that lots of things in the new garden have been mis-

planted. The soil is quite different and the plants I brought with me don't fit as expected. I'm now reorganising the borders before for winter. With plants still in leaf you can swap and reposition them with greater certainty, making the task much easier than in early spring when everything has died back.

Geranium *endressi* was rampant and needed paring back. It swamped the *Strobilanthes* that struggled in the unfamiliar sandy soil. I moved these forward, away from the competition. Hostas enjoyed their spot under an apple so I added more. Penstemons and *Liatris* are a success.

I divided them to make even more impact next year. Where gaps have appeared I've been raiding the plant stalls of local farm shops for all their end of season discounts.

Happy shopping! *Tony Huxley*



*Strobilanthes*



*Liatris*

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## Letter Box



I would like to take this opportunity to Thank you all so much for making my party so special.

It was a very memorable occasion, marking twenty years of owning & running Sandhurst Playgroup.

Thank you to all members of staff, friends and parents for the wonderful cake, cards, flowers and gifts which I received. They are very much appreciated.

I will always have very special memories of the last 20 years.

Thank You,

Xani (*Western Park*)

**Congratulations and well done to all who organised the Western Park Family Festival.**

The park is under used and it was marvellous to see so many people enjoying all the activities. I think that was the most I have seen there at any one time.

We were all thoroughly entertained and the kids are now looking forward to the Halloween Trail!

Jenny (*Westcotes*)

e:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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## PUB BLAZE

**Fire fighters cordoned off a road and spent half an hour putting out a blaze at a derelict West End Pub.**

Smoke was spotted coming out of the rear of the Hunter's Rest building on Carlisle Street at around 10pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

The art deco pub, originally built in the late 1930's is better known locally as the Blue Moon. The building has been empty for over two years and was once the site of a large cannabis farm. Firefighters were already nearby dealing with two suspicious car fires. Investigations into the causes of the incidents are ongoing.



Pic by Jim Smyth

Local Band?

Local singer?

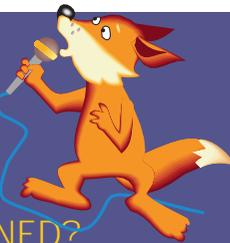
Local Artist?

**GOT A GIG PLANNED?**

If you're based in West Leicester and you're performing in the city, drop us a line!

And we'll give you a mention!

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# Halloween History

**These days Halloween is just a fun masquerade party for children and slightly tipsy grown-ups, but that wasn't always the case.**

The traditions of Halloween stretch far back to the time of the Celts in Western Europe and the British Isles nearly 3000 years ago.

The Celts were a pastoral people with a rich religious and social structure whose very survival depended on a deep understanding of nature.

Their three day Samhain festival at the very end of October celebrated the success of the harvest and welcomed in the New Year which, for them, started on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, It was also an important spiritual time of transition; from autumn to winter and between life and death. This was the time when their ancestral spirits could travel easily between realms.

Samhain was a magical holiday with some traditions suggesting that the Celts offered food and drink to help the spirits cross to the afterlife or pop back for a quick family visit. Other versions say the Celts dressed up in animal skins and travelled through the villages, banging drums and sticks, making as much noise as possible to scare away the ghosts.

In an echo of modern trick or treating, faeries, dressed as beggars, were thought to roam door to door asking for food. Those that gave in to the faeries were rewarded, whilst those that did not were punished.



The old beliefs about Samhain, never quite died out in spite of a huge effort by the Christian church to bury the festival under a couple of new names, All Saints Day or Hallow's Day as it became known and All Souls Day.

People continued to celebrate All Hallow's Eve on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, but the lost spirits of Celtic past had become transformed into evil ghouls, demons and monsters. Today, Halloween still retains many of the hallmarks of the original Harvest and New Year Festival celebrated by our ancestors all those years ago. *A.W Moonchutney*

# Mia Reaches for the Moon

**West Leicester sisters are certainly doing for themselves as two local musicians hope to snatch the coveted Christmas number one spot away from their Xfactor classmates.**

Mia and the Moon are former Lutterworth Grammar school girls Laura and Mary-Anne Radcliffe who both now live near Braunstone Gate.

They have spent weeks in a recording studio working hard on material for their first EP which they hope will give them an even greater boost.



The girls who made it through to the boot camp stage of Xfactor this year before quitting say: "It was a learning curve. They went out of their way for us and treated us like stars to begin with, but it went downhill at boot camp. We learned a lot about the way the music and entertainment industry works at that level and it wasn't for us".



The sisters already have an impressive musical pedigree even without the Xfactor experience. Their unique combination of folk, urban and rock is paying dividends. Laura said: "We've been playing together since we were small. We grew up surrounded by folk and bluegrass music. Mary-Anne's been busking all over the place and even

made it into the Radio 1 top ten dance tracks, I've worked as a singer on cruise ships and at the New Orleans Jazz Festival. But we really work well together, not only as distinctly contemporary folk artists with a twist but as a traditional cover duo. We try and be as versatile as possible".



Laura and Mary-Anne's new EP, Kaleidoscopes, which includes the track Snow was launched on October 2nd at a special party and performance at the Musician on Clyde Street.

Mary-Anne said with a smile: "It would be great if we could beat Xfactor to the number one spot this year. With a title like Snow, how could it fail!" To download Snow search iTunes, Visit their website: [www.miaandthemoon.com](http://www.miaandthemoon.com)



If you're holding an event or perhaps you're doing something special and you'd like people in West Leicester to know All about it,

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# BRAIN *TAZERS*

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5						
6						
7						

**Across:** 1. Pictorial 5. Stomach 6. Artist of consummate skill 7. Modesty **Down:** 1. Syntax 2. Speech 3. Burrowing rodent 4. Excuse or overlook

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

1. A bus driver regularly goes the wrong way up a one way street, on the wrong side of the road and across a stop sign without stopping, but he isn't breaking any traffic laws. Why?

2. Take 9 from 6, 10 from 9, 50 from 40 and leave 6.

3. Where can you add 2 to 11 and get 1 as the right answer?

4. Gawkey Fuse is an anagram of who?

Answers on line: [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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

### **At St. Anne's Church Hall -**

**Mon - Fri:** Playgroup 285 7440. (term time)  
**Mon:** 5.30 - 7.00pm: W.E.A. Yoga 255 6614.  
7.15 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi. Call Rick 285 5159.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tue:** 2.00 - 4.00pm: MU Speakers.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Tue:** 7.30 - 9.30pm: W.P. Gardening Club.  
**Wed:** 5.00 - 8.00pm: Weightwatchers.  
**Wed:** 8.00 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi with Rick.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Wed:** 2.30 - 4.00pm: Wednesday Club.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Wed:** 7.00 - 9.00pm: MU Speakers.  
**Thurs:** 9.00 -10.00am: Pilates for fitness.  
1.30 - 3.15pm: Pram Club. (Term time)  
6.30 - 8.00pm: Rebounder Aerobics.  
**Fri:** 10.00am: Coffee Morning.  
**1<sup>st</sup> 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 6th Oct. 2-4pm. St. Anne's Church Hall.

## Church of the Martyrs

### **Westcotes Drive Leicester**

**Street Self Defence:** Mondays in the Hall. 7.30-8.30pm Call 07788 637 686 for details.  
**Martyrs Football Training:** every Weds eve 6.30pm at Nelson Mandela Park..  
**Craft Group:** for any type of craft. Thurs 12th July and every 2nd Thurs of the month.  
**Karate:** Fridays in the Hall. 6.00-7.00pm.  
**Rainbows:** Mondays 5.15pm.  
**Brownies:** Mon & Thurs. 6.30pm.  
**Guides:** Tuesdays. 7.00pm.

## St. Andrew's Methodist Church

### **Glenfield Road East, Leicester**

**Fri:** Pram Club. Term Time. 10.00-11.30am. T: Jean, 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](http://www.stpetersleicester.org.uk)

## Epworth Methodist Church

### **Blackbird Road, Leicester**

Weds: Boys' Brigade 6.00 - 9.30 (ages 5 - 17)  
Tel: John Ogleby 0116 233 7978

## Events Diary

**Zumba Class** Tues. 6.45-7.45 & 8-9.00pm at New College. Call Sarah 07810 307 113.  
**Fosse Camera Club:** Fridays. St. Peter's Church Rooms. 7.45pm. 0116 299 2230.  
**Leic' Ladies WI:** Meets monthly on 3rd Mon. 7.15pm Upstairs in The Almanack, 15 Bath House Lane.  
**Breastfeeding Group:** West End Sure Start Children's Centre, Catesby Street, Tuesdays. 1:30pm - 3:00pm. 0116 225 2225.  
**Online Sessions:** Westcotes Library. Weekly. Mon, Tues & Thurs. 1-3.30pm. Free.  
**Fosse Singers:** Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm.  
**Nat Trust Talk on Country Houses:** Highpoint Centre. Glenfield Rd 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. 7.30. T: 222 9133  
**Leicester Marathon:** 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. Victoria Park. Details at [www.leicestermarathon.org.uk](http://www.leicestermarathon.org.uk)  
**Art Exhibit & Craft Fair:** (Leukemia Research) 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. Flint Hall. Central Library. 10-4.00pm.  
**Halloween Trail:** Western Park. 31st Oct. 4.30-6pm.  
**Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band:** 4th Nov. Hilton Hotel J21 Meridian 1-3.30pm.  
**Abbey Park Bonfire & Fireworks:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. from 5-9.30pm. [www.leicester.gov.uk/bonfire](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/bonfire)  
**Diwali Lights Switch on:** 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. Belgrave Rd. 6pm. Free.  
**Craft Fair & Coffee Morning:** St. Anne's Church Hall, Sat 12th Nov 2012, 10-12noon. Free Entry.

## COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

**Fosse Cllrs Surgery:** Monthly, 2nd Sat, 10.30-11.30, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre & last Sat 10.30 - 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 Fri each month 9.30 - 10.30am.  
Manor House Neighbourhood Centre, 2nd Friday every month, 10-11am.  
**Western Park Cllrs Surgery:** Monthly-2nd Weds St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 7-8.00pm.

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