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# Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the October edition of the Western Park Gazette.

On the centre pages this month we feature Project Hive as they launch a crowd funding campaign to raise £26,000 towards the first stage of the project to transform the derelict Eco House on Western Park into a community space. New College celebrates several successes including the opening of their new tennis and netball courts, the historic turret gateway in Castle View is safe for another 600 years and our online theatre critic, Paul Towers, previews some of the festive fun heading to Leicester's theatres.

In our regular features; The Green Guru, Tony Huxley, has advice on garden prep for winter, Roger Blackmore takes a quick look at the local history of garden orchards, Ed Jones takes over from Mark Brennan to deliver our monthly Policing Update and Helen Knott nearly burns down her kitchen making beeswax wraps... All perfectly normal she says.

As always the crossword and Sudoku lurk with intent on the back page.

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# Events Diary

**St Anne's Weds Club:** Monthly, 1st Weds. St Anne's Hall. Letchworth Rd. 2.30-4pm.

**Free Thurs Club:** 2-4pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narb' Rd.

**Perfectly Edible UK's** Market & Community Cafe: Fri 11-2pm. West End Centre, Andrewes Street.

**Coffee Mornings:** Fridays 10-12 noon. St Anne's Hall.

**Women's Taekwondo.** Fridays. Brite Centre -10am & Thurs - 8pm at St Anne's Hall. 07951 426 386

**Walking Group:** Sundays. 2pm. 96 Deg. B-Gate.

**Sun Eve Dru Yoga with Emma:** St. Anne's Hall, Letchworth Rd. 7.15-8.30pm 07393 811150.

**Free Children's Art Club:** Saturdays 10.30-12.00. Fosse Neighbourhood Centre. Mantle Rd.

**Free drop-in Coffee Morns:** Tues. 10-11.30am. St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Glenfield Rd.

**Upstairs @ Western in Oct 23th: Rock & A hard Place, 24th: The Bundle, 25th - The Same Faces Armando, 26 - Rose & Pippa And Thunderclap.**

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**DM Hall: Squeeze - 22 Oct, Rob Beckett - 23 Oct.**

**Curve Theatre: 22-26 Oct: A Taste of Honey, 28-Oct - 2n Nov: Pricilla Queen Of The Desert.**

**Little Theatre:** Lettuce & Loveage 21-26 Oct.

**Charity Quiz:** Sat 26th Oct. St Anne's Hall. 7.30pm.

**Monster Mash:** 26th Oct. West Gates School, Glenfield Rd. 12-3pm. Free Entry.

**Charity Fun Day:** 16th Nov. The Sportsman Pub. 12pm till late. *In aid of the Downs Syndrome Assoc.* To be included e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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## FRIARS MILL OFFICE SCHEME A WINNER

A £2.3million office development at the heart of Leicester's Waterside regeneration area has won a regional planning award.

The new Fabric and Riverside office buildings at Friars Mill were awarded the Excellence in Planning for a Successful Economy prize at the Royal Town Planning Institute East Midlands Regional Awards 2019.



The city council-led development has created over 11,000sqft of modern office space in the grounds of the historic Friars Mill development, on the banks of the river Soar.

The new buildings have been designed to complement the character and industrial heritage of the 18<sup>th</sup> century mill complex, part of which was badly damaged by fire in 2012. The council painstakingly restored the buildings as part of an award-winning £7.1million redevelopment scheme.

## TURRET GATEWAY NOW SAFE

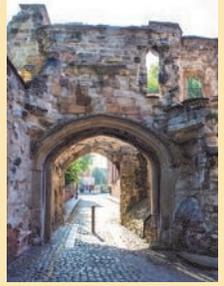
One of Leicester's most historic ancient monuments is no longer at risk, following the completion of a major programme of restoration.

The Turret Gateway in Castle View was added to Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register in 2017, following concerns about its condition. But, after a £138,000 scheme of essential repairs and careful restoration, the gateway will no longer feature on the 'at risk' list, when Historic England's new register is published this month.

Last autumn, the 15<sup>th</sup> century gateway was shrouded in scaffolding while work got under way to replace its slate roof, repair its metal grilles and replace masonry that had eroded over time.

The city council's contractors -- conservation specialists, Messenger - worked under the supervision of Historic England to carry out the works on the Grade I listed building.

Historic England's Louise Brennan, said "In a couple of years the gate will be 600 years old, so it's great to have such an important monument for the city looking its best".



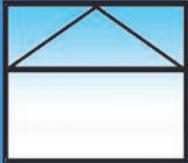
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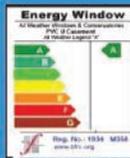
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## Fruity Business in Leicester

The Bournville Estate, built by the Cadbury family in the south of Birmingham, was famous for its advanced environmental thinking. As Quakers, the family had considerable concern for the welfare of their employees. Thus attached to every house was a garden and a fruit tree.

Such forward thinking spread to other cities. As demand for new housing was developed here in Leicester's West End and Western Park area, so the provision of gardens became increasingly important.

Many of the later properties had several fruit trees, amounting in some cases to the planting of a small orchard. It is interesting that a few of these trees survive to this day in the Westfield Rd area.

In the inter war years, as well as during wartime and post war rationing, many families took to keeping chickens and enjoyed the fresh eggs they provided, as being far preferable to the murky grey scrambled egg powder otherwise available. Rationing and scarcities provided a major incentive to growing things in the back garden or on any other suitable open space.

More recently, interest in growing herbs and vegetables at home has flourished. Keeping allotments is a very popular activity nowadays, not just in the UK but worldwide. Even the former First Lady, Michelle Obama, insisted on creating a vegetable patch on the White House lawn. ....But details of that are perhaps more in Tony Huxley's province!

*Roger Blackmore*



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# KNOTT'S LANDING

I'm on a mission, a one woman crusade to eliminate plastic from my house, and I'm failing. Yes we have seen the mountains of plastic in the ocean. I watched the video of the turtle with a straw stuck up its nose and the man fishing plastic bags out of the belly of a dead whale. Apart from pondering how the hell the straw got up the turtle's nose in the first place, or why anyone would go fishing around in the guts of a 10 tonne, dead sea-mammal, it has made me question how much plastic we use at home. I am no martyr to the cause here, I love cling film as much as the next cook. We have a crate that is full of toys from fast food restaurants and the front of magazines and the plastic tide that inevitably sweeps in at Christmas is more of a tsunami. So how can I even begin to make a difference? I already get the milk delivered by an actual milkman but I forget to take shopping bags with me all the time!

It turns out having a child is the answer as they are constantly doing lessons about recycling. They actually learn stuff! It's amazing. He informed me that reusing things is good and in a bid to keep him amused we turned to crafts. Sustainable crafts. We now buy our soft drinks in cans because aluminium can be recycled over and over again. It's better than glass apparently and now

you can get tonic in tiny tins for gin. Not only this, but you can give your child an empty can and a pin and get them to create a lamp! Remember the concentration and focus you gave to the pomegranate when your mum gave you a pin and one of those suckers and said get on with it... No? Just my mum then. Well anyway it kept him entertained for hours and we have a garden full of can lamps! If they tell you it's not their sort of thing tell them you saw it on YouTube!



That'll have them begging for pins in seconds.

Inspired by this success I turned all Kirsty Allsop and bought some beeswax and some cotton fabric to make my own beeswax wraps to replace plastic bags and cling film. They cost £20 for a ready-made set! I watched the YouTube tutorial and set to. Let's just leave it there though because things did not go to plan. Shall we say baking beeswax did not end well and I may have used 'language'. The house smelled nice though. I ended up buying some from the National Trust shop at Calke Abbey. At least they came in a paper bag. One step forwards, two steps back.

**Helen Knott**

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*Too early to book your Yuletide entertainment? Probably not thinks Paul Towers...*

## Christmas Theatre Fare

As usual Curve is serving up a pair of theatrical delights for both adults and children this December. First up is West Side Story (23 Nov – 11 Jan). Based loosely on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet Curve's own Nikolai Foster is directing with Ellen Kane choreographing. This show is packed full of memorable songs and high energy dancing. Exactly what Leicester needs in a cold wet winter.

Next door, in the studio, Curve has not forgotten those bored children through the winter months and welcomes a production of Giaraffe's Can't Dance (9 Dec – 31 Dec). This is a co-production between Curve, their regular co-production partners Rose Theatre, Kingston and Simon Friend. There is a special relaxed performance on 28 December with a Touch Tour available. Contact the Box Office for full details.

Upstairs at The Western - Leicester's only pub theatre's inaugural season under new management continues to provide a wide range of entertainment at around the £10 per seat price. December this year includes the usual regulars like Uncle Armando (11<sup>th</sup> Dec), Drag Queen Bingo (7<sup>th</sup> Dec), Find The Right Words (18<sup>th</sup> Dec) and Rhymes

Against Humanity (20<sup>th</sup> Dec). Slotted in between are such gems as Fitting (4<sup>th</sup> Dec) a tale of a transgender magician, I Gotta Right To Sing The Blues (5<sup>th</sup> Dec) a story of women singing the Blues and Kevin King of Egypt (12-13 Dec) Rob Gee's tale of surviving mental health services.

**The Y Theatre** - Leicester's hidden jewel of a theatre. December is a festive themed programme of one nighters featuring Christmas Carols, Yuletide Cabaret and even a pantomime (Jack's Giant Adventure on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec). Other attractions include a comedy night (Scrummy Mummies on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec), The Peacock Lounge Burlesque and Cabaret Night on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec and The Wizard of Oz Ballet on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**The Little Theatre** offers traditional panto pandemonium with Robin Hood - running from Dec 13th – Jan 5th)

**The De Montfort Hall** continues its festive panto tradition with Aladdin starring Antony Costa from Blue, Sam Baily and Martin Ballard, back in a frock, as Widow Twanky. (14 Dec-5 Jan)

All in all there are plenty of excuses to get inside and out of the cold without venturing too far from home.



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**Project Hive is run by the WWCE, a group of local residents raising funds to redevelop the former Eco House into a community space.**

Regular readers of our articles in the Gazette may have noticed that we have been building towards something significant since the summer. Festival appearances, Parkrun marshalling, new sign-age at the Eco House site, video filming, scarecrow trails and a charity takeover of the Chef & Spice restaurant have kept us very busy. But now we can now reveal that...

In a joint partnership, Parmar Properties and the Western Ward Community Enterprise have entered into an agreement with Leicester City Council. This is a significant step forwards for us as we can now proceed to the next stage of our project with further fund raising and the initial stages of the design phase for the redevelopment of the Eco House site.

We will be holding a public consultation meeting at **Dovelands Primary School** on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30pm** and we would like as many local residents and stakeholders as possible to come along.

During the meeting, you will have the chance to hear our vision for the new community space on the derelict Eco House site; see the initial plans for what the space will look like and talk with us about your views on the project, plus find out more about how you can support us as we embark on our crowdfund period.

Our crowdfund period begins in early October, and will run until the end of December.

The target for this stage is £26k. It's vital we can demonstrate that a significant number of people are behind Project Hive during this time. When we hit this initial target, we will be able to show national funding providers that there is wide scale public support and obtain the capital costs (estimated £400k) we will need to complete the redevelopment.

Please visit our crowdfund page: **www.spacehive.com/project-hive** and pledge whatever you can. Larger contributions will be rewarded with permanent, personalised feature as part of the build. £50 pledges will receive an individualised vinyl wall sticker as part of the decoration of the interior of the building. £100 pledges will have an engraved brick and £500 an engraved paving slab incorporated in the grounds of the completed project.

It is important to us that we continue the ethos of the original Eco House and ensure that the



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building and its construction have minimal impact on the environment. Our design plans include installing solar panelling, a grey water recovery system and an air-sourced heat pump. Therefore, we are asking for pledges towards a feasibility study to include: early design stages, a tree survey, a quantity surveyor and a solicitor.

Your support will mean that these key components are in place from day one and are fully integrated into the structure of the building.

Let's not have this building stand empty and derelict any longer. Let's bring the space alive: support Project Hive!

More info at our website [projecthive.org.uk](http://projecthive.org.uk) or on Facebook [@wwceleicester](https://www.facebook.com/wwceleicester)





# Western Park Pumpkin Roll

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Tel: 0116 222 5005

# NEW COLLEGE NEWS

**Local business owners have been back to school to interview students.** Twenty volunteers from the local business community visited New College as part of an initiative that prepares students for their post 16 application interviews and further cements the College's 'Career Mark Gold' credentials.

Representatives from Leicester City Council and other local businesses swapped their workplace for the main hall to work with 180 Year 11 students at New College in September. Each student in the year group had a 15-minute slot where they were asked different questions about their goals, aspirations and future careers.

After assessing the students, the business representatives gave written feedback. Mrs Fiona Rogers, Careers Leader said "Having been awarded Career Mark Gold in recognition of outstanding and continued commitment to careers education and guidance; we felt this was an excellent opportunity to help our students to develop their employability skills by preparing for future interviews in the world of work".



## Name in Lights

**New College is celebrating the success of one of their students securing a place in the Curve Young Company Theatre – A first for the college!**

Year 10 student Molly Power was one of a thousand applicants and only one of six hundred young people called for auditions for a prestigious place in the Company.

The Curve Young Company is for young people aged 7 – 19 years with a passion for performing arts. Members of the company meet regularly at the Curve to develop their skills, confidence and understanding of the industry alongside professional artist and creative teams. Participants also have the opportunity to perform on stage in the CYC productions, and special events.

Ella Shaw, teacher of English and Drama at New College, said "... Molly has achieved a fantastic opportunity which will enable her to develop her skills further and to be actively involved in the community. I very much look forward to seeing her in future Curve productions".



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## Anyone For Tennis?

New College has officially opened their **Tennis & Netball courts**. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was performed by Lord Bach, Police and Crime Commissioner, Liz Kendall MP for Leicester West, and former Leicester Tiger's player Rory Underwood MBE.

The eight floodlit tennis and four netballs courts are part of the expansive range of sports facilities at the College and their ongoing drive and commitment to sports and physical activity. The extensive facilities include a floodlit Closed Road Cycle circuit, grass and artificial football pitches and cricket strip. The indoor gymnastics centre is of national standard with spectator seating for 400.



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## **FAMILY MONSTER MASH**

Glenfield Road will be scarier than normal on October 26<sup>th</sup> as a mesmerising Halloween event unlike any other sends shivers down the spine!

Leicester Family Monster Mash is a Friends of West Gate Association free event Free and fun for goblins and ghouls of all ages! A spooktacular spectacle that is not to be missed! Children age 10 and under will receive a trick-or-treat bag on entrance and visiting victims can collect free sweets and treats throughout the afternoon.

There's a monster range of spookiness to enjoy including the Slime Station, bath potion workshop, fire breathers, marshmallow toasting and much more.

The ghoulishness begins at 12.00 and will have scared the wits out of you by 3.00pm. The Children's costume contest starts at 2pm with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes awarded for the most creative costumes!

All proceeds from the Leicester Family Monster Mash support new learning and play resources for special needs pupils at West Gate School.

All enquiries to Jennifer Norman at: friendsof-westgate@westgate.leicester.sch.uk or visit their Facebook Page and website for more information.

## **COUNCILLORS SURGERIES Western Ward**

**New Parks Centre:** Aikman Avenue.

First Friday of each month 3.00pm – 4.00pm

**St Anne's Church Hall:** Letchworth Road.

Second Weds of each month 7.15pm – 8.15pm.

**Braunstone Frith Recreation Centre:** Sharman Crescent. Third Saturday of each month 11.00am – 12.00noon.

## **Fosse Ward**

**Fosse Neighbourhood Centre:** Mantle Road.

Second Sat of each month 10.30am – 11.30am.

**Woodgate Residents' Association:** 36 Woodgate. Last Saturday of each month 10.30am – 11.30am.

## **Westcotes Ward**

**Westcotes Library:** Narborough Road.

Third Tuesday of each month. 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

First Friday of each month 10.00am – 11.00am

**Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields**

**Christ Church:** Barbara Road.

First Weds of each month 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

**Oak Centre:** Cort Crescent, Bendbow Rise.

First Monday of each month 2.00pm – 3.00pm.

**Brite Centre:** Braunstone Avenue.

Third Friday of each month 2.00pm – 3.00pm.



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## Oct Police Update

Hello to all the readers of the Western Park Gazette. I am Sgt Ed Jones and have taken up the mantle from Mark Brennan at Hinckley Road police station. I wish Mark all the best for the future and thank him for all that he has done for community policing.

Your teams, as ever, have been busy patrolling the beats both overtly and covertly. They have executed a number of search warrants, successfully seizing drugs and stolen goods which we have been able to repatriate with their rightful owners. Your teams continue to arrest those who seek to cause the most harm within our community. As Criminal trails are completed we are seeing their hard work coming to fruition including the cannabis seizure in the summer which saw the removal of over £180,000 worth of drugs from the streets, two people imprisoned for which deportation awaits upon completion of their sentence.

A big thank you to all of you who continue to report suspicious activity. It is these snippets of information that help us piece together criminal patterns and behaviour. I would always encourage you to report anything you think is suspicious either directly or anonymously through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Across the whole of Leicestershire we are experiencing a rise in tool thefts from vans. It is an unfortunate reality that tools stolen from one vehicle are then used to break into another. Some simple precautions will reduce the risk of becoming a victim. Where possible lock away your tools in your home. At night make it more difficult to access the rear or side doors of your vehicle by parking close to walls, garages or other vehicles. Mark your property in a way making it unique to you. Mark it in a place that is not obvious so that it can not be altered or removed. Don't forget to photograph it! Identifying stolen property is so much easier if we have pictures. If you can, invest in some good quality lighting and CCTV.

It was CCTV that proved to be the downfall of a brazen thief who stole an e-bike from a local business. Caught on the shops' camera, the offender was recognised by your local officers. Their arrest was swift and charges followed. The perpetrator is now incarcerated at HMP.

Finally it is now possible to view local crime statistics on line at [www.leic.police.uk](http://www.leic.police.uk) by clicking the Local Policing link near the bottom of the page and navigating to all of the local policing areas. The website is being redeveloped but the links will take visitors to the relevant pages.

**Sgt Ed Jones**

## Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



**Autumn always feels so transitory; a short phase quickly passed en route to winter.** Keats called it the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". With summer fading and weather forecasters predicting another Beast from the East, autumn could whistle past before we know it, so don't delay those pre-winter jobs.

It's all weather dependent of course but October will be the last chance to mow the grass, lay turf, trim hedges, prune back perennials and pick any remaining fruit. Where necessary always clean and oil your gardening tools before locking them away for the winter. It's a chore but it makes things so much easier in the spring.

But before you put your kit into hibernation, now's the time to plant spring bulbs. It's also a good time to plant onion sets and garlic. I've had great success with onion varieties "Stuttgarter" and "Turbo". Plant in well drained soil to avoid water logging. Push each set into the soil until the tip is just above the surface. A net or pack of onion sets can go along way so I usually save half for sowing in spring. Plant garlic the same way. I just sneak a bulb or two from the kitchen, making sure to leave

some for culinary purposes and vampire slaying activities at Halloween. Break into individual cloves and plant like onion sets. Check regularly as birds and other animals often disturb them. Simply push dislodged bulbs back into the soil.

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

Other vegetables that can be planted now include early peas, broad beans and spring cabbage. Be sure to protect from birds and rodents with fine netting. Bare root Wallflowers are now available. Plant this autumn for early bedding flowers next year. They're usually sold in bunches tied with an elastic band. Check the stock is fresh and healthy as they can quickly wilt and rot and benefit only for the compost bin. Now get digging and beat the ice and snow!



**Tony Huxley**

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1		2		3		4
5						
6				7		
8						

1 Across: Halloween vegetable 1 Down: For splashing in 2: Creepy 3: Ornamental fish 4: Like a node 5: Disparaged 6: Favourable to reform 7: Decay 8: Jumper © Paul Towers

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

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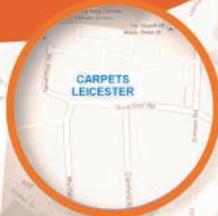


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