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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the April edition of the Western
Park Gazette.

This month Fosse Park recreation ground finds
itself £70,000 richer as part of a council drive to
improve park spaces across Leicester.

You're probably fed up with the elections al-
ready, but boredom with soundbites is part of the
democratic process, so we've compiled a list of
who's standing locally for council, Parliament and
City Mayor. As always we have Helen Knott, this
time with a recipe for slightly boozy elderflower
fizz, Richard Perry unloads the history of the
Magazine Gateway and Tony Huxley is feeling
fruity... of the apples and pears variety! Sgt Kev
Sharkey, from Hinckley Rd Police has the latest
update, we have news of a creative writing
school, plus more from the Square Mile Project
and we offer you the chance to win a pair of
weekend tickets to the legendary Glastonbudget.

And don't forget the Brain Tazers on the inside
back page!

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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.
Heritage Sundays: Monthly last Sun. Mediaeval city open days/tours. 11-3pm. W:goleicestershire.com
St George's Fest: 25 April. Cultural Quarter. 12 noon onwards. Free
Leicester Regatta: 26 April. Leic Rowing Club Boat House. Upperton Rd. 9-4.30pm. Free to watch.
That'll be the Day: 1 May. De Mont Hall. 7.30.
Handmade: (Indie Music & Arts Fest) 1-3 May. O2 Academy, University Rd. W:handmade festival.co.uk
14/48 Fest: (World's Quickest Theatre Fest) 8/9 May. Y Theatre. W:Leicesterymca.co.uk
Manuelita: 1 May. Upstairs at the Western.
Brit Sci Fi: 9 & 10 May. Nat Space Centre. 10-5pm. W:spacecentre.co.uk
Forget Me Not: 22nd May. Upstairs at the Western.
What the Butler Saw: 11-16 May. Little Theatre. W:thelittletheatre.net
Launch of Buy a Brick Scheme: 17 May. Tin Annie Rebuilding fund. St. Anne's Church Hall & Story Telling on **23rd May**. More info from 0116 224 6047.

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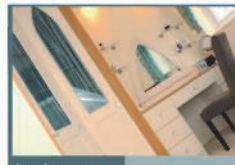
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FOSSE PARK WINDFALL

A £70,000 facelift will breathe new life back into Fosse Recreation Ground. This year the park's facilities are going to be rejuvenated by upgrading the play area and building a new outdoor mini gym, funded by Leicester City Council. The upgrades follow an attempt to bring colour back to the park by planting hundreds of bluebells and bulbs, clearing overgrown shrubs and litter picking.

The Recreation Ground was once an allotment and the late Victorian Park has remained a key community space for over a century. In September a clean up campaign was launched to clear litter and overgrown shrubbery that blighted the hidden beauty of the historic park.

The new outdoor gym equipment is part of Leicester City Council's £888,000 scheme to install a range of facilities hoping to reach people of all ages and help them get fitter. Plans are afoot to launch a 'Friends of Fosse Recreation Ground' group, to help maintain



the park and to keep the new facilities clean and tidy. The group is also expected to organise special events and park based activities involving local schools.
By Liam Coleman

TIN ANNIE REBUILD - 1 STEP CLOSER!

Volunteers continued to raise funds in March to rebuild the St. Anne's Church Hall with a successful pop-up tearoom and bake sale.

Over £1800 was raised on the day towards the £250,000 total to transform the 101 year old Letchworth Road building, known as "Tin Annie" into a modern community centre. A further £200 was added by Dovelands School, from their efforts during Red Nose Day, bringing the total to £2052.00.

One of the organisers, Clair Robbins said: "Lots of people donated baked breads, cakes and we had some great raffle prizes from local businesses. It could evolve to be annual event but I think we all need to recover for a few weeks first before we commit to 2016!"



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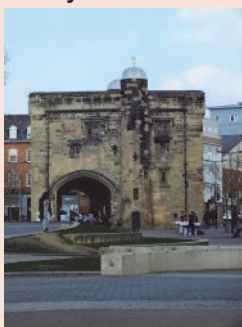
The Magazine - Unloaded!

As King Richard III and his escort rode out of Leicester in August 1485 heading to Bosworth Field for the fateful battle which would see the end of the Plantagenet dynasty, one of the buildings he would have been most familiar with was the Newarke Gateway into Leicester Castle.

It is now known as the Magazine Gateway after it was used to store munitions during the English Civil War but it was actually built around 1410 as part of a protective stone wall surrounding the castle and the Newarke.

The Newarke, at the time of Richard III, was a religious precinct and college to the south of the castle incorporating the Trinity Hospital for the local poor and infirm which had been set up in 1330 by Henry the Earl of Lancaster.

The Newarke Gateway allowed access to the castle, religious sanctuary and hospital precinct enclosure. It does not appear that the three storey stone built building had a defensive role since it has no



portcullis and only a couple of rudimentary arrow slits but it is clearly a statement of religious power, money and intent by the builders.

Richard III had visited Leicester several times before the Battle of Bosworth and knew the town well. Being a particularly pious man, it's highly likely he would have walked through the Newarke Gateway into the castle towards the Newarke itself and on through the Turret Gateway on Castle View. It is also likely his body would have passed through the Gateway on its way to burial at Greyfriars, right passed the precinct where De Montfort University students head to class today.

From 1550 onwards the Newarke was a place for the rich to escape local taxes but the Gateway itself may have become a prison shortly afterwards as graffiti has been found on the top floor dated 1564.

The Civil War saw Leicester captured by King Charles 1st's forces in 1645 after the town siege and vicious fighting in the Newarke, however, the Gateway came out of it unpunctured and continued as an armoury for the county militia.

Following restoration work in 1853, barracks and a drill hall were built alongside the Magazine, as it was dubbed, in the 1890's before being demolished in the 1960's as part of a road scheme. The Magazine has seen 600 years of history and could well see out the next 600 years. © Richard Perry

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This month West Leicester based journalist and broadcaster Helen Knott gets into spring with home made elderflower champagne...

KNOTT'S LANDING

Elderflower champagne is one of the great English summer drinks and it is soooooo easy to make at home. The elderflowers are free from hedgerows and parks everywhere, the bottles are just used pop bottles. You might need to do a bit of collecting first to get everything together but it's a doddle once you have it all. Some people like to make elderflower champagne in pretty glass bottles, these look great but as the brew creates a lot of gas they can sometimes explode. I choose not to take the risk and make mine in recycled plastic pop bottles, checking regularly for gas build up by giving the bottles a squeeze and releasing the lid when they get turgid.

To Make Elderflower Champagne You Will Need

Muslin cloth, bucket, wooden spoon, clean tea towel and 5 x 2 litre plastic pop bottles or equivalent volume.

Ingredients

A dozen good sized elderflower heads – picked in the morning of a sunny day, 10 litres of water, 1kg granulated sugar, 4 tablespoons of white wine vinegar and 2 lemons



How to make it

1. Pick over your elderflower heads, get rid of all the bugs and dirt that you can see.
2. Measure out 10 litres of water into your clean bucket.
3. Stir 1kg of sugar into the water until dissolved. Toss in the elderflower heads and make sure they get a good dunking.
4. Add in four tablespoons of white wine vinegar. Squeeze in the juice of the two lemons and toss in the lemon halves.
5. Give it all a good stir and cover with a clean tea towel for 24 hours.
6. Makes sure your plastic bottles are clean. Line a funnel (I found mine in the car accessories section of the supermarket, not in the baking aisle, who knew!) with muslin and decant your brew into the bottles.

Store for a couple of months, then chill and drink!

Helen Knott

Adrian Barnes

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With two first class universities and several colleges, Leicester is a vibrant city with a solid future, but it has been marred by a recent damning Ofsted report where the council's child services were scored as "Inadequate". Changing this has to be a priority.

My name is Adrian Barnes and I'm committed to making your

voice heard at Leicester City Council. I want to play an active role in making our city a safer, better place for us to raise our children and run our businesses.

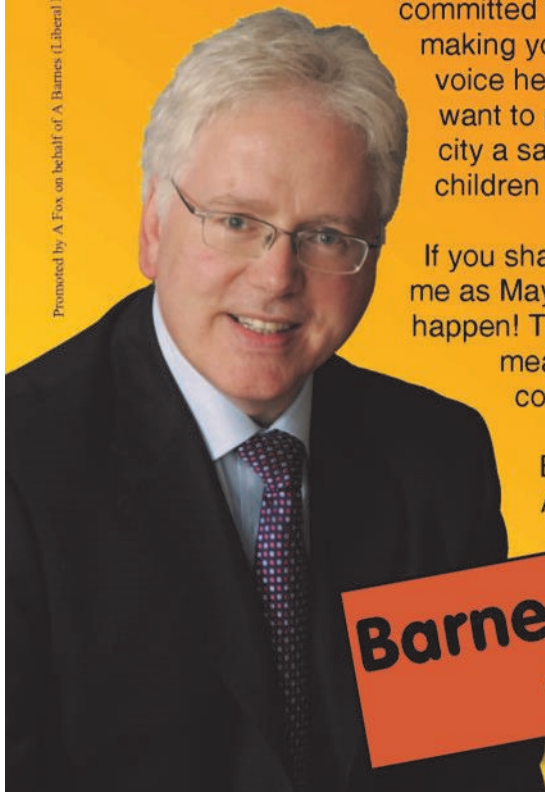
"I may not be a career politician, but I care about this city and can make a real difference."

If you share my vision, I urge you to vote for me as Mayor on 7th May and help make it happen! Together, we can make a meaningful difference - for our city, our communities, and our families.

Best regards
Adrian

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FRIAR'S MILL WORK GOES ON

Work is now well under way to rebuild and develop a disused and fire damaged 18th century mill complex in West Leicester.

Leicester City Council is investing £6.3million in an ambitious project to redevelop the derelict Friars Mill complex, on the banks of the River Soar, behind The Rally and bring it back into use as a base for local businesses.

The site includes Leicester's oldest surviving factory building – the former Donisthorpe Factory – which was badly damaged in a fire in 2012.

Leicester City Council bought the factory, and other buildings in the grade II-listed mill complex for £550,000, and has worked with Levitate Architecture and Design Studio to develop plans to create 2,300sqm of new, managed workspaces.

The project has been awarded up to £3.9million from the European Development Fund. The city council will contribute £2.4million from capital set aside to deliver the Leicester Economic Action Plan.



Work began last September and is expected to take 13 months to complete. The main factory building will be restored and an extension built to house a new staircase and lift. The fire damaged roof, along with its original cupola and weathervane, will be completely rebuilt.

An extension will also be built to the rear of the former workers' cottages, to house work units.

The former Bath Lane Mill will also be developed to provide work units and shared meeting rooms. In a change to original plans, a new building will be built alongside the Pump House. This will house photovoltaic panels and an air source heat pump large enough to heat the entire complex, along with other required utilities.

When complete, Friars Mill will offer 14 work units, of 70sqm and above, along with a main reception area, meeting rooms and other shared facilities.

The former factory Mill chimney will also be completely restored and carry bold Friars Mill signage.

Newfoundpool Forum

Have your say about what is happening in your community!

DMU Square Mile is working with residents to establish a forum where people can highlight some of the issues they face in the community and work towards solutions with the help of DMU, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire Police and Leicestershire NHS Partnership.

DMU Square Mile will help residents grow ideas and establish projects for the community; with the support of the city council, local NHS and the Police.

Anyone wishing to join the forum should contact Square Mile squaremile@dmu.ac.uk, or by phone - (0116) 257 7135.

Free books to get you reading!

We are holding community book swap events at our Newfoundpool Forum Community where more than 200 free children's and adults' books are available.

Simply bring a book you have read and swap it for a new one!

Come and enjoy free refreshments - and choose a new book and learn about the Six Book Challenge supported by DMU staff and the Newfoundpool Forum.

Also find out what is going on in your area at the monthly **Newfoundpool Forum Community Cafes.**

Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centre
Pool Road LE3 9GH

Please email us at squaremile@dmu.ac.uk or call 0116 257 7135 to find out when our next event is.

Fancy a sing song?

Then join the DMU Square Mile Community Choir!

Rehearsals take place every Thursday from 11am-1pm and the group welcomes anyone with a love of singing.

You do not need any experience to join and it is completely free!

Please contact the DMU Square Mile team for more information:

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MY KINGDOM FOR A PRINT

If you fought your way through the hordes to witness the reinterment of King Richard, you certainly weren't alone. Now one local man has the perfect way to remember this historic event.

Artist, West End resident and unrepentant Yorkshireman Paul Barrand came to Leicester some years ago and never left. So it seemed appropriate to mark the reinterment of King Richard III (Yorkshire to Leicester, also never left) by creating two dramatic, bold and striking paintings that look to capture the spirit of renewal and rejuvenation that has so invigorated both the late monarch and the city of Leicester.



Although the originals were both sold immediately on completion to two of his regular collectors, Paul has decided to publish limited edition prints of both paintings, each signed and numbered in a run of just 530 representing the number of years between Richard's death at Bosworth in 1485 and his final resting in Leicester Cathedral.



Prints from www.elevatedsection.blogspot.co.uk and also view the Onethousandmiles Project: 1000 small paintings of local roads, Leicester locations and landmarks. Prints also viewable & on sale at the Cank Street Gallery. *(Sponsored Article)*

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Win Tickets to Glastonbudget!

It's back! After a massive festival last year, Glastonbudget returns over the May Bank Holiday for its 11th year with another classic line up of top tribute bands.

This three day festival between 22nd -24th May is simply the biggest and best tribute group boogiefest in the world with 130 bands strutting their stuff including local acoustic and rock acts, some getting their first taste of live festival performance.

Once again at Turnpost Farm near Wymeswold, over 30 top tribute acts take to the stage. From the Stereophonics to Michael Jackson and from Led Zep to Coldplay; the list goes on.

Local musicians also get their chance to shine on the other stages around the festival and there's a massive beer tent, stalls and fairground rides if you fancy a break from the huge selection of non-stop music across the fields.



Bootleg Beatles 2014

Here's your chance to win a pair of tickets to the festival that recreates the sights and sounds of the world's greatest bands right in front of you at Turnpost Farm in Wymeswold!



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 15th of May, so be quick!

THE QUESTION

Money for Nothing & Limehouse Lizzy are tribute bands for which classic rock acts?

Answers by email only to:

editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Comp T&Cs: Cut off date 15th May. One winner. One entry per person, Tickets non transferable, No cash alternative. Judge's decision is final.

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*If you live in parts of West Leicester, you
might have had a surprise as your polling
card arrived ahead of the General, Local and
Mayoral Elections on the 7th May.*

ARE YOU READY TO VOTE!

One day you think you're a Western Park voter, the next you're in Westcotes or the Fosse or somewhere else entirely.

No. You haven't moved, but following changes by the Boundary Commission, Western Park and New Parks Ward have been abolished and merged into one three member ward called Western, losing two councillors along the way.

The new Western ward doesn't follow the old Western Park or New Parks boundaries whilst the edges of Fosse, Westcotes and Beaumont Leys wards have also been shifted to accommodate this change.

Last year the Commission carried out an electoral review and recommend new ward boundaries that meant each councillor represents approximately the same number of electors. Previously some councillors looked after many more or fewer electors than representatives elsewhere in the city. This meant the value of voting varied depending on population density.

Although several alternative plans were put forward by local people, the Boundary Commission mostly stuck to the changes proposed by Leicester City Council. This has left the Western Ward with 13,852 potential electors, rising to 14,208 in 2019, as the largest ward in Leicester.

These changes have no effect on the West Leicester Parliamentary Constituency or the election for City Mayor.

Editor: For more confusing information, which won't help you understand the new boundaries anymore than it helped us and vague, hard to read maps visit www.lgbce.org.uk

WHO'S STANDING & WHERE? Western Ward Candidates

(Now including Western Park & New Parks)

Susan Barton - Labour

Orlando George Cole - Labour

Peter Coley - Liberal Democrats

Paul William Eccleshare - Green

Mel Gould - Green

Nicola Jane Henfrey - Liberal Democrats

Gary Glendon Hunt - Liberal Democrats

Reginald Sidney Moxey - UKIP

Stephanie Murphy - UKIP

Malcolm William Unsworth - Labour

Caroline Louisa Vincent - Leicester Independent Councillors Against Cuts

Stewart Keith Wittering - UKIP

Fosse Ward Candidates

Dawn Victoria Alfonso - Labour Party
Ted Cassidy - Labour Party
Geoff Forse - Green Party
Benjamin Livingstone - Green Party
Nicholas Stefen Pridden - UKIP
Brian Rodney Scott - Leicester Independent
Councillors Against Cuts
Stuart Ian Eric Young - UKIP

Westcotes Ward Candidates

Andy Connelly - Labour
Kirti Doshi - Conservative
Antony Edmett - UKIP
Eduardas Gaulia - Liberal Democrats
Damon Peter Gibbons - Trade Unionist & Social
Coalition
Gurjit Singh Gill - Liberal Democrats
Jitu Gosai - Conservative
Samantha Clare Kirk - Leicester Independent
Councillors Against Cuts
Sarah Christine Russell - Labour
Ian James Smalley - Green
Val Smalley - Green
Carol Young - UKIP

(Please note: We haven't included Beaumont Leys & Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields Wards as the Western Park Gazette only just touches those areas.)

City Mayor Candidates

Adrian Charles Barns - Liberal Democrats
Paul David Bremner - Conservative Party
Tim Grayson - Green Party
Barbie Potter - Leicester Independent Councillors
Against Cuts
Avtar Singh - Independent
Peter Alfred Soulsby - Labour Party
Dutch Veldhuizen - UKIP

Leicester West Candidates

Paul Bessant - Conservative Party
Ian Bradwell - Liberal Democrats
Peter Hague - Green Party
Liz Kendall - Labour Party
Heather Rawling - TUSC
Stuart Young - UKIP

**On May 7th three elections
take place at the same time.**

The General Election where the local Member of Parliament is decided, the Leicester City Council's elected Mayor is chosen (Not the Lord Mayor) and local councillors across the city are voted in.



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April Police Update

We have been tackling the concerns raised by local residents over motorbike thefts and their anti-social use with Operation Tiger. Bikes are mostly taken from or used across, Western Park, Westcotes and Fosse areas.

The operation began with education, advice and crime prevention tips to vehicle owners and users; officers also visited local schools to educate pupils on the dangers of illegally riding motorbikes and the anti-social behavior associated with it. Posters and leaflets were also distributed to encourage the reporting of nuisance or stolen motorbikes and co-ordinated action with local petrol stations taken to deter sales associated with ASB motorbikes.

Along with colleagues from Northamptonshire Police, a total of 6 motorbikes were seized during the enforcement part of the operation with some stolen bikes being returned to their owners.

It is reassuring to know that since the start of the operation we have seen a reduction in the number of motorbike related incidents being reported.

We are interested in where stolen motorbikes are being stored and who is riding them, so if you know, please contact the police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

On a different note, The Beavers from St. Peter's Church came to visit Hinckley Road Police Station. The group of 25 6-8 year olds explored the cells and custody suite at the station and got to look around a working police van. They enjoyed competing against each other in a quiz about the emergency services and all took prizes home afterwards. The group and leaders all enjoyed their visit and are looking forward to returning next year.

On Saturday 11th March 2015 The Fosse Ward Consultation event took place at the Mantle Road Library. This was a multi-agency event, involving the Neighbourhood Police Team, City Council, Adult education and NHS. It was well attended with approximately 100 members of the public coming through the doors. Consultation forms were completed and a number of issues were highlighted. These are being actioned and feedback will be given to the members of the public who attended.

On 1st April officers attended an address on Narborough Road, Leicester for a missing person check. Gaining entry, cannabis was discovered and 3 males were arrested for drug dealing. A thorough search found 2 replica handguns, a large amount of cannabis, MCAT, MDMA and Crack Cocaine along with mobile phones and over £2000 in cash. The males remain in custody at time of writing. This is an excellent example of officers removing those that cause the most harm from the community. **Sgt. Kev Sharkey**

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



As the daffodils wane, now is the time for spring to find its feet. Many gardeners are praying that the hardest frosts have passed, because now is the time the fruit trees blossom. Each year blossom seems to come earlier and fingers crossed more firmly in the hope that weather doesn't finish the fruit crops before they have set. Blossoms can be vulnerable as they arrive before the leaves but it does give access to those all-important bees. To compensate for inevitably high losses, fruit trees produce an abundance of flowers, a bonus for those of us who love their aesthetic value.

Many fruit cultivars have been developed for their looks alone and give all-year interest with fiery autumn colour and decorative fruit, like apples "Golden Hornet", or "Royal Beauty". Some fruit trees can make impos-



Golden Hornet

ing specimens: the pear tree in my garden stands 10m high and is blanketed with white blossom for a good fortnight or more, although the fruit is the size and texture of a golf ball!

But fruit trees come in all sizes. With so many varieties available on dwarfing rootstocks, there's a tree to suit any location - even for containers, like pear "Petite Poire" or plum "Black Amber". Grafted to a Quince rootstock, even the classic "Williams" pear can tolerate life in a large pot.



Petite Poire

Fruit trees come in all shapes as well as sizes, from the compact crown of *M.trilobata* with its maple-like leaf, to the tight upright column of the flowering cherry *Prunus amanagowa*. And of course, the training possibilities of fruit trees is limited only by your imagination! That said, you can't beat the classic-shaped fruit tree, its spreading branches cloaked in blossom, waiting to be bowed down with fruit.

So don't be square, plant a pear! Or an apple, or peach, or cherry, damson, medlar.....

© Tony Huxley

More from Tony in the next issue.

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WRITING SCHOOL

Are you a secret scribbler? That's what the leaflet asked, and I thought, Yes, that's me; mainly scribbling in my journal, but I do love writing. I'm just not motivated or brave enough to start off on my own. The brochure was for a course run by Writing School Leicester then at the Adult Education College in Wellington Street and for students who were new to creative writing. "We will play with words and experiment with fresh, original language. Using tiny exercises, you will start to develop a good, modern writing style. This enjoyable lead-in to creative writing forms a useful foundation for further courses". Sounds like a good idea, I thought, recently retired, and looking for new things to do and new people to meet.

Five years later and I'm still doing the Writing School courses. I've done a wide-ranging variety including Writing Short Stories, Writing for Children, Writing a Novel, Writing Screenplay and Poetry, Memoir, and Journals; and Writing for the Body, with a range of fabulous tutors, many local published writers themselves with a wealth of experience to offer. Some classes have studied a genre, like the Magic of Fairy Tales, or Writing Successful Crime Fiction. Each class is usually only for half a term, 5 or 6 weeks, so not a big commitment if it turns out not to be your thing. There are daytime and evening classes to suit your life, and also one-day classes available on topics like Writing Poetry for Performance, or 3 week courses like 'Beginnings, Middles and Endings' which will be running on Tuesday afternoons from the end of April.

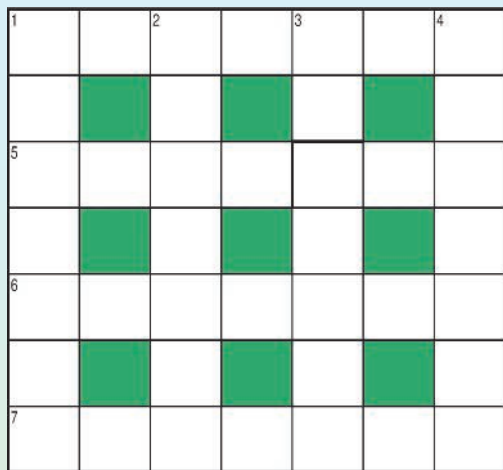
I have loved every class I've done; there is always something new to learn, and I've met such interesting people, and listened to other people's fascinating stories and poems. I've found the classes very warm and welcoming, made lots of new friends, and been inspired to write in ways I would never have tried without the support of the Writing School.

The school itself now comes under the umbrella of Writing East Midlands and has moved to new venues including the lovely LCB Depot on Rutland Street (with a great café) and also in town at Phoenix Arts, the Y, and at Embrace Arts on Lancaster Road. The Writing School welcome writers at any stage in their development, from secret scribblers like me looking to tip their toe into creative writing, to emerging and established professionals.

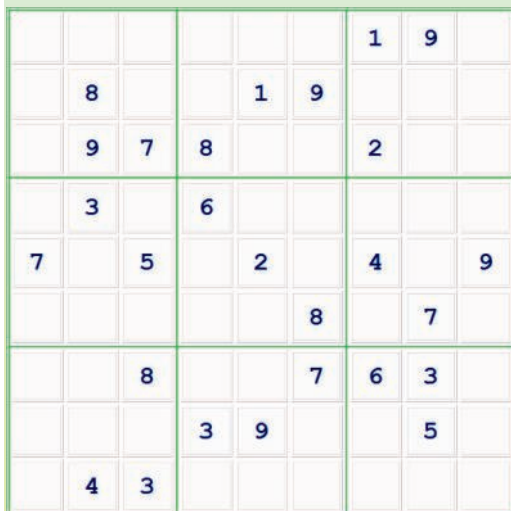
Barbara Buck

For more visit: www.writingeastmidlands.co.uk/writing-school/leicester/

BRAIN *TAZERS*



1 Across: Caught out 1 Down: Trivia 2: warming breakfast 3: Old enhancement 4: Sauceless bean 5: Important trapeze artist 6: Large water 7: Urge to water down. © Paul Towers



1. Which is the odd word out? Obligatory, Compulsory, Required, Objective, Binding.
2. Replace the vowels to give 4 art related words. SL CNVS STD BSTRCT.
3. If it were two hours later, it would be half as long until midnight as it would be if it were an hour later. What time is it now?
4. Imagine you're in a dark room with no windows or exits of any kind. How do you get out? (Solutions at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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