



PULL-UPS ON THE PARK



More on page 3



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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to April's Western Park Gazette and in this edition...

If you're feeling like a workout, the city council have installed some heavy duty outside gym equipment in local parks including Western Park. Having tried them, we're now having a nice long sit down...

Nite Lite, a local team of volunteers who look after Friday night's waifs and strays on Narborough Road celebrate their 10th anniversary and the editor's beer fixation continues as we visit the recent pop-up pub event held at the revamped Hall at St. Anne's.

In our regular features; Roger Blackmore looks at the city's sporting venues, Tony Huxley takes on Global warming. And does graffiti have value? Helen Knott says some does. Mike Hooper, from Hinckley Road Policing Unit, has had another busy month too including an attempted ram raid.

In this month's competition we're giving you the chance to win a pair of VIP camping tickets to the county's greatest music festival and the biggest bop of its type in the world - the legendary Glastonbudget Festival near Wymswold.

And guess what? Sudoku and crossword are on the inside pack page ready to taunt you.

Follow us on Twitter @mygazette & Facebook by searching for the Western Park Gazette.

If you've got a local news story then email:
 editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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Events Diary

Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band: 1st Sun Monthly. at the Hilton Hotel, Meridian. 1-3.30pm

Thursday Club: 2-4pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narb' Rd.

West End Pay As You Feel Café: Thurs 7-8.30pm. Tues, Fri & Sat 11-3pm. WE Centre. Andrewes St.

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

Relaxed Dru Yoga sessions with Emma: Sundays. 7.15 - 8.45pm. St Anne's Hall.

Pub Quiz: Last Tues of the month. West End Brewery Braunstone Gate. 8-10pm.

Upstairs @ Western in April: Cloaks - 21st, Unknown Soldier - 26th, Gratiano - 27th, Octopus - 29th, **In May:** Ego Acoustica - 10th, Uncle Armando 15th. Info at w.upstairsatthewestern.com

Spring Plant Sales: Sat 22nd April. Groby Rd Allotments. 10-2.30pm.

Daniel O'Donnell: 26th April. DM Hall. 7.30pm.

Billy Ocean: 27th April. DM Hall. 7.30pm.

Killer Queen - Tribute: 5th May. DM Hall 7.30pm.

At Curve: Count Arthur Strong: 13th May, **Henning Wehn:** 21st May, **A Clockwork Orange** 18-23rd May. w.curveonline.co.uk

The Kooks: 11th May. DM Hall. 7.30pm

Paul Rogers: 17th May. DM Hall. 7.30pm

MU Charity Fashion Show: 17th May. Hall at St. Anne's. 7.30pm. £5 entry includes wine & nibbles.

Seusical Jr: 25-27 May. Sue Townsend Theatre. 7.30pm. w.leicestershiretheatregroup.co.uk

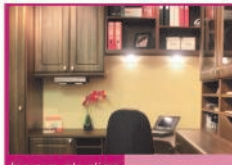
Glastonbudget: 26-28 May. w.glastonbudget.org

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Pull-ups On The Park

Regular users of Western Park have now got the opportunity to get extra fit by using the new outdoor gym.

The heavy duty weatherproof equipment has been installed by Leicester City Council as part of its drive to encourage more exercise and physical activity.

The sixteen pieces of cardiovascular and resistance equipment are free to use and have already proved popular with many. Jogger Aeron Watson said: "I run around the park a couple of times a week, now I stop off for a few minutes to use the gym kit. It's great. The trouble is I'm knackered by the time I get home!"

Regular park user, Julie Freeman is also enthusiastic about the new equipment. "I walk my dog for exercise but now I'm tempted to see if I can manage a pull-up or two!"

The new outdoor facilities also include equipment specifically for disabled people, better signs and

presentation boards explaining how to get the most from the equipment. A smartphone app to help people develop exercise programmes is also being developed.

Leicester Council has invested over £900,000 in sixteen free to use outdoor gyms in parks across the city specifically aimed at those who would not visit private gyms or visit leisure centres but would like to exercise in a local environment without the cost. Locally, this includes a gym and parkour area on Bede Park, opened last year, and a mini gym on Fosse Recreation Ground off Glenfield Road.

The cost has been met with £727,000 public health funding, along with £131,000 from Section 106 developer contributions plus some additional money from the council's housing budget.

The equipment is suitable for all fitness levels and anyone over 14 years of age. A full list of outdoor gym locations and instructional workout guides are available for download from the Leicester City Council's website.



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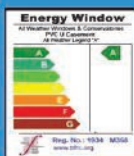
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LEICESTER'S SPORT VENUES

In centuries gone by, St Margaret's Pastures, just beyond St Margaret's Church, was the main location for a host of games and pastimes. These included horse racing, cricket and bowls, plus various traditional ball games.

Today, of course, city parks are the venue for a similar range of activities. Over the years, however, various different sports began to seek out their own distinctive sporting venues.

In 1742 horse racing was moved from St. Margaret's onto a new site to the south of the city. This area was later to become Victoria Park. The town was proud of its racecourse and in the nineteenth century a walkway up from the town centre was constructed which survives to this day as New Walk. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, talk began of moving the course to a new site further out of town at Oadby. In 1883 the move was approved but it was not a universally popular one. Indeed, from that time until comparatively recently, Victoria Park has often been referred to as the old racecourse.

In 1825 cricket moved from St Margaret's Pastures to a new site at Wharf Street and then was moved again to Grace Road some fifty years later.



In the early years of the nineteenth century Leicester was one of the first towns in England to give thought to the idea of setting aside ground for distinctly recreational pursuits. This was a controversial idea at first but eventually Welford Road Recreation ground (Nelson Mandela Park) was opened to the public in 1839. Other "recs" were to follow including Fosse Recreation Ground off Glenfield Road.

In the meantime, an amalgamation of three rugby clubs formed a single unit which became known as "The Tigers". By 1891, this sporting group was occupying premises just across the road from Welford Road Rec. And of course, the history of the city football club and its transition from Filbert Street to King Power Stadium is well known.

Nowadays cricket and football, as well as a variety of other sports and pastimes, also take place in a wide range of city parks. But when St Margaret's Pastures was originally the sporting centre of Leicester, the idea of public parks was way ahead in the future. It was these public parks that proved popular locations for a range of bowling greens, tennis courts and playing field of various kinds.

Amazingly, there were those who argued that the idea of public parks would never catch on!

© Roger Blackmore

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Graffiti, love it or hate it, you can't avoid it. Every jitty you walk down seems to have been decorated courtesy of the spray can. Some of it is of questionable value but if you believe the experts it's the ultimate 20th century public artform. There's something about a bare wall that is just too tempting for some of us. They say nature abhors a vacuum and that big plain wall is an empty space that needs filling. There's a switch in some people's brains that just says 'FILL THE SPACE'. It's not even a new phenomena. We have been daubing paint on walls since before homo-sapiens was a thing. In Australia they have stuff around 30,000 years old. For 30,000 years we've been filling walls with marks that say 'I WOZ ERE' in one way or another.

You may be of the opinion that Graffiti is nothing but the scribbles of some random young 'erk with nothing better to do with their time but make the place look a mess. In some ways I agree but I love some graffiti. Clever, political, celebratory, artistic graffiti is a thing of beauty. Tags... where the 'artist' just writes their name on something, that's a whole other ball game.

Recently in Cambridge, of course it was Cambridge, someone daubed graffiti on new million pound houses. It said 'Locus in domos Loci Populum' which could mean Local homes for local people, or not. My

Latin is not great and greater minds than mine suggest the phrase is confusing and has not been conjugated properly. It brings the graffiti sketch from The Life of Brian instantly to mind! What it has done is got people talking about the issue of house prices and the affordability of homes in cities. It's brave stuff but it's important. It's making a point.

Banksy has made an entire career off the back of making political points through the medium of graffiti. I don't know who he is, there is a rumour amongst Leicester Poly people that he was a student there, one of us, with something to say and there's the rub.

People seem to be more than happy with graffiti if it speaks to us, writing your name on a wall, either a tiny tag or a massive attempt at art, well that's just boring. **Helen Knott**



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If you fancy saving up to 75% on exclusive fashion shopping, the St. Anne's Mothers' Union has the event for you!

They're holding a fashion fundraiser at the new community hall on Letchworth Road, next to St. Anne's Church on Wednesday May 17th.

The show features High Street Brands as well as continental designer wear for sizes 6-30 and you can enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles as you browse.



The Mothers Union supports families at home and around the world who are in poverty and need of support. They aim to develop life long skills and promote independence.

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Leicestershire's biggest music festival returns over the May Bank Holiday for its 13th year with another classic line up of top tribute bands and breaking Leicester acts.

Glastonbudget, the three day boogie-fest, between 26th and 28th May, is simply the biggest and best tribute group festival in the world with 140 acts, including 100's of original artists, doing what they do best across six stages.



Once again Turnpost Farm near Wymeswold, host the world's best tribute acts. From The Beatles to Elvis, From The Black Eyes Peas To Queen and from Metallica to Michael Jackson; the cream of the world's tribute bands are ready to rock your socks off!

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



THE COMPETITION

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

This is an **email only** competition and your answers must be in by 15th of May.

THE QUESTION

Which of these is **NOT** a T-Rex song?

- 1: Ride a White Swan
- 2: Mystery Song
- 3: Jeepster
- 4: 20th Century Boy

Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Comp T&Cs: Cut off date 15th May. 1 winner. 1 entry per person, Tickets non transferable, No cash alternative. Judge's decision is final.



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NITE LITE ON FOR 10 YEARS

Nite Lite, the non-denominational group of volunteers based at the Robert Hall Baptist Church on Narborough Road, have just celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a party for fifty helpers.

Originally set up by Rev Jenny Few with the aim of supporting Narborough Road Street Pastors on their Friday night patrols, Nite Lite offers refuge and help to many wandering the streets in the early hours of a Saturday morning.



Co-ordinator Frances Speake says she's amazed at the number of times they've been in the right

place at the right time and managed to keep people safe: "We've helped people who've had too much to drink, falling off the pavement, have been invited to come in and sober up, girls who thought they were being followed have come in and we've provided a space for lonely middle aged or older men to meet and enjoy each others' company".

Over the last decade Nite lite has helped make Narborough Road a safer place but it can be far from quiet. They will phone for the police or an ambulance if necessary; on one occasion for a girl attacked at a nearby cashpoint, for a man in a wheelchair who was mauled by a dog and another whose partner had stabbed him in the foot with a pair of scissors.

Nite Lite provides more than a listening ear. One of the problems with Narborough Road, especially after closing time, is there isn't a public toilet in the area, so pub goers on the trek home can pop in, the homeless can enjoy a cup of hot soup, a bite to eat and get warm or even a new pair of sock if they need them.

Nite Lite - 10 years old and still shining brightly!



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The Return of the Pop-up Pub

You came and gave the recently reopened St. Anne's Community Church Hall a right good welcome to Western Park at the first of this year's Western Park Beer Festival events, which are raising money for LOROS in 2017. And what a night it was!

Having learned from the last hoorah for Tin Annie at last year's pop-up pub, the committee promised that this time they wouldn't run out of beer and they delivered. The team of volunteers served over 800 pints of a variety of delicious cask and keg beers, including several from local Leicester-based brewers West End Brewery and Framework Brewery. Patrons of the pop-up pub also enjoyed prosciutto, cider, wine, gin and tonics and soft drinks, and live music was again provided. The popular samosas and cheese cobs were also back, with not a single one left when the clock struck midnight.



Chairman of the Western Park Beer Festival Committee Matt Pearce said: "Once again the community turned out in force, despite the weather, to pack out the hall and make the event a resounding success. The event had a great atmosphere and we had overwhelmingly positive feedback. On behalf of the committee, I'd like to thank everyone who came and we're looking forward to seeing you all again in the summer for our third Western Park Beer Festival."

Attention now turns to the Western Park Beer Festival when the committee hope to raise even more money for an important local charity that has made a big difference to many Western Park residents. They'd therefore be delighted to hear from you if you'd like to get involved or have any ideas for the festival – you can contact the committee via Facebook, Twitter or www.westernparkbeerfestival.org – as can potential sponsors. Watch this space!

Lucy Eddowes

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April Police Update

With core crime such as the numbers of burglaries and robberies remaining at a low, March was still a busy month on the West Leicester NPA area; with a lot of good work being completed by officers.

One example was plain clothes officers from the Burglary Team operating near Henley Road spotted a male acting suspiciously near a property. Help was called in from the Fosse Ward and Road Policing Teams. The male was stopped and initially gave false details. However, if you're planning to try pull off this plan, it doesn't help if you have your own name tattooed onto your hand; which unfortunately for him I spotted. On checking his correct details, it turned out he was wanted for attempting to snatch a handbag on Western Boulevard and attempting to break into a house in 2016. We swiftly arrested him and took him for our investigation teams to have a recorded chat!

We had also received a number of anonymous letters from a concerned member of the public about a cannabis grow at an address on Glenfield Road. With excellent timing, we managed to attend the location as the grow was due for cropping; someone is going to be out of pocket!

The property was split into multi-occupancy flats, all of which had been stripped out and there were seven rooms filled with cannabis plants. Due to the electrical risk, we called Western Power to come to the address, who secured the supply to the property. It appeared that the growers were running a significant amount of electricity through a fuse of insufficient capacity, making the risk of fire damage highly likely. This adds to the relief that we found this cannabis grow when we did as, in a row of terraced property like this, the result could have been catastrophic. Therefore, if you have any suspicions about cannabis being grown at locations then please contact us; you could save a life.

Finally, we received a report of a road traffic collision on Mostyn Street, near to the Just-E-Bikes shop on Hinckley Road and that the individuals involved had run off. A dog unit attended and attempted to track the individuals to no avail. However, on subsequent checks of CCTV by the owner the next day, it appears that the vehicle had been driven into the shop repeatedly; indicating that the collision had been deliberate and that the individuals involved were trying to ram raid the shop.

A crime report has been created and is under investigation. If anyone has any further information in relation to this, then please contact 101 and quote reference number 17000118062.

Sgt Mike Hooper

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



With that well-known scientific genius Donald Trump deciding climate change is fake news, we can all rest easy knowing that living without a proper winter is "going to be so great!"

It's disturbing to hear of people who've been harvesting their asparagus since early March and seeing rapeseed fields already in flower for a month. This winter has been so mild and dry that winter-planted bare root shrubs have dried up before they were able to put on root.

Climate change will affect the crops we grow at home. A longer, warmer growing season may seem like a blessing but we'll have to plant earlier, water more and sow crops more tolerant of the changing conditions. Some crops may become the preserve of more northern areas, while commercial tea and olive plantations have already been set up in southern parts of Britain. In the past few years I've



seen crops of Kiwi and Passionfruit growing outdoors in Leicester.

Gardeners are busily sowing seeds for their vegetable gardens, but maybe it's worth considering crops better suited to the changing environment.

Why not try amaranthus as well as spinach, Chinese long beans as well traditional runners, and sweet potatoes alongside Maris Piper. Sowing earlier and succession sowing, in batches



say a fortnight apart, could help counter the effects of not only hotter weather but of the unpredictability that comes with climate change.

By now you should be planting your favourite brassicas, peas and beans, onions, and root vegetables. Why not try some of the wonderful Italian varieties, like Romanesco cauliflower, Florence fennel, Venetian celeriac or Cavolo nero kale, they may be more suited to our future climate. Whatever you grow, you'll need to water and mulch more and maintain a healthy water-retentive soil by using lots of compost.

Gardeners are an adaptive and resilient lot. I have every faith in our ability to cope with the folly of man and the ignorance of one man in particular.



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BRAIN TAZERS

1			2		3		4
5							
6							
7							

1 Across: Voyage **1 Down:** Lawfulness **2:** Small stringed instrument **3:** Spring task for birds
4: Damn Americans **5:** Cowboy hat **6:** List parts
7: Comes out

© Paul Towers

							3
5	3	4					8
		9		4		2	7
		3	9			2	
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	5				7	8	
	8	6		5		4	
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Are you holding an event?

Are you doing something special?

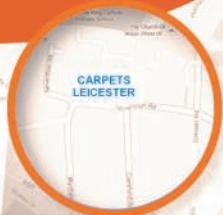
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