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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the April edition of the **Western Park Gazette**. It's been a month of recovery following harrowing scenes in the aftermath of the shop explosion. The site has been cleared and Hinckley Road has reopened to traffic. Life returns to normal as we await for the wheels of justice to grind along.

This month, friends of the Ragoobeer boys who died in the explosion held a charity match to raise money for the surviving members of the family. The Gazette's website got hacked and the historical archive, going back 9 years, was shredded. Not happy about that but we now have a brand new shiny website. It's bullet proof - allegedly. Helen Knott has a thing about custard (Don't know why - she just does). Our beer obsession continues as we headed to two local ale festivals in the area, which is just as well because Roger Blackmore takes us on a historical tour of long gone West End pubs. There are a few timely ideas to get your garden ready for the summer in Compost Corner and the Police at Hinckley Road have their monthly update.

And as always the crossword and sudoku on the inside back page.

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Events Diary

Fosse Coop Camera Club: Fri. St Peter's Ch Centre, Westholme St. 7.30pm. fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk

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 10-12 noon. St Anne's Hall.

Relaxed Dru Yoga Sessions with Emma: Sunday's Term time: 7.15 - 8.30pm. St Anne's Hall. 07393 811150.

Walking Group: Sundays. 2pm. 69 Deg. B-Gate.

Table Top Sale: 14 April. 10-2pm. Worship Centre, Kirby Road.

Upstairs At The Western in April 16th: Uncle Armando, 18th: Find the Right Words, 19th Funny Faces, 20th: Drag Queen Bingo, 24th: End of Year Showcase. 20th: What we Leave Behind, 27/28: Fat Jewels, 2 May: Elvis McGonigall & Support upstairsatthewestern.com

An Officer & A Gentleman: Curve: Until April 21st curveonline.com

Braunstone History Group Exhibit: 24 April 10am - 12 noon. The Stables Museum, Braunstone Park.

My Fair Lady 17- 21st April. Little Theatre.

Stand Up Comedy in Western Park: 21 April. Hall at St. Anne's. 7.30pm. Tickets from Eventbrite.

Jesus Jones: 28 April. Y Theatre. 8.00pm.

May the Fourth: 4th May. Nat Space Ctr. 7-11pm. (Star Wars fun for grown-ups)

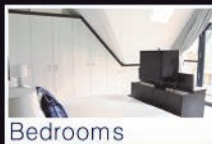
Glastonbudget: 25-27 May. glastonbudget.org

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WE GOT HACKED!

30,000 websites get hacked every day. On March 10th the Gazette's site became one of them following a sustained attack on our hosting platform.

The result was catastrophic. Not only did the website go down, hackers effectively destroyed nine years of historical archives. All the stories we have covered in 101 editions of the magazine; including hundreds of reviews and photographs, were butchered. Some of our pages gained thousands of unique visits and continued to be popular for years after they were posted. All of that is lost; including a record of unique views per page.

The site was backed-up and, after much difficulty, the historical archive database was recovered but is inaccessible. It's very costly to write the necessary software to capture the data and upload it to the new site, but I'm exploring ways of doing it without shouldering a large cost. In the meantime a new website was created and launched within two weeks by Western Park based company Virtual Venture.

This is a much more reactive and up-to-date site and works better on portable devices. We've re-loaded all the back issues of the Gazette as pdfs but sadly the historic story archive will remain stuck in the database for the time being.

It's still a work in progress but please visit our new website at: www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

Richard Perry



THE WESTERN PARK FLASHER

Police are urging Western Park users to be on their guard following two flashing incidents in March.

A man riding a bicycle approached the victims, exposed himself before riding off in the late afternoon of the 23rd and 29th March.

The suspect is described as a large white man in his twenties, around 5ft 8ins tall, with brown hair and stubble, wearing a dark green coat or hoodie. Police say the daytime incidents left the witnesses very upset and are urging anyone who falls victim to the man to contact them immediately.

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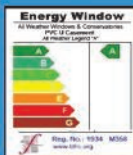
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WEST END PUBS

The pub has traditionally often played a significant role in the life of the local community. On significant occasions, such as weddings or funerals, the local pub can be the setting for the reception. In addition, traditional pub sports such as darts and snooker continue to thrive, whilst pub quizzes and live music have become increasingly popular in recent years.

Local pubs were relatively slow to become established in several parts of West Leicester, where covenants often restricted the sale of alcoholic beverages. However quite a number did get built in the Tudor Road area and around Braunstone Gate in the 19th century as well as other areas. Some like the Earl Howe Arms, now Mobius, are long gone.

Mr Crowhurst's alehouse on King Richards Road was always popular. Known locally as "Crowies" it became, and remains, the Crows Nest even though lacking in nautical connections.

Once located opposite the Crows Nest, the Richmond moved some years ago to a site on Hinckley Road but following a chequered history it eventually

morphed into the Chef and Spice restaurant. Interestingly the Shipstones pub which once stood at the junction was only licensed to serve beers and wines and not spirits!

Many pubs, like the Shipstones, have disappeared over the years, including the Blue Moon on Carlisle Street and the Bosworth which was to become Mick & Dens' furniture shop. One survivor over many years is the Sir Charles Napier on Glenfield Road. It is named after the British General who once sent the shortest telegram in history to the Foreign Office containing the single Latin word: "Pecavi", literally translated as "I have sinned". Sir Charles was cleverly conveying the news of his capture of the Indian territory of Scind.

Quite which King the Merry Monarch was named after I am not certain but Charles the Second is a distinct possibility rather than the less merry Richard the Third despite the latter's association with the district.

Some pubs have burst into new life regardless of gloomy headlines about pub closures. In our area these include the Western now enjoying some success along with its theatre!

It is not possible in a short article of this kind to deal with all the public houses past and present which have served our area but I hope the jottings included here are of interest to Gazette readers.

Roger Blackmore



Earl Howe Arms



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KNOTT'S LANDING

Custard is explosive stuff. Seriously! I once had a caller on a radio show who told me in great detail that his job was to prevent explosions in the Birds Custard factory in Birmingham. For the record it happens when cornflour and sugar is allowed to billow as a fine dust which, if ignited in a confined space, will explode. Who knew that this sweet, yellow, viscous liquid could cause so many problems. Who knew it would make ME want to explode? To be fair, it's not the custard that's the problem. It's the restaurants and cafes of the world who should heed the following.

Bob runs a restaurant.

Bob serves crumble and custard in his restaurant.

Bob knows that people who order crumble and custard are looking for a hit of comfort and home. Bob knows that if he screws up his simple, honest, crumble and custard, people will notice, and they will think badly of him and not visit his establishment again.

Bob never screws up the custard.



Be like Bob.

There is just no excuse for calamitous custard. It's not hard to make. If you are really lazy or pressed for time then you can buy it in cartons from your restaurant suppliers. It won't taste great but they will deliver it to your door in whichever style you fancy, tinned custard style or crème anglais! All you have to do is heat it up. See those three little words. HEAT...IT...UP.

Three different restaurants have tortured me recently by serving me crap custard.

At the first restaurant I experienced cold tinned custard which had clearly just been flung in a jug in the microwave and nuked for too little time. I sent it back. They handed my dessert back to me with hot custard round the edges in a darker crust. Microwave 1 Helen 0.

At the next restaurant the custard came in a tiny little jug that held about a spoonful. It was the crème anglais style custard (with the vanilla flecks in it) and IT WAS COLD. If you have custard you a) WANT IT HOT and b) want your dessert to swim in it! I ended up sticking my little finger into the jug to help the dregs of the custard onto my pudding. I have no shame.

Third restaurant, I managed to get hot custard on a pudding... BUT IT WAS BURNT.

Kill me now.

© Helen Knott

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CHEERS FOR THE BEERS!

The theory that West Leicester has become a magnet for lovers of locally produced ales was proved again by two very successful local beer festivals.

Ever since the launch of the Western Park Beer Festival in 2015 and the opening of the West End Brewery on Braunstone Gate the following year, a band of ever growing real ale and craft beer fans have enthusiastically downed thousands of locally brewed pints.

The figures for March's Pop-up Pub, held at St Anne's Hall, over a 6 hour period are astounding. 1000 pints guzzled back, 150 glasses of fizz, 60 G&Ts and 40 glasses of wine.

Organiser Cat Turnall said:

"We made a profit of £1,000 which will go towards our charity or charities of choice. We will be deciding which local causes to back at our next meeting. The £1,000 will be added to the profit we make at the beer festival this September and will then be divided between our shortlist."

Beer festival chairman Matt Pearce said: "We

would like to say thank you to the people who came



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down and made the night what it was a fun event which raised a grand for local causes.

We hope to see you all again at our annual charity beer festival on Friday, September 14 and Saturday, September 15."



K-C Photography

The beer didn't stop flowing as the West End Brewery celebrated their second birthday with a weekend festival. Brewer Josh Grey said. "It was a very busy weekend. We had an extensive beer list from some of the country's best breweries and it got drunk dry.

"The WEB was the first brew-pub in Leicester and it's really taken off; our beer fests are always popular. Now we're installing a bigger brewery to meet demand so there'll be even more choice."

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Groups are run by parents and children and all are encouraged to contribute and help.

Our indoor meeting place (Term Time) is at Folville Junior School, Folville Rise, Leicester, LE3 1EE

on Wednesdays at 18:30 until 20.00.

We really hope to welcome some new members to enjoy all the outdoor sessions we have planned for the summer term, so please do get in touch!

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Mr Barton has suffered with a hearing loss since the young age of 8 years old, so has been using hearing aids for most of his childhood and adult life.

Just before Christmas he accidentally dropped his hearing aids in the toilet (we are almost all guilty of dropping objects such as mobile phones down the loo). Panicking on how he would manage to carry on through his day to day life without his hearing aids, he used some 15 years old NHS hearing aids that have been in the draw to see him through- unfortunately having no luck, continuing to struggle.

Hear4u ordered Mr Barton some Unitron Moxi Fit 600 as requested by the customer. These were received next day and Mr Barton was booked in for a home visit delivery as soon as possible.

Our fantastic audiologist arrived at Mr Barton's house prompt with all the equipment needed, including his new hearing aids!

Paris professionally fitted the hearing aids and made sure Mr Barton was comfortable with the fit and settings of the aid. From the moment of the hearing aids being switched on Mr Barton said he could hear his wife talking to the dog in the kitchen. Mr Barton had not heard certain sounds for a long time, for example if people are in a different room having a conversation. He could also hear the wind and the rain on the

conservatory roof- again something he could not hear with his old hearing aids.

Mr Barton was delighted he was receiving his new hearing aids in the comfort of his own home, not having to go outside of his comfort zone or worrying how he will travel to his appointment. Paris was very thorough explaining procedures and the technology of the hearing aid, for example; how the hearing aids work, plus how to change wax traps, batteries, domes and what is included in the Hear4u package.

Mr Barton is over the moon with his hearing aids, how they fit, how they look- they are smaller, sleeker and better sounding compared to his old hearing aids.



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FOOTBALL FUNDRAISER

An Easter Monday football match in memory of three family members who died in February's Hinckley Road shop explosion has raised £6344.

The game at New College was organised by team mates of Shane Ragoobeer who died alongside his brother Sean, their mother Mary and Shane's girlfriend Leah Reek. Viktorija Ijevleva who was working in the store also died.

Goalkeeper Shane was a keen player for Allextown and New Parks FC and his friends were determined to pay tribute to the Ragoobeer family and raise money for surviving members, Dad Jose and brother Scotty.

After a minute's silence, Shane's team took on Sean's friends beating them 8-1.

Over 500 people attended paying £3.00 on the gate to watch the game which was played in the lads' favourite team strips.



Three men charged with five counts of manslaughter following investigations into the Hinckley Road shop explosion have entered not guilty pleas. They also pleaded not guilty to separate arson and fraud charges. The prosecution allege petrol was spread throughout the shop before the explosion.

Arkan Ali, Hawkar Hassan and Aram Kurd, were remanded in custody until August 31st.

Inquests into the deaths of the five victims has been opened and adjourned.

A 90-minute public service for Mary, Shane and Sean Ragoobeer will be held in the morning at Leicester Cathedral on Friday April 20.

20MPH LIMIT - VIEWS SOUGHT

Consultants Arcadis are starting a feasibility study on implementing a 20mph speed limit for the Letchworth Road and Doveland's Primary School areas.

Arcadis invites you to a walk-in meeting on Wednesday 25th April 2018 in New College Leicester (6.30 - 9.00pm) to share your views.

Representatives will be available with Arcadis staff helping to capture views and ideas on a location map. If you can't attend in person but would still like to contribute please email:

LetchworthDoveland's20mph@arcadis.com



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April Police Update

The police have handed over the explosion site on Hinckley Road to Leicester city council who are in the process of making the area safe along with utility companies. We cannot thank the local community enough for pulling together and supporting the families involved and emergency services during this difficult time.

A 21 year old motorist from Western Park who deliberately hit a woman and a child has been jailed for a minimum of twenty years. Paul Moore from Letchworth Road was also banned from driving for life. An investigation was launched after a series of incidents involving a car were reported in quick succession on the 20th September.

The incident has been recorded as a race and religiously motivated hate crime. Detective Chief Inspector Rob Widdowson said: "We take any incident of hate crime incredibly seriously and a significant number of resources were involved in the investigation and subsequent conviction of this individual who does not reflect the people who live in our diverse and cohesive communities."

We are suffering a rise in theft of motor vehicles. Electronic devices are being used to trick newer vehicles into thinking the real key is present. Please take necessary steps to protect your vehicle with steering locks and alarms.

Shops burglaries are on the rise along the Narborough Road corridor again. Entry is being forced by smashing the front windows with cash tills and charity boxes being targeted. Shop owners are urged to look out for each other, install good quality CCTV, bank cash and hide charity boxes.

Westcotes has suffered a rise in burglary dwellings with the majority of properties being left insecure. Please lock your doors and close windows. Do not give these opportunist burglars an easy ride. Challenge your neighbours to do the same to prevent you becoming a victim of crime.

Officers have worked tirelessly with partners and a landlord to evict troublesome occupants causing anti-social behaviour from a property on Westcotes Drive. This property is now unoccupied and Sitexed (Metal security screens put over doors and windows). We will continue to patrol this location and are already receiving positive feedback from the community.

Finally, police officers have now been issued with spit guards. The message is clear. If you spit at an officer, you will wear a spit guard. This has been publicised recently and more information can be found on the police website including a video showing the guard being fitted.

Please feel free to stop and talk to any of our officers about what matters to you. Not all issues are a police matter but we will do our best to address your concerns or point you in the right direction.

Sgt Chris Schofield

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



With a tonne of chocolate eggs well and truly digested and the winter 'theoretically' over, it's time to pull on the wellies and get stuck into the garden for a spot of prep work.

Before starting anything, check out your tools. The cold weather has a habit of encouraging rust especially if tools have been left in a damp shed over the winter. A good clean, a hone where necessary and a dab of oil is all you need to keep them going for years.

With the warming weather the grass grows faster so, if you haven't already, it's time for the first cut. Obviously, the drier the better but get it down to a couple of centimetres and keep on top of it every two weeks increasing through the summer to once a week if necessary. Don't forget to reseed or re-turf those bare patches!

A weed is simply a plant in the wrong place - and it's impossible to stop them colonising bare patches of soil. They can survive for years in the ground without germinating. Weeding is a never ending chore and there's nothing for it but to get on hands and knees with a knife and a trowel and start tug-

ging. Adding extra plants to your borders can fill up space and prevent some of their evil weediness. Try and avoid herbicides unless you're stuck with something really invasive like bindweed and don't forget to check any new plants for unwanted seeds as there's a chance they've hitched a ride from the garden centre. Other measures like edging boards and root barriers might be called for if you're turning weeding into an obsession or you've got real problems with bamboo or brambles.

Sowing can start in April. Plants and vegetables thrive as long as the ground is warm and moist. Beds should be dug over, weeded and covered to warm them up. It is possible to sow seeds in their growing place if you don't have a greenhouse.

If you're after a splash of vibrant colour how about planting some summer flowering English Lavender (*L. angustifolia*)? These are ideal for borders and hedging. It smells wonderful and is British weather bullet proof as it can stand temperatures as low as -15 Celsius.

J. Greasley





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BRAIN TAZERS

1		2		3		4
5						
6						
7				8		

1 Across: From Madrid **1 Down:** Pilfer colloquially **2:** Run away **3:** Peninsular which includes Andorra **4:** Social media keyword identifier **5:** Solutions **6:** Flower seller **7:** Finale. **8:** Beverage made from beaten eggs.

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

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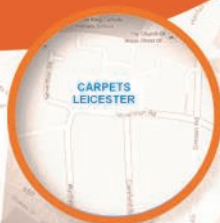
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