

UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES



UNDER THE ARCHES WITH WESTEND'S FEMALE ARTISTS

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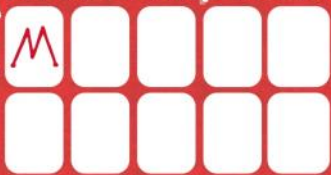
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Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the Western Park Gazette.

In this issue a new, if ultimately temporary, arts space on Bede Street played host to a group of talented female artists in April and we meet the woman behind it all. Now that the local elections are done and dusted, what will the future hold for the old Western Park Golf Course? The plans to turn it into a housing and industrial development, haven't gone down well, but the future of the land seems set.

In our regular features, Carey Tunstall has advice on preparing the garden for spring, Sergeant Lee Cannings, from the Local Policing Unit, takes over the Policing Update with news about their current activities in the area and Project Hive have a few things planned to raise more money over the coming months including the legendary Scarecrow Trail later in the year.

And we keep the little grey cells lubricated with the Brain Tazers on the inside back page.

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Events Diary

Free Thurs Club: 2pm. **Meet & Eat:** Weds 5pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narborough Rd.

Fosse Camera Club: For details visit Facebook page or fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk

Hall @ St Anne's, Letchworth Rd: Knit & Natter: 1.30pm, 4th Tues. **Weds Club:** 2.30pm, 1st Weds.

Musical Memory Box: 1st Tues 2pm **Pram Club:** Weds 9.15-11.30am. **Women's Taekwondo:** Thurs 8-9pm taekwondo4all.com **Fri Coffee Morn:** 10am

Free Tea/Coffee @ St Paul's Worship Ctr / Community Hub, Kirby Rd Weds, 2- 4pm. T-Top sale. 2nd Sat.

Family Friends: Mondays - term time. 10-11.30am NP Methodist Ch. Call Sarah 07465 431 585.

Free drop-in Coffee Morns: Tues. 10-12 noon. St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Glenfield Rd East.

@Curve: 42nd Street (Musical) 17 May-3 June.

@DM Hall: Tom Allen 11 May. Thank You For The Music 13 May. Midge Ure 24 May.

@Little Th: Ghost The Musical: 16-20 May.

Y Theatre: An Evening With Marty Pellow 7 May.

Matilda 24/25 May. **Mother Goose (Adult)** 27 May.

Upstairs@thewestern: Date Night 10 May. **Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde** 12 May.

Bike Fest: 27 May, 24 June, 29 July, 26 Aug, 30 Sept, 28 Oct. (1-4pm) New College. Free event.

Glastonbudget: 26-28 May. Wymeswold.

Riverside Festival: 3/4 June.

Western Park Open Gardens: 10/11 June.

Western Park Festival: Sat 22nd July.

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UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES

It may have looked like a disorganised dumping ground last year but for now another blue brick archway on Bede Street, off Braunstone Gate, is the home to a unique local arts project.

It's the brainchild of Westcotes based artist Traci Howard, who has converted the archway next to the Braunstone Gate Community Garden into thriving arts space. She said: "At the beginning of September last year, I began tidying it up. Whenever a pair of arms passed by, I would ask for large items to be hauled into position. Friends came and helped too.

"I didn't have a vision of what I wanted it to look like, I just knew I wanted to create an inviting community space where adults and children would feel inspired and welcome.

"I opened it up in October along with a suggestion box for ideas as to what to do with the space.

"So far we've had a party, a willow weaving workshop, kids' playgroup sessions and a wonderful exhibition."

The latest exhibition on 16th of April came about after a chance meeting between Traci and another artist, Marian Lovelock, who was doing an arts course at De Montfort University. Between them they hatched a plan to hold an all female art exhibition in the archway.

The four featured artists are all studying Fine Art at DMU.

Traci continued: "It was a great exhibition in derelict surroundings. Where once boats would dock and unload onto carts pulled by horses, we were now bringing it back to life.

"Ninety-one people crossed the threshold and were inspired by these brilliant local artists."

Artists were: Marian Lovelock (Collage photos & textures), Toni Kazaeli (Creative photography), Isabelle Wilebore (Finer artist), Madeline Warner (Creative photography).

Contact FB Braunstone Gate Archway
Email: tracitheartist@gmail.com



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BANDS IN THE PARK BACK FOR 2023

Come down to Western Park and soak up the sounds of some incredible live music performances! This year's line-up features some of the coolest local bands who are sure to get your toes tapping and your heart racing.

Get ready to experience the sounds of the Charnwood Concert Band who will be playing a blend of well-known classical pieces, light music, movie and TV themes, and swing.

If you're in the mood for some brass, don't miss out on the energetic beats of the Ratby Crescendo Band who will have you moving and shaking from the first note.

If you're a fan of Cool Swing, you won't want to miss Peter Crebbin & His Cool Swing Band playing Swing, Jazz, Standards, Latin, Pop & Classical, into their now trademark: Swing style - Cool!

All our bands showcase the best local talent, so come out and support your local community while enjoying some fantastic music. Grab a picnic blanket, bring your friends and family, and make a day of it at our local park!

Whether you're young or young at heart, our diverse line-up is designed to cater to everyone. So put the dates on your calendar and come on down to the park, to soak up the sounds, sights, and good vibes of the music community. We can't wait to see you there!

SCHEDULE

Sunday 14th May - Charnwood Concert Band - 3pm - 4pm *

Sunday 18th June - Ratby Crescendo Band - 3pm - 4pm *

Sunday 6th August - Peter Crebbin & His Cool Swing Band - 3pm - 4pm **

PRAISE ON THE PARK

Will be held on Sunday 3rd September from St Anne's Church - 4pm - 5.15pm

* Leicester city council funded

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Peter Crebbin & His Cool Swing Band

WESTERN PARK OPEN GARDENS 2023

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WESTERN PARK GOLF COURSE

By now, the local election will be well and truly over, bar the grumbling, and things will have either changed or not.

One of the big issues in and around Western Park and New Parks, is the future of the old Western Park Golf Course on Scudamore Road.

The cost cutting closure on October 31st 2015 was an unpopular decision for many, but in spite of a concerted campaign by objectors, the 105 year old course was still shut.

Speaking back in 2015, Martin Cobb who was the Vice Captain of the golf club and a member of the development committee, tasked with creating a sustainable survival strategy to save the course, said they had done their best to provide a feasible plan, but the council would not budge:



WP Golf Course in 2015

"Over the years the course has suffered from a chronic lack of investment which caused a dip in membership but the closure will mean there's no accessible course in the area."

Since the closure the area has become a haven for flora and fauna and is now a very popular location for dogwalkers, joggers and those just wanting to enjoy nature without leaving the city.

The site has been earmarked for development in Leicester's Local Plan, which serves as a blueprint for the city's growth over the next few years. Contained within it is the proposal to build over 400 homes, 50 acres of factory units, a recycling centre and travellers pitches; potentially linking Glenfield to Scudamore Road.

The plan has many local objectors who want the land to remain a green haven, far away from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Petitions have been started and demonstrations made, but the council is faced with an increasing demand for housing as it struggles to meet a 39000+ government set target for new homes.

Local parties in the May 4th election have diverse views about the golf course's future. Labour are stuck between a rock and hard place trying to provide a massive housing and infrastructure boost without upsetting even more people, The Conservatives want to tear up the Leicester Local Plan and go back to the drawing board and the Lib Dems say there should be more local consultations. The other parties don't directly address concerns.

Whatever the future holds for the former golf course, it's unlikely it will be the green and pleasant oasis of calm it is now.

RP

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Something To Sprout About!

If you're a member of Leicester Libraries, you can pick up free packets of seeds as well as the latest blockbuster this spring.

With the help of The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), The city's libraries are offering their members three packets of vegetable seeds from their Seed Library while stocks last.

Just contact your local library and choose any three of the following seeds; beet-root, climbing French beans, fenugreek, mixed lettuce and spinach beet, which can all be planted now:

In the autumn - the selection will include broad beans, leaf coriander, lamb's lettuce, mixed baby leaf salad and radishes.

"These seeds can be grown in pots on a window ledge or in a tub in the yard, so you don't need a huge amount of outdoor space to have a go at growing your own veg." said Daxa Ralhan from Leicester City Council's public health team.

"We've got 3,000 packets of seeds to give away to library members, which will give people access to fresh salad and vegetables at little cost to themselves.



"With food prices soaring, there's never been a better time to grow your own vegetables."

To reserve their seeds, library members, who live in the city of Leicester, should call **(0116) 299 5401** or visit their local library to place their order. Seeds can then be collected from members' chosen libraries.

To find out how to join Leicester's libraries, search the city council's website leicester.gov.uk



LETTER BOX

Dear Editor (RE: Perceived lack of street cleaning in Westcotes Drive in Feb letters)

I live on the next road, and totally agree - I have reported this to the council several times via their website and to Biffa, who assure me they don't drop any litter on days of collection.

I have also requested street cleaning and that the drains get unblocked from all the leaves which fall; this rarely gets done these days. I have recently had an email from the council saying that have done this which they clearly haven't, as I walked up my road and noticed the drains are still blocked.

I also feel embarrassed on living in this area of Leicester now - It's awful!

LC

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PROJECT

hive Update

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

Over the last few months we have been working away on the boring nuts and bolts stuff. It isn't easy to make this sound exciting in a regular magazine column, but at last we have something exciting to talk about!

This September 2nd and 3rd Western Park will be invaded! The Western Park Scarecrow Trail will be returning for an amazing fifth year with the theme being "Out Of This World".

We can't run this event without your support so please, get your thinking caps on and start dreaming up some cosmic ideas. We plan to operate from the regular places on either side of Hinckley Road along with plenty of other stops along the way. Registration will be opening towards the end of May, details of how you can take part will be published through our social media.

Find out more at our website wwce.org.uk or on Facebook @wwceleicester



Project Hive is looking for a member of the community to join our group in voluntary role as **Secretary**. We need someone who is organised, with strong communication skills and, above all, is passionate about our project.

The role of will involve:

Co-preparation of the agenda for meetings and keeping members informed of dates, times and venues for meetings

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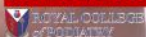
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April/May Police Update

I would normally mention the good work carried out by the local neighbourhood team who predominantly cover this area, however it would be remiss of not to pay thanks to the Police Officers and PCSO's who have continued to patrol over the last month to support the community.

As a result, there have been numerous vehicle checks which have resulted in the arrest of those drink driving, having no drivers licence or insurance and being taken to court, as well as their vehicles being taken away.

Continuing the proactive theme, we have carried out stop searches which have resulted in the seizure of drugs. Drugs continue to be a concern raised by the community and as such we take positive action to identify those using and supplying these substances.

A car was stopped with a large amount of cannabis and money following Officers patrols. The driver has subsequently been arrested for supply of cannabis, drug driving and possession of criminal property. They have been released on bail pending enquiries, without their money back!

We are still actively identifying those properties responsible for growing cannabis in the area. I would encourage the public to report any suspicious activity, properties or persons involved in this behaviour by calling 101 or reporting it online at Leicester Police. It is only through working together will we make a substantial impact on those responsible.

There has been an upsurge of thefts from motor vehicles in the city. Thankfully we have not yet seen this so much here which is either due to lazy criminals or because you are all taking care not to leave property in vehicles or unlocked. Unfortunately we have received reports of more car break-ins and thefts in the Westcotes area.

Detectives are appealing for public help and dashcam footage in establishing how two men came to suffer serious stab wounds on Thursday 20th April.

Following initial enquiries, it was found that both men had been at an address in Andrewes Walk (Off King Richards Road) prior to making their way to hospital on foot.

The following night, a 35-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, and a 39-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm with intent. Both have since been released on police bail pending further enquiries. A 63-year-old woman was also arrested in connection with the incident and was released on bail.

Please quote incident 237 of 20th April.

Sgt. Lee Cannings

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



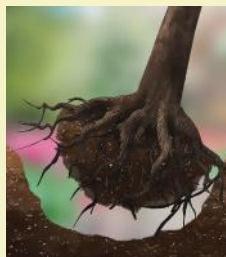
I think that spring is the most exciting time in the gardening calendar; everything is growing, putting on new shoots and we are now able to see which plants have survived the harsh winter!

I've been tying in my clematis as they are growing really well, and I don't want the new shoots to get damaged or snap off. I've been doing the same with my climbing roses too, whilst checking for black spot and fertilising them. As long as there is new growth at the base of my pen-stemon plants, I've been severely trimming back, otherwise I've been pruning them back to the first set of leaves on the old growth. Once my primroses have stopped flowering, I'll divide them to create an even better display next year. Speaking of which, I have been removing spent flower heads of tulips and daffodils. This will help them to flower well next year. If you leave them on, the bulb wastes energy trying to produce seed so I leave any leaves to die back naturally as this does nourish each of the bulbs.



Now is the time to divide hostas, which can improve growth and provide free plants for elsewhere in the garden or to gift to friends.

It's also a good time to move small trees and shrubs. I've moved a few that I realised were in the wrong place last year. When moving trees, it's a good idea to try and dig out the largest root ball that you can, this gives the tree a better chance of survival.



Place fresh compost in the hole where you would like to place it and fertilise two weeks later.

It's a good idea to keep an eye on the weather and water patio pots as they can quickly become dry. I try and incorporate water retaining crystals to help with moisture levels and always add crystals if I'm repotting or planting a new plant into a pot. I've also been putting my remaining homemade compost around trees, shrubs, and perennials as a mulch, which also helps reduce moisture evaporation. In addition, I've been busy pruning back cornus, buddleja and hydrangeas (to the first set of buds whilst trying to keep a nice shape). And I've been trimming my lavenders, rosemary and sage, making sure that I don't cut back into the woody parts of the plant.

Carey Tunstall

Martin Page

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BRAIN TAZERS

1		2		3		4
5						
6			7			
8						

1 Across: Very April **1 Down:** Teeny, tiny winged beings **2D:** 4 yearly games **3D:** Against the law **4D:** PC Burglars **5A:** Pastoral **6A:** Little devil **7A:** Half a horse **8A:** To nurse. © Paul Towers 2023

Answers at w:westernparkgazette.co.uk

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

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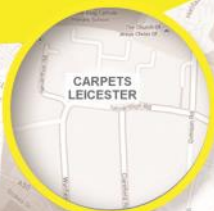
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