



# LOOKING GOOD!

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## Hello From The Editor

**Welcome to the August issue of the Western Park Gazette!**

This month, the flowers are out along the Hinckley Road parade and along Woodgate as local traders and residents got together to improve the area. It seems Western Park Golf Course's days are numbered as the city council says it could close next October, but local golfers aren't going down quietly and a west Leicester born composer could be hitting the big-time in New York.

Our local history buff and Rambler, of the walking variety, Roger Blackmore peers into the National Forest, Helen Knott treks to the O2 to see the very last Monty Python's Flying Circus show and very nearly doesn't make it. That is her theory, which is her theory and nobody else's... ahem.

Our Garden Guru, Tony Huxley wonders why so many of us don't pick our own garden flowers, Rod Smart from Hinckley Road police station has the update on local crime and their latest arrests and the centre pages are full of info from the De Montfort University's Square Mile Programme.

Of course, the Brain Tazers lurk at the back.

If you have a local story or event to publicise drop a line to: [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk) Visit [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk) or follow us on Twitter @mygazette and Facebook by searching for the Western Park Gazette.

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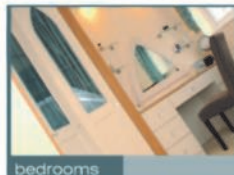
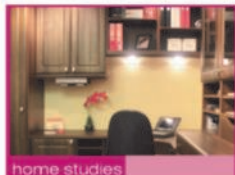


# Events Diary

**Fosse Singers:** Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm.  
**International Folk Dancing:** Monthly 2nd & 4th Fri. St. Anne's Hall. 2-4pm. T: Geoff on 0116 285 8352.  
**Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band:** 1st Sun Monthly. Café Chino at Hilton Hotel, Meridian. 1-3.30pm.  
**Until 24<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Ride Leic Fest. W.leicester.go.uk/cycle-city  
**19<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Children's crafts. Gorse Hill City Farm. 10.30 & 4.30pm. £1 per child.  
**19<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Children's seaside crafts. Abbey Pumping St. 11am. £2 per child.  
**20<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Summer Reading Challenge. Westcotes Library. 10.30am. Free.  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Aug:** Cosmopolitan Carnival. Jubilee Sq. From 2pm. Free.  
**24<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Sports Fest. Humberstone Gate. Free.  
**24<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Sky Ride. 10-4pm. W.goskyride.com/leicester  
**25<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Leic Castle Open Day. 11-3pm. Free.  
**25<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Old Town Fest. Jubilee Sq. 11-5pm. Free.  
**25<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Belgrave Mela. City centre. Free.  
**25<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Gladiators Training & Battle. From 11.30.  
**30<sup>th</sup> Aug:** Comedy of Errors. Outdoor at Jewry Wall Mus. 7.30pm. Free.  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sept:** St. Anne's Praise in the Park. Western Park. 4-5.30pm.  
*Email events to: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk*

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# LOOKING GOOD!

The shopping parades on Hinckley Road and Woodgate have got that summer feeling as hanging baskets and flower fountains exploded into colour.

The Hinckley Road shops (Western Park Row Traders) managed to secure £747 from the Ward budget with the remainder put in by Sunshine Studios.

The flowers outside the Resources Centre and along Woodgate were organised by the Woodgate Residents Association. There are twenty one shops and houses participating with a total of sixty baskets plus extra planters at the front of the Resources Centre. They have also replanted nine large concrete planters outside the old Premier Screw site which are due to be painted in the next couple of weeks.

Funding for this has come from the Lottery through the Awards for All programme, De Montfort University's Square Mile Project and Leicester

City Council and the Royal Horticultural Society's "It's Your neighbourhood" Programme.

The association believes this has greatly improved the main street of Woodgate and has received many positive compliments from residents and those using the Woodgate Resources Centre and local shops.



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# National Forest

It is now almost twenty years since the formation of the National Forest Company. It was several years before, that the idea of a national forest began to take shape, given impetus by the closure of so many pits in the Derbyshire and Leicestershire coalfield.

The achievements of the past twenty years have been pretty impressive. The planting of 8 million new trees is in itself quite a feat. At least two major visitor attractions have also put the area well and truly on the tourist map. The idea of a National Arboretum commemorating those who gave their lives in so many conflicts has now really taken shape near Alrewas in Staffordshire and has been attracting sizeable crowds all summer long. Conkers, on the site of the former Rawdon Pit near Moira, has become a firm favourite, particularly with families.

Trees of course do not spring up overnight but a comparison between an up to date Ordnance Survey map and one published a few years back



will really show the progress being made, if one looks for example at the area around Bagworth or Battram Wood (Near Ibstock off the A447). Many of these new plantations are by private individuals but there has also been a useful degree of input by local authorities, bodies such as the Woodland Trust and Severn Trent Water, and support from a whole range of voluntary organizations.

The Forestry Centre at Rosliston just across the border in Derbyshire, and which also boasts an excellent cafe, is one not to be missed.

Places such as Bradgate Park and Thornton Reservoir, both within the boundaries of the National Forest, will be familiar to most city residents. Other sites such as Moira Furnace and some reopened northern stretches of the Ashby Canal are a little further afield.

Walkers and Ramblers are faced with a wide range of attractive paths throughout the forest, including a section of the 100 mile Leicestershire Round which runs over Charnwood Forest. Most recently the National Trust has bought Gimson's Stoneywell Cottage, near Ulverscroft, which is being opened to visitors.

It really is great to have such an interesting new creation on our doorstep.

*Roger Blackmore*

Find out more: [www.nationalforest.org](http://www.nationalforest.org)

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## KNOTT'S LANDING

Monty Python has always had a special place in my heart so when it was announced that they would be reforming and playing a run of gigs this summer wild horses couldn't have kept me away.

I say that; they had a damn good go at keeping me separate from the Spanish Inquisition in so many ways. My first hurdle was to actually get my hands on tickets which required a great deal of patience and sitting around at the computer feverishly hitting buttons and some cursing which would have made my fisherman uncle proud. Selling out in a few seconds is all well and good for the artist but it makes life difficult for anyone trying to get hold of tickets. I failed for Kate Bush! Finally, when the last dates were announced, I got my tickets.



So we were guaranteed seats at the very last Monty Python gig! Now we just had to get there. Simple right? Oh no. We left in plenty of time with a half formed plan to have a meal and do a bit of shopping before going to the O2. Halfway down the M1 a light came on the dashboard. By the time we got to the M25 it had all gone wrong. The power steering died and as we joined the M25 the electrics were coming on and off. I sat in the front seat shouting at my beloved that if he pulled off into the services we would be divorcing. We ended up just off a roundabout in the carpark of a McDonalds with an RAC man and my dearly beloved under the bonnet using impolite language as they wrestled to get an accessory belt onto the car.

Needless to say we prevailed and we arrived in the car park at the O2 at 6.50pm with just ten minutes to get into our seats. Two rows in front a group of Knights sat ready. A family of Gumbys took their seats at one end of our row. Down in the expensive seats the Spanish Inquisition grew in size and there were Australians in cork hats everywhere. The man next to us looked sad. I asked him if he was ready to enjoy himself. He said "Not really". It turns out he was there as chauffeur for his wife and had never seen an episode. A conversation killer if ever there was one. I went back to my fever of anticipation.

The house lights came down and four old men did a lot of sitting in chairs and making us laugh. We laughed a lot. You had to be there. I'm glad we made it.



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**Fosse Cllrs Surgery:** Monthly, 2nd Sat, 10.30-11.30 at Woodgate Residents Association. No surgery in August.

**Westcotes Cllrs Surgeries:** Westcotes Library, 1st Sat each month, 10.30 - 11.30am and 4th Fri each month, 10am-11am. Manor House Neighbourhood Centre, 2nd Friday every month, 10-11am.

**Western Park Cllrs Surgery:** Monthly-2nd Weds St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 7-8.00pm.

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

*Meet your local councillors and find out what's going on in our area.*

### **Western Park**

**Tues 7th Oct 2014** at 7pm St. Paul's & St. Augustine's Worship Centre, Kirby Road.

### **Westcotes**

**Tues 9th Sept 2014** at 7pm. The East West Community Project, Wilberforce Road.

### **Fosse**

**4th Sept 6.00pm. & 3rd Dec** from 6.00pm.  
Venue To be confirmed.

## **Car Con Man Jailed**

**A man from Tetuan Road has been locked up for 13 months for his involvement in a car sales scam.**

32 year old Adam Pinchess rinsed £14,400, from the con, through his bank account.

The scam which involved a fictitious garage in Inverness offering cars for sale in Auto Trader; duped customers into handing over large amounts of money up front for non-existent vehicles.

Four victims lost up to £1000 each with a fifth losing his whole £10,500 payment. Pinchess was arrested after being traced by his bank account details which had been given to the victims.

At Leicester Crown Court he admitted five counts of possessing criminal property and pleaded guilty to two offences of failing to appear in court.

During sentencing, Judge Lynn Tayton said: "People lost substantial amounts. There was no company and no vehicles... You provided the bank account into which the payments were made... You say a traveller was the main protagonist and you kept 10 per cent, £1,440".

In mitigation, Olwen Davis said: "A number of people have been prosecuted in these circumstances & travellers are a theme that runs through all five of these similar cases... It was when he was down on his luck that he fell into temptation".



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## Cosmopolitan Carnival Workshops

**During the summer holidays, we want to create a large Chinese Dragon with your help!**

As part of the Cosmopolitan Carnival on the 23rd August in Leicester, the Confucius Institute at De Montfort University is to join the parade in a vibrant celebration of culture.

We want to invite school children to help create the dragon on DMU campus on 19th, 21st and 22nd August from 10am-3pm, where lunch and refreshments will also be provided. All participants would need to be available on the 23rd to take part in the parade to showcase their creativity.

The workshops will be free of charge and are most suitable for children aged 7 and older. There are limited spaces available and they will be offered on a first come first served basis.



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# Western Park Golf Club

## STILL OPEN & THE FIGHT GOES ON

West Leicester's golfers are up in arms following the likely closure of Western Park Golf Course in October 2015 as part of cost saving measures.

City Mayor Sir Peter Soubry made the proposal following a three month consultation over the future of Leicester's two municipal golf courses. He cited the £126,000 subsidy cost as the reason for Western Park's closure but promised investment in the remaining Humberstone Heights course.



The decision has already had a dramatic effect on the Western Park club's membership. Hugh Linden who runs the bar and catering said: "People think the course is closed now. It isn't but we lost 60 members when the announcement was made."

"It's another knife into the coffin but we've got a members' AGM to boost support and we'll try and persuade him to have a change of heart".

Club committee members have had several meetings with Sir Peter, answering his questions and trying to hammer out ways to save money. Suggestions included helping with general course maintenance and a plan to lower prices.

Hugh Linden added: "Some courses have special rates and our T-off times aren't competitive. Make it cheaper and they'll be an influx. This is one of the best courses in Leicester and we have to increase numbers".

Veteran player Stuart Thornley added that the real problem has been lack of investment: "We've only had basic maintenance over the years. This should be the jewel in the crown - not shut".

The council have launched a second consultation to seek views on the closure of the Western Park course whilst investing in Humberstone Heights.

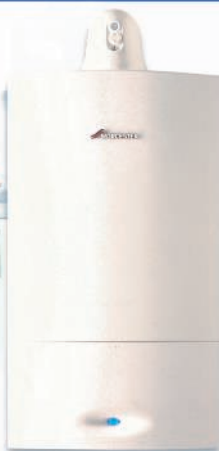
Questionnaires are available until October 24th from city council sports facilities and on line at [www.leicester.gov.uk/golf-proposal](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/golf-proposal)



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# Make a Splash!

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## Letter Box



I have enjoyed reading the Gazette over the last couple of years and have recently moved onto Letchworth Rd, on the side of the schools.

I noticed an article in the June issue where Helen Knott wrote with regards to the nuisance of motor and quad bikes in the park.

I myself had reported this previously and last night had the misfortune of doing the same again as about 4 motorbikes and 2 quad bikes blasted past us whilst walking in the park, then to add insult to injury upon returning home, one of the motorbikes and a quad decided it was perfectly acceptable to ride up the pavement on Letchworth Road.

I didn't know if there is anyway of highlighting this in the Gazette again? The more local residents that complain about it the more likely it is the police will put a stop to it. I'm sure it's just a small group of morons that need to be stopped.

Paul K.

Email comments to:

[editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

## Tin Annie Fund

The £250K fundraising efforts to rebuild the 100 year old "Tin Annie", the original St. Anne's Church & part of the community hall on Letchworth Rd continues.

**7th Sept:** St. Anne's Praise in the Park. Western Park. 4-5.30pm.

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept:** St. Anne's Church Open for Ride and Stride sponsored cycle ride & walk. 10.00am to 3.00pm. Help raise funds for St. Anne's Church and local historic churches. Sponsorship Forms from [www.lhct.org.uk](http://www.lhct.org.uk) or George Wilson, Tel: 0116 255 9245.

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept: 5.00-8.30pm Family Barn Dance** led by Geoff Weston. Family event. Cost £7 per person, £1 per child under 12 years.

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Sept:** St Anne's Autumn Fair – 11.00am – 2.00pm. **Free Entry.** Tombola, Bric - a-brac, Cakes, Crafts, Toys, Plant Stalls, Face Painting, refreshments. All Welcome.

For more information contact Michael Walker 2246047 or Pat Abraham 2857795.



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### **Music for Babies**

A new music for babies group (BubbaBeats). Visit [www.bubbabeats.co.uk](http://www.bubbabeats.co.uk) or ring Davina on 07816612766 for more information.

### **Senior Citizens Lunch Club**

Mondays and Thursdays, 12.30pm. Cost £2.50 for two course meal plus tea/coffee.

### **Senior Citizens Club**

Mondays 2.00 – 4.00pm. Cost 60p.

### **Senior Citizens Keep Kit**

Thursdays 11.00am – Noon. Cost 60p.

### **Our Co-op Friendship Group**

Tuesdays 10.00am – Noon. Cost £1.00. Learn craft skills and make new friends.

### **Yoga**

Mondays 6.00 – 7.15pm and 7.30pm – 8.45pm. £3.50 per session, unwaged £3.00. Must book in advance.

### **Tetsudo**

Martial Arts. Sundays 11.00am – 1.00pm. Cost £4.00, Under 12s £2.50. Ring 01509 260875 for further information.

### **Computer Classes**

Fridays 1.30 – 2.30pm and 2.30 – 3.30pm. Contact Centre for further details or to book.

### **Narcotics Anonymous**

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.00pm.

Ring NA helpline 0207 7300009 and ask for Woodgate – Leicester meeting.

### **Abbey Social Club**

Monthly second Wednesday of month. 1.45 – 3.45pm. Members 75p, Non-Members £1.00.

### **The Centre is also Available for Bookings**

There are three rooms. The main room is particularly suitable for childrens' parties and other family events. The smaller rooms are ideal for meetings, small training events or teaching musical instruments. **Contact Centre for rates and availability or visit our website.**

**For further information contact the Woodgate Residents Association, Woodgate Resources Centre, 36 Woodgate, Leicester LE3 5GE Tel. 253 0717 e: [woodgateresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:woodgateresidents@hotmail.com)**

Please visit our new website. [www.woodgate.org.uk](http://www.woodgate.org.uk)

The Woodgate Resources Centre is funded by Leicester City Council

Music for Children is funded by the Big Lottery

## NY Goes NUTS for Academia

**A composer from West Leicester is on the verge of huge US success as the musical he scored scooped major awards in the New York Music Festival.**

Julian Blackmore originally from Western Park has written the music for a hit "nerd rock" opera called Academia Nuts. It tells the tale of "dreamy-eyed brainiac Maggie McCutter hoping to win a scholarship so she can escape her controlling mother. Maggie's world is turned upside down as she falls for a football-loving opponent".



Academia Nuts picked up Best Director, Best Individual Performances, Honorable Mentions for Excellence in Book and Lyric Writing and the Play By Play Best New Musical Award.

Julian who studied at New Parks Community College before heading to Gateway 6<sup>th</sup> Form and then

the University of Leeds, currently lives and works in New York. He said: "I came here to study for a masters in musical theatre writing at NYU in 2008 and stayed here ever since. It's a prime city for a musician and composer to work in; you're surrounded by so much inspiration and opportunity. I split my time between playing and writing, and find I am always having to turn down opportunities - there's so much going on".

Julian and his co-creators Dan Marshall and Becca Anderson worked on Academia Nuts for four years with various reading and concert performances along the way as the show developed.



"We had the idea for a musical set in the quizbowl; kind of like University Challenge for high school age kids. We sat down and outlined the story and characters together, then everything grew from there in a very organic way".

Academia Nuts ran during the New York Musical Festival from the 9th - 13th July to rave reviews. Julian commented: "It was Fantastic - the audience really loves the show! We sold out our run and picked up several festival awards including Best



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## New Musical.

Although Academia Nuts had a very popular first run; Will it ever see the light of day again? Julian is optimistic: "The short answer is yes; based on our undying faith and tenacity in making things happen, but where and when we don't know yet. As a writing team we're talking to a couple of theaters and producers about a future production of this show.

"New musical theatre projects, with this team, include a true-crime action adventure set in the 70s, and a small Christmas show. Solo projects include more production music for TV and media, and a long-overdue second album of ambient music".

*Richard Perry*

Show pic by Micah Joel Photography

[www.academianutsthemusical.com](http://www.academianutsthemusical.com)

[www.julianblackmore.com](http://www.julianblackmore.com)



## Martyrs Memorial

**A Special memorial display marking the beginning of the First World war was held at the Church of the Martyrs on Westcotes Drive.**

185 local men perished in the war with the youngest being only 16. Most of the men named on the memorial board display were killed in action or died from their wounds, but some succumbed to illness, accidents and in one case suicide.

The commemoration involved, music, poetry and reflection and culminated in a special vigil service to mark the outbreak of war.



## POLICE TSAR VISITS

**Sir Clive Loader, the Police and Crime Commissioner, will be attending the next Western Park Community Meeting on Tuesday 7 October.** This would be at St. Paul's and St Augustine's Worship Centre on Kirby Road from 7.p.m.

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## August Police Update

*The Smart View with Sgt. Rod Smart*

**On 4 July a drunken 18 year old New Parks girl was arrested on Hawthorne Street for disorderly behaviour.** She was initially given the chance to take part in the Alcohol Awareness Scheme, which offers offenders the chance to address their alcohol problems without gaining a criminal conviction, but failed to attend.

She was arrested a few days later on Letchworth Road for being drunk & disorderly and has now been charged with disorderly behaviour.

On Wednesday evening, 9 July, a local resident reported a man acting suspiciously in the back gardens of Westleigh Road. When officers arrived, he made off, running through gardens and over fences. As officers chased him, a number of members of the public shouted directions from their houses, thereby enabling the man to be apprehended near to the KFC on Narborough Road. A 23 year old man from Braunstone Town was arrested but unfortunately there was insufficient evidence to charge him with any offences. The police are grateful for the assistance that we received from members of the local community.

On 14 July, a burglary took place at the old Empire Hotel where offenders smashed their way through a brick wall from an adjoining property. A thirty one year old local man was detained at the scene and has been subsequently charged with burglary.

On the afternoon of 19 July, members of the public reported a naked man running along Glenfield Road before smashing a car window with a glass. A 20 year old from the County was arrested at the scene and was later issued with a caution for criminal damage.

The following afternoon, a member of the public reported that a drinks can had been thrown out of a house window on Glenfield Road, damaging her car. A twenty two year old local man was arrested from the address and has received a caution, with the condition that he pays for the damage to be repaired.

On 2 August a 41 year old man from the Saffron Lane area was arrested for theft of flea treatment from a chemist on Narborough Road on 23 July. The man has been charged with theft and has now stopped scratching...

On 28 July, a 45 year old man was arrested and charged with a burglary at a care home on Westcotes Drive, having been seen reaching in through open windows.

And a 39 year old local man has been jailed for three and a half years for a burglary on Fosse Road South and dangerous driving.



## Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



Cut flowers have been used to decorate homes for centuries, possibly millennia. I'm sure even aesthetic Neanderthals dragged floral prizes back to the family cave; in fact I'm told they were even known to line graves with freshly picked flowers. Now here we are 12,000 years later and we pay florists for imported blooms or buy pre-wilted bouquets from garage forecourts.

Few of us would contemplate growing flowers to cut for the house. But in the Elizabethan times, and earlier, many bigger houses had special "cutting gardens" for this purpose. I've recently considered reviving this practice after my wife attended a friend's funeral. A long illness gave her friend time to plan. One specification was for mourners to bring flowers and greenery from their own gardens. It created a perfumed piece of English summer, beautifully engaging those who came to say goodbye.

Creating a cutting garden doesn't require vast amounts of room. You can bulk up quantities of productive plants in existing borders so harvesting

doesn't leave gardens flowerless. An important consideration is to allow access to the plants. Perennials may take several years to produce worthwhile amounts of blooms.

Annuals like *Salvia viridis* and *Cosmos* will produce profuse amounts of summer blooms in one season.

Picking flowers from plants such as sweet peas can

stimulate the plant to produce even more. The fragrance of sweet peas and scented roses is hard to beat but herbs like lemon balm, mint and fennel can also bring a natural perfume into the house. Don't forget to use interesting foliage plants, grasses like *Miscanthus*, shrubs like *Pittosporum* and ferns possibly *Dryopteris*.

For best results cut flowers in the morning. Check ahead and if the plants are dry water the night before. Use a sharp knife or secateurs to avoid damaging the stems. Select flowers that are just starting to open, not in full bloom or tight bud. And most importantly, enjoy bringing your garden into your home.

Till next time, happy picking!



*Salvia viridis*

# Martin Page

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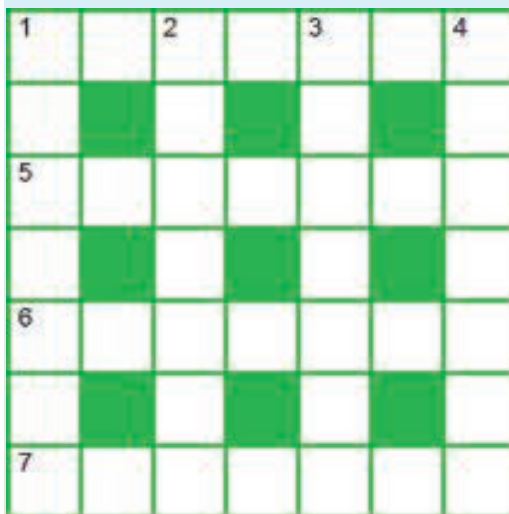
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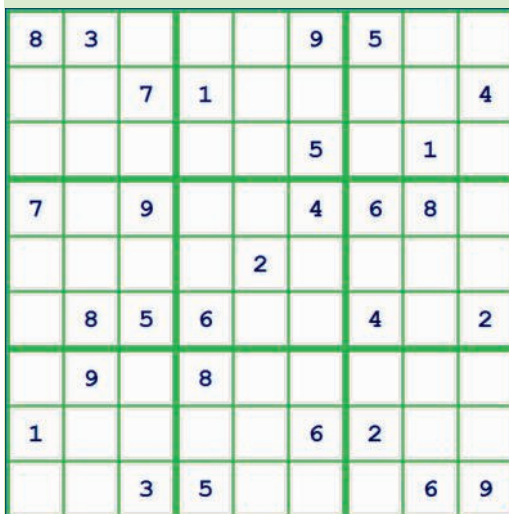
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**Across:** 1. Angry 5. Segment 6. Occurring at the beginning. 7. No longer in existence.

**Down:** 1. Merry 2. Mark or stamp as paid. 3. Belief or sentiment. 4. Vest.



1. Felicitates Revels is an anagram of which August event?

2. What come next? 2, 10, 12, 60, 62, 310....

3. Which of these 5 is most unlike the others? Cat, Dog, Badger, Snake, Fox.

4. If peach = hcaep what does 73490=?

5. What can travel the world but still stay in the corner?

(Answers at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk))





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