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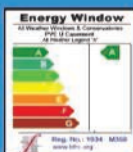
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Hello From The Editor

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

The 6th Western Park Festival pulled in thousands
with a ton of family entertainment and local music.
Check out our pictures on the centre pages or head
to our Facebook page for more and a video of the
day's fun.

We take a look at the plans for the proposed Wa-
terside School on Fosse Road North and our local
Cultivating Communities group celebrated Tomato
Saturday!

If you've ever wondered who your local Councillors
are, what they look like or how to get in touch with
them; we've got a rogue's gallery of dodgy photos
and surgery dates and times.

In our regular features; Helen Knott on the trials
and tribulations of stand-up comedy, Roger Black-
more on the expansion of Leicester over the ages,
Tony Huxley has hedge hacking advice and Mark
Brennan from Hinckley Road Policing Unit has their
latest update.

Finally the Sudoku and crossword lay in ambush
on the inside pack page ready frustrate you!

**Follow us on Twitter @mygazette & Face-
book 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 10-12 noon. St Anne's Hall.

Relaxed Dru Yoga Sessions with Emma: Sunday's 7.15 - 8.30pm. 13th Aug & 3rd Sept. St Anne's Hall. 07393 811150.

Grobby Rd Allotments Summer Sale: Aug 10th. 10 -3.30pm. Gate B - opposite Medina Rd.

Midsummer Night's Dream: 10-20th Aug. Curve.

The City Festival: 12-28th Aug. Various events across Leicester. More from visitleicester.info

Dead Leicester Chronicles: 18/19 Aug. Guildhall.

Street Food Night: 25 Aug. LCB Depot. 5-10pm.

Billy The Kid (Musical): 23 -26 Aug. Curve

Praise On The Park: Sept 3rd. W-Park 4-5.15pm

Upstairs @ Western: 1st Sept: The Game's Afoot, Try The Fish. 2nd Sept: Jestin' at The Western.

Sept 6th: Michelle Madsen & Sophie Sparham. 7th

& 8th Sept: The Conductor. 16th Sept: All My Mad Mothers & The Hill. upstairsatthewestern.com

T-Rexstasy: 9th Sept. Y Theatre.

Arsenic & Old Lace: 11-16th Sept. Little Theatre.

John Bishop: 12th Sept. De Mont Hall.

WP Beer Fest: 15 & 16th Sept: Hall at St Anne's.

Sunset Boulevard: 16-30 Sept. Curve.

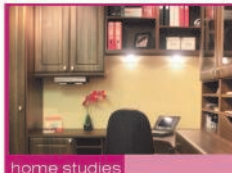
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Waterside School Designs

Artist's impressions of a proposed £13million school in the Fosse have been unveiled.

Leicester City Council is planning to build the new five form entry Waterside Primary School on disused council-owned land off Fosse Road North.

The modern, two-storey school building would be set back from Fosse Road North, with landscaping to the front of the school helping to create a more attractive streetscape.



Infant and junior pupils would be accommodated in connecting wings, with a large outdoor area providing space for synthetic turf sports courts, an outdoor classroom and amphitheatre, gardens and wildlife area and room for outdoor play.

If plans are approved, work could begin in early 2018. It is hoped that the new school would be open

in time for the 2019/20 academic year.

City Mayor Peter Soulsby said: "We have an exciting vision and opportunity to redevelop the Leicester's Waterside area as a thriving neighbourhood and a great place to live. Our ambition to include a new school as part of that vision, will help ease current pressures on school places in the city and provide future capacity for a growing population in this part of the city".

Council plans could see £90million invested in the creation of new school places to meet growing demand across the city. The new school will provide capacity for up to 900 primary-aged pupils, creating an additional 400 pupil places on top of those currently offered at nearby Slater and Fosse primary schools.

Cllr Sarah Russell, Assistant City Mayor for Children, Young People and Schools, said: "There is no doubt that Leicester faces a significant challenge to meet the growing demand for school places.

"The opportunity to build a new school in the city is a really exciting and just one part of our ambitious plans for the biggest-ever expansion of Leicester's schools."

The plans also include proposals to introduce a new pedestrian crossing on Fosse Road North, along with other measures to prevent dangerous school-run parking and help ensure families can walk and cycle to the new school safely.



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Growth of Leicester

A few weeks ago archaeologists were showing remains beneath the old Stibbe Factory, which threw new light on Roman and Medieval Leicester.

Over the years, the medieval city would enjoy mixed fortunes economically until the coming of industrialisation, from the end of the eighteenth century onwards. This inevitably resulted in pressure on land for housing.

As the population grew, the eyes of the city fathers looked towards expansion into the open country surrounding the old town. This expansion would eventually reach out towards the surrounding villages which had always been proud of their individual identities. Real tension mounted as different villages



began to feel threatened by the growth of their big neighbour and the spread of the suburbs as the nineteenth century progressed.

Belgrave village illustrates this move well as new streets developed to the north of the city, eventually spreading ever outwards along the Loughborough and Melton roads.

Alarm bells soon rang in other villages. Leafy Knighton saw new communities spread through the areas of Highfields and Stoneygate, which were very much seen as part of the city.

The push for expansion continued, just as resistance grew ever more vociferous. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Aylestone, Humberstone and Evington each succumbed to the pressure for inclusion within the city boundary.

Interestingly, to the west of Leicester, disputes arose about the parish of Braunstone. Eventually both the parish church and Baunstone Hall were included in the city whilst the southern half of the parish remains an integral part of the county to this day!

The issue of the extension of the city's boundaries still raises its head from time to time. Some city politicians cast their eyes at the surrounding areas of Greater Leicester where they see a potential for increased rateable values and more building land. Needless to say the residents of such districts as Oadby, Blaby, Birstall and Glenfield are not particularly happy at the prospect.

In the meantime we can still contemplate the historical features of the former villages now within our city, and recognize that they have certainly not completely lost their identities.

Roger Blackmore

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Stand up comedy is a funny business. I'm aware of the irony there. Sometimes it isn't funny at all. Mostly it involves a lot of travel, late at night, in car loads of sober, hungry, nervous, young blokes heading to gigs in the wild blue yonder of who knows where. Without satnav I would long since be lost to humankind. Swallowed up somewhere on the A14 to Cambridge or stranded in a service station just south of Liverpool. There's a glorious camaraderie in knowing absolutely nothing about the audience you are about to face. Will the gig be full? Empty? What will the stage be like? Will my shtick fit the room? Am I going to die onstage tonight? The answer to the last one is probably but you're going to get up there and give it a go.

It started a few years ago, I thought I'd put all that time served on the radio to some use and feed my desperate urge to perform, so I toddled along to a DMU community comedy course and put in some hours. Since then I've been on quite a few stages, mostly in front of very small audiences. It seems we, the people, want to be entertained and see new comedians, we just don't want to leave the house to do it. Leicester has the biggest comedy festival outside of Edinburgh. People come from all over the country to see comedians in action, to

find out who's hot and who's not. Promoters will quietly tell you that most of the locals turn out for the big TV names but the majority of the comedy festival audiences are from out of town. I'd urge you to hire the babysitter and support any kind of live event locally. It's way more fun than watching Love Island. Proper Funny at the Criterion is the sort of comfy night out that can ease you into the scene. They serve pizza too!



Despite all the obvious downsides to it, stand up is enjoying the kind of boom indie did in the 90s. Mostly young men have decided it's a way to earn rock star levels of fame and fortune so anywhere there is lighting and a mic you will find people trying to make others laugh. It can be a terrifying thing, being alone on a stage with a microphone and a group of people you have nothing in common with, but when it works, those beautiful moments when people get it, get me, and laugh out loud. Well that is where the addiction hides. Plus did I mention you get to visit every motorway service station in the country?

Helen Knott

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PARK LIFE!

The Western Park Festival returned to the park for the 6th consecutive year on July 8th pulling in revelers from across Leicester.

With stalls, music and family activities; there was something for everyone. Ady Alexander who organises the festival said: "Thank you to everyone who came along and a massive thanks to all of the volunteers who have contributed to make the day run so smoothly.

"The bands and acoustic were all amazing! Even the weather held out!"

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TOMATO SATURDAY!

If you enjoy being outside and growing your own veggies then Cultivating Communities could be for you.

Based around poly tunnels behind the Braunstone Skills Centre on Fullhurst Avenue their aim is to encourage local interest in grow your own produce.

It's been said that knowledge is knowing that tomato is a fruit but wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad, so to celebrate all things tomato the Cultivating Community Group held Tomato Saturday - a celebration of all things tomato on July 13th.



Organiser Cathryn Gathercole said: "Our very own Pat Reast shared tips and hints from her long experience growing tomatoes. This started when her dad took her to the allotment and she picked her first tomato - releasing the evocative smell and taste which has stayed with her ever since.

"Pat is on a mission to enthuse others, especially children, to grow their own but also to pass on the knowledge to do it properly.

"We were all instructed in how to identify and remove side shoots, and tie up the plants to protect the fruit - both inside and outside.

"As well as tomatoes, we also harvested the first potatoes and enjoyed watching the bees on the lavender.

"Of course we had a tomato feast to finish off with - soup, salsa, ratatouille, dried, roasted - all yummy!"

You can drop in at Cultivating Communities, Fullhurst Rd on Saturdays from 11 until 1pm. For more details go to Facebook at [cultivatingcommunities.leicester](https://www.facebook.com/cultivatingcommunities.leicester) e:cultivatingcommunities2015@gmail.com Or call 07894 540 109



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Surgery: First Friday of each month 3.00pm – 4.00pm at New Parks Centre, Aikman Avenue, LE3 9PW. Third Saturday of each month 1.00am – 12.00noon. Braunstone Frith Recreation Centre, Sharman Crescent, LE3 6NW.

WESTCOTES WARD COUNCILLORS

Sarah Russell & Andy Connelly.



Surgery: Councillor Connelly - First Saturday of each month 10.30am - 11.30am and Councillor Russell - Third Friday of each month 10.00am – 11.00am at Westcotes Library, Narborough Road, LE3 0BQ.

No surgery on 20 October 2017.

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No surgery 26 August, 30 December 2017



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August Police Update

We are well into the summer months which is one of the busiest time of the year for us!

During the holidays children are often out of the house playing on their bikes. So I ask drivers to be especially careful to look out for cyclists and for parents to ensure that your children ride considerately and wear a cycle helmet.

Officers have been taking to the road this month as part of our 'Safe Pass' campaign to monitor dangerous overtaking of cyclists and take action against those taking undue risks. These actions will continue.

We also see an increase in antisocial behaviour during the summer holidays. Many of these issues are committed in the spur of the moment, without considering the consequences or the effect they might have on other people. So I ask all readers and their children to enjoy the summer but please remember to be respectful and tolerant of others. Again our patrols will target areas of anti-social behaviour.

Two men aged 20 and 32 were arrested on suspicion of affray and later released, pending further enquiries, following a brawl in Narborough Road on July 14th. Police were called to a report of a group of men fighting in the Street near Winchester Road. Two people were injured, one with a puncture wound, and later released from hospital following treatment. Investigations are on-going and we encourage anyone with dashcam footage to call 101 quoting incident number 571 on 14th July.

We have seen an increase in thefts from vehicles and shed break-in's which tools have been taken. Police action in the Golf Course Lane area of Leicester on Thursday 6 July led to five men, a youth and two women being arrested on suspicion of theft offences. A number of vehicles have been recovered from the location along with a quantity of power tools which are suspected to be stolen. We would ask anyone who has had tools stolen and hasn't contacted police to do so. Any information you have such as serial numbers will help us reunite stolen property with its rightful owner. Also please review security of your shed's and garages and do not leave any tools in your van overnight.

You can next meet your local officers on August 10th 1-2.30pm at The Fosse Recreation Ground. We will be partnering with the Local Council Parks Officers at their 'Meet your Parks officers' events over the school holidays. There will be stalls and presentations.

Please search www.leics.police.uk and visit the Fosse, Westcotes, New Parks & Riverside local pages for details of more events in the coming month.

Sgt Mark Brennan

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner

Cutting yew hedges is a very satisfying Summer job.

Like most evergreen hedges, yew is best pruned during the growing season. It carves easily into clean geometric shapes, especially when using a nice sharp hedge trimmer. I would advise anyone thinking of investing in a hedge trimmer to get the longest blade they can afford. Larger machines do obviously cost and weigh more, so require extra muscle power and cash. But if you've a lot of hedges and are concerned about the finish, then you'll be rewarded with a much more even cut and longer reach.

Unlike most other conifers, Yew will reshoot if cut back into older wood to achieve the desired shape. They're quite slow-growing, so heavily-renovated specimens can take several seasons to fill out again. You also need to be careful with the prunings as they're quite toxic, especially to livestock. Yews'



poisonous compound, Taxin, is used for making the chemotherapy drug Taxol.

Now's also the best time to start pruning those members of the Prunus family you've been itching to take the loppers to. This includes fruit trees like plum, cherry, damson, and peach - in fact any fruit that has a stone - as well as hedges like Cherry and Portuguese Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus* & *P. Lusitanica*).

Most of these plants are highly susceptible to a fungal infection called silver leaf, whose spores are active during the cooler months - another good reason for pruning them in the Summer.

When cutting a laurel hedge it's often better to use a pair of hand shears - this makes for a tidier, cleaner cut. Hedge trimmers aren't suited to cutting larger leaves, so tend to shred and tear laurel hedges.

And while you're in the pruning mood, be sure to cut back Philadelphus and Weigela, along with other shrubs that have finished flowering and need to grow fresh wood to flower on next year. There's plenty to do out there, so don't let me keep you. Go on, hop to it!

Tony Huxley



Portuguese Laurel



Martin Page

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1		2		3		4
5						
6			7			
8						

1 Across: Beyond improvement **1 Down:** Public spectacle **2:** 9th month of the Islamic calendar **3:** Obscuration of the light of the moon **4:** Goals to be reached **5:** A person who wagers **6:** Conjunction **7:** Baked food topped with pastry **8:** Bicycles made for two

© Paul Towers

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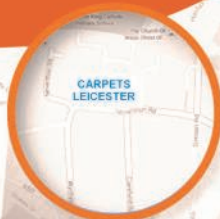
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