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Hello From The Editor

Unbelievably this is the 100th edition of the Gazette. If I'd known at the time that it would still be running after nearly 9 years, I would have probably laughed hysterically and gone off and done something else. I still might - You never know.

I would like to thank everybody who's contributed the success of the magazine from the brilliant advertisers to contributors and printers, everybody who has helped make the Gazette a success.

This month, The Fosse Riders motorbike club will need a new home following the sale of the Western Park buildings to Parmer Properties and the Western Ward Community Enterprise, who also launched their funding campaign in January. Fly tipping is getting ridiculous, the Traffic Action Group meet with the City Mayor and local heroine Alice Hawkins gets her own statue.

We have all the regular features from Helen Knott, Roger Blackmore, Tony Huxley and the local policing update, not to mention the crossword and Sudoku on the inside back page.

And as always it's all been proofread by a chimp.

Richard

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If you've got a local news story then email:

editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Visit www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

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Events Diary

Fosse Coop Camera Club: Fri. St Peter's Ch Centre, Westholme St. 7.30pm. fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk
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 Term time: 7.15 - 8.30pm. St Anne's Hall. 07393 811150.

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

Pub Quiz: Monthly - last Tues. WE Brewery.

Upstairs At The Western: Various Comedy Festival shows visit upstairsatthewestern.com for details.

Curve: 17 Feb - Sarah Pasco/Tom Allen, 19 Feb -

At A Stretch, 22 Feb - Paul Foot, 23 Feb - Griff

Rhys Jones, 24 Feb - Me & My Bee/Pick of The

Fest 2018. 5-24 March Matilda. curveonline.com

De Mont Hall: Comedy Fest Shows until 24 Feb, 20

Feb - Classic Rock Show. 26-27 Feb - Bill Bailey.

Little Theatre/ Y Theatre: Comedy Festival shows

until Feb 24. Details from comedy-festival.co.uk

Braunstone History Group Exhibit: 24 Feb. Brite Centre, Braunstone Av, 11-3.30pm.

Leic Beer Fest: 7-10 March. Haymarket Theatre.

Pop-up Beer Fest: 16 March. Hall at St Anne's

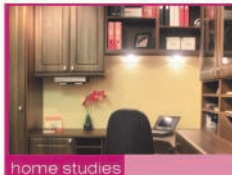
Pop-up Tea Room Fundraiser: 17 March. Hall at St Anne's. 10.30-2.00pm.50p. Kids' FREE.

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UNEASY RIDERS

A local motorbike club will have to find a new home, following the sale of land on Western Park before demolition and building work begins.

The Fosse Riders have had their clubhouse, just inside the Hinckley Road gates, for 44 years but now they fear for the future.

The Fosse Riders started in 1959 and based themselves at several Leicestershire pubs before the MENCAP building in Western Park became available. They had been marshalling MENCAP charity walks and were offered the building which was due to be knocked down.



Mike Fairhead has been a member since 1960. He says it's a busy group: "We meet every Thursday and we're off once or twice a month on local trips across the country. We go anywhere club members

want to go. Last year we rode to Italy, the year before Slovakia and in the spring it's Croatia!"

Over the years Fosse Riders Club members have spent £30,000 on a new floor, toilets, electrics, CCTV and catering facilities - an endless list of self funded improvements, some of which have helped make Western Park safer at night, including floodlights in the Eco House carpark and cutting back overgrown bushes. Mike said: "We've overcome a lot over the years and the council haven't given us the six months notice to quit just yet.

"We don't know what the future holds but we're looking for a building, exclusively for seven days a week use. We've got people interested in classic bikes, renovations and engineering - skills that can be passed on".

That thought is echoed by club member Nigel O'Brien who says the Fosse Riders are more than a social club and have a great deal to offer: "We feel like we're losing out. We're part of the social fabric and it's not very nice to be told to buzz off. We really want to help and teach youngsters (about motorbike engineering & building) and there's a bunch of keen people who really want to help."

The Fosse Riders have scheduled a meeting with City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby in the next few weeks to discuss their situation, so hopefully the wheels will start spinning in their direction.

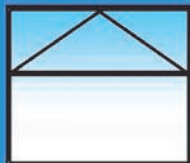
Richard Perry

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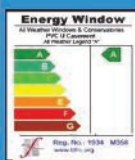
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The Bridges of Leicester County

I can still remember a childhood sense of wonderment when I first saw Brunel's magnificent Suspension Bridge spanning the Avon Gorge at Bristol. Many years later I took my mother in her nineties to see the Humber Bridge. I was also fascinated on visits to Dartmoor to scramble across the ancient clapper bridge over the River Dart.

Bridges are extremely interesting features of our landscape. In and around Leicester we have some fascinating little packhorse bridges, often dating back several centuries. One neighbouring village - Anstey - actually has two of them. One, five arches and 54 feet long, sits astride the brook going into the village as we journey out towards Bradgate Park. The other bridge, on the Sheepwash, just off the Cropton Road, often known as King William's Bridge, is actually just within the city boundary. City ratepayers found this out to their cost, when the old bridge needed urgent repairs a few years ago. Both these two bridges are thought to date from



the seventeenth century

Aylestone Old Bridge goes back even further in time, dating back, it is reckoned, to the time of the Wars of the Roses. It leads out from the end of Marsden Lane to the causeway towards Aylestone Meadows. Of a similar age is another packhorse bridge at Enderby which, like its fellow at Aylestone, also probably served the early coal trade between the Swanninggton area and the city of Leicester.

A seven-arch packhorse bridge at Rearsby definitely dates back at least to the fifteenth century. Another medieval bridge is to be found in the village of Medborne, in the far south of the county.

Some bridges are noted for their historical significance, as is the Bow Bridge in the city, with its links to the last days of King Richard Third.

The red brick canal bridges are also a familiar sight on the Grand Union Canal locally, many of which still display their company numbering.

However the most amazing bridge I ever saw in the county was that uncovered in the Hemington gravel pits, some twenty years ago. A local archaeologist discovered a complete Norman wooden bridge over the Trent, buried and preserved in the local gravel. I was lucky to see it in situ before it was spirited off to a local museum to be preserved in a solution of Fairy Liquid!

Roger Blackmore

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KNOTT'S LANDING

There's 'trouble at mill'. We have been booking flights for a little trip we are taking and it has caused some considerable upset at Chateau Knott. First we had all the trauma of working out if it was cheaper to go to France by train or by plane. We could get the train from Leicester all the way to Paris with just one change, but it turns out I would have to sell my firstborn to afford the prices Midland Mainline want to charge. It's actually more to get to London than it is to go to Paris! So into the air we go. This is when it properly kicked off. Mr Knott was labouring under the idea that it would be acceptable for us to spend a week in France (for the sake of honesty – 5 days), in the middle of winter, taking ONLY carry-on luggage.

"I managed to go to Venice for four days with only a carry-on bag, we'll have THREE bags between us!" he cried. The £17.99 each way for a suitcase was clearly chafing.

"But darling, we will need lots of jumpers and different kinds of shoes for going out and about. What if we get wet? Paris is underwater you know."

This cut no ice with him. It seems some men can't understand why anyone would need more than a clean change of pants and socks, a spare t-shirt

and a washbag for a week away. It doesn't work like that. What's more, we've been together for a VERY long time. You might think he would know that as we are going self catering I'm planning on taking my knives in my luggage (there is nothing worse than a blunt knife in a self catering apartment, Oh wait – there is, the rubbish pans they give you with non-stick that isn't). So I've got to get a frying pan in there too along with all my clothes and the two pairs of shoes I'm going to take with me.

I'm not going to go bundled on the plane, wrapped up like a Christmas

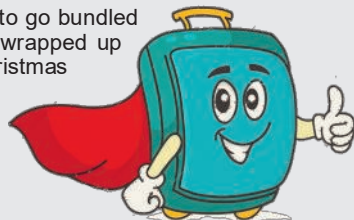
turkey in loads of layers just so we can take one carry-on bag each. I'm also

terrified of taking on a heavy bag and then having it fall on my head if turbulence causes the overhead lockers to open. I've seen that happen with a laptop bag before and it's not pleasant.

Needless to say, the argument has now been resolved and I shall be taking my suitcase with me. Bonnes Vacances!

© Helen Knott

More from Helen next month



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West Leicester Grot Spots

Fly-tipping in West Leicester seems to be getting worse. Last year councils dealt with a million incidents, up 7% costing the taxpayer £58 million in clean-up costs and an additional £16 million in enforcement actions.

In 2016/17 Leicester City Council dealt with over 8700 cases with a chunk of them in Fosse and Westcotes.

Although the majority of fly-tipping seems to be centred in Evington and Spinney Hills. Locally Bosworth Street, Western Road and Compton Road get dishonourable mentions. Between them they achieved 386 tipping reports, still quite some way behind Mere Road which amassed an impressive 554 complaints.

An additional concern in Western Park centres around the large number of empty nitrous oxide chargers dumped on Kirby Road and in other areas. Known as Hippy Crack; if used in high quantities it has narcotic effects and can easily cause death by asphyxiation.



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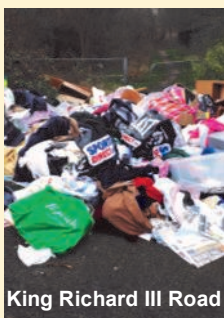


Fly tippers, when successfully prosecuted, can face a £50,000 fine and up to five years in jail and if waste is traced back to a household-er, they could end up with a £5000 fine.

The red uniformed City Warden team is the 'on street' point of contact for environmental enforcement.

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TRAFFIC GROUP MEETS CITY MAYOR

The Western Park Traffic Action Group (TAG) met with Sir Peter Soulsby in January to discuss his "Vision for Leicester City" and how the view of our local community fits into this vision.

The community around Western Park want to be able to live and thrive in a safe and healthy environment: with green spaces; low vehicle speeds and volume of traffic; safe roads and pavements with designated cycle lanes and vehicles prosecuted for parking on pavements; reduced speed zones around all schools during school time and fewer heavy goods vehicles along the main roads into the city – to allow air quality to improve, especially by the 5 school sites which are on Hinckley and Glenfield Roads.

We believe that by working together with the City Mayor and City Council we can show how communities can influence change for the better.

Residents identified a gap in the Local Plan. The Western Park area, which is featured in the City Council publication "The Quality of Leicester", needs

protection offered by Article 4. Increasing numbers of properties are being used as HIMO(Houses in Multiple Occupation) and planning permissions are being awarded despite high numbers of well founded objections and without consideration for adequate parking / dropping off areas are provided. These contribute to increased pavement parking and aggressive behaviour by drivers.

Residents are also concerned by the increase of on-street drinking, with associated litter and anti social behaviour. This is, in part, caused by the increasing number of HIMO in the area which use every room as a bedroom and do not provide a lounge area for the residents.

This meeting was held before the appointment project managers, Arcadis, for the 20mph zone in the area. Residents felt that it was important to make clear to the City Mayor "Our Vision" for the area before consultation got underway.

This consultation is the best chance to shape our community and claim back our streets. The plan shows it is a big area and residents will have different views and needs. The completed scheme should enhance the whole area and benefit the community through local understanding.

The Traffic Action Group intends to stay in contact with the City Mayor to continue this dialogue.

Please Feedback your views on this to western-parktag@gmail.com



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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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POP DOWN TO THE POP-UP!

How's your beer maths? If you take 12 cask and keg ales, add plenty of cider, wine and fizz, what do you get? That's right; a great night out at Western Park's annual Pop Up Pub.

Now in its third year, The event at St Anne's Church Hall on Friday, March 16, will be featuring some of the best beers from near and far.

Matt Pearce, chairman of Western Park Beer Festival committee, said: "We take great pride in organising the Pop Up Pub each year and this year we think we've got the best selection of beer yet. As ever it promises to be a fun night out, with hot and cold food, and a good, relaxed atmosphere. We hope the pub-less people of Western Park will come down when the doors open at 5pm and keep us company until we close at midnight.

Since 2015 you've helped us raise £20,000 for local causes and so we're all looking forward to raising a beer and a few quid with you on March 16."

Sorry, the Pop Up Pub is for over 18s only.
www.facebook.com/westernparkbeerfestival

Western Park


POP-UP PUB


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Friday 16th March 2018, 5pm 'til Midnight


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FREE TIME TRAVEL

The premiere of a short film, shot in West Leicester which answers the question: "How did Ray Marlow die?" is almost upon us.

The film '1979', the brainchild of local man Mark Cooper, gets it's premier at Duffy's Bar in the city centre on 24th February. Also showing on the same night is: "Adieu Mankind" a Shakespearian inspired poetic plea for the end of humanity, "Hi-Octane Rocker" a fusion of frenetic rock and frantic karting plus some other stuff to make you chuckle in the form of "Eastwood" from Av Singh.

Filmed exclusively in Leicestershire look out for scenes shot at Bradgate Park, Leicester Town Centre, Braunstone Gate, West End Brewery, PoloneZ Bar, The Charles Napier and TJs Burgers. Listen out for tracks from two local bands one of whom will be performing live after the screening. Look forward to original material plus some tracks from the 1970s.

Keep an eye out for a 1973 Capri that featured in Ashes to Ashes, Babycham, hirsute ladies in magazines (you've have to see the film), surly bar staff and all things 1970s.

So if you want to find out how Ray Marlow died you need to visit Duffy's Bar, Pocklington's Walk, Leicester on Saturday 24th February at 8.00 p.m. prompt. It's FREE but to reserve a seat email mark@virtualventure.co.uk



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HONOUR FOR LOCAL HEROINE

A West Leicester woman who helped change the course of history has been honoured as part of a nationwide programme of events marking the centenary of the first British women getting the vote.

Alice Hawkins, a mother of six, from Mantle Road, who worked as a machinist at Equity Shoes on Western Road during the 1880's and 1890's, was a keen Trades Unionist. She became well known as one of Leicester's leading campaigners in favour of Votes for Women.

The Government has awarded Leicester a grant of £189,500 to fund a series of educational and celebratory events inspired by her life and work.

A seven foot tall bronze statue of Alice unveiled earlier this month in the new market square marks the start of the city's celebrations.

Funded by local businessman Jamie Lewis, the statue stands on a 4ft plinth very close to where Alice would have addressed the crowds at the height of the suffragette movement.

Museums and schools will be involved throughout



the year of celebrations, with educational activities and teaching aids linked to the women's suffrage movement creating a lasting legacy in Leicester. An exhibition featuring some of Alice's personal possessions, including her 'Votes for Women' sash, her hunger strike medal and her notes from Holloway jail, is also proposed.

The project to commemorate the woman who fought so hard to secure women's voting rights in Britain has been driven by Alice's great-grandson Peter Barratt. Deputy City Mayor and heritage champion, Cllr Adam Clarke, have welcomed the award from the Government's 'Centenary Cities: 100 Years of Votes for Women' fund. He said:

"The story of Leicester's role in the struggle for women's suffrage is rich, fascinating and inspiring – and the opportunity to tell this story throughout 2018 as part of Centenary Cities is very exciting indeed."

Minister for Women and Equalities Anne Milton added: "A huge congratulations to Leicester, one of our 'Centenary Cities' that have been recognised for their proud connection to the suffrage movement.

The programme of events in Leicester is part of celebrations to mark next year's centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918 and Parliament's Vote 100 initiative.



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WWCE LAUNCHES

The start of 2018 marked the launch evening of the Western Ward Community Enterprise after the news last year that our joint bid with Parmer Properties was accepted by the City Mayor and council officers.

Our main aim for the evening was to engage with local businesses, community members and organisations, all of whom may be able to offer us support for the forthcoming project to refurbish the Eco House on the edge of Western Park. It was an extremely positive evening with over 40 attending and lots of support pledged, which is so encouraging for our team.



L-R: Su Barton, Glynn Finney, Anjeli Orton, Allison Mullen, Anna McAuley and Dan McLaughlin

The evening also marked the launch of our consultation process where attendees could put forward ideas for the use of the building as community space. This will now be followed up with further consultation sessions with established groups throughout the Western Ward.

At these sessions, we will share our vision with you and ask for your ideas, and for you to evaluate the ideas from the previous group. This way we will be able to form a core group of needs across the Ward which will enable us to have a clear view of what the building will be used for. Of course, all these ideas are subject to balancing them with ideas which will finance the continuous running of the building, keeping it sustainable for future generations.

Thanks to all those who attended. Watch this space for a consultation evening near you! We're looking forward to hearing your ideas and receiving any offers of support: fundraising or skill sharing.

Contact us on: info@wwce.org.uk

Anna McAuley





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Feb Police Update

Due to the community telling us of parking and speeding issues on the Fosse ward we have, in the last few days, completed a speeding operation along Groby road. Several motorists who were just over the speed limit were advised and one blatant speeding motorist reported on summons to court.

PCSO 6639 Bec Mathers has also seized four untaxed vehicles on Tudor Road and Tudor Close whilst out on patrol under new powers from the DVLA. We will always use common sense and give vehicle owners a few days grace but those that chose to clearly ignore buying tax, will have their vehicle seized. The consequences of this are a £150 recovery fee, £20 a day storage and back dating the tax. If the owner does not do this, the vehicle will be sold or crushed.

Westcotes officers have been conducting licencing visits to local bars, licenced shops and book-makers. This is to ensure they are adhering to the terms and conditions of their licence. We have also completed a test purchase operation of knives in the West End. Disappointingly, four shops failed and sold knives to persons under eighteen. We are working with these shops and Trading Standards to educate staff, issue warning letters to the managers to ensure this does not happen again. If they fail future test purchase operations, they will be prosecuted.

The New Parks team continue to tackle knife crime and gangs. We have completed a number of successful drug search warrants and are regularly targeting these individuals with both plain clothes and uniformed police operations. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the community to keep reporting incidents or any information to the Police or Crimestoppers. It doesn't matter how insignificant you may think it is, it might just be the missing link for us to take action. It is down to the information provided by the community that has led to these successful results so far, so thank you.

We have recently been successful in evicting a family that have caused continued anti-social behaviour over recent years. The Police and partner agencies work together to tackle anti-social behaviour using an incremental approach. To get to this stage, the perpetrators have ignored all previous warnings and it is not something that the Police, partners and courts take lightly but the property is not boarded up and hopefully giving the community some respite.

On that note: A warning to parents that they are responsible for their children's behaviour, even when they are away from the family home and out playing with their friends. Be nosy and ask them what they are doing, who they are out with and take steps to keep them safe and out of trouble.

Sgt Chris Schofield

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



You know you're old when the presents you appreciate most at Christmas are foodie and homemade.

The jar of medlar jam we received, and barely saw January out, is a perfect example.

I was surprised to be the only one who knew what a medlar was! Hip, metropolitan types are now buying products from boutique food stores made from these forgotten fruits. Our grandparents would recognise them, but not us. There are many of these old-fashioned fruits that deserve to be part of our culinary vocabulary again. Those dried mulberries and that quince tart. The great thing is that many of these old varieties make attractive small trees in ornamental gardens.

So, if you fancy impressing your middle-age hipster friends with home-grown produce, you'll need to get planting before Spring hits. Then wait a few years for them to fruit, and hope that beard oil hasn't gone out of fashion by then.



Medlar

Medlars, *Mespilus germanica*, are related to the humble hawthorn. It's attractive foliage and showy display of blossom make it worth inclusion in a garden on purely ornamental terms. The russet fruit can be eaten raw but require bletting, waiting till it has been damaged by frost and turned to a brown pulp. As you can imagine, picking, cooking and preserving is usually considered preferable.

Anyone familiar with nursery rhymes knows mulberries were once much more common place. King James I planted thousands of expensive black mulberry trees, *Morus nigra*, in the hope of creating a home-grown silk industry. Unfortunately, he didn't realise that silkworms preferred the leaves of the white mulberry, *Morus alba*. He shouldn't have worried because the fruit of the black mulberry are far tastier and more prolific.

And when it comes to the quince, *Cydonia oblonga*, it shouldn't be left just to the owl and the pussycat to enjoy. Many people seem afraid or ambivalent about the uncommon fruit in their garden. I say embrace it, use it, cook it, jam it, and gift it, assuming you haven't eaten it all yourself

© Tony Huxley



Mulberry

Martin Page

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1			2			3			4
5									
6									
7									

1 Across: Love story **1 Down:** Spread from the centre **2:** Queen **3:** Finger tips **4:** Aural pain **5:** Smaller **6:** UK measure of area **7:** Intensify.
© Paul Towers

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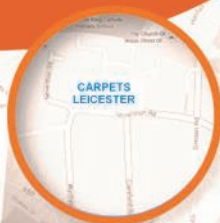
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