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More on Page 4

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## Hello From The Editor

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

This month we celebrate the local women of rock,  
with Leicester's Velvet Crisis from the Unglamorous  
Music Project as they prepare for next month's Inter-  
national Women's Day series of gigs.

Sticking with the empowered women's theme, an all  
female Taekwondo group in Western Park has cele-  
brated success as their first students achieve Black  
Belts.

In other news, a local landlord has been fined thou-  
sands of pounds because some of his properties were  
unliveable, and New College has achieved Heritage  
School Status.

In our regular features, Carey Tunstall's monthly  
gardening advice focuses on sowing seeds, there's  
the local policing update, news from Project Hive and  
the Brain Tazers are ready to frazzle your brain.

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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](http://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 & 3rd Tues 2pm **Pram Club:** Weds 9.15-11.30am. **Women's Taekwondo:** Thurs 8-9pm [taekwondo4all.com](http://taekwondo4all.com) **Fri Coffee:** 10am

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

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

**Newarke Houses & Westcotes Library: Popping To The Shops** (About Narborough Rd) 27 Jan-28 April.

**De Montfort Hall: Vampires Rock:** 1 Mar. Tony Hawke 2 Mar. Legend 8 Mar. OMD 12 Mar.

**@ Curve: Come From Away** 1-9 Mar. **Life of Pi:** 12-17 Mar. **The Lion Inside** 14-17 Mar.

**@ Little Theatre: Dial M For Murder** 4-9 Mar. **The Secret Garden (Musical)** 22 Mar-6 April.

**Y Theatre: The Magic of Terry Pratchett** 1 Mar.

**Blues Bros Exp** 2 Mar. **Richard Blackwood** 3 Mar.

**Just The Tonic Comedy:** 2&9 Mar. 68 High St. 6pm.

**Crime Prevention Event: Hall @ St. Anne's, Letchworth Rd.** Sat 16 March 10am-12noon.

**Spring Fair** 23 Mar. 10-2pm. Hall @ St Anne's.

**Family Fun Day:** 30 Mar. Bede Street. 11.30-2.30.

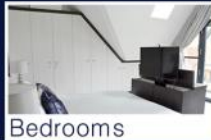
**Pop-up Pub:** Last Friday Monthly. Hall @ St Anne's.

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\* Warm Home Surveys are offered to homeowners and private renters in Leicester city. You could be eligible for this service for free (criteria on our website) or there's a fee of £100 for householders more able to pay.



# LET THERE BE ROCK

A three-day live music event featuring 20 all-female bands will take place next month at venues around Leicester as part of International Women's Day.

The festival, which runs from March 8th to 10th, is organised by Leicester's Unglamorous Music project, which has sparked the creation of more than a dozen local all-female punk and garage bands



The project was the brainchild of Ruth Miller, who started it in 2022 with the aim of giving women in Leicester a chance to learn to play an instrument and start a band. Sadly, Ruth died in October last year as a result of

breast cancer at the age of only 61, but the women she brought together are carrying on her mission under the Unglamorous Music banner.

Rehearsals are well underway at Stay Free Music on Woodgate. Sophie Cottis-Allan from Leicester band Velvet Crisis said, as the band were warming up: "It's really a privilege to carry on the Unglam spirit with our International Women's Day music festival."

"Thanks to Ruth our Unglam bands have taken the Leicester music scene by storm over the last year or two and brought lots of people out to see live music again. And the movement is fostering a safe and supportive environment for people to do that and to enjoy going to gigs."

"The songs are fantastic, spirited and fun. And our bands have a lot to say. An Unglam gig is always a night to remember, I'll say that much!"

The Unglam International Women's Day events take place on Friday, March 8, at Firebug, Saturday, March 9 at The Donkey, and Sunday, March 10, at the Attenborough Arts Centre.

At the Sunday event people will have the chance to take part in an Unglam-style workshop where they can play instruments and see which ones they like.

Sophie continued: "We hope the Unglam International Women's Day events will encourage even more women to join us, pick up a guitar or drumsticks or mic and fulfil a dream of being in a band."

For tickets and to find out more visit [iwdunglam.co.uk](http://iwdunglam.co.uk)



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Thursday	10am-5pm
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Sunday	12pm-4pm



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- Homework Club on Mondays, 3.30pm-6.00pm

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# Black Belts - Not Braces

**Taekwondo4All, the local women's martial arts club, at St Anne's Hall in Western Park, is very pleased to announce its first students to be promoted to black belt.**

Saba Ahmad, Lucy Redhead and Esther Aylett were among 11 students across the Midlands at the senior black belt grading held in Nottingham last year.



Instructor Tamsin with (L to R) Esther, Saba & Lucy

It's a very special moment for the club and represents the determination, perseverance and practice put in by the students over years of training.

All three started taekwondo fairly late in life compared to most martial arts students. They were in

their 30s and 40s when they began as white belts, and faced struggles with injuries, juggling of work, families and households, and a multitude of other responsibilities - so it is an amazing achievement to see them make it to black belt.

They are a huge inspiration to the other female students in the club and proof that martial arts is possible at any age!

The three new black belts are now taking on more teaching responsibilities in class, as well as learning their new patterns with a view to their 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan grading in a couple of years. Well done, Saba, Esther and Lucy!

**T.D**



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## New College - Heritage School

New College Leicester has been awarded a prestigious national accreditation for our work in teaching local history. We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded Heritage School Status from Historic England.

The award recognises New College's ongoing commitment to teaching local history and working in partnership with local heritage organisations.

The award application was made by Head of Diversity at New College Leicester, Mr Haroon Mansoor. In his previous role as Head of History, Mr Mansoor consistently ensured local history was at the heart of the history curriculum and everything the school has done over the past five years.

Mr Mansoor comments: "At New College Leicester we have engaged with Historic England extensively through training and trips. We have a local History walking tour that Year 7 go on to bring local history to life and all students at New College start their history lessons by looking at the 'Story of Leicester' which took inspiration from the fantastic website produced by Leicester City Council. The topic looks at 2000 years of local history and even includes the building of New Parks and surrounding areas!"

"It is important that the students see that historic events took place in Leicester. History happened here, it is not something distant that we cannot relate to. The Romans were here as well as the Normans

and Saxons. We made sure to include how Leicester has played its part in the history of Britain through the curriculum."

Historic England's Heritage Schools programme is part of a range of cultural education work funded by the Department for Education (DfE). Local Heritage Education Managers work with clusters of schools across the country to co-ordinate training, offer curriculum support and broker partnerships with local heritage providers.

Ismail Dale, Local Heritage Education Manager from Historic England comments: "The students speaking about what they have enjoyed learning about with local history was fantastic. The work at New College embodies everything the award is about."



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# PROJECT hive Update

Project Hive is run by the WWCE who are a local group of residents fundraising to redevelop the former Eco House, on Western Park, into a community space.

To reduce the construction costs that we had been quoted for the building's refurbishment we have sought out a new architectural firm to take a fresh look at everything from the ground up. The company, Perfect Planning, based in Lutterworth have suggested a more realistic costing and have provided an updated set of artists impressions.

We will be running further consultations with the community shortly about the proposed uses of the building, keep an eye on our social media for the latest updates on how you can contribute your views.

KN

[wwce.org.uk](http://wwce.org.uk) or Facebook @wwceleicester



## Local Story or Event?

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

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## HUGE FINES FOR LANDLORD

A landlord, based in Briton Street in the West End, with nearly 260 properties, allowed his tenants to live in unsafe conditions for nine months in spite of a warning from the city council.

Amajit Singh Kullar, who trades as A & S Properties, breached two Emergency Prohibition Orders which had been put in place at flats he owned in Cavendish Road, Aylestone.

The council said it issued the EPOs in September 2021 following significant concerns and safety fears over the illegal extraction of electricity. As a result, National Grid had to disconnect the power supply to the homes. However, Kumar allowed his tenants to continue living in them, against the terms of the orders.

Kullar denied he had breached the Emergency Prohibition Orders, but was found guilty following a three-day trial at Northampton Magistrates' Court, which ended on February 13th. The court fined Kumar £10,000 for each of the two offences and ordered him to pay £21,587 costs and a £170 victim surcharge.

In December 2021 Kumar was also served with an Emergency Prohibition Order applying to a flat on Narborough Road, once again due to problems with the electrical supply, which he ignored. The National Grid was forced to disconnect the power, making the flat uninhabitable. Nevertheless, Kullar still let the tenants live there. He again denied the charge at a hearing at the magistrates' court in October 2023, but was found guilty of breaching the order following a two-day trial, and was brought back before the court for sentencing on Wednesday, December 6. On that occasion, he was fined £10,000, and ordered to pay £15,000 in costs, along with a £190 victim surcharge.

The city council introduced new licensing in Westcotes, Fosse, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields, which required privately rented homes to be licensed to protect vulnerable tenants and improve the standards of private sector rented housing.



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## Feb Police Update

**Blimey, where did January go? Well, we have been busy as usual here on the Fosse Ward.**

No month would be complete without the obligatory cannabis grow. This time we had the house surrounded, only for the occupant to do his Dick-Van-Dyke impression and boot his way out through the roof. (for those old enough to remember that!). If you want your ID cards back, Mr Dyke, step in time and see me before the forensics identify you.

We are still getting public concerns about vehicle anti-social behaviour; e-scooters etc. Once again, we have been seizing cars with no insurance and drivers who are disqualified, putting them before the courts. *Disqualified from driving means you are not allowed to drive, just in case there is confusion for those doing it.* If caught, you just end up in court again with a heavier fine and longer ban! To quote that esteemed philosopher, Forest Gump, "Stupid is as stupid does".

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) takes many forms from aggressive, noisy activity to disturbances involving drugs and animals. To combat this we work with agencies like the Council's health and wellbeing services to prevent it. You can report ASB online at [leics.police.uk/reportonline](https://leics.police.uk/reportonline)

The team have been out in the local shops again, trying to engage with our parishioners, so please say hello to them.

We have also charged a chap for theft from a car who decided to use the stolen bank cards nearby. Hot on the trail, PCSO 6585 (Robbie) obtained CCTV and PCSO 6617 (Sarah) identified him. Nicked, charged and off to court.

A few concerns at the moment as thefts from cars has been on the up. With keyless fobs, sometimes vehicles aren't locked so please check and don't make it easy for the blighters. Don't leave items on display, its as bad as having a blue flashy light on your car for all to see.

Keep your doors and windows closed, probably a given this time of year, but if they are out thieving from cars, they'll try houses too.

Now, if anyone follows the police on the usual socials, especially 'West Leicester Police', because that includes us, you may have noticed an increase in pretty pictures and comments about what we are up to. Feel free to take a look and like/dislike/comment but be assured even I am trying to use social media!

We have lost two of our team this month. PCSO 6624 (Connor) has joined us as a police officer so whilst we lose him, the force gains some really good new talent and PC4475 (Josh) has passed his rigorous firearms training and joins them. Well-done Josh, something I tried years ago but couldn't hit a barn door. Good luck both and thanks for the time here at Fosse.

**Sgt Lee Cannings**



# CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



As the winter chill fades and spring approaches, we gardeners eagerly anticipate the dynamic burst of colour that accompanies the summer months. To ensure a vibrant and flourishing garden, strategic planning and planting are key. Here are some ideas for flowers to sow and plant now for a colourful summer garden:

**Lavender** is a fragrant and versatile herb that thrives in the British climate if planted in well-drained soil and a sunny spot. Its purple blooms attract pollinators and add a beautiful hue to any garden.

**Geraniums** are known for their long-lasting blooms and variety of colours, including vibrant pinks, reds, and whites. These versatile plants can be grown from seed or small plugs and transplanted in pots or borders, once the risk of frost has passed.

**Dahlias** are prized for their stunning array of colours, shapes, and sizes. Once frost risk has passed the tubers should be popped in fertile, well-drained soil. With proper care, they'll reward you with a dazzling display of blooms throughout the summer.



**Roses** are classic garden favourites, revered for their beauty and fragrance. Choose from a wide range of varieties, including hybrid teas, floribundas, and climbers, to suit your garden's style and colour scheme. Plant roses in a sunny spot with well-drained soil and provide adequate water and nutrients for optimal growth.

**Cosmos** are easy-to-grow annuals that produce an abundance of daisy-like flowers in shades of pink, white, and purple. Sow seeds directly into the garden soil in early spring for blooms that last well into autumn.

**Salvia** offer striking spikes of blue, purple, or red flowers and are excellent for adding vertical interest to borders and containers. They prefer well-drained soil and full sun.

**Calendula** also known as pot marigold, is a cheerful annual that blooms profusely throughout the summer. Its bright orange or yellow flowers add a pop of colour to borders, containers, and vegetable gardens.

It's well worth spending a little time in the garden now because by planting these colourful varieties you'll ensure a spectacular summer garden display that delights the senses and attracts pollinators for months to come.

**Carey Tunstall**



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# Martin Page

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1		2		3		4
5						
6				7		
8						

**1 Across:** Vacation **1 Down:** Whitney **2D:** Whistle  
**3D:** Naturalist based in Corfu **4D:** Gave in 5A:  
**Upset 6A:** Hot drink **7A:** Last **8A:** Small knotted

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

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

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