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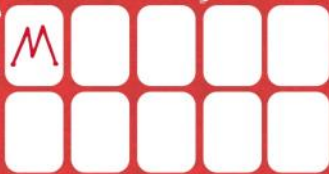
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# Hello From The Editor

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

Once again we're reassuringly late producing the magazine. Loads of excuses, but having some time off is one of them!

We headed off to the Western Park Open Gardens for the biannual wander around the best of the area's horticultural splendour, there's a run-down of some activities taking place across Leicester this summer, CPSO Sally Morgan, picks up an unexpected award for her work with young people in New Parks.

In our regular features, Carey Tunstall talks veggies, Project Hive have taken on an allotment, Sergeant Lee Cannings and his team, from the Local Policing Unit, were part of an operation targeting drug supply and distribution in West Leicester and if you're feeling the need for some brain based push-ups, have a go at the Brain Tazers on the inside back page?

Please join us on Facebook or Twitter as we regularly post photos, videos, notices, reviews and links which don't always get into print.

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If you've got a local news story or event email:  
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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.

**Family Friends:** Term time 4th Mon. St Paul's & St Augustine's Centre, Kirby Rd. 2nd Sat at New Parks Methodist Ch. Contact Sarah on 07465 431 585.

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

**@Curve: Tiger Who Came To Tea** 31 July - 5 Aug. **La Bamba** 1-5 Aug. **Kiss Me Kate** 9-12 Aug.

**@DM Hall: Sense & Sensibility** 26 Aug. **Bad Dad** 26 Aug. **Sartaaj Live 2023** 2nd Sept. **Alfie Bowe** 13 Sept.

**@Little Theatre: Sooty Awards** 29 July. **Play In A Week Summer School** 7-18 Aug.

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

**Friday Social Pop-ups:** Hall @ St. Anne's, Letchworth Rd. 25 Aug, 29 Sept, 27 Oct, 24 Nov.

**Cosmopolitan Arts Fest:** City Centre. 29 July. 2-10pm **WP Charity Beer Festival:** 1&2 Sept. Hall @ St Anne's Letchworth Rd.

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## BLOOMIN' SPECTACULAR!

Over 400, Green thumbs and nature enthusiasts eagerly joined this year's Western Park Open Gardens event. From seasoned gardeners to curious visitors, the event celebrated the beauty, ingenuity and hard work from the local gardening community who threw their doors open to visitors.

June's Open Gardens event showcased a diverse range of gardens spread across the Letchworth Road area. Residents opened their private havens, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in breathtaking displays of flowers, plants, and landscaping designs. Each garden showcased its unique personality, offering visitors a glimpse into the creative minds of their owners.

Organisers say: "The success of the Open Gardens event is largely down to the strong sense of community that permeated the entire affair. Local businesses and organisations supported the event, with some people also donating plants, and providing support. Volunteers from Project Hive,



St. Anne's Church, and Letchworth Area Neighbourhood watch offered their time and effort to ensure a great experience for visitors."

Many visitors left encouraging comments as they trekked through the greenery: "Thank you for all your organisation, we loved welcoming people into our garden and catching up with all the neighbours we usually only have a moment to nod to as we pass", "Well, that was an exhausting but very rewarding experience!", "We had a lovely time and took inspiration."

After another very successful year, Open Gardens returns in 2025, so now's the time to get your garden ready for next one!



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## WESTERN PARK CHARITY BEER FESTIVAL

If you like the idea of drinking great beer while raising money for local charities, then get these dates in your diary!

The popular two-day charity Western Park Beer Festival returns on the 1st and 2nd of September at St Anne's Hall on Letchworth Road.

Along with the usual wide range of cask and keg beers, as well as ciders, wines, prosecco and G&T, there's a wide range of tasty snacks, including the return of Pizza Pod and this year, curry Friday.

Money raised will go towards local charities - and this year, the chosen charities are Leicester Musical Memory Box and Hope Against Cancer.

The Western Park Beer Festival is run by a group of volunteers to benefit the local community.

Since the first festival in 2015, they have raised over £50,000 for good causes in the area.

Western Park Beer Festival chairman Selina Conroy said: "We can't wait to open our doors again... The event has become a popular event in people's social calendar, not just in Western Park but from all over the area."

Details at [www.westernparkbeerfestival.org](http://www.westernparkbeerfestival.org)



## WOODGATE ROAD CLOSURES

Work continues throughout the summer on the £10.4 million FiveWays junction road improvements.

Blackbird Road will close southbound, towards Fosse Road North, from Ravensbridge Drive to Fiveways on 27 July.

Woodgate will close on 8th August from Balfour St to Fiveways eastbound, towards the city centre, and up to Marshall Street between 10th-25th August, westbound, away from the city centre.

Resurfacing work on Groby Road starts on 24 August and is due to be completed by 20th September.

The work, which should be completed by next January, is designed to make it safer for all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians, and improve the busy bus routes in and out of the city.

Deputy City Mayor Adam Clarke said: "It is a major investment that will help ensure this busy and important part of the city's transport network is able to accommodate the predicted growth for decades to come."

The huge project aims to improve access by linking the city centre up with surrounding neighbourhoods. It will also develop new routes and crossings for e-bikes, public transport and pedestrians.

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

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## GET UP & GO THIS SUMMER!

You can keep the kids moving while schools out at your local children, young people and family centre by taking part in the Ready, Set, Read themed Get Up and Go programme of activities.

All Get Up and Go activities and sessions are free of charge with details on the Leicester's Playday Facebook page.

**Leicester's Playday** will take place at Town Hall Square on Wednesday 2 August from 11am to 3pm. Storytelling and craft activities designed to fire children's imaginations. Creative play, hook-a-duck, baby stay and play, hula hoop, smoothie & paint spinning bike challenge, Leicester Libraries BookBus and much more will be there.

**End of Summer EXTRAVAGANZA- TOUCH DOWN at Victoria Park**

on Wednesday 23 August, from 11am to 3pm at Victoria Park (Pavillion End), where you can challenge yourself on the Climbing Wall (Height restrictions and suitable footwear apply). Make your own musical instrument in the ukulele workshop and enjoy all the other activities taking place which include creative play, Book Bus, Baby Play area, Youth Village and Information stands.



**Get Reading This Summer:** Cross the finish line with Leicester libraries this summer by taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge 2023 - Ready, Set, Read! The sport and games-themed challenge. It is free to take part, visit your local library any time up until the 17th September to sign up.

**Get Walking:** There are some beautiful parts of Leicester so why not go on an adventure to explore your local surroundings. Choose How You Move Leicester has over 200 routes for you to choose from, many are family friendly.

**Get On Your Bike:** There are lots of family friendly cycling routes in the city, but here's a selection from British Cycling. Choose How You Move have lots of cycle maps too. There's no better time to get on your bike and explore.

**Healthy children:** [www.Healthforunder5s.co.uk](http://www.Healthforunder5s.co.uk) and [www.HealthforKids.co.uk](http://www.HealthforKids.co.uk) provide a full range of information to support healthy and healthy children from birth to 11 years of age.

**Summer in the City:** Find out what is happening in Leicester, from exhibitions to events and festivals - there's always something exciting to keep the whole family entertained!

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## LETTER BOX

*Rumblings of discontent continue over the new road hump on the corner of Kingswood Avenue and Hinckley Road. (Ed)*

Dear Editor: I write regards to the letter from CD (*Letter Box June 2023 Issue*) requesting an explanation for the construction of a road hump at the corner of Kingswood Avenue and Hinckley Road.

Every week there are several times when I turn off Hinckley Road into Kingswood Avenue and several times when I turn left off Kingswood Avenue into Hinckley Road. I've been doing this for years. The road hump has made zero difference to my speed or to any other aspect of how I make this turn.

The only respect in which I differ from the letter writer is that they describe themselves as a little confused whereas I would describe myself as very annoyed. I'm annoyed because this has been done at a time when the City Council desperately needs to save money, yet they have spent, what must have been, several thousand pounds on a completely pointless roadwork which achieves absolutely no benefit in any way. How can they justify this waste of money?

**TB**

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## NEW HELP FOR TENANTS

Housing tenants can now report concerns about antisocial behaviour to a dedicated new team which has been set up to help.

A new Antisocial Behaviour Team has been launched by Leicester City Council's to make it easier for tenants to report issues, and to provide a specialist service aimed at investigating and resolving problems.

The team, based in the city centre, forms part of the council's community safety service and has close links with its crime and antisocial behaviour unit (CRASBU), along with the police and housing services.

Tenants will still be able to report antisocial behaviour to their housing officers, but cases will be investigated by the new dedicated antisocial behaviour team.

Leicester assistant city mayor for housing and neighbourhoods, Cllr Elly Cutkelvin, said: "...this team will make it easier to focus on resolving antisocial behaviour problems, while freeing up housing officers to support council tenants with other pressing housing issues."

Anyone with concerns about antisocial behaviour in their area can report it to their local housing officer or the new Antisocial Behaviour Team at [communitysafety@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@leicester.gov.uk) or on 0116 454 0250.



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

We have recently signed the lease on a virgin double plot on the Ranccliffe Allotments site. The plan is to have the community involved in the development and operation of this space through a variety of engagement events that will begin over the summer period and continue through all four seasons of the year. The goal of this new venture is to give us the opportunity to deliver some of the activities that we plan to offer once work on the Hive building is completed. We will be sharing more information about the engagement events through the regular channels shortly. Find out more at our website [wwce.org.uk](http://wwce.org.uk) or on Facebook @[wwceleicester](https://www.facebook.com/wwceleicester) To book visit: [wwcic.square.site](http://wwcic.square.site)

## AWARD FOR SALLY

**Western Park based Police Community Support Officer, Sally Morgan, has been presented with a Leicester City in the Community Award for the work she does in New Parks.**

Sally spends a lot of time at the Team Hub Community Centre on St Oswalds Road which organises activities for young people in the area. She bases herself in the office at the centre and gets involved in a wide range of sessions they hold for young people which makes a difference to their lives and helps them make positive steps forward.

Sally didn't realise she was getting an award so was very surprised to be presented with the 'Councillor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community.' She said: "I was so shocked when they called out my name, it was such a surprise. It really means a lot to me, and I am really proud that everyone's hard work helping young people has been recognised."



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**PLEASE CALL SADIE****07940 787 130****July Police Update****PCs and PCSOs have been out with Fosse Councillors around the Tudor Rd area.**

We've been showing them the number of cannabis grows which we have closed down, including those that have resulted in fires and keeping them up-to-date about the work being done to educate the public and landlords on what to look out for. In the same vein, the proactive stop searches have continued to identify those involved in drugs or weapons.

9 males aged between 16 and 32, were arrested on 5<sup>th</sup> July following a proactive operation targeting the supply of drugs in West Leicester.

The 32-year-old was charged with drugs offences and possession of criminal property and a 23-year-old was charged with driving offences. The other seven have been released on bail. More than £7,000 in cash, together with £5000 worth of cannabis and cocaine with a street value of £1,000 were recovered.

Officers also recovered two electric pushbikes and a lock knife. A stolen vehicle and an uninsured vehicle were also seized.

There have been spates of vehicle thefts in the area so I would encourage people to keep keys away from doors or letterboxes, in a secure place or in signal blocking pouches (Faraday pouch). There have been several reports of theft from vans across West Leicester. The vans are being targeted for power tools that have been left inside, so please don't leave any items of value inside any motor vehicle. If you must leave tools in a van overnight, mark them clearly with your name/company and address using paint pens and seal with a clear lacquer spray. Items that are clearly marked are less attractive to thieves and more difficult to sell on.

If anyone has any information in relation to any of the thefts or where the tools are being sold, please call 101 or anonymously to CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111

Fosse officers ruined the party after a car was stopped on Tudor Rd and all their balloons/canisters were seized! The driver, who had been inhaling Nitrous Oxide "laughing gas", initially said he was making cream cakes... He wasn't laughing after being dealt with for offences.

On 27<sup>th</sup> June, two males were arrested by the Fosse Team, one for a recall to prison, and one for a public order offence. One car was seized for no insurance, which had links to previous burglary offences.

On June 17<sup>th</sup> police stopped a vehicle on Buckminster Road and a male was arrested for proceeds of crime due to having over £1000 in his possession. No vehicle license or insurance either, so the car was taken off the road too.

**Sgt. Lee Cannings**



# CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



**There's still just about time to grow veggies from seed this month and I've been taking full advantage of this window of opportunity.** July is the last month to sow carrot seeds. I've been sowing them very sparingly, in shallow drills. This reduces the risk of carrot fly, which becomes high risk if you must thin the seedlings out. July is also the last month in which you can sow dwarf French beans so that you can get a crop before the first frost sets in. They can be sown either in pots or straight into the ground and need regular watering. Radishes, on the other hand, can be sown until the end of August. They're great for kids to sow during the summer holidays as they provide a crop quickly, allowing them to eat healthy home grown snacks later in the year. I will sow them every two weeks to enable a constant availability. I will be sowing lettuce fortnightly too. I find sowing a combination of varieties produces more colourful and interesting salads. Loose leaf varieties can be harvested from six weeks and heart lettuce around ten weeks. I sow them straight into the ground and cover them with a layer of vermiculite, which lets in more light and seems to deter slugs

and snails. If they need thinning out, when they start growing, you can use this as micro salad and they taste delicious.

This year I'm trying something new: Pak choi, I have been reliably informed, if sown in fertile soil and well watered, should produce a good crop. We'll see!

For winter crops I have sown turnips and cabbages. The cabbages will be covered with netting to deter pigeons and help to prevent cabbage white damage. I'm not sowing too many turnips, as they don't store well, but an added benefit is that you can also eat the greens (leaves) as well as the root. I've also thrown in a few beetroot seeds, as long as they are well watered, they should crop before the first frost too!

It seems strange to be mentioning frost whilst we are in the middle of summer, but planning ahead is key. The summer growing season could well be extended, but as with all weather predictions there are no guarantees, I'm just hoping for a bountiful crop.

**Carey Tunstall**





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1		2		3		4
5						
6			7			
8						

**1 Across:** Vacation **1 Down:** Whitney **2D:** Whistle /  
**ID cord 3D:** Naturalist in Corfu **4D:** Gave in **5A:**  
Upset **6A:** Hot drink **7A:** Last **8A:** Small knotted  
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				1	9	8	
				7		6	2
2	9				3	5	
1			6	3		2	
		5		4	9		6
	1	8				9	3
9	7		5				
	6	3	7				

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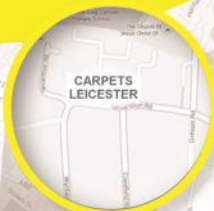
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