



REVAMPING THE RALLY



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Hello From The Editor

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

We are reassuringly late again. This time I blame an irritating computer failure, and nothing to do with the recent world wide IT outage, but I'll blame it anyway.

However, that didn't stop us creating a slightly thicker than usual magazine, so many thanks to our local advertisers who booked enough space to increase the amount of editorial. ... So more typos then ever then.

This month saw a pile of money being spent on revamping the Rally Park, a General Election with an unsurprising local result for Liz Kendall who is now a Secretary of State. There was an art exhibition in the archways on Bede Street, there's the chance to pack the family off to Conkers next month and there was more success for the student of New College.

In the regular features, Carey Tunstall looks at garden wildlife, Helen Knott attempts to navigate the new Woodgate junction and there's the latest policing update as well as the Brain Tazers on the back page. You'll find the answers on our website.

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Events Diary

@ Robert Hall: Free Thurs Club 2pm. Meet & Eat Weds 5pm. 147 Narborough Road.

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 **Fri Coffee:** 10am

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

Bands in The (Western) Park: 28 July 3-4pm.

@ De Montfort Hall: Motown By Moonlight: 15 Aug, **G&S The Gondoliers:** 16 Aug.

@ Curve: Fantastic Foxes: 26 July-3 Aug. **39 Steps:** 31 July-3 Aug. **Officer & A Gentleman** 12-17 Aug.

@ Little Theatre: Past Tents: 30 July. **The Sooty Awards 2024:** 3 Aug. **Play in A Week Sch** 5-16 Aug.

Leic Food Fest: 10/11 Aug, From 11am. Abbey Park.

@ Y Theatre: Get Fighty (Wrestling) 17 Aug.

Free Bike Fest: 28 July, 25 Aug. New College.

Open Streets Pop-up Events: 28 July, 25 Aug. 1-4pm. Various locations. chosehowyoumove.co.uk

St Anne's Play Scheme: 12-16 Aug. Mix of free & low cost kids' activities. **E:** stannesbookings@gmail.com

Woodgate Summer Play Scheme: until 23 Aug 1-5 pm. Ages 6-14. **Email:** therally@yahoo.com

Leicester Mela Festival: 17/18 Aug, Abbey Park.

Medieval Mayhem: 1 Aug, Guildhall, 11-3pm.

Haircut 100, Go West, Paul Young & China Crisis: 3 Aug from 2pm, Grace Rd.

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REVAMPING THE RALLY

Work has started to improve routes through the Fosse's Rally Park for walkers, wheelers and cyclists.

The city council secured £1.8 million from the Active Travel Fund to create new walking routes and cycle tracks through the Tudor Road park, as well as funding improvements to park entrances, more street furniture, new lighting and additional planting.

The aim is to create wider walking routes and segregated cycle tracks on existing routes that run through Rally Park.

Entrances to the park, at Tudor Road, Bonchurch Street, Richard III Road and onto Fosse Road North, will all be improved. New lighting columns will be installed, overgrown vegetation will be cut back to improve visibility and safety and new seating will be installed.

The area next to the park's historic train platform, which dates to the creation of West Bridge Station in 1840, will also be upgraded with new paving.

Access to the park will be improved, particularly for those going to and from the Castle Mead Academy, while new sealed-surface paths will replace the well-used but muddy routes surrounding the school. Seating, landscaping and new trees are also planned to enhance the route between Tudor Road and the school.

The improved cycle tracks through the park will also link directly to new dedicated cycle lanes on Fosse Road North.

Some Ash tree removal works are also being carried out due to dieback, but at least 24 new trees will be planted in more suitable locations within the park as part of the wider scheme.

Cllr Geoff Whittle, Assistant City Mayor for Environment and Transport, said: "Once complete, it will provide a much-improved link between New-foundpool, Frog Island and the new Waterside neighbourhood for people on foot, on bikes or using wheelchairs or other mobility aids."

The overall programme of improvements on Rally Park is expected to take around 10 months to complete and will be carried out in phases to help minimise disruption.



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KNOTT'S LANDING

Entropy tells us that everything is declining into chaos and the Fiveways junction on Woodgate is living proof of this. No solution the council came up was ever going to be perfect because it's a blooming awful junction. It was called the 'most confusing junction' in Leicester and the council recently spent £10.4 million on making it better.

I use that junction most days and I can tell you it's not better.

It's OK going from Fosse Road North over towards Blackbird Road but if you are coming the other way and heading south it's a different story. Three lanes of traffic head towards Groby Road and Fosse Road North kept apart by imaginary lines and the sheer will of drivers. I don't mind a genuine mistake; a smile and an 'I'm sorry' shrug will get you in but the downright aggressive use of a BMW as a battering ram really grinds my gears.

The treatment of cyclists is another bugbear. It's really hard to get across the A50. It's not easy cycling coming from town and getting up the A50. Whatever you do there is always some bloke - it's not all men but it is always a man doing this - ready to beep his horn and close-pass you.

Short of digging a tunnel or building a bridge I'm not sure there is anything anyone can do to make it better. I fantasise gently about the times when there were trams to take you into town. The tracks still run down the middle of Hinckley Road; I saw them last time they dug the road up. A sign of a glorious forward looking past - when we had outdoor lidos and trams - and I hope we can take a bit of that optimism and spread it into people's lives. Things can only get better!

HN



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STUDENTS HONoured

New College Leicester is celebrating the success of some of its remarkable students

For the first year ever, four college students were recognised for their incredible achievements and commitment to New College and student voice.



Both Cleo and Krishna were recognised finalists and attended a Gala celebration at County Hall.

Cleo nominated for the Young Volunteer award and Krishna as Young Leader of the Year award. Both students received £100 gift vouchers and a presentation certificate, presented to them from

the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Mr Mike Kapur OBE.

Cleo's journey through their school career demonstrates sheer courage, determination, and a passion for creating a safer, more inclusive world.

Krishna exemplifies exceptional leadership, having dedicated five years to fostering a positive impact within her school and wider community.

Two of our other students were also highly commended for their work, and we hosted tea and cake for parents and teachers of McKenzie and Jack, who were guests of honour at their presentation afternoon. Deputy Lord Lieutenant Libbie Turnbull presented awards on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire.

McKenzie was nominated for the "Young Person of Courage of the Year". This award aims to recognise those who have overcome personal barriers to achieve success, have made a stand against bullying or racism, or have demonstrated a life-saving act of bravery.

Jack was nominated in the "Young Leader of the Year Category", which aims to recognise those who have inspired people around them by leading a project or change for the better.

A huge congratulations to all our incredible students, well deserved recognition for all their hard work. *(Sponsored article)*

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GENERAL ELECTION 2024

Liz Kendall easily retained her seat in Parliament to represent Leicester West, but it was all change across the rest of the city as Leicester East and South changed hands. Labour's Johnathon Ashworth was beaten by independent challenger Shock-at Adam to the tune of nearly 1000 votes while Leicester East flipped from a once Labour stronghold to Conservative with Shivani Raja. Previous public issues with former Labour MPs Keith Vaz and Claudia Webb clearly effected the result as they polled 9,213 between them compared to Labour's 10,100 and the Conservatives 14,526.

In Leicester West with 74,102 registered voters the turnout was a low 48% down 5.2% on 2019.

Liz Kendall kept the seat for Labour with a 46.8% share and a vote of 15,798, down 4.7%. The Conservatives reached 7021, down 16.18%, mostly caused by the emergence of Reform UK who achieved 5,666 votes and a 11.5% share.

Liz Kendall: Labour Party **15,798**

Max Chauhan: Conservative Party **7,021**

Ian Edward Hayes: Reform UK **5,566**

Aasiya Bora: Green Party **4089**

Benjamin Feist: Liberal Democrats **2,179**

Rahoul Naik: One Leicester **327**

Steve Score:

Trade Unionist & Socialist Coalition **317**

Liz Kendall: Work & Pensions

Liz Kendall was first Elected as MP for Leicester West in 2010 and served as Shadow Minister of Social Care under Sir Keir Starmer while in opposition. She has now been appointed Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Writing on her social media she said: "I am delighted and humbled to have been re-elected as the Labour MP for Leicester West.

Representing Leicester West has been the honour of my life and I've always worked hard for local people. I am ambitious for our city and country and I will continue to work tirelessly for everyone in our community regardless of how they chose to vote in the election.

"I am proud to have since been asked by the Prime Minister to serve in Government as Labour's Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

People have voted for change and Labour are determined to deliver our plans to get Britain working, tackle poverty and provide security in retirement in every corner of our great nation.

"If you live in Leicester West and I can be of any help or support, please contact me at any time by emailing: liz.kendall.mp@parliament.uk or calling my office on 0116 204 4980."



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GO NUTS - A TRIP TO CONKERS

After a couple of conversations with people without car access about how it's nigh on impossible to get to somewhere like Conkers from around here, I thought I would try and do something about that. It's very much a token effort as I only arrange something once a year (I'm trying to lobby the Council to help do more), but we did this for the first time in 2022 with one bus. Then last summer we had two buses with close to 140 people booked on.



It's completely not for profit, so people pay for the group saver Conkers entry and the cost of the bus

hire divided by the number of seats. Compared with somewhere like Alton Towers, it's comically cheap, and it's great to see a wide range of people on it, including people who have a car but ditch it for the day.

Justin Webber

BUS TRIP TO CONKERS DETAILS

Friday 16th August 2024 – 9:15am-5:00pm

Community bus trip to the environmental themed park that features a range of attractions, including a 4d cinema, playgrounds, assault course, train rides, arena shows, exhibitions and trails. Discounted entry and chance to go with friends on a double decker bus departing from a number of local pick-up points including Letchworth Road, Glenfield Road and Hinckley Road. More details: <https://rb.gy/4l3ecu> or scan →





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ART IN THE ARCHES

In the last two days of June, fine art students studying at De Montfort held a two-day pop-up exhibition in Braunstone Gate Archways on Bede Street. The five artists: Lyn Landon, Archie Burrows, Casey Atkinson, Catherine Uff and Helen Gleave, collaborated with the community space to showcase their mixed media artwork, including collage, print, paint and sculpture. During the course of the weekend over 50 community members came to see the show. Visitor Alex commented: "An impressive and colourful number of pieces, charmingly presented. Does a wonderful job of proving how talented the artists in Leicester are!"



LETTER BOX

Is there any way you could print a big thank you to an unsung hero? We don't know his name, but we assume he is local. He's just a regular looking guy and his lovely white dog who walk the length and breadth of our manner picking up litter. We've seen them a lot over the last few years tirelessly picking up careless people's cast offs and keeping the streets clean. We just want him to know they don't go unnoticed. A big thank you from me and my family and friends on Minehead Street.

WG

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FAMILY EVENTS THIS SUMMER

Families looking for a low-cost day out this summer could check out what's on in Leicester's children's centres, parks, libraries and museums.

The city council has opened venues for a summer of affordable fun, offering youngsters the chance to explore a heritage building, ride on a steam train, hook ducks from the Town Hall Square fountain, or simply enjoy the sound of a brass band in one of Leicester's parks.

Ideas for dozens of free and low-cost things to do in Leicester during the school holidays, organised by the council and other partner organisations, are listed at families.leicester.gov.uk/free-summer-activities or scan the QR code at the bottom right into your phone.

Thurs 1 Aug: Get-up & Go! at New Parks Children Young People & Family Centre on Pindar Rd. 1-3pm

Mon 5 Aug: Teddy Bear's Picnic at Newarke Houses, The Newarke. 11-3pm.



Tues 6 Aug: Railway Days at Abbey Pumping Station 11.30-4.00pm. 50p for a steam train ride. **Family Fun Afternoon** at Brite Centre Library, 1-4pm on Fullhurst Av.

Weds 7 Aug: Leicester Playday at Town Hall Sq 11-3pm. **Get-up & Go!** Beaumont Leys Children Young People & Families Centre. 1-3pm. **Family Fun Afternoon** Central Library, 1-4pm.

Thurs 8 Aug: Get-up & Go at New Parks Children Young People & Family Centre. 1-3pm. **Wiz-**

ard's School Guildhall 11- 3pm. (£5 per child, accompanying adult free)

Fri 9 Aug: Get-up & Go! At The Grove, Cort Crescent. 10am-12)

Tues 13 Aug: Railway Days at Abbey Pumping Station 11.30-4.00pm. 50p for a steam train ride.

Weds 14 Aug: Get-up & Go! at Beaumont Leys Children Young People & Families Centre. 1-3pm. **Get-up & Go! Mini Playday** in the Town Hall Sq, 11-2pm.

Thurs 15 Aug: 1-3pm. **Family Fun Day** Westcotes Library, Narborough Rd. 1-4pm. **Let's Get Arty** The Guildhall, 11am-3pm. (£5 per child, accompanying adult free). **Get-up & Go!** New Park's Children Young People & Families Centre. 1-3pm.

Fri 16 Aug: Get-up & Go! At The Grove, Cort Crescent. 10am-12)

Sat 17 Aug: Leicester Mela Festival on Abbey Park, 1-7pm. **Wings & Wildflowers** Newarke Houses

Sun 18 Aug: Family Fun Day at Abbey Pumping Station. 12-4.30 (Ticket event). **Leic Mela Festival** on Abbey Park, 12-7pm.

Tues 20 Aug: Railway Days at Abbey Pumping Station 11.30-4.00pm.

Weds 21 Aug: Get-up & Go! End of Summer Extravaganza on Victoria Park 11-3pm. **Get-up & Go!** at Beaumont Leys Children Young People & Families Centre. 1-3pm.

Thurs 22 Aug: Get-up & Go! at New Parks Children Young People & Family Centre on Pindar Rd. 1-3pm. **Knights & Maidens** at The Guildhall. 11-3pm. £5 per child accompanying adult free.

Fri 23 Aug: Get-up & Go! At The Grove, Cort Crescent. 10am-12)



CONTACT THE GAZETTE

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July Police Update

A man from Cambridge Street in Westcotes, who committed eight knife-point robberies in the space of 24-hours, was jailed this month for a series of offences.

Between Thursday and Friday 12/13 October last year, multiple reports of robberies were received where victims were threatened with a knife and several mobile phones were stolen.

Some of the victims managed to track their phones which led officers to Bede Park where they found and searched 24-year-old Seye Djli who was found with five mobile phones, bank card and a knife. Following a check of his home address, officers found two more phones.

Djli pleaded guilty to six counts of robbery, two counts of attempted robbery and two counts of possession of a bladed weapon and was jailed for four years.

Another man has been arrested and charged with the murder of Junior Osbourn on Narborough Road on 27th September last year. 45-year-old Clifford Alvarez appeared in court on July 9th.

A man has appeared in court charged with the wounding with intent of another man following an incident in Fosse Road North on 8 July.

40-year-old Costel Remus Galoi, has also been charged with possession of an imitation firearm, (air pistol) possession of a knife, robbery of the victim, and two counts of assaulting an emergency worker.

A man from Harrow Road has been jailed for 8 years and placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life after his vulnerable 21-year-old victim disappeared overnight while waiting for a Taxi on Western Road. She had felt ill and was on the phone to the emergency services when Jagdeep Singh offered to help. She later managed to contact her parents and Singh was arrested shortly afterwards.

A 62-year-old man has been charged with drink-driving and has appeared in court after a 4-year-old boy was hit by a car Cranmer Street in Westcotes on 29th June.

The child was taken to hospital for treatment but his injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

The summer school holidays have brought several reports of anti-social behaviour and young people setting fires.

These have been across western Leicester on our green spaces. Small fires have been set on Beatrice Road, Western Park and Belgrave Cemetery.

This is extremely serious, so officers across all beats will be targeting hotspots areas and liaising with partner agencies to tackle this issue.

If you have any information please report using the force website portal: <https://orlo.uk/yiBLz>

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



In the summer months our gardens come alive with a variety of wildlife, offering a haven for numerous species. Garden enthusiasts can expect to see a wonderful mix of birds, insects, and small mammals enjoying the warmer weather and abundant food supply.

Birds are a prominent feature in our gardens. Common visitors include the robin, the blue tit, and the great tit, all known for their vibrant plumage and energetic behaviour. Blackbirds and sparrows are also frequent guests, often seen foraging for insects and seeds.

The melodic choruses of the song thrush and the goldfinch add a charming soundtrack to any garden and you may even catch a glimpse of the juvenile Peregrines which have fledged from the Cathedral spire.

Insects play a crucial role in the garden ecosystem, particularly during the summer. Bumblebees and honeybees can be seen buzzing from flower to flower, pollinating their favourite plants such as



zinnias, asters and echinacea. Butterflies, such as the peacock, red admiral, and small tortoiseshell, bring a splash of colour, although I've seen far fewer than previous years, possibly due to the heavy persistent rain?

Ladybirds and various species of beetles help control pests, while dragonflies and damselflies can often be spotted near ponds or water features.

Hedgehogs are a welcome sight and more likely to be seen during the summer as the nights are shorter leaving them less time to search for slugs, snails, and insects. They can be pregnant this time of year so the females still need a home in which to raise her hoglets. If you're lucky, you might even spot a fox passing through in the early morning or late evening and Muntjac deer have also been spotted in the Western Park area.

Additionally, amphibians like frogs and newts may be found in gardens with ponds, contributing to the biodiversity. Providing suitable habitats, such as bird feeders, insect hotels, and log piles, can encourage these creatures to visit and thrive in your garden, creating a vibrant and dynamic natural space right on your doorstep.

To find out more about Leicestershire's wildlife visit lrwt.org.uk

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P	Z	J	O	G	P	I	K
D	E	Z	E	E	U	Q	S

Can You Solve The Word Wang? Hidden in the
 above box are the following words:

Squeezed, Kip, Hijacked, Gym, Quiche, Pup, Musak,
 Puzzling, Pizzeria, Jumbo, Max, Zit, Exam, Frazzled,
 Jog, Boozy.

Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk
 © Paul Towers

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