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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the July edition of the Western Park Gazette.

And this month, the fifth Western Park Festival battled rain and wind to be another glorious success even if the main stage did almost blow away. We went along too, drank beer and took a few photos. It's a hard job but we're up to it.

The really big story is the council's proposals to sell off the buildings on Western Park for development. It has put local noses out of joint and a war party has been formed to fight it. We'll follow the story closely as it unfolds over the coming months.

We preview the Western Park Beer Festival, football murals start appearing across the West End and we have the Square Mile Project's latest update. There's Roger Blackmore on the Book of Margery Kempe, Helen Knott on diets, Sgt Andy Stevens on crime and Tony Huxley on thistles and artichokes.

Finally, the Sudoku and crossword lie in wait on the inside back page.

Follow us on Twitter @mygazette & Facebook by searching for the Western Park Gazette.

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 Singers: Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm. Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band: 1st Sun Monthly. Café Chino at Hilton Hotel, Meridian. 1-3.30pm Thursday Club: Thursdays, 2-4pm, Robert Hall, 147

Narborough Rd.

West End Pay As You Feel Café: Thurs 7-8.30pm. Fri & Sat 11-3pm. West End Centre. Andrewes St. Heritage Sundays: Monthly last Sun. Mediaeval city open days/tours. 11-3pm. goleicestershire.com Westfield Gallery: Mon-Sat. 81 Westfield Rd. Call 0116 285 8548 to view.

Fearless Foxes: Ongoing. New Walk Mus. Free. Story City Festival: Until 23rd July. Various locations. Visit: www.storycity.co.uk

Simon Says: 23/24 July. De Montfort Hall.

Free Big Family Fun Days: 26th July, Fosse Lib. 1st Aug. Westcotes Lib. New Parks Lib on 4th. Brite Centre on 11th. 11-3pm. All Free.

Teddy Bears Picnic: 27 July. Belgrave Hall. 11-4pm. Open Day/Produce Sale: 6th Aug. Groby Rd Allotments.10-2.30pm. Entrance Gate B on Groby Road. A Boy, A Bear & a Boat: 6 Aug. Brite Centre. 3pm. Booking essential.

Leic Oktoberfest: 17-21 Aug. Abbey Pk. 4-11pm. Western Park Beer Festival: 19-20th Aug. Dovelands Sch. westernparkbeerfestival.org

City Festival: 19-29th August. Various events & venues. Info at: www.visitleicester.info/cityfestival Email your event to: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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PARK PLAN SPARKS OUTRAGE

Leicester City Council have unknowingly poked a sleeping dragon in the eye after local people discovered a plan to sell off part of Western Park for building projects.

Leicester City Council has offered two sites on Western Park for sale for residential development.

Over five acres of land has been put up for sale in two lots which include the former Eco House, the Mencap Constance Jackson Centre, the old Environ offices, the car park and the Western Park Open School site.

The sale documents on the council's website indicate they would prefer a residential developer to take on both sites using the Hinckley Road site as a sweetener for redeveloping the Grade II listed school.

None of the groups who use the park, like Leicester Freeriders or Friends of Western Park were told of the plans, so local residents and park users have formed an action group to try and stop the sale of the site. One of the objectors said: "The first thing residents and park users knew about the sale was when the documents appeared online. It's outrageous that local people have not been consulted and quite sneaky of the council".

The deadline for expressions of interest in the two sites is 2pm on August 5th.

You can find the protest group on Facebook at Save OUR Park Buildings - Western Park





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MARGERY KEMPE

Margery Kempe was a truly remarkable woman. The daughter of a parliamentarian, she was born in Kings Lynn in 1373. She bore 14 children, travelled all over the world and became the author of the first female autobiography in the English language.

In addition to undertaking a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, breaking her journey in Venice on the way, this remarkable woman also visited Germany, Spain, Rome and many other places in both Europe and around Britain.

The description of her visit to Leicester reads like a period drama. When she arrived, the Mayor of Leicester was not well pleased. He called her "A false strumpet, a false Lollard and a deceiver of the people." He then promptly told her that he was sending her to prison. Despite Margery protesting that she was a respectable woman and that her father had been five times Mayor of Kings Lynn, the Mayor of Leicester would have none of it. She was only saved by the city jailer taking pity on her and putting her up in his own house by Leicester prison.

Margery's visit to Leicester had by this time caused a considerable stir. As a result she was taken to All Hallows church and questioned by the Abbot of Leicester and various other civic and

religious leaders. After much interrogation and heated discussion, Margery Kempe was eventually passed on to the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Lincoln. There is no record that she ever visited Leicester again.

We know a lot about this story because Margery wrote a Book. It is thought she was illiterate and dictated her tale to a scribe. The book portrays her travels and her life as a mystic - although it should be realized that Christian mysticism was quite common in the Middle ages and she was also a contemporary of

THE OOK OF MARGERY KEMPE

the famous mystic, Julian of Norwich.

Her book also tells us a great deal about the Leicester of those times with divisions between the orthodox institutions and the Lollards who were somewhat influential in the area. Only one copy survives and is housed in the British Museum.

Margery was no doubt relieved to be leaving the city and the Mayor was equally delighted to see her go.

Roger Blackmore









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KNOTT'S LANDING

Summer is here so of course I've been on a diet so my body can be 'beach ready'. Most of the time beach ready means I'm on the beach and my body is ready to do stuff but sometimes you need to take a step back and accept that your bum is spreading further than you would like.

As luck would have it, I've started playing netball and as part of that I got referred to a certain well known weight management company for FREE!

Free is my favourite four letter word. So once a week I trip off up the hill to stand on a set of scales and

see if I've managed to dodge enough cake to make a difference. You would be amazed how much cake dodging I've had to do. I don't work in an office where there's the ubiquitous birthday cake round at least once a week but I still seem to

have quite a few people who I only see around a mound of eggs, flour, butter and sugar in baked form.

It's been relatively successful so far. I'm definitely smaller than I was and yes indeed, my clothes fit better. I'm not sure I'm ever going to have the sort of beach body that will go on a poster but it will please me immensely to not get mistaken for a seal in the water. You can probably tell I don't

take this very seriously. If it works, great, but if not, I have a great family, a lovely home and holidays on the beach, so life is

good anyway.

A good indicator of my commitment can be seen by the fact that I turned up to one meeting the worse the wear from drink! I can highly recommend it. Put on a few pounds? NO problem, you've had four glasses of prosecco! Lost a few pounds, hurrah! Have another glass of prosecco! I blame my friend who encouraged me to have a quick glass in the afternoon, which led to another one and by then, sweetie darling... I couldn't have given a damn! Helen Knott





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TOP SEEDS!

A young tennis player from Western Park is celebrating with her teammates after helping Leicestershire become the 10 and under National Tennis champions.

Fallon Reid along with her squad of three beat Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire to win the regional title before heading to Sunderland to battle it out in the national finals.



The team for the final was Talia Neilson-Gatenby, Tabitha Holmes, Fallon Reid and Sophia Middleton - they eased to victory in all three group matches to book a place in the final against Lancashire eventually winning 4-0 4-1 to secure the title.



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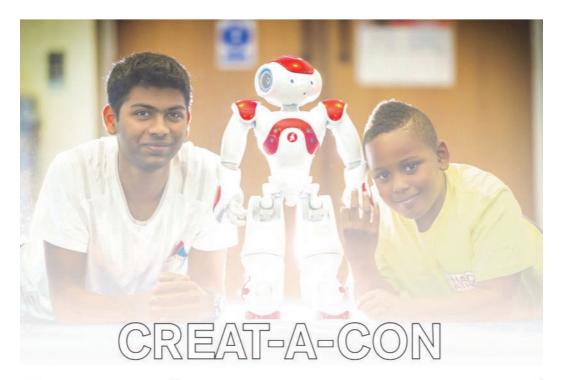
If you would like to find out more about DMU Square Mile or our projects and events, please get in touch.

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The Beer Festival Is Back!

A Prosecco pedlar, a gin garden and an Everards family-friendly chill out zone are just some of the attractions at this summer's Western Park Beer Festival.

The charity event in aid of Menphys will be taking place at Dovelands Primary School, Hinckley Road, on August 19 and 20.

This summer's bash is being sponsored by Everards and The West End Brewery, on Braunstone Gate, and will bring together 35 exciting firkins, six keg lines and three ciders under one roof.

Mat Mabe, festival chairman, said: "This year we've been working that bit harder to please people – and we've been delighted so many local businesses have got behind us in sponsorship, which means we can make a real difference to a brilliant local charity such as Menphys.

"Everards and West End Brewery are our wonderful main sponsors, but other Leicestershire businesses such as Sturgess, Burleighs and Pukka Pies, plus Purity, in Warwickshire, have come forward to be part of a big fundraising team.

"We're still hoping more Leicester and Leicestershire businesses will contact us to support this really worthwhile cause – and then celebrate with us over some excellent beer and unbeatable Leicestershire cheese."

Tracey Morris, Menphys fundraising and



marketing manager, said: "We're thankful for the beer festival's support, which will help our befriending service that gives families caring for children and young people with disabilities some valuable respite. It will also help our I Can Do It Too campaign which encourages disabled children into sport, play and leisure activities."

Sponsors of the beer festival are being treated to a special tasting session led by an industry expert from Everards ahead of the festival opening at 5.30pm on Friday, August 19.

Children are welcome at the family session between midday and 6pm on Saturday, August 20. Both evening sessions finish at midnight.

Among the 23 nationwide breweries involved, seven are from Leicestershire: Charnwood, Dowbridge, Tres Bien, Langton, Market Harborough, Everards and West End Brewery.

www.westernparkbeerfestival.org.uk And on Facebook and Twitter.

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WESTERN PARK FESTIVAL

The fifth Western Park Festival kicked off with torrential rain and a wind so strong that the main stage blew away as the festival was getting started. With main stage hastily dismantled for safety reasons and the days musicians moved downhill to perform, the festival got off to a rip-roaring start as the weather improved.

Up to 8000 people from across West Leicester joined in the fun activities which included kickboxing, mini quad bikes, zorbing, funfair and a climbing wall. The beer tent did brisk business as revellers settled down to enjoy the local bands even if there may have been a few soggy rear ends at the end of the day.







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Magic Murals

To Celebrate Leicester City Football Club winning the Premier League, a number of leading graffiti artists have produced original murals on key Leicester West End locations.

The wave of emotion and pride that engulfed the city and county throughout the Foxes' remarkable season is being captured in street art. The city council has commissioned the artworks to give visitors and residents the chance to re-live the memories of the fantastic season as they travel around Leicester.

Richard Wilson's enormous mural of the whole LCFC team on Kate Street has been added to with a Ranieri Roman Leicester mural on the wall of Brucciani's on Bath lane and a Football United Mural on the end terrace of Tudor Road.

Look out for more murals across the city this summer.





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July Police Update

Again another busy month across the Policing area for your local Neighbourhood Officers.

Two very different types of crimes were prominent over the course of the last month, firstly the vehicle crime continued where the Modus Operandi (MO) was to crudely smash vehicle windows and take whatever was left on show. We have continued to conduct high visibility patrols and educate drivers through leaflet drops and social media postings, this has resulted in a downward trend in the number of offences. We have arrested three local men in separate incidents committing these offences. All three have been charged with vehicle crimes and remanded to Court. However, it is never good to get complacent so our message is still "LEAVE IT ON SHOW EXPECT IT TO GO" Please think about your vehicle security when it is left unattended.



Secondly, over the last month we have seen a spree of violent Street robberies in and around the Narborough Road area of the Westcotes Ward. They have predominantly occurred late at night and in the early hours of the morning. We have increased our patrols both in uniform and nonuniform and urge people to take simple steps to stay safe and prevent further offences. Avoid walking alone late at night and stick to the busier well-lit areas, keep valuables out of sight and wear handbags across your chest not just on the shoulder. Our investigations continue and we will report further developments in the local media with official press releases. I would urge that if you can add anything to our investigations to please call Leicestershire Police on 101 or Crimestoppers, which is anonymous on 0800 555 111.

Although it hasn't become a crime spree per se, recently we have noticed a number of break-ins to business premises where front doors have had glass panels broken and small items including cash being stolen. We urge the local businesses to review your security and do not leave anything inside the premises that is easy to take. If you would like any crime prevention advice please make contact with one of your local Neighbourhood Officers and we will be happy to help.

Finally I am moving on to pastures new where I will be taking up a new role at Police Headquarters, I am being replaced on the Western Ward by Sgt Simon Walters. This monthly Police update will continue with the return of Sgt Mike Hooper. Sqt Andy Stevens

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner

Horticulturally speaking I'm as metro-sexual as the next gardener. I've no problem with pretty little flowers or delicate blooms with girlie names. I don't even mind pink as a colour. But sometimes a red blooded gardener wants big, bold plants with a bit of muscle that can handle themselves at the back of a border. It's worth having some prominent perennials in any reasonable sized planting

area to give structure through the summer. Now is the time macho herbaceous perennials start to

perform.

Architecturally you can't beat the artichokes. Remove the flowers if you just want to admire the silver green foliage. The edible blooms may match those of any exotic Protea but sap the plants strength.

The cardoon (Cynara Car-

dunculus), it's cousin, is also spectacular. The stems are edible if blanched like celery. Two plants that mix business and pleasure. Both prefer fertile, moist but free draining soil. Aphids can be a problem, but nothing a quick spray with some soapy water won't fix.

Echinops or Globe Thistles are another manly favourite with handsome foliage. Bees and butterflies love the vivid blue spheres of blooms. This plant tolerates poorer, drier soils but can be prone to mildew. Excessive shade, dampness and crowding can contribute to this. Remove and dispose of infected foliage in the autumn stop spores spreading.



As macho flowers go you can't beat Verbascum olympicum. This yellow flowered brute has already reached over 2 meters height in my garden, and looks capable of wrestling a Triffid. Now that's what I call a man's plant!

Tony Huxley









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1 Across: July fortnight 1 Down: Windy 2: or cry 3: Barking comic verse 4: Sailor 5: Squeezed dry 6: Receive as an heir 7: Plays the odds. © Paul Towers

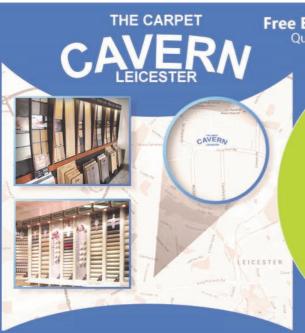
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