

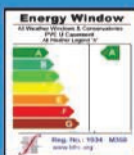


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## Hello From The Editor

**Welcome to July's Western Park Gazette and in this edition...**

It's a picture heavy issue this time. It's been fairly quiet but we were out with the camera at the Western Park Open Gardens, Dovetails School's Summer Fayre and the Big Lunch in Rally Park.

This month; Roger Blackmore looks at the life of one of Leicester's prominent female anti slave trade campaigners, Helen Knott rages about the difficulties of trying to nip into town - it's something you just can't do in half an hour anymore. Our gardening god, Tony Huxley, finds one of the UK's rarest plants and Sgt Mark Brennan from Hinckley Road police has his update including a plea to help catch a nasty road rage attacker.

There's also a quick look at what we think will be the world's first Game of Thrones beer festival at the West End Brewery this month, Wistow Maze offer four tickets, so you can lose the family in their new Sherlock Holmes themed maze and DMU's Sq Mile Project gets involved in a ton of social projects. Finally the Sudoku and crossword lay in ambush on the inside pack page ready frustrate you!

**Find 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](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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# Events Diary

**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 7.15 - 8.30pm. St Anne's Hall. 07393 811150.  
**Miss Saigon:** 1st-22nd July. Curve.  
**ICC Women's World Cup:** Till 15th July. Grace Rd.  
**Upstairs @ Western:** 15 July. Real Junk Food Variety Show. Afternoon. Free entry.  
**Game of Thrones Beer Fest:** 13-16 July. West End Brewery, Braunstone Gate.  
**Braunstone History Group Exhibition:** 16th July. Braunstone Hall Stables. 12-4pm.  
**Silvia South & The Word Catcher (Kids):** 17 July - Fosse Lib - 11am. Brite Centre - 3pm. 20th July - W/ cotes Lib - 11am. New Parks Lib - 3pm (£3 - £10).  
**Athletico Mince:** 21 July. Y Theatre. 7.00pm.  
**Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band:** 23 July. Western Park bandstand. 3pm. Free.  
**Animal Agents (Kids):** 26 July. N/parks Lib. 3rd Aug - W/cotes Lib 11-3pm. Free.  
**Street Food Night:** 28 July. LCB Depot. 5-11pm.  
**Simon Says Weekend:** 29/30th July. DMH.  
**Yours Faithfully Edna Welthorpe (Mrs):** 9th Aug. Little Theatre. 7.00pm.  
**Midsummer Night's Dream:** 10-20th Aug. Curve.

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## UNCOMMON GARDENS

Hundreds of gardening fans from across West Leicester made their way to the biannual Western Park Open Gardens event at the end of June to enjoy the spectacular sights of some of the area's most unique gardens.

The gates of twenty homes were opened for exploring visitors. Many homeowners offered plants, food and drink for sale to raise money for LOROS, Healing Little Hearts and the continuing work on the new Hall at St Anne's.

The Open Gardens event was centred at the new Letchworth Road hall with refreshments, activities, stalls and music throughout the day.

**More photos on our FB page & website.**



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# Susanna Watts

Susanna Watts, who was to become a significant player in the fight for the abolition of the slave trade, was born in Dannets Hall, Leicester in 1768. (Between Tesco on Braunstone Gate and Tudor Road)

Despite the opulent nature of her surroundings, the family finances were problematic. This was especially so after her father died when Susannah was only fifteen months old. Following the death of her Uncle William, when she was a teenager she found it necessary to earn a living, so this highly educated and naturally clever young woman turned to writing to help make ends meet.

She wrote remarkably scholarly works. In addition to hymns and poems, she taught herself French and Italian, using these skills to translate many books

into English. She earned a considerable reputation as an artist and her work was featured in a London exhibition alongside her more famous Leicester counterpart, Mary Linwood.

In the early 1800's, Susanna Watts became a champion of the campaign for the abolition of the slave trade, along with her close friend, Elizabeth Heyrick who was also from Leicester. Together these two conceived, wrote and edited a new anti-slavery periodical called "The Humming Bird" which first appeared in 1824. Their magazine circulated widely throughout the UK and was rare in the fact that it was solely edited by women.

The two friends also campaigned throughout the city for a boycott of goods, including sugar, which were produced using slave labour. These two feisty ladies were to become part of a national network of campaigning abolitionist women. At one time she fell out with arch campaigner, William Wilberforce, who objected to women taking such a prominent role in the movement.

In 1804 Susanna produced a guide book entitled "Walking Through Leicester". The first ever guide of its kind, the book gave a comprehensive description of the city's history from Roman Times. She described Leicester Market as "surrounded by handsome and well furnished shops" and provided a comprehensive history of local churches.

Sadly Susanna was not to enjoy good health in later life and she died in 1842. Her many talents and her zeal in fighting for her beliefs surely deserve wider recognition.

**Roger Blackmore**

All of Roger's articles are available from our website: [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)



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# KNOTT'S LANDING

**Access to Leicester city centre is being made harder and harder for residents. The drawbridge is being pulled up.** It started back in the day when they built the inner ring road. A noose around the centre of town - A two or three lane tarmac barrier. So we learned to navigate the crossing points, we found ways in, points of entry so we could use the city centre, participate in city life. We used businesses in the city, we shopped, we nipped into the centre to grab a few things, we worked there.

But somehow decisions were made and the noose tightened. Public transport became more difficult and expensive to use. Walking in becomes more unpleasant with poor air quality and busy roads. Cycling is an interesting and sometimes suicidal exercise in navigation. And driving into town? Well it's almost like they want to keep cars spinning around the outside like a fidgeter but never actually allowing them in.

Recently the roadworks and the changes being made make it seem as if every entry point to the city from this side has been shut down. Unless we take public transport at more than the cost of using a car, use the fiendishly expensive NCP car park at St Nicholas Circle or those empty lots by the river, there is no parking for anyone who needs to nip into town. Nothing for those who need to work there.

There is no nipping into the city any more. Recently it took me over half an hour to navigate my car from London Road over to Mill Lane. Roadworks, one way systems and parking restrictions. They all contributed to trying to keep me out. I can't dash to the market to grab a few things. If you work in town finding parking is a nightmare. There are hardly any parking spaces on roads, every street heading into town is being pedestrianised. But for whom? Tourists? The students who are only here 9 months of the year? Those are the only people who seem to live in the city centre now. They can't sustain businesses. I know of several companies who have folded because their customers from outside the city centre could not reach them easily. Students aren't interested in local politics. They don't have a lot of disposable income. They are temporary. Actual residents, who should be at the centre of everything the council do, are being kept away and our city centre will be hollowed out as a result.

**Helen Knott**



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# GOOD N' FAYRE

Dovelands Primary School on Hinckley Road welcomed hundreds of people to it's annual summer fayre and raised thousands of pounds for projects around the school.

Visitors were able to look round the school's award winning garden, which this year is focusing on encouraging birds with the help of the RSPB, and enjoy stalls set up and run by each class in school.

PTFA treasurer Helen Knott said nearly 350 people came along and although the final count is not in, they raised around £3000.

"It was a fantastic day. The weather held for us and everyone who

came along enjoyed games, food and a bit of shopping. The children showed how amazingly inventive and entrepreneurial they are and the school staff were brilliant at helping bring those ideas to life. We want to thank everyone who came along and supported us".



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# THE BIG LUNCH

This year's Big Lunch on Rally Park on June 25th was another huge success, with over 700 people attending.

The annual event is organised by local charities including All Nations Church, DMU local, Christians Against Poverty, and the local Police Community support Officers.



The day included bouncy castles, face painting, barbecue and refreshments, all provided free by the local charities.

Rally Park has hosted this community day for the last seven years, and the community love it. "It was amazing, again," said Councillor Ted Cassidy.

**Steve Clarke**

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## GAME OF THRONES BEER FESTIVAL

To celebrate the launch of the seventh season of the world's biggest TV series, Leicester's first brew pub is holding a special Game of Thrones Beer Festival.

Russell 'Stark' Hunt, The West End Brewery's Bar Manager, who is organising the world's first ever GOT Beer Festival said: "I've always wanted to arrange a beer festival based on the books and TV show. You don't need to have dipped a toe in either - you just need to be over 18 to enjoy!

"At the WEB I now I have the opportunity to challenge both myself and national brewers to source a dozen varied boozy beverages as the hype of Season 7's imminent release amps up!"

Fancy dress and cosplay is welcome but please leave your dragons tethered to the bike rack outside next to the fire extinguishers.

The GOT Beer Festival is at the West End Brewery, Braunstone Gate from 13th-16th of June. Includes 10 themed Real Ales / 2 Ciders & Quiz.



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The architect and builder selected for the mammoth project was William Oldham, who later became Lord Mayor.

For more than 150 years the Winstanley's occupied Braunstone Hall, and the Hall saw many births, deaths and marriages as it was handed down through the generations.

The Winstanley's residence and ownership of the Hall sadly came to an end soon after Britain's success in the First World War in 1918. An act of parliament was passed 'to make Britain a land fit for heroes to live in,' which resulted in Richard Winstanley, the last Lord of the manor, being forced to sell off his estate through a compulsory purchase order. This was so that much needed modern housing could be built.

Today after a careful restoration, Braunstone Hall will open as an impressive Hotel, Restaurant and Venue, complete with two lavish ballrooms, 19 boutique hotel rooms and a contemporary British steak restaurant the Hall will finally be named after the distinguished family who originally brought it to life.

The team at Winstanley House will be looking for hard working people with a passion for guests and a talent for great customer service at all levels.

### Do you want to join our team?

Please send your CV to  
[lynden@cps-recruitment.co.uk](mailto:lynden@cps-recruitment.co.uk)

With an elegant courtyard and space for a marquee, Winstanley House is the perfect location for large and intimate wedding celebrations and civil ceremonies. Set in 168 acres of public parkland with lakes and a walled garden just a short walk away making it a desired setting for the most romantic and fun wedding.

Whether you are looking for your perfect wedding venue, that wow setting for the Christmas Party or simply a get together with friends and family we can't wait to help you plan your event.

**Contact our events team now to find out more about our very special launch packages.**

[info@WinstanleyHouse.co.uk](mailto:info@WinstanleyHouse.co.uk) 0116 366 5642

Black Iron brings the unique flavour of classical cooking traditions to a modern restaurant setting. The centrepiece of our restaurant is our charcoal fired oven. Our locally sourced dishes harken back to the way food used to be prepared, cooking over fire is a primitive technique that lets our top quality ingredients speak for themselves. A superb dining experience that will leave you with a new-found appreciation for British cuisine. Our luxury dining area seats up to 40 guests, with an intimate private dining room available for those special occasions.

**Opening Summer 2017... taking bookings now.**



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## Curious Case of Wistow Maze

To mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*, the award-winning Wistow Maze has been designed in the shape of the famous consulting detective himself.

Sherlock has fascinated millions by solving the most inexplicable of crimes but now visitors to the Wistow Maze can put their own detective skills to the test, finding their way both through the maze and collecting different clues along the way.

This year the giant 8 acre maize maze has a fun 'Whodunnit' themed Quiz Trail hidden amongst its 3 miles of paths, with high level bridges and towers giving stunning panoramic views.

A great family day out, visitors can also take part in a variety of mini mazes and games in the Activity Funnery, which includes a space hopper track, hoopla, beanbag throwing and a football shooting game.

Across the road is the Wistow Rural Centre with its cafe, garden centre, art gallery, model village and numerous shops, ensuring there really is something to satisfy all ages.

Wistow Maze is a winner of Leicestershire's "Best Visitor Attraction" and attracts over 20,000 visitors each year.

**Opens: Wed 19<sup>th</sup> July - Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept (daily), then weekends only until Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept.**



## WIN 4 TICKETS

To enter the competition email the correct answer to the question below:

Which British actor played Sherlock Holmes, opposite Nigel Bruce's Watson, in the famous films from 1939 to 1946?

1. Errol Flynn
2. Clark Gable
3. Cary Grant
4. Basil Rathbone

Email your answer including name, address and contact details before July 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 to: [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

*Terms: 1 entry per person. 1 winner picked at random. Tickets non-transferable. Winner only contacted. Judge's decision is final.*

For more info about Wistow Maze visit:  
[www.wistow.com](http://www.wistow.com)

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## July Police Update

When people ask me how the team is getting on I always say "very busy" and this month is no exception! I am always amazed when I look back each month at the wide range of work we do to protect the local community.

The two significant terrorist incidents in London, over the past month, have again been central to our work. We have continued to provide extra patrols, some of which have been by armed officers, to give additional reassurance to you.

Another key role this month was the policing of the general election. On June 8th a number of our local officers were deployed to visit local polling stations to help ensure the democratic process was free and fair.

While some of the team were in polling stations I was at a rock festival! Our teams also provide additional support at the annual Download festival at Donnington Park and I was part of the team for one day. It certainly was a change of scenery to day-to-day life on the beat!

As well as all this, we continue our day-to-day pursuit of criminals. We supported Operation Cabriolet which was a two-day operation across the force area leading to the arrest of 22 violent offenders and burglars. This included a 26 year old man from Ashleigh Road who was charged with assault and threats to commit criminal damage and a 28 year old woman from New Parks who was charged with assault.

We are appealing for people who can identify a man in connection with a road rage incident on Blackbird Road. The incident happened around 1.15pm on Wednesday 31 May. A driver of a black BMW got out of his car and assaulted the driver of a red Renault Clio, who luckily was not seriously injured. If you recognise the suspect then call 101, quoting incident number 17\*230657.



With the summer period I imagine you are thinking about where your summer holiday will be. I know I certainly am! So when you are planning, please also think about how you will maintain your home security when you are away. Can a friend or neighbour check your house to remove obvious signs that you are away? Can you put lighting on timer switches? Also check your social media security settings so burglars can't see that you are away for two weeks on holiday. That way the only thing you have to worry about when you get home is finding the energy to go back to work!

**Sgt Mark Brennan**

## Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



### Unbelievably, some of my friends aren't keen gardeners!

One such family recently enjoyed a fortnight's holiday. On return, the husband felt obliged to try to tidy the unkempt square of turf in their front garden that they loosely call a lawn. To their surprise, something small and beautiful had emerged from their neglect. Even though I'd never seen one before, I knew instantly it was a Bee Orchid.

The beautiful velvety flower mimics a female bumble bee to attract an amorous male. His mating attempts will gain him nothing but the sense that it was he who was taken for a ride, and a dusting of pollen to transfer to the next bee orchid that tempts him in. But the bee species in question, the long horned miner bee, is almost extinct in Britain, (I have to wonder if this is because the males wasted all their efforts trying



to bonk flowers?). So the orchid has abandoned thousands of years of specialised adaptation and quickly evolved the ability to self pollinate.

The leaves of the plant are unremarkable and could easily be mistaken for a plantain or other non-descript lawn weeds. How long the orchid has lived in that small piece of turf, having its flower spike prematurely mown out, is a mystery. They can take up to eight years to flower. And how did the tiny seed get there?

Orchid seeds are like dust and contain no food reserves, so they form a symbiotic relationship with specific species of fungus in order to grow. The chances of an orchid seed surviving to finding the right fungus in a suburban garden are themselves miniscule. Even so, it is possible to buy the seed, but you'll need luck and patience in equally vast quantities.

I don't even know if this particular plant will be there next year, they're notoriously ephemeral. But I do know my friends have found a good excuse to justify their lax lawn care routine.

**Tony Huxley**



Bee Orchid Seed

# Martin Page

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1			2		3		4
5							
6		7					
8							

**1 Across:** Post Monday **1 Down:** Like a table  
**2:** Not a flow **3:** Charge for dray conveyance **4:**  
produced **5:** Father of computing **6:** Small rope or  
chord **7:** Doze in a sitting position **8:** Harry.

© Paul Towers

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

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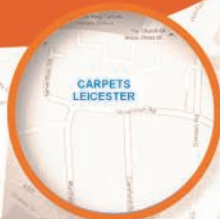
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