



## TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK

More on Page 4

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## Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the June edition of the **Western Park Gazette**.

This month we went off to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Riverside Festival. Very busy- especially on Sunday when the sun came out. We also popped along with a camera to a couple of street parties during the weekend of the Queen's 90th Birthday.

King Richard's Road seems to be getting quite famous. Rich Wilson's LCFC mural is now finished and the Bazaar Mart has rescued part of the old Corah's sign from the scrap heap. A lot of people are going to see both.

Our regular features continue with Roger Blackmore, this time, on trains, Helen Knott on cars, Sgt Andy Stevens on crime and Tony Huxley on pergolas. Richard Perry went off to Glastonbudget, stuck his ears right into the 3000w speaker bins and has shouted the review across.

As always the Sudoku and crossword squat on the inside back page... Enjoy!

Please like our Facebook and Twitter pages where we also keep you up to date with local news and anything else that piques our interest.

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If you've got a local news story then email:  
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# Events Diary

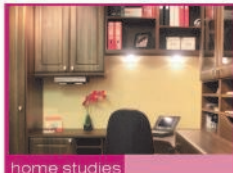
**Fosse Singers:** Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm.  
**Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band:** 1st Sun Monthly. Café Chino at Hilton Hotel, Meridian. 1-3.30pm **And on 17th July, 3-4pm at the Bandstand, Western Park.**  
**Thursday Club:** Thursdays. 2-4pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narborough Rd.  
**West End Pay 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](http://goleicestershire.com)  
**Westfield Gallery:** Mon-Sat. 81 Westfield Rd. Call 0116 285 8548 to view.  
**HandleBards Richard III (Comedy):** 24<sup>th</sup> June. Guildhall. 7pm. 0116 253 2569  
**The ELO Experience:** 24<sup>th</sup> June. De Mont Hall. 7.30pm. [demonthall.co.uk](http://demonthall.co.uk)  
**Return of the Garrison (Sci-fi tribute):** 25/26 June. Nat Space Centre. [spacecentre.co.uk](http://spacecentre.co.uk)  
**An August Bank Holiday Lark:** 22 June -2<sup>nd</sup> July. Little Theatre. [Littletheatre.net](http://Littletheatre.net)  
**Big Friendly Read Launch Day:** 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Brite Centre, Fosse & New Parks Library. 11-3pm Free.  
**Rocky Horror Show:** 4-9th July. Curve.  
**Western Park Fest:** 9th July. Western Park. 11-8pm.  
**Summer Jam (Free riding):** 9th July. Western Pk.  
**Race For Life:** 10<sup>th</sup> July. Victoria Park. 10.30.  
**Western Park Beer Fest:** 19-20<sup>th</sup> Aug. Dovelands Sch. [westernparkbeerfestival.org](http://westernparkbeerfestival.org)  
 Email your event to: [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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## TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK

The sun shone down on Leicester's biggest free two day festival as thousands from across the city made their way to the banks of the Soar.

The Riverside Festival always attracts huge crowds and this year was no exception with large numbers enjoying the dragon boat races, boat trips and demonstrations by Paddle Plus and the Sea Cadets.

As the smell of grilled food from around the world wafted across the river, music from the main stage on the plaza was came from local bands and singers.

There was even environmentally friendly exercise from Cyclone Works with their bizarre bikes. Craft stalls and local community groups did brisk business, all adding to the non-stop party atmosphere.



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## STEAMED AHEAD

I often feel that not enough attention has been paid to two local men who played a crucial role in the early development of railways in Britain.

The two men, William Stenson, senior partner in Whitwick Colliery, and local Leicester businessman, John Ellis, quickly saw the value in providing a rail link between the Leicestershire coalfield and Leicester's wharves at West Bridge. Stenson himself surveyed a line through Coalville, Desford and Glenfield, down to close by the banks of the Soar. He persuaded John Ellis to join him in pushing the scheme forward.

John Ellis wasted little time in travelling north to see the recently created Liverpool and Manchester Railway for himself. He also managed to obtain the services of no less a figure than the great engineer George Stephenson and his son, Robert, to assist with their project. Stenson and Ellis called a meeting at the Bell Hotel in Humberstone Gate to discuss their proposal.

The pair certainly did not hang about. They lodged their plans in 1829 and obtained the necessary Act of Parliament in the following year. By July 1832 they had opened up the new railway from West Bridge station to Bagworth. The completion of the line from there to Swannington took

place in 1833.

Thus cheap coal came to Leicester and the new venture formed the stimulus for much of the city's subsequent trade and prosperity.

The building of the line included the mile long Glenfield Tunnel. This was not only the first railway tunnel ever built in Britain, it was also, for many years after, the longest tunnel on the railway network.

It was some years later, in 1840, that the Midland Counties Railway Company opened up lines from Derby and Nottingham to Leicester's Campbell Street Station. Later, through trains began to run from York and Derby through Rugby down to a terminus at Euston Square in London. The present station on London Road did not open until 1892.

Thanks are due for much that followed to these local railway pioneers, Stenson and Ellis, whose work deserves wider recognition.

**Roger Blackmore**



Photo from GCR

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# KNOTT'S LANDING

**Who just abandons a car on a road in a residential area?** Just leaves it there, rotting slowly, even though they know it's there because the police and the local council have been notified and have almost certainly tried to contact the owner in case it's stolen. Given the rise of 'bangernomics' and the current depressed economic situation, I'd have thought you would have no problem moving on an old car that is taxed and quite probably MOT'd for a few quid. I've got a friend who never pays more than £500 for a car and he's only had two in the last six years. He just drives them until they fall apart and then he goes and gets a new one. He buys the cars that people put on roadside verges with hand written signs inside. His three kids don't seem to mind that they travel in aged Volvos and once, a ridiculous BMW with leather seats and an air conditioning unit that could freeze fish. He bought that one for £120 as I recall. He claims it's better for the environment to carry on with the bangers rather than buy a new car. I have no idea if this is true but I do love the idea of the cars having a last hurrah with excited kids, biscuit crumbs and sand before the great crusher gets them!

A car has been languishing on a side street near

me since before Christmas. Just sitting there. The council couldn't do anything because it was taxed and MOT'd so they left it. It looked fine to start with, just a normal little car, but then nature started to take hold. Moss in the tyres, weeds underneath it sheltered from the elements. It started to look tatty. To (heaven forbid) lower the tone! The car is clearly not roadworthy and hopefully a nice man will come and tow it away, leaving us free of the blight of the old car. So much hassle and stress has been caused when the owner could have just sold it on for a couple of hundred quid and bought a week in Corfu with the proceeds and been safe in the knowledge they made someone happy in their banger. I guess, in the words of Mr Forrest Gump, 'stupid is as stupid does'.

**Helen Knott**



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## A Little Corner Of History

King Richard's Road is probably the best known road in Leicester - it's certainly been noticed globally on TV over the last 18 months.

Last year the whole world watched the re-interment cortege of King Richard III travelling down it into the city. This year on Kate Street, just behind Mark's Electrical, and following on from the Fox's Premiership victory, artist Rich Wilson got his spray cans out and started a huge team mural. It took him a month to finish but it has garnered international interest and has become something of a tourist attraction with thousands of people snapping selfies in front of Claudio and the boys.



Another piece of Leicester's history saw the light of day earlier this month. Just around the corner from the Fox's mural, the owners of the antiques and curios emporium, Bazaar Mart, managed to save part of the old Corah sign which once looked out over Burley's Way.

It was all Emma Johnson's idea. Emma who runs the shop owned by her dad, said: "I saw it on Facebook. Some people had climbed the Corah's building and were holding the sign up. I thought if that building's ever coming down, I want the sign. It's part of Leicester's history and I wanted to save it. I didn't want it sent for scrap".

Luckily for Emma, a demolition company, owned by a family friend, was brought in to work on the derelict Corah site. They managed to find the 18 foot metal back plate. It was so big and heavy it had to be cut into three pieces before being lowered down.

The electrics which used to illuminate the sign are long gone but now a little piece of Leicester's knitwear heritage is on display on King Richard's Road for all to see.







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Western Park Festival, returns for its fifth year  
on Saturday July 9th between 11.00am and  
8.00pm showcasing some of our amazing,  
local emerging bands and acoustic artists.

# WESTERN PARK FESTIVAL

A fun packed day is scheduled for this family  
friendly festival with something everyone. Last  
year 8,000 people came along to enjoy the music,  
food and activities in glorious sunshine.

This year's musical line-up kicks off on the main  
stage at 11.00am and includes, The Mixtones,  
The Whiskey Rebellion, The Lost Future, Siobhan  
Mazzei Band, Jesse Wright, Becky Edwards,  
Rhett Barrow, John Fryer and Ruby & Stan.

The festival also includes the bandstand stage  
and Kids-zone talent stage, and new for this year-  
the buskers stage, so bring your guitar and pick a  
slot.

The "Kidzone" will host an array of fun and inter-  
active activities for the youngsters and young at  
heart, such as Punch and Judy Shows, Book Bus  
stories, Zorbing, fair rides and talent shows. Get  
involved with the Zumba Fitness & Zumba Kids  
from Kinga. Fancy taking up a new sport? The  
ladies from the bowls club will also be letting you  
get involved - just wear flat shoes and a smile!

There will be a Real Ale tent selling local craft  
beers and numerous food outlets to keep those  
tummies filled. Don't forget we also have stalls  
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Admission is £1 for Adults, Children under 16 are  
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Remember the Bike Park will be onsite, so leave  
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**Ady Alexander**

Visit: [www.westernparkfestival.co.uk](http://www.westernparkfestival.co.uk)

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The Western Park Free Riders, a group of vol-  
unteers who maintain Western Park's cycle  
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opposite side of the park to the festival, also  
on July 9th.

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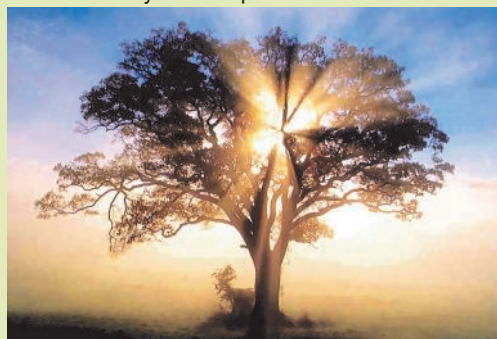
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## GOING GREENER

Two years ago a group of 10 West Leicester residents met up to embark on a series of 8 fortnightly meetings to learn more about the impact of modern living on climate change, home energy, waste and water, consumerism, food and transport. I was one of those who went along thinking I was quite knowledgeable about these issues and did my bit, hoping to meet and make new friends.

From that first meeting a different mindset started to evolve for all of us. We were all at different stages of being 'green' and it was wonderful to spend time with people who truly lived eco friendly lives while others of us – me included – realised we could do many things to help reduce our carbon footprint. Everyone supported each other in taking small steps. Since the 8 meetings finished we have continued to meet every month to continue the progress we made.

Just looking at the way we live on a daily basis we made significant changes including: not buying excess food, eating up what was in the fridge, not buying imported fresh food, reducing our red meat and dairy consumption.



Reducing energy usage and therefore bills has been very successful: turning off at the wall rather than leaving things on standby saves ££s, turning the heating down and using thermostatic valves on radiators, reducing drafts and insulating lofts all make a significant difference.

Where transport is concerned walking or cycling instead of driving saves the planet and car parking fees and has made me and my friends healthier (the city centre is only 25 minutes walk away). Others have looked at car sharing or using public transport more often. Holidays by train rather than flying have proved great fun to arrange and let you see more of the country.

We've learned about composting, permaculture and growing more of our own fruit and veg.

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**Margaret Pannel**



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## Braunstone Gate Goes Blue

More than fifty local people and regular users of Braunstone Gate have been getting their paintbrushes and trowels out to 'blue' up their end of town with a giant LCFC themed mural and mini-garden.

The week of painting and gardening was planned by the Braunstone Gate Community Forum, charity Sustrans and Soft Touch Arts, as part of the 'Braunstone Gate Places for People' project.

The mural, on the corner of Thorpe Street, was designed by the Forum and pupils at Shaftesbury Junior school. They wanted to celebrate LCFC's premiership win and the multicultural nature of their community, as well as local landmarks – including the King Power Stadium, the River Soar and Bede Park.

All sorts of people got their hands dirty and painted, from 5 to 70-year-olds, taxi drivers, bin men, students and families. Several canal boat residents popped by to lend their boat painting skills.



Pegasus Fitness Factory donated their wall, with many enthusiastic local residents donating plants or buying supplies from local florist Vickers.

A survey found at least 20 different nationalities of people work on Braunstone Gate. All their flags are depicted on the mural.

Kim Chong, who works on Braunstone Gate, was involved in the design and painting of the mural, along with her two children and said: "The painting allows children to capture the glorious moments of Leicester's recent history." Charlotte Jones, Sustrans project co-ordinator and local resident, commented: "...it was clear that tidying up this end of the street, plus more greenery and more colour, were things that everyone agreed they'd like to see happen. It has been a fantastic week, together we have turned this previously crumbling, weedy, litter-strewn corner of the street in to a little pocket of colour and celebration for everyone to enjoy!"

Westcotes ward councillor Andy Connelly said: "What used to be disused rough ground has been transformed into a colourful, appealing new area which all residents can enjoy".



## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY STREET PARTIES

The Queen's official birthday was celebrated in style in West Leicester with two local street parties.

Residents on Ainsdale Road and Westfield Road organised their own tributes to the Queen as she turned 90.

Organisers at both events pulled out all the stops, encouraging friends and neighbours to bake, slice, dice, roast and boil mountains of food; erect stands, marquees, bouncy castles and stages, arrange entertainment and... clear up afterwards!

It's estimated that around 200 people turned up to enjoy the festivities.



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# Glastonbudget 2016

Now marching through its second decade, the three day Glastonbudget Tribute and New Music Festival continues to amaze with its breadth of entertainment. From the sublime Absolute Bowie to the lunacy of the Ouse Valley Singles Club, there is something for everybody.

Leicester lads Kasabian may well have been playing to capacity crowds at the King Power Stadium at the same time, but that didn't dent the attendance at Turnpost Farm near Wymswold. The crowds rolled up, pitched their tents and got down to the serious business of enjoying 160 top tribute acts and local bands in the sunshine.

The thing to remember about these top Glastonbudget tribute bands is... they're really, really good. Except for the wigs. The wigs are rubbish. But the musicianship and chutzpah from the performers is second to none. You can happily howl along to the classic hits from Totally Tina; you'll never get the chance to see Ms. Turner perform live but this is the next best thing. Likewise Ben, the Michael Jackson tribute, was back for another barnstorming appearance.

Absolute Bowie relived the times of Ziggy Stardust to The Thin White Duke and Gordon Davis as Elvis, all rhinestones, bare chest and quiff, got the girls shrieking right across the field. If guitar rock is your thing; Oasis, Money For Nothing, The Jam drc, Kazabian, Green Date and Four Fighters



fired out perfect crowd pleasing riffs to an increasingly happy capacity crowd. Over in the Big Top, The ZZ Tops, who actually have real beards and revolving fleece covered guitars, belted out their namesake's hits, one after another. The Bruno Marz tribute was also uncannily close to the original, getting the audience bopping and singing along to Locked Out Of Heaven and the rest of the Marz catalogue of hits. Not The Rolling Stones might as well be the real thing. They have their own Mick Jagger look-a-like and explode on the stage to deliver a blisteringly accurate set from the world's greatest rock n' roll band.

No Glastonbudget would be complete without the traditionally massive Sunday night headliner - Mercury, the Queen tribute band were back. There is little to say except they are simply the best tribute band in the world. I think if Freddie was still with us, he'd have jumped on stage, sung along and you wouldn't have seen the join.

Glastonbudget will be back in May 2017 for another three days non-stop, no nonsense boogie-fest. See you there!

**Richard Perry**



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## June Police Update

May was a busier Month than normal with the fantastic performance of Leicester City F.C. winning the Premiership title, our officers were used to police the victory parade and the subsequent Kasabian concert at the King Power Stadium. What a spectacle it was! It was great to see the whole community enjoying themselves with a real party atmosphere. However there were a few isolated incidents of public disorder and assaults in the Braunstone Gate area following the concert and I am aware of a number of thefts that occurred inside the stadium.

Over the last year or so the car park next to the Merry Monarch pub has been a focal point for street drinkers and the associated anti-social behaviour. Officers from the Westcotes beat have been patrolling and dealing with offenders that they have encountered, this has seen the number of reports be significantly reduced.

You may well have seen some new signs going up in streets around the West End and also had a leaflet through your letterbox relating to vehicle crime. The whole of the Western Ward has been affected by vehicle crime recently whereby vehicles have been attacked for items left on display inside. We have been pushing the message out on social media and other forms - "LEAVE IT ON SHOW EXPECT IT TO GO" Please think and have a quick check when you lock up your vehicle, is there anything on show? If there is, remove it or hide it out of sight.

The Westleigh Road Neighbourhood Watch Group are looking to expand their membership to cover more roads around Westleigh Road. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes can be set up anywhere, if you think that you and some other likeminded neighbours would like to be involved in joining an existing scheme such as Westleigh Road, or setting up a new one please contact your Neighbourhood officers. Their details can be found online at [www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk) and look for local policing.

I write this just as the Riverside Festival in and around Western Boulevard ended. Another fantastic event attended by thousands of people over the weekend enjoying the lovely weather. Our officers supported by colleagues from the Special Constabulary were in attendance all weekend to police the event. You might have seen some of the photos posted on 'Twitter'. I'm pleased to say that very few incidents were reported to us and the majority of festival goers had an enjoyable and safe time.

**Sgt Andy Stevens**



## Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



**What do we have a garden for?**

**To look at from the kitchen sink while washing the dishes?** To stare at when it's raining? To glimpse through a window behind the TV while watching Cash in the Attic? Eventually we give a sigh of resignation, haul ourselves up because we know we have to go out there and mow and tidy up a bit of it. But now it's Summer we should truly start treating it as a living space.

Maybe we need tempting out of our safe, cosy homes with the illusion of four walls by using structures like the Egyptians first built around 1,400BC, and found their way into English gardens in 1600s. Tack some wooden rafters across the top of four posts and you have a pergola. It will struggle to protect you from the challenges of the British weather, but you'll have defined a room in the garden that may invite you to enjoy the al fresco experience.

Pergolas add height, structure and interest to a garden. They're great frames for climbers and certain fruits to scramble over, which in turn will offer dappled shade in the summer. Traditionally they're made from wood, stone or brick, or metal.

Plastic versions are now coming onto the market. Pergolas can be simple or incredibly elaborate structures depending on your need, DIY skill or depth of pocket. But do make sure it's a usable space. If you can't fit a small table and chairs underneath you've built yourself a rose arch!



Many of the better fencing companies will build you a pergola, and some supply wooden pergolas in kit form, often to your own specification. There are also websites that have free plans and designs. Metal spikes can simplify the build, but having seen many wobbly results I would always opt for concreting in the posts, at least 18" deep if possible.

And when you have your pergola use it! That's where I'm sitting as I write this.

**Tony Huxley**



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# Martin Page

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