



MESSING ABOUT IN BOATS!



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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the June edition of the Western Park Gazette.

This month we'll go messing about in boats at the Riverside Festival, (Check out our video on the Gazette's Facebook page), we find out what Project Hive's been up to, there's a quick look at what to expect at the Western Park Festival on July 6th as well as the next local beer festival in September. Local cycling lunatic, Pete Alfarno, sets off to ride from John O'Groats to Land's End on a bike he's built himself. He'll be riding 200kms a day of 10 days... 2000km on a hard seat - ouch!

In our regular features; Helen Knott comes to the conclusion that women over 40 are sometimes a little too vain to carry reading glasses, Roger Blackmore looks back at the career of Janet Setchfield, Tony Huxley examines the delights of Irises and Mark Brennan from Hinckley Road police has their regular update.

As always the crossword and Sudoku squat menacingly on the back page.

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Events Diary

St Anne's Weds Club: Monthly, 1st Weds. St Anne's Hall. Letchworth Rd. 2.30-4pm.

Free Thurs 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.

Women's Taekwondo. Fridays. Brite Centre -10am & Thurs - 8pm at St Anne's Hall. 07951 426 386

Walking Group: Sundays. 2pm. 96 Deg. B-Gate.

Dru Yoga Sessions with Emma: Sundays. 7.15-8.30pm. St Anne's Hall. 07393 811150.

Free Children's Art Club: Saturdays 10.30-12.00. Fosse Neighbourhood Centre. Mantle Rd.

WP Open Gardens: June 22nd. 2-6pm. Tickets £4 from Hall at St Anne's on Letchworth Road.

Dovelands Summer Fayre: June 22nd. 12 - 3pm.

Westgate School Family Festival: Sat June 22nd. 12-3pm (Supporting special needs families)

The Big Lunch: 23 June. The Rally Park. 12-2pm.

DM Hall: 23rd June - **Amit Kumar**, 24th June - **Sum 41** 5th-7th July - **Zog**.

Curve: 28th June-13th July - The Color Purple, 29th June - Out of The hat, 30th June - Gibbering Jester

Little Theatre: 24th-29th June - The Sound of Music, 8th-13th July - Dick Barton Special Agent.

Y Theatre: 22nd June - Ruby Redfort, 23rd - Wishes for Rainbows, 27th - Confessions of American Serial Killers (Talk), 3rd July - R4 Comedy Awards.

Haymarket Theatre: 19th July - Amelie the Musical.

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MESSING ABOUT ON BOATS!

Over the first weekend in June, thousands of people made their way to the banks of the River Soar to enjoy the 22nd Riverside Festival.

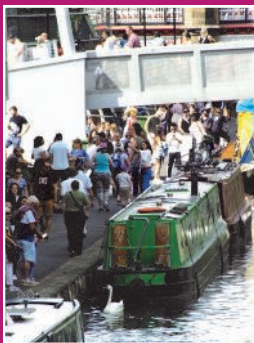
As always there was much to see and do including the Broken Records Swing Festival at Castle Gardens, in which visitors got into the groove with swing dancers, jazz performers and live music from local soul musicians including KGB Jazz, The Citizens of Swing, Gareth John and Groove and the Bathtub Pings, along with jazz bands from both the city's universities.

Bede Park was transformed into a funfair, while the banks of the River Soar came alive with a bustling street market, performers, and canoeing activities on the river itself, including scores of colourful narrow boats, boat rides and the traditional floating tea shop.

For the second year running, Art On The River gave local artists, painters and photographers the chance to display and sell their work along the riverside.

And for the first time, three special locally brewed riverside-themed ales were served at the festival.

Leicester deputy city mayor for culture and leisure Piara Singh Clair said: "We are blessed with the River Soar running through the city, providing us with the perfect location for fun on the water and the surrounding areas".



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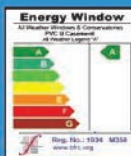
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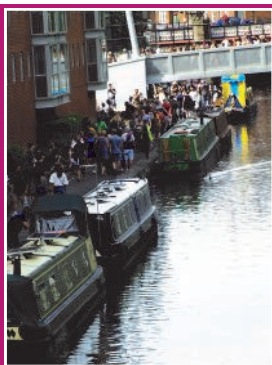
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Janet Setchfield

Janet Setchfield's whole life was steeped in Labour politics from an early age. Her maternal grandmother was a founder member of the Labour League of Women back in 1906 and her parents, Rowland and Molly Hill, were both local Labour activists.

Janet grew up locally and went to Newarke Girls' School. She became very interested in domestic science which she went on to study at College. Her interest was such that she was able to build a career in this field, teaching cookery in various schools.

Her political career took off when she won her home ward of North Braunstone in 1970. She continued to hold the seat through good times and bad, until lost the seat to the Liberal Democrats in 1999.

In 1973 a major change in the system of local governments was introduced, with the city council becoming subordinate to the County - a system of which Janet did not approve! She continued to represent North Braunstone on both the City and County councils right up to the day unitary status was restored to the city in 1997.

In 1985 she became Lord Mayor of Leicester and capped this by later being elected Chairman of Leicestershire County Council. Throughout this period she grew to be an increasingly powerful figure in the West Leicester Labour Party.

Always interested in educational issues, she served on a wide range of education committees and relevant sub committees, and also school governing bodies. She also played a role in a range of local groups in the area including Leicester Playscape, off the Hinckley Road, which manufactured children's wooden play equipment.

Never afraid of controversy, she became involved in several left-right conflicts within her local party, a party to which she was fiercely loyal. Janet Setchfield was a powerful voice in her party for over thirty years.

Roger Blackmore

WESTERN PARK OPEN GARDENS

Saturday June 22nd from 2pm to 6pm

Raising funds for Rainbows, Linking Lives, Letchworth Road Neighbourhood Watch & St Anne's Church.

Tickets available on the day from The Hall at St Anne's. £4 for adults. Children FREE.

Refreshments available at the hall and The LOROS Ladies Choir will sing at the hall at 3pm.

Children's Quiz for £1 entry with ice-cream included which will be in one of the gardens.





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KNOTT'S LANDING

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a woman in her 40s is going to need reading glasses at some point soon. This fact was rammed home to me recently when on a night out with 'the girls' we were handed menus for cocktails and I fished in my handbag for my £1 a pair Primark readers (other reading glasses are available, but often not for a quid!). As I went to put them on, one of my cougar friends squealed and reached over, grabbing the glasses from my hands. "I need these, she said, I can't see a thing." My glasses were discreetly passed round the group of us with pretty much everyone needing them to see the tiny writing on the menu.

Let's take a moment to talk about tiny writing on menus. WHY? WHY? WHAT THE ACTUAL HELL? Why do restaurants think a type setting of anything less than 10pt is acceptable in the modern world? We have whole generations of older people with pots of cash to spend on drinking and eating out, yet whenever I go out with them, I spend ages reading the menu to them. How is anyone over 50 or with actual sight disabilities supposed to cope?

Anyway, as the glasses made their way around, we sort of looked at each other and laughed at the ridiculousness of the situation. I mean, come on,

why hadn't we bought the glasses with us? We've shared most things as a group. We are notorious over sharers of gynaecological information whether it's wanted or not.

For most there was a handbag size issue, you can't fit anything but keys and cash into a clutch bag these days darling! The huge purses filled with multiple family library cards, loyalty cards and old receipts! They don't fit, so a pair of readers certainly won't.

Then came the big admission. Mostly we are just too vain to admit to needing/having to use them. Glasses are still perceived as not sexy. It's deeply embedded in our psyche, I blame Superman! My friends are so vain we haven't admitted we do need them, until now of course... because we can't read the flippin' cocktail menu and, let's face it, once we've started drinking things are going to go downhill quickly! Someone needs to make readers sexy so we can wear them with pride and feel a little bit less like Dame Edna Everadge on a night out.

Helen Knott



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Following on from the success of last year, ReFiesta will again be at the Western Park Festival on 6th July. ReFiesta is an entirely home-grown, Leicester-based and volunteer-run initiative, aiming to inspire positive behaviour change for a greener city and a cleaner planet, through local festivals and events.

Look out for us at the Western Park Festival, where we plan to offer a washing up service at the 'Croc 'n' Roll' gazebo, which will be near the food vendors. We ask that you pay a deposit of £1, take a reusable plate and cutlery, go to the food stall of your choice to purchase your food. There will also be a supply of reusable plates at the food stalls, again for a £1 deposit. Enjoy your meal, whilst also basking in the knowledge that you are not creating more rubbish for landfill, then return the plate to the 'Croc 'n' Roll' tent for washing up, and either get your deposit back, or you may, if you wish donate it to ReFiesta, to enable us to grow.



In addition to plates and cutlery we do have a small supply of reusable cups, however would recommend that you bring your own reusable cup/beer mug. Also please bring your own filled reusable water bottle.

There will also be orange recycle bags at the 'Croc 'n' Roll' gazebo. So if you could please bring your festival recyclables to be disposed of, the Planet would be grateful.

If you could offer an hour or two of your time to assist the washing up team, we'd love to hear from you. If you have any picnic ware; plates, mugs, cups, cutlery, to donate that would be fantastic. We are also looking for local residents that would be prepared to take an orange bag of recyclable rubbish home with them to put out with their own rubbish.

Join the movement to make Leicester more sustainable - one party at a time!

To get in touch, please email refiestaleicester@gmail.com or ring Mel on 0780 4017587 or Sally on 0116 285 5793.

You can also find us on Facebook.

DIGGING INTO THE PAST

This summer, help celebrate a rich and fascinating heritage. Explore the archaeology of our area, watch experts at work and experience the excitement of archaeology with have-a-go events.

On Saturday 29th June the Leicestershire and Rutland Festival of Archaeology, the UK's biggest archaeology festival, begins with over 80 events planned throughout July.

The Festival has something for everyone, with family friendly activities at museums, guided walks of our counties' historic sites, talks by experts, displays and exhibitions, and chances to get your hands dirty with a bit of excavation.

Whether it's a visit to the excavations at Bradgate Park to find out more about the childhood home of Lady Jane Grey; or a tour of the Glenfield Tunnel, one of the earliest steam railway tunnels in the world; or a chance to build your own Roman Leicester in Minecraft, there are all sorts of fantastic and unique opportunities to explore thousands of years of secrets hidden beneath your feet.

Festival leaflets are available from local museums, libraries or tourist information centres and many other places across Leicestershire and Rutland.

The programme can also be downloaded at <https://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/festival-of-archaeology>.



TRAFFIC ACTION

Since 2016 the Traffic Action Group (TAG) has tried to relate residents concerns regarding our local traffic issues To the City Council.

Speeding, congestion, school parking, traffic volumes, rat running, HGV's, motorbikes and unsafe crossing points are on our agenda.

Community surveys and consultations all raise these issues many times over. The traffic survey, by the consultants, Arcadis, has been used only to look at the average speeds over a two week period in June last year. No account has been taken of the peak speeds or volumes through our residential roads. This limited data has been used in the design of the scheme and it would appear that all our other concerns and data, including Community Speed Watch, has not been taken into consideration.

We hear that the scheme has been passed to the City Major for approval but we don't know when the final consultation will begin.

TAG has requested, since March, that either Arcadis or the Highways Department should be updating the local community with revised time scales for this project. Sadly this hasn't happened, and hence this article. Therefore, we encourage you to contact the City Highways department for further information.

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OVER HILLS & DOWN DALES

I love riding my bike, a lot. Some days it's the best thing in the world, others less so, but I've never been for a bike ride and regretted it. What could be better than riding my bike for 10 consecutive days? Well, doing it on a bike I built from scratch and for an awesome charity might do it.

Rewind to January and I'm sat in a bunk room, on my own, in deepest, darkest Kent; working on learning to build bike frames. A post pops up on my Instagram and I learn about the GB Duro 2019. This is an unsupported bike race from Lands' End to John O'Groats in June. 2000km of on & off road racing, totally under my own power, carrying all my own kit; through some of the finest landscapes the UK has to offer. This year's route links some of Britain's wildest places with its rich industrial past, taking in the Brecon beacons in Wales, through the middle of Manchester and up the middle of the dales and the length of Scotland.

Since this is a fairly large challenge, 200km a day for 10 days, I figured I'd try and do something good with it. I've been lucky enough to help the Big Difference Company out with a bid for some bikes for their green initiative and have got to learn about the amazing work that they do. Essentially, these guys bring us the comedy festival every year, and spend the rest of the year working with all kinds of groups of people to do good through laughter.

After filling out a form detailing why I wanted to do the race, what my ethos on adventure racing was, what I'd do if I had to accept help and was technically DQ'd (I'd carry on to the finish, there's a party and I don't get out much), I sent off my application. I assumed that since only 40 people were being selected (20 male, 20 female) I was in with no chance. But two weeks later I was told I had 48 hours to pay for my place.

I am a fully qualified frame builder and bike mechanic so I set about designing and building my perfect adventure bike, a hybrid road/mountain bike designed to be quick over tarmac and comfy over rough terrain. Crafting the perfect frame is about building something that makes you smile every time you ride it, making you want to ride more.

So now all that is left is to complete my epic adventure and hopefully raise some money for a great charity as well. Follow me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (search alfano frameworks) and wish me luck!

Pete Alfano



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WESTERN PARK BEER FESTIVAL

The fifth Western Park Beer Festival will be taking place at St Anne's Church Hall, Letchworth Road on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 September.

Since 2015 the event has raised £30,000 for local charities and good causes.

Under an eco theme and enhanced efforts to cut waste, the festival will be supporting Coram Adoption East Midlands, Leicester Home-Start Horizons, Project Hive and Leicester Wheels For All.

Selina Conroy, WPBF chairman, said: "Behind the scenes, WPBF 2019 is already shaping up to be a brilliant community effort.

"Right now, amid plans to make our festival kinder to the environment, we're looking for sponsors, who could cover the cost of a barrel, keg, or bar at the event – or even donate raffle prizes".

The beer festival will run three sessions. The Friday session, from 5pm to midnight, is for adults only. The Saturday family session, with bouncy castle and kids' activities, will be from midday to 5pm, and then the evening adults-only session from 6pm to midnight.

For more visit www.westernparkbeerfestival.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter. **Cat Turnell**



Western PARK FESTIVAL

Western Park Festival returns for another fabulous family day on Saturday 6th July from 11am to 8.00pm.

There is plenty to do for everyone, whether it is taking part in workshops in the kidszone, entering your dog into a competition, browsing the various stalls at the street market, sampling the delicious array of hot foods or bathing in the sunshine listening to the 26 local bands and acoustic artists.

There will also be licensed bar selling real ales and other summer drinks.

This year we are making an extra effort to be eco-friendly. Not only will we be encouraging green waste disposal but we will would really like you to use our recycled plate system, run by ReFiesta.

We would like to thank Wanlip Sand & Gravel, for sponsoring the main stage, STL Service Centre (Fosse Road), for sponsoring the Valley Stage and Braunstone / Western Ward Councils for their financial support. **Ady Alexander**

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PROJECT

hive

Update

Project Hive is run by the
WWCE, a group of local
residents trying to raise

**funds to redevelop the former Eco House into a
community space.**

Pupils from Inglehurst, Christ The King and Dove-lands Primary Schools joined forces last month and took part in a spectacular "Trashion Show" for their friends and families at New College in aid of Project Hive. We were delighted to have more than sixty children design, create and then showcase their outfits. They strutted, twirled and high fived an audience of more than 150!



The children were tasked with making something that promoted recycling, encouraged reuse and championed reducing the amount of waste we produce. Each outfit demonstrated style, creativity and innovation - our budding fashion designers of the future!



Thank you to all the children who took part in the show, the students of New College for giving up their time to do the hair and make-up, and for New College itself for the free use of the hall. Keep your eyes peeled for more next year, even bigger and better!

Meanwhile, it's festival season! We have already had the opportunity to meet lots of new faces at the Braunstone Festival of Leisure. Keep an eye out for our stand at your nearest event this summer.

Find out more about WWCE and Project Hive at our website projecthive.org.uk or on Facebook @wwceleicester



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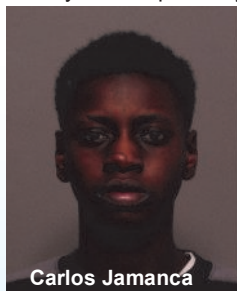
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June Police Update

Please view our Facebook account "Fosse, The West End and New Parks Police" to find a video of your local officers enforcing a drug warrant at an address on Luther Street. More than 150 cannabis plants were recovered and two men were arrested who later pleaded guilty to cannabis cultivation. This has taken drug money out of the hands of serious organised criminals and prevented another potential fire where electricity had dangerously been bypassed!

As well as asking local people to report any suspicions, we are asking local landlords and property management agents to take a closer eye on their properties to try and prevent cannabis factories from being set up. Signs to look out for are windows being blacked out, a pungent smell or sudden fluctuations in electricity usage.

In other news police patrols in Bede Park continue to target criminality. This month two men who were caught by police committing robberies on students in the park have been jailed. Carlos Jamanca, 18, of Robert Hall Street, Leicester, and Victor Essienobon, 21 were jailed for two years and three months and three years respectively.



Carlos Jamanca



Victor Essienobon

Lighting and CCTV has been improved in the area in recent months and we continue to ensure the park is a safe and enjoyable place for people to enjoy this summer!

Finally as we approach the summer months please take the opportunity to review your home and car security measures. Open windows and doors are an open invitation to thieves. Also please try to make your property look lived in when away on holidays. Helpful neighbours or family are great to assist with this.

New Parks Beat Surgeries: June 20th at the New Parks Children, Young People & Family Centre on Pindar Road from 1pm - 2.30pm.
June 28th at St. Anne's Community Hall, Letchworth Road, between 10am and noon.
Sgt Mark Brennan

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



They say you learn something new every day, except for Thursdays - but maybe that's just me? Recently, a friend asked me to smell his Iris... Once I'd been assured he meant his plant, and not an elderly relative or something even worse, I did as requested.

I've always believed that Iris are a great addition to most gardens. But I'm ashamed to say that when it comes to scent, I usually think of *I. foetidissima*, the Stinking Iris. A great plant for deep shade, but as the name implies, its fragrance isn't one you'd call attractive, unless you're a blue bottle! But the Iris in question was an heirloom variety called Caprice and its scent was heady and sweet. Although not as garish or as tall as some bearded Iris, its violet blooms are still attractive and would make a great addition to more subtle or cottage garden planting schemes.

Iris graminea is another understated plant, its purple blooms often hidden by its foliage, it is

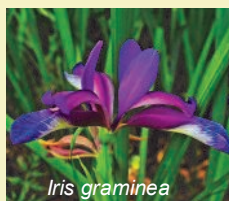


blessed with a fabulous plummy scent. It will happily form neat dense clumps in most dry sunny positions. The scent of *Iris unguicularis* is also overlooked while gardeners focus on the fact that it flowers throughout the

winter. It's particularly prized for flower arranging and has colours ranging from deep violet to white. Bad weather can easily damage the blooms, so it's best planted in a sheltered but sunny spot.

But if you wanted both scent *and* the flamboyant blooms of a bearded Iris then you're in luck. There are dozens of varieties to choose. From the red-violet of "Aaron's Dagger", to yellow and raspberry ripple of "Ziggy" – fragrant varieties range from white to black with nearly all colour combinations in between, and a variety of scents to match.

So next time you see a display of Iris, you may want to stick your nose in there. You never know, you may find out that it belongs?



Tony Huxley

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1 Across: Vacation **1 Down:** Barbed **2:** Towards the wind direction **3:** Owed **4:** Milk curdled by the action of cultures **5:** Lettuce **6:** French castle **7:** The night before **8:** Least messy © Paul Towers

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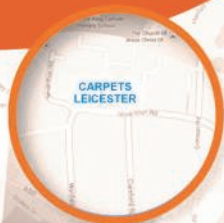
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