



OUR WORLD CUP GOAL!



Local musicians in race to Number 1! More on Page 4

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Hello From The Editor

This month there's a musical theme running through the Gazette. It's been a little quiet editorially speaking but we feature Leicester rockers, Ferris, who managed to grab local resident and radio sports commentator John Sinclair for their England World cup anthem whilst Richard Perry headed to Glastonbudget, the world's biggest tribute band festival, in Wymeswold to sample the atmosphere and drink far too much beer.

Roger Blackmore looks back at the scars on Leicester left by the Great War, Helen Knott is thoroughly cheesed off with helmetless moped morons blasting though Western Park and our Gardening God Tony Huxley, says it's time to thin out the fruit trees.

Our friends at De Montfort University's Square Mile project have their update as does Rod Smart from Hinckley Road police station and Upstairs at the Western, Leicester's only pub theatre, (Genius idea!) has a full summer schedule lined up.

And as always the Brain Tazers await you on the inside back cover.

If you have a local story or event to publicise drop a line to: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk Visit www.westernparkgazette.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @mygazette and Facebook by searching for the Western Park Gazette.

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Events Diary

Zumba Class Tues. 7.15 - 8.15 at New College. Call Sarah - 07810 307 113.

Fosse Camera Club: Fridays. St. Peter's Church Rooms. 7.45pm. 0116 299 2230.

Fosse Singers: Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm.

International Folk Dancing: Monthly 2nd & 4th Fri. St Anne's Hall. 2-4pm. T: Geoff on 0116 285 8352.

Leic Farmers Market: 1st Thurs of the month. C-Centre.

15th June: Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band. Western Park Bandstand. 3pm.

17th June: Comedy of Errors. Guildhall. 7.30pm. 0116 253 2569.

19th June: A Bit More Computing. Westcotes Library. 11.30am & 2.30pm. Free.

21st June: Jewry Wall Museum Tour. 2pm. Free.

20th June: Giggle Aid Fosse. Y Theatre. 7.30pm. 0116 255 7066.

21st June: Armed Forces Day Parade. High Street

28/29 June: Leicester Vintage Festival. Abbey Pumping Station. 2-5pm.

30th June - 5th July: Midsummer Night's Dream: Little Theatre. 0116 255 1302.

5th July: Western Park Festival. £1 entry donation.

5/6 July: Cathedral Gardens Opening: Activities, arts & crafts. Free.

6th July: Race for Life. Victoria Park. 1-30-2pm. www.raceforlife.org.uk

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Our World Cup Goal!

As England gears up for the World Cup in Brazil, one west Leicester man is hoping his part in a football anthem could help spur on England's chances and push a band of local musicians to a chart hit.

John Sinclair (Pictured right on front page), well known to Leicester's radio listeners as a sports commentator has lent his voice to 'A Love as Big as England' by Leicester four piece rockers Ferris. John, who is also a huge local music fan and promoter, said: "I got to know Ferris through my radio work and they asked me to mock up a football commentary. I've reported on lots of matches and play Fifa a lot but I still had to do four or five different takes to fit with the music; I managed to adlib when we performed it live at the 02 Academy."

Scott Grocock and Rob Bourgault formed Ferris three years ago following an acoustic gig at the Looking Glass in Braunstone Gate, recruiting the other two members Cam Favell and Nik Wale before hitting the gigging circuit with their unique brand of rock n' roll and indi.

Both Scott and Bob are long standing England and Leicester City FC fans. Scott said: "We mostly play all our own original material in London and a

lot of festivals. On the way back from a gig, I had this tune in my head so me and Bob decided to write a cult World Cup football song for England but not deviate from what Ferris is all about."



'A Love as Big as England' has already sparked a lot of interest and thousands of listens on SoundCloud as Rob Bourgault explained: "We've been on the front of the Mercury; featured in the Sunday People even Louis Walsh backed us against Gary Barlow! The celebrities are on the case: Steven Gerrard re-tweeted us and we've appeared on Gabby Roslin's BBC Radio London show. And there's a nation radio plugging campaign on the go"

The single was released on iTunes and other download sites on 9th of June.

Visit www.theferris.co.uk for more information.



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Leicester's Great War

With the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War looming later this year, much has been prepared on both radio and television to mark this occasion.

This was a war which touched upon the lives of virtually every family in the land. When I started work at Imperial Typewriters on East Park Road in 1964 the Stores Foreman, Arthur Price, had actually served in the trenches during the conflict. Although he only spoke occasionally of his experiences, I can still well remember some of his descriptions of the battleground, realising how young he must have been when he first went off to war. I also still have a trio of letters, written to my grandfather from the front, from three of his erstwhile workmates, which miraculously managed to pass the censor's gaze. My mother had fond memories of her brother Arthur going off to war when she was six years old. He was killed near Ypres in 1917. A year earlier my father-in-law had lost his father in battle near Amiens. My grandma's Leicester born cousin Tom Lewin returned from the war, like many others, battered and bruised. He struggled on, sometimes working for a month or two, sometimes spending time off Welford

Road in what was then known as the lunatic asylum. Four years after the end of the war he was dead. Every family contained within it memories of a similar kind.



Replica of WW1 Belgian trench from Ypres at the Museum of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment

Leicester is however unique, almost certainly in England, possibly in the world, in deciding at the end of the war to endow a University in memory of the fallen. From small beginnings announced on Armistice Day, that determination has blossomed into the University of Leicester we know today. The University's motto: "Ut Vitam Habeant" ("So that they may have life") represents the sacrifice of those who served and died in the Great War.

Roger Blackmore

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Riding a moped or motorbike is not easy. I have a friend who bought a moped and used it for work although she would only turn left at junctions! A boyfriend once persuaded me to climb on the back of his bike for a trip to the pub. It was not a trip I shall forget quickly and ever since then I have remained convinced that I am built for comfort not speed. Not long after that my cousin was killed in a motorbike accident. He was a careful rider, fully kitted out with a good helmet. It was sad but these things happen. Nothing in life is without risk and for the most part we go about our business trying to make the world a safer place.

I respect any biker's right to go out and enjoy themselves, I will mutter and seek reassurance about their helmets and trousers because no-one wants a nurse washing grit out of their backside but basically I'm happy for you to take the risk. What I am not happy about, what I cannot understand and what I will ALWAYS call the police about is young men riding bikes or quads on parkland without helmets.

WHY would you put yourself and other people in danger by riding down a footpath at full throttle, passenger on board, no helmet and no thought for those around you? If you want to go fast, visit a theme park, go to a track or an off road centre. Do not put my child and I at risk because you think it's FUNNY!

I was in Western Park recently walking home from the playground and two men on a moped came flying down the hill, straight across the access road without looking and out onto the public road. It was a Vespa style moped, a pretty one in cream, quite girly really. They were laughing.

Smashing into a tree at 30mph so it breaks your bones, splits your skull and damages your body beyond repair is hilarious isn't it? It's even funnier when you break your mate's bones.

I was already angry but what really made me seethe was the following day when an entire family seemed to think it was OK to ride motorbikes and quads on the park without helmets. They also seemed to think it was fine for a child to do it. Oh yes because children's skulls are sooooo much harder than adults when they hit a tree or the bike rolls onto them they won't end up with brain damage at all! In my opinion people who allow kids to ride motorised vehicles without proper safety equipment should be prosecuted and their children removed to foster care for their own safety.

So I'm going to call the police every single time I see madmen on their mopeds and I hope you will too. *Helen Knott*



'TIN ANNIE' STREET PARTY

Residents of Western Park Road enjoyed their second ever fundraising street party!

The first street party took place in 2012 for the diamond jubilee and they had such a good time they've decided to do it again. Friends and neighbours decided to raise funds for the local community centre/church hall, affectionately called Tin Annie, which is 100years old this year.



The local Neighbourhood Watch team planned the event which included a bouncy castle, cake bake competition, giant snakes & ladders, footie & cricket, face painting, kid's team games, music, plant sale and raffle... And supersoakers!

Riverside Festival

This year's Riverside Festival nearly got washed away as a band of heavy rain threatened to drown out the fun. Luckily for visitors and market stall holders on Western Boulevard the sun started to shine and it was business as usual as an estimated thirteen thousand descended onto the canal towpath and Bede Park.

Popular canal trips, live music from local bands and choirs on an outside sound stage, an eco-village and various workshops and activities, kept the rain at bay over the two day festival.



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Westcotes Cllrs Surgeries: Westcotes Library, 1st Sat each month, 10.30 - 11.30am and 4th Fri each month, 10.am-11am. Manor House Neighbourhood Centre, 2nd Friday every month, 10-11am.

Western Park Cllrs Surgery: Monthly-2nd Weds St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 7-8.00pm.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Meet your local councillors and find out what's going on in our area.

Western Park

Tues 1st July 2014 at 7.15pm. Community Hall Letchworth Road.

Westcotes

Tues 17th June 2014 at the East West Community Project. 7.00pm.

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Are you a male type 2 diabetic using insulin?

Male type 2 diabetics who use insulin are being invited to take part in an exercise study that will deliver health benefits while contributing to world-class research.

De Montfort University is hoping to recruit volunteers in a project which looks at how exercise impacts on diabetes. The study will go towards the long-term aim of creating an artificial pancreas that will benefit diabetics worldwide.

Leicester resident Julian Wright, 50, who has type 1 diabetes, has been through the six-week study. He said: "I lost more than a stone in weight over the six weeks with DMU. Taking part in the study also gave me a real sense of achievement that I'm doing something positive and giving something back. I realise how important this is. I've got kids and the chances them becoming type 1 is high. Hopefully this study will work towards something that will benefit them and others in the long run."

The project consists of exercise on a static bike and levers and weights training, twice a week for 6 weeks. Volunteers are also paid £120 for a completed study.

Volunteers have to pass a health check to participate and lots of measurements and a small number of blood samples are taken as part of the study.

Julian added:

"You take the study seriously but working with the team at DMU is real good laugh, they make you feel part of family."

"I have learned so much about my condition and made me confident enough to question what's best for me in terms of treatment. Diabetes will never be reversed for me but what I've learned has benefitted me and the researchers and improved my mental health."

"I've managed to keep off the weight I have lost, I'm more diet conscious and my blood pressure and Cholesterol have improved significantly."

The exercise in the study is moderate and low risk. The project aims to compare type 2 insulin users with type 1 insulin users and type 2 tablet takers. The only group DMU is short of is type 2 insulin users.

▶▶ Anyone interested in getting involved should email: mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk



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Skateboarding to the Max!

Soon local skateboarders will be goofy foot-ing, grinding and doing a nollie on Western Park as their new skating area opens in the summer.

The concrete skate park – which is also suitable for use by people with stunt bikes and scooters – replaces a steel half-pipe which was reaching the end of its useful life.

The £80,000 project secured £24,166 of its funding from a community regeneration programme called Transform Your Patch, after a public vote put it in the running for funding. The project was then match-funded by Leicester City Council.

Transform Your Patch is a partnership between environmental charity Groundwork UK and soft drinks brands Britvic and PepsiCo. More than 160 spaces including skate parks, playgrounds and sports pitches across the country have already benefited from Transform Your Patch funding.



Cllr Piara Singh Clair, assistant city mayor responsible for culture, leisure and sports, said: "I'm delighted that a public vote helped us to secure funding for this project – it shows that the demand is there. And it's good news that we were able to provide match-funding to ensure this is a quality facility that will stand the test of time."

Cllr Dr. Susan Barton, one of the local ward councillors for Western Park, added: This is going to be a great addition to the facilities on Western Park. I can't wait to go and watch it being used. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who contributed to the working group that put the bid together, the funders and all the people that voted for the scheme."

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A Pint and a Play

Leicester's only pub theatre has kicked off its summer season and already has an eclectic mix of productions lined up.

Upstairs at the Western's Summer Season runs until 2 August and this season the venue is also delighted to be teaming up with West End Neighbourhood Centre on Andrewes Street, featuring a puppetry workshop by Effigy Theatre Company on 30 July. The state of the art centre features bespoke facilities for the disabled. Producer Verity Bartesch said: "Our new partnership with the West End Neighbourhood Centre is an important development for the West End, providing further opportunities for everyone to join in creating and enjoying theatre in wonderful facilities. We hope to continue to bring performances to the Centre with future seasons."

Puppetry workshops for children and adults are also available Upstairs at the Western on 26 July (children) and 2 August (age 14+) together with a performance by Effigy Theatre Company on 2 August.

Participatory theatre continues with I Wish I Was Lonely on 13 June. Unusually, this is a show where the audience commit to leaving their phones ON and asks the question: how much of ourselves have we given up to the new gods in our pockets?

Laughs come in the form of local comedian Dan Nicholas with two shows: one with comedian Jack Campbell for These Boyz Need Therapy on 14 June and returning with his manic chat show Conversation Garden on 19 July.

If you fancy something dark and humorous Far From the Sea features power, place and the industry of war (2 and 3 July). New work also comes in the form of Original Ink in collaboration with Scufflebox Theatre Company and Upstairs at the Western. Simon's Birthday (27 and 28 June) is a new play by three local writers - who is Simon and what's so special about his birthday?

Local poet Jess Green caused a media maelstrom earlier this year with her poem Dear Mr Gove. Jess also hosts a monthly spoken word show Find the Right Words Upstairs at the Western on 18th June.

Come to Upstairs at the Western this summer - you're sure of a cool pint, a warm welcome and some great theatre.

Sally Jack:

www.upstairsatthewestern.com

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GLASTONBUDGET ROCKS IN THE MUD

Dear Lord it was muddy but Glastonbudget, the world's greatest and best tribute band festival, was back celebrating its tenth anniversary in blistering style over the May Bank Holiday Weekend and it just gets better.



Over 30 of the UK's top tribute bands were performing along with 100 additional artists, many of whom had passed auditions in Leicester earlier in the year.

There's such a lot happening you have to pick your favourites. An one act finishes on the main stage, the muddy hordes bimbles across the fields to the next band and back again as another headliner gears up. It's non stop and all the better for it.



These tribute bands are excellent, the best in the county and possibly as good as the originals. Certainly if you've never seen the super groups in their prime, then Glastonbudget is only place you can see Queen, Oasis, Pink Floyd, Iron Maiden, the Arctic Monkeys and more on the same bill.

This year seemed busier than last when around 12,000 revellers turned up to enjoy tunes blasting out of five stages in the sunshine but this year

'muddy' is an understatement. Following a Friday night deluge the grass turned thick, deep brown and gloopy. That didn't stop some soggy games of football and some adventurous types careering face down along a mudslide. Well it needed to be done - it is a music festival after all.



The music ranges from the 60's to today and it's unfair to single out the best because it's all down to personal taste in the end. For my money the best I saw were Glastonbudget stalwarts Mercury hammering out their traditionally blistering Queen show. Their website says they have performed for Queen themselves; they're that good and it shows. T.Rextasy with lead singer Danielz, uncanny like Marc Bolan, and his band played a superbly tight set that got the crowd bouncing along in the mud to those legendary glam rock anthems. Who's Who recreated the raw energy of a Who stage shows and did it with precision to the extent that a lead guitar got smashed up on stage; it took several goes. In the big tent, the Darkside of Pink Floyd masterfully sent their audience Comfortably Numb with delight as they dived into Pink Floyd's catalogue of greatness. Another hit on the wall you could say.

The Saturday night headliners were the Bootleg Beatles, arguably the finest Beatles tribute band in the world, they took us on a stylish tour de force of the Fab Four's musical career, recreating the looks and sounds from the 60's through to the 70's. Utterly stunning and I'm not a Beatles fan but damn they're good and now I want a kaftan.

Glastonbudget is a unique experience. It promotes up and coming bands and artists, it recreates the sights and sounds of some iconic musicians, it's great value for money and enormously entertaining. I suggest you book next May's second Bank Holiday off and grab a ticket and a tent. You won't be disappointed.

Richard Perry

Full review and a look at local bands can be found online at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

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June Police Update

The Smart View with Sgt. Rod Smart

On 12 April, a thirty seven year old man from Braunstone Town was arrested for racially abusing a taxi driver on Fosse Road Central. He was issued with a police caution. Three days later a 22 year old local woman was arrested for racially abusing a taxi driver on Fosse Road North. She has been charged with racially aggravated threatening behaviour. These incidents show what our taxi drivers have to endure on a regular basis.

During the early hours of 15 April a 17 year old local youth was spotted coming out of a hairdressers on Glenfield Road by officers patrolling. He was subsequently charged with burglary and remanded in custody.

On the evening of 27 April, a grocery shop was robbed on Hinckley Road, with the sales assistant being grabbed and kicked. Fortunately the victim did not receive any serious injuries and the CCTV footage was good enough for the police to be able to identify the offender. A 29 year old Braunstone man was arrested a few days later, charged with robbery and remanded in custody.

On 2 May a burglary took place on Wentworth Road, where the offender climbed through an upstairs window, having scaled a drain pipe. This method of committing burglary is quite rare, but residents are advised to fit window locks to upstairs as well as downstairs windows when close to drainpipes or flat roofs.

On 7 May a 48 year old Wigston man was arrested on Blackbird Road, having been seen waved his genitalia towards the window of a business premises. When interviewed, he gave an explanation that he had forgotten to button up his trousers when he left home, drove to Upperton Road then walked to Blackbird Road where things slipped out. Police and Crown Prosecution Service were less convinced by his explanation and he has been charged with indecent exposure.

At about 8am on 21 May, a drunken 29 year old local man was arrested for kicking a car on Luther Street. The man was charged with criminal damage and disorderly behaviour.

Over the last few weeks we have seen a number of burglaries where Yale type locks have been 'slipped', allowing entry without causing any damage. Local residents are reminded that in order to ensure proper security, external doors should be fitted with five lever mortice locks.

In the last edition we mentioned a 34 year old local woman being charged with theft after a spree of shop thefts involving washing powder, meat and Easter eggs. We are pleased to announce that she has now been imprisoned for thirty four weeks.

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



My peach tree is now adorned with thumbnail-sized fruits, which means it's time to overcome my greed and thin out the crop. Left untouched, they would produce a mass of inedible golf-ball-sized peaches. I will aim for a spacing of about 10cm or more. In two months time this spacing will be increased to 20cm or so.

Other trees can benefit from fruit thinning, especially apples, pears and plums. Avoid allowing large clusters to form by removing the central or "king" fruit. These are often damaged by the pressure of neighbouring fruit and invite infection and pests into the crop. Remove any rotten fruit to prevent the spread of fungal diseases.



Fruit trees are prone to a whole range of pests and diseases. Birds and squirrels can be a problem for most fruit tree crops, but other than netting

the tree or camping out with a rifle (which tends to make the neighbours nervous), you have to accept the losses. Sap-sucking insects such as aphids and scale bugs are pests common to most fruit varieties. Look for sticky or distorted leaves or a trail of ants that are harvesting their syrupy excrement.

My favourite pear tree has already lost most of its crop to pear midge. It's too late to spray now but collecting and destroying the stunted blackened fruit should reduce re-infection.



With certain moth pests, pheromone traps can be used as an organic control, or indicate whether spraying is actually necessary. Some insecticides are unsuitable for use on fruit trees, so check the instructions to see if they're appropriate. Some products cannot be used close to harvesting time. Reduce the threat to beneficial insects like bees by spraying in the late evening.

If you're vigilant and take early action you can look forward to happy fruit picking when autumn comes!

Tony Huxley



Martin Page

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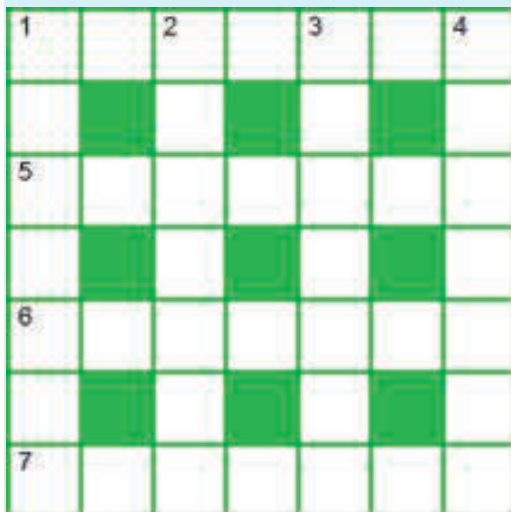
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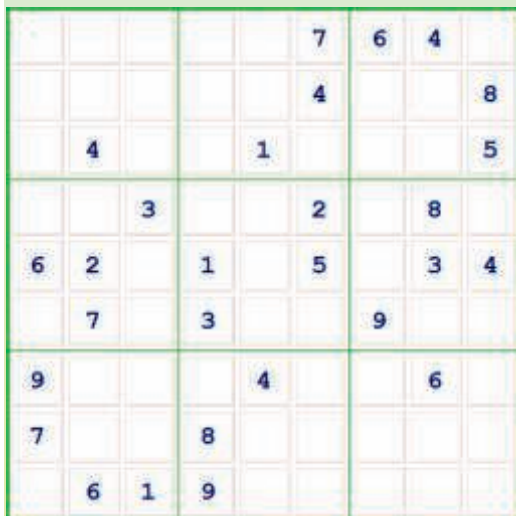


Across: 1. Use again after processing

5. Gastronome 6. Paradigm 7. Excess

Down: 1. Go back to a previous state 2. Messenger

3. Write music 4. Adjure



1. Take one from eleven and the answer is ten. Take one from nine and it becomes ten – Why?

2. What unites: A good offense, living well and Laughter?

3. 'Cud The Prowl' is an anagram of which event.

4. A couple goes to Skegness on holiday. They have 9 sons; the sons each has a wife and each pair has 2 children. How many people went to Skeggy?

(Answers at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)



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