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Hello From The Editor

Hello, here's the June Gazette, once again much later than it should be!

It was almost ready to head to the printers just after the Jubilee Bank Holiday, but the editor had to take a short, and unexpected trip to Glenfield Hospital's cardiac unit. Ended up being OK. Do not ask about hallucinating WW1 anthropomorphic Manga Battle Bunnies in period accurate uniforms... It's a long story.

This month, we look at our local Jubilee Celebrations, Stayfree Music in Woodgate celebrated their 30th anniversary with an open day, there was the Riverside Festival and we review Glastonbudget 22.

Sergeant Matt Hutton has taken over the local policing update and in Compost Corner, Carey Tunstall picks up a few ideas from her trip to the Chelsea Flower Show.

The crossword is back this month on the inside back pages, along with the sudoku.

And as always, many thanks to our contributors, advertisers, and this time the medical teams at Glenfield Hospital who kept the Gazette alive and kicking.

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Events Diary

Free Thurs Club: 2pm. **Meet & Eat:** Weds 5pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narborough Rd.

Fosse Camera Club: Zoom Meetings, Fridays, 7.30pm. fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk for details

Hall @ St Anne's, Letchworth Rd: Knit & Natter: 1.30pm, 4th Tues. **Weds Club:** 2.30pm, 1st Weds.

Musical Memory Box: 1st Tues 2pm **Pram Club:** Weds 9.15-11.30am. **Fri Coffee Morns:** 10.00am.

Free Tea/Coffee @ St Paul's Worship Ctr / Community Hub, Kirby Rd Weds, 2- 4pm. T-Top sale. 2nd Sat.

Family Friends: Term time 4th Mon. St Paul's & St Augustine's Centre, Kirby Rd. 2nd Sat at New Parks Methodist Ch. Contact Sarah on 07465 431 585.

Free drop-in Coffee Morns: Tues. 10-12 noon. St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Glenfield Rd East.

@Curve: Alice In Wonderland 8/9 July. Billy Elliot The Musical - 13 July-30 August.

@DM Hall: Joe Lycett 30 June-2 July. Here Come The Boys 3 July. Strictly: Keep Dancing 6 July.

@Y Theatre: Tez Ilyas - 11 July. Gothla 22 - 15 July. Who & Kinks Tribute 16 July.

@Little Theatre: Scheherezade's Arabian Nights- 27 June -2 July. Great American Song Book 30 July.

Leic Vegan Market: 10 July. Market Place.

World of Peter Rabbit: Until 24 July. Newarke Hs.

Wistow Maze: 18-July-4 Sept. www.wistow.com

Dino Kingdom: 12 -29 Aug. Abbey Park.

Western Park Festival: 30 July.

I Grew Up 80's: Until 29 Aug. Leic Mus, New Walk.

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GOING PLATINUM

Western Park celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style as hundreds flocked to the Royal themed Flower Festival at St Anne's Church and packed-out Letchworth Road for a special party organised by locals and church members.

Joined by the Lord Mayor, who planted a tree for the Queen's Green canopy and cut the celebration cake, live music, street games, ice cream, Prosecco and Pimms were the order of the day.

The following week, more than 100 children came over two afternoons of Jubilee themed craft/games/planting organised by Dovelands Primary School Council and Eco-warriors.

Reverend Sharon Andrews said: "The sun shone, it was a feast of fun, friendship and creativity. We were amazed how everything came together over several days of celebration. Thanks to all involved."



AND ON CLAREFIELD ROAD

On the Jubilee weekend I took a walk down Clarefield Road to visit the magnificent street party organised by local residents and Area Watch. This was the first time a party had been organised, and I'm sure it has begun an annual tradition! The new Lord Mayor, George Cole, even dropped by in the afternoon. What a way to kick off the celebrations!

The road was decorated in an array of patriotic bunting and finished off with some balloons. Not only that, but there were a range of activities from having tea with a cut-out Queen, getting your face painted, word activities, best decorate house and, of course, food! In the afternoon residents bought out some lovely food to share and end the day with a bang!

The community spirit was great as everyone came together to enjoy a feast from cake to finger sandwiches crisps and sausage rolls. It was great to see the smiles on everyone's face and the fun this event created.



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30 Years Of Stayfree Music

You're never too young to start playing the drums! Leicester's Stayfree Music celebrated its 30th anniversary in style recently with a Family Open Day. People of all ages took part in free music lessons on bass, electric guitar, drumkit and singing. There was plenty of live music going on in the rehearsal rooms and outside in the canal-side yard next to Lock 42 at Frog Island.

Caroline Wright, Director of stayfreemusic.co.uk, organised the event and she explained what it was all about: "Stayfree is Leicester's biggest and longest-running band rehearsal complex, and we wanted to celebrate 30 years in business by showing that making music is for people of all ages. On our fun Family Day, we had a wide age range - from very young children to people over 60 trying out instruments for the first time - and they all loved it! We're keen to help beginners, but we also provide professional-standard facilities for our customers."

The 30th anniversary celebrations at Stayfree continue until the end of the year, with gigs and parties featuring local bands, a new youth club for musicians aged 10-17 and a vast range of summer music workshops.

To find out more, visit www.stayfreemusic.co.uk, check out the social media or call 0116 2230303 to book a rehearsal room or free introductory tour.



(Advertorial)

Riverside Festival

Leicester's biggest free family festival returned to the banks of the River Soar over the Jubilee weekend, after being laid up in bed due to the pandemic since 2019.

The Riverside Festival normally kicks off the city's summertime activities, and this year 23,000 of us headed there.

As always there was something for everyone, from a silent cinema and eco themed attractions in Castle Gardens, to plenty of water based kayaking fun on the canal.

Bede Park was busy as always with food stalls, a fun fair, kid's activities, beer tent and acoustic stage. There was more music as the main stage in the piazza hosted an eclectic mix of local musicians and bands.

If arts and crafts is your thing, local artists displayed their work on Western Boulevard, whilst the food stalls had everything from curry to burgers to munch on as you wandered by.

It's nice to see it back, even if the weather on Sunday had other ideas!

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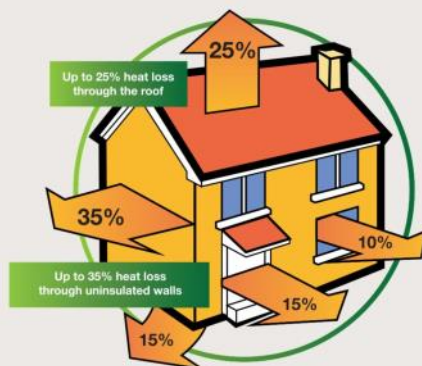
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NEW COLLEGE MEANS BUSINESS

New College has been shortlisted in the national 2022 Education Business Awards. The school is a finalist in the School Sports Award category and has been recognised for its sporting facilities, external partnerships and making sport accessible for all.

New College places itself at the heart of the local community through sport. Following significant investment and established community partnerships, more than 2,500 people now using its outstanding sports facilities weekly.

Wayne Allsopp, Business Development Manager at New College is the driving force behind the nomination and subsequent shortlist, he explains: "The school's vision is to make sure that our top-class sporting facilities are available for everyone to use during the school day and beyond. To achieve this, we've established key relationships and bespoke agreements with community friendly sports clubs and hosted numerous high profile sporting events.

"The Gymnastics Centre regularly hosts events, where Olympic champion Max Whitlock has competed on several occasions. Friday evenings are particularly busy too when the Leicester Riders Basketball and Leicester City Football Club Community Trust deliver initiatives to keep young people off the streets and give them opportunities to benefit from sport."

The school recently secured £750,000 to build a fully lit cycle circuit on the college's grounds, which was widely publicised. It has since put plans in place to refurbish the schools eight tennis and four netball courts, more great additions to the school's extensive sporting offer.

Wayne Allsopp concludes: "At New College we are extremely proud of our asset-based community development approach. For the vast majority of people who can only dream of participating in an Olympics or a World Cup the school is working hard to make sport accessible for all of them. What Loughborough University is doing for elite sport, New College Leicester is doing for school and community sport, and we are proud to have been recognised for that at a national level."



Team GB Gold Medallist Laura Sugar at New College

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BACK TO GLASTONBUDGET

After two years of thumb twiddling, Glastonbudget roared back to Turnpost Farm in Wymesworld with a spectacular three-days of classic tribute acts and local music.

Whilst many celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, over 8000 of us committed treason and went to a big field in Leicestershire, in the company of some of the world's most iconic stars - sort of. Glastonbudget is still the world's best tribute and new music festival, and it didn't disappoint.

There was a distinct Royal theme to this year's shenanigans. Alongside a Guinness world record attempt to get the most people together wearing paper crowns, the magnificent Queen tribute group, Mercury, strode the main stage on Thursday evening as Joseph Lee Jackson personified Freddie's iconic vocals in a full-on show.



I'm not sure what The Queen would have thought of Friday's nod to the Jubilee through the eyes of Johnny Rotten, but tribute band, The Pistols, managed to accurately reflect the "uniqueness" of the Sex Pistols rendition of God Save The Queen. They were still good n' tight but being better musicians and performers than the

original didn't save them from narrow source material. Punk has not aged well.

No matter what your musical tastes, and you won't like everything, there are crowd pleasers aplenty across the three-field site. While we'll never see Amy Winehouse, The Police (probably), Bowie, Thin Lizzy and many others live on stage again, their avatars in the form of exceptionally talented musicians, keep their musical spirit alive.

There's an ever-expanding nostalgia market being catered for by some big budget, full scale shows that are about as close to the original as it's possible to get without having a Tardis.

Some are uncannily accurate, like Pure Paloma. She was so close, for a second, I thought it was Paloma Faith trolling herself.

Glastonbudget is still good value for money and still a great way for kids to dip their toes into festival life. The music is popular, familiar, well performed by the country's best tribute artists, and there's enough to do if you're camping overnight or going VIP.

Early Bird tickets for next year are available from www.glastonbudget.org

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June Police Update

Police recently executed a misuse of drugs act warrant on Glenfield Road relating to the supply of Class A drugs following information received from the local community. We continue to disrupt the supply and production of drugs in the West End with cannabis plants being recovered from addresses on Ainsdale Road, Vaughan Street and Cranmer Street following warrants being executed.

Information from the community is instrumental in this disruption. Suspicious activity can be reported by calling 101, visiting the Leicestershire police website or reporting your concerns anonymously to CrimeStoppers via their website or freephone telephone number 0800 555 111.

Five people were arrested following a disturbance being reported on Rally Park where weapons and drugs were recovered; the investigation into this is ongoing. The new CCTV cameras and eagle-eyed members of the public assisted the officers in swiftly locating and safely arresting the suspects.

There has been an increase in reports of theft from vehicles, in a lot of cases the cars have been left insecure, so please keep them locked, your keys safe and don't leave any valuable items in your vehicle where possible. Catalytic converter thefts are still occurring due to the rare and valuable metals they contain. Please try to park your car where it restricts access to the underneath.

Continuing with the vehicle theme, several vehicles have been seized which were being driven by people without insurance or a driving licence. Stopping these cars leads to the identification of other criminal offences. A recent stop-check of a vehicle, that had no insurance, led to the recovery of £5000 in cash and two people being arrested for offences under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

New signs are going up on Western Park soon informing those who chose to illegally use motor vehicles there about Sec 59 of the Police Reform Act which will increase our chances of seizing the vehicles of those responsible.

StreetSafe is a pilot service for anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where you have felt or feel unsafe, because of environmental issues, like street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism or because of some behaviours, such as being followed or verbally abused. 'StreetSafe' is not for reporting crime or incidents, but if something has happened to you or someone you know, including in public spaces online, you can call us on 101 or report online.

Sgt Matt Hutton

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



I've spent the last few weeks tidying up the garden and giving certain plants the 'Chelsea Chop'. This is usually carried out on perennials such as Sedum, Phlox, Penstemon, Campanula and Achillea in late May. Pruning this way enables a longer and later flowering season. Perennials can either be pruned back completely or just by half. If you cut it all back, flowering is delayed by around five weeks, but by taking off half you tend to get a longer flowering period. It's not an exact science, as plants can be affected by the amount of rainfall and temperature levels. I try the two different pruning methods on different plants each year to compare the results.

I'm always looking for inspiration so in May, for the first time, I went to London for the Chelsea Flower Show.

I had a very enjoyable day there, but was a little underwhelmed at the size of the gardens. They look so much bigger on the TV! Even so, I took many interesting ideas away from the exhibits.

Two gardens in particular stood out for me: A Rewilding Britain Landscape and The Perennial Garden With Love. Monty Don said that

"Rewilding Britain wasn't actually a garden, more of a landscape and beaver home". But, seeing it with my own eyes, there were lots of elements that can be recreated in a garden. So why not be more in tune with nature by using only native plants, for example?

I was incredibly impressed with The Perennial Garden (pictured), not only because it was on behalf of a charity which is close to my heart (helping Gardeners, landscapers and designers in times of need), but also the planting scheme and colourways were exceptional. It really was a "classical and contemporary design" instilling a feeling of calm and



tranquillity. In particular, I admired the four multi-stemmed Parrotia persica trees, which flanked a contemporary stream. These were under-planted with dark purple lupins, white alliums, roses and foxgloves. A sculptural element was provided by clipped box and Portuguese laurels. It was a beautiful garden and the local wildlife appreciated it too. Plants were covered in bees and butterflies whilst the local birds sang from the tree tops.

Carey Tunstall

Martin Page

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1 Across: Chewy candy **1 Down:** Of the arts **2D:** Literate people **3D:** Male manipulator **4D:** Oil for your bat **5A:** Illicit relationship **6A:** Hawaiian guitar **7A:** Secured. © Paul Towers 2022

Answers at w:westernparkgazette.co.uk

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