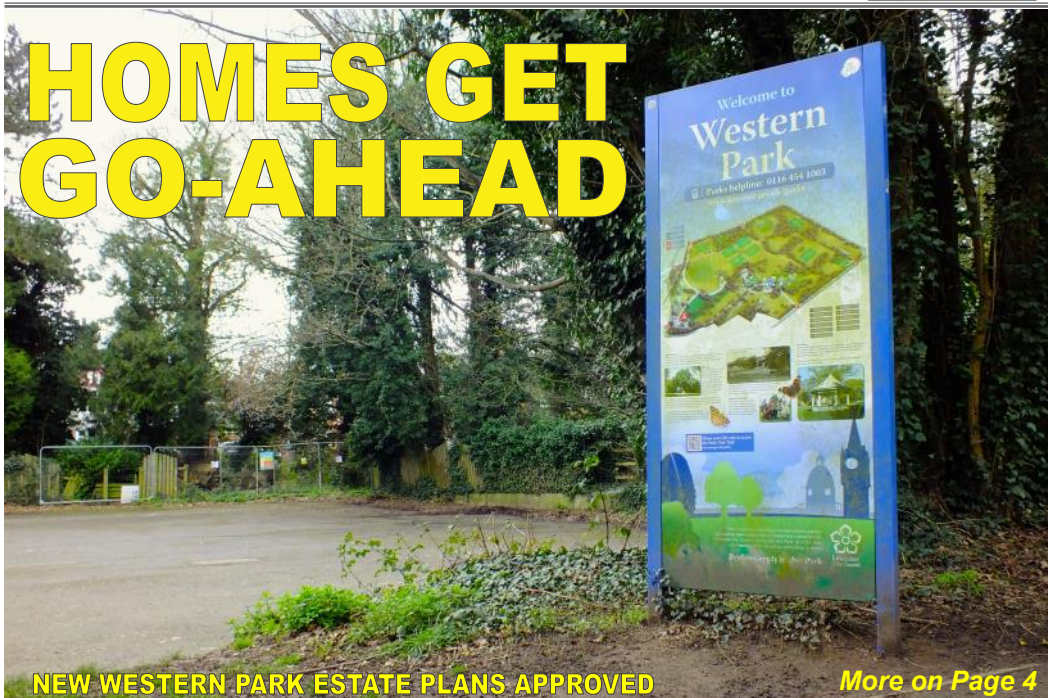




HOMES GET GO-AHEAD



NEW WESTERN PARK ESTATE PLANS APPROVED

More on Page 4

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Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the March edition of the Western Park Gazette.

This month Leicester Councillors made the decision to allow twenty homes to be built on the car park and derelict land at the Hinckley Road end of Western Park. There were a number of objections, but our view is that a small estate is better than a vandalised wasteland of burnt buildings and graffiti.

There's also news from Project Hive, The Robert Hall History Project and the latest about the regular pop-up Pubs at St. Anne's Hall.

In our regular features, Helen Knott returns with some compelling thoughts about sound baths... Err what? Our green-fingered Carey Tunstall has some ideas about gardening if you live in a terraced house with limited space and there's the local policing update.

Finally, if your little grey cells need exercising, the Brain Tazers are on the back page, just waiting...

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Events Diary

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

Fosse Camera Club: For details visit Facebook page or fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk

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

Musical Memory Box: 1st & 3rd Tues 2pm **Pram Club:** Weds 9.15-11.30am. **Women's Taekwondo:** Thurs 8-9pm taekwondo4all.com **Fri Coffee:** 10am

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

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

Newarke Houses & Westcotes Library: Popping To The Shops (About Narborough Rd) 27 Jan-28 April.

De Montfort Hall: Prof. Brian Cox: 29 Mar. Celebrating Celine: 30 Mar. Paul Weller: 9 April.

@ Curve: Full Monty: 26-30 Mar. Peter Pan Goes Wrong: 2-7 April. Blood Brothers: 23-27 April.

@ Little Theatre: The Secret Garden (Musical): 22 Mar-6 April. Legally Blonde The Musical: 16-20 April.

Y Theatre: Tatty MacLeod-Fugue: 5 Apr. Clinton Baptiste: 7 Apr. Spiers & Boden: 12 Apr.

Just The Tonic Comedy: Sat eves. 68 High St. Rutland St. 5-10pm. (Monthly on last Friday)

Family Fun Day: 30 Mar. Bede Street. 11.30-2.30. **Pop-up Pub:** Last Friday Monthly. Hall @ St Anne's.

Railway Day 2 Apr. 11.30-4pm. Abbey Pumping St.

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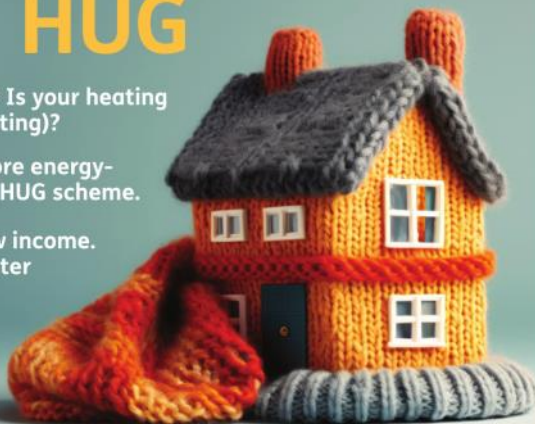
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HOMES GET GO-AHEAD

Councillors have approved plans to build twenty new eco-friendly homes on Western Park's Hinckley Road car park.

There were fifty-eight objections to the scheme for two two-bed homes, twelve three-beds and six four-beds homes. Objectors cite potential problems including the loss of park land, car parking, increased traffic, and potential harm to wildlife.

Those in favour of the plans say the site, which is next to the old Eco-House, has been derelict for several years and has become a magnet for vandalism, arson and anti-social behaviour.

The success of the planning application also means the Constance Jackson Centre site, Parkfield (old Environ offices) and the former Fosse Riders base will be demolished to make way for the new estate.

Developer Naresh Parmar, who has already taken on large run-down council properties, including Winstanley House and the City Rooms, says: "Our intention is to create a sustainable housing development in keeping with the parkland that surrounds it. And to show other developers that these kinds of projects are possible."

To this end Butcher Bayley Architects have been appointed to ensure the successful planning of minimally invasive Passivhaus style homes. These are houses built to ultra-energy efficient design stand-

ards so that they maintain an almost constant temperature, with minimum power requirements.

Speaking about the project Director Carrie Bayley said: "It's very much about enhancing the parkland setting. This project is an amazing opportunity to showcase the potential of Passivhaus-principled design in Leicester and across this region."

Planning permission was granted in 2022 to convert the severely damaged former open air school, further inside the park, into individual offices spaces and a café.

It is the hope that the new offices, housing and the proposed community hub, based at the Eco-House, will make Western Park a more pleasant and safer place to visit.



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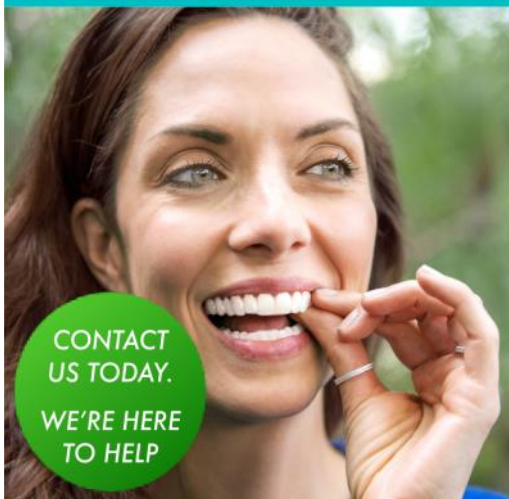


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KNOTT'S LANDING

"Do you fancy coming for a sound bath in aid of a local horse rescue charity?" asked my friend. Not one to turn down a new experience I said yes; not thinking about what I had let myself in for. A quick google for sound baths had me starting to worry. The first picture was of a drum. I'm Gen X, I've been to rock concerts and raves I can cope with drums. It was clearly in the yoga and incense zone so again, Glastonbury festival veteran, another tick. Next I found a picture of a darkened room full of women suspended in hammocks like giant Parma hams. This made me nervous. I made sure to give all the details to my husband in case the sound bath house became a charnel house.

On a rainy night, we drove to find a room in a warehouse filled with horse-loving women building nests on the floor. We'd brought blankets and my yoga mat so we found a corner and began to create our own cocoons. Willowy, scented and dressed all in white, the woman in charge wafted around warning us all that we may get ringing in our ears or fall asleep. We lay down, the lights went off and the voice in my head said "You are about to have your kidneys stolen by a yogi".

Waves of sound rippled across the room as she started drumming on an Irish Bodhran. Things got louder as she moved to a cymbal type thing. Then she started walking around with it and things got really loud when she was standing over you banging rhythmically. Then there was the noise of what can only be described as the Rank Cinema cymbal. No sleep here I thought. But she went back to the rhythmic drumming and suddenly someone was poking me in the back telling me to wake up. I sat up slowly, all giddy with relaxation, and apologised for any snoring.

It was a truly lovely experience. I felt relaxed for days afterwards, slept like a baby and as a bonus I still had both my kidneys. **HN**



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Wayne is Big Business!

New College Leicester's Business Development Manager, Wayne Allsopp has been named as Business Development Manager of the Year at The School & Supplier Awards, with Education Today.

The School & Supplier Awards, recognise and reward the suppliers, schools, and individuals who work tirelessly for the greater good of the education sector.

Wayne was nominated by his colleagues at New College for his commercial acumen, commitment to collaboration and partnerships, as well as his marketing approach to raising the school's profile among students, parents and the wider community.

Wayne Allsopp said: "I am so pleased that the hard work the team at New College has put into improving our school has been recognised by Education Today. It's not just me, it's for us all and it's fantastic to be considered amongst the best in the UK for our work in providing included, rounded education for all." It's the second time that Wayne has been



awarded for his commercial acumen and strategic sporting links. In June 2023 he picked up The School Business Manager Award in the prestigious Education Business Awards. This is presented to an individual whose business leadership skills and commercial outlook have had a positive impact on the school's budgeting and strategic decision making.

Since his arrival at New College, Wayne has had a huge impact on the commercial operations at the school. He has introduced several new income streams, leading to the school now turning over half a million pounds in extra income annually. He is also driving additional income and community involvement through an asset-based community development approach, positioning the school at the heart of the local community.

Wayne's ability to realise the link between a strong sport offering, its benefits to local people and the positive commercial impact this brings to the school is one of the reasons he has been recognised.

Over the last six months, the secondary school, based in New Parks, has also secured Heritage School Status in recognition of the school's ongoing commitment to teaching local history and working in partnership with local heritage organisations and The Artsmark Gold Award for its commitment to the teaching of arts, culture and creativity to its students, many of whom who do not have such opportunities outside of school.

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PROJECT *hive Update*

Project Hive is run by the WWCE who are a local group of residents fundraising to redevelop the former Eco House, on Western Park, into a community space.

This month will see the beginning of the latest round of our public consultation about the proposed uses the Hive once the refurbishment works are completed.

Initially, we will be engaging with young people through our local school's community with an anonymised questionnaire to get a clearer understanding of how this group want to spend their free time.

Further questionnaires for other age groups will follow in the coming weeks, keep an eye out for your chance to have your say.

More information can be found at our website or on our Facebook page @ProjectHiveLeicester

KN

Robert Hall Church History Project

Robert Hall Memorial Baptist Church stands proud on the corner of Narborough and Upperpton Roads. Built in 1901 alongside many of the local residences, it has long been a significant player in the development of the neighbourhood.

A church and community history project has recently been launched focusing on the story of the church in the context of the surrounding community. Several studies are being created including a demographic study 1902-1906 of the original members, an oral history project, and research into archival and newspaper records.

Regular events with expert speakers are under way along with Tea & Cake afternoons for encouraging memory sharing. The project will end in late 2026 with a celebration of the 125 years of church and community and the publication of a historical

account which will include the stories of the local people alongside the historical research.

Opportunities for volunteering in every aspect of the project are now available offering free training in the necessary skills. Additional volunteering roles include publicity, events, photography, and administration. This is a great way of making new friends and meeting up with old ones.

If you are looking to volunteer your time and talents in an exciting local initiative, please get in touch. Contact Kevin on 07913 239769 or lesterla-d56@googlemail.com, or drop in at the church hall on a Thursday afternoon.

Good Friday Social Pop-up Pub

On the last Friday of the month at St. Anne's Hall, Letchworth Road, local people of all ages have been enjoying meeting with friends over a pint, cocktail, or their drink of choice, at the fully licensed, Huxley's Bar by Zander Events, with various street foods on offer.

If you have not been to one of these events yet, why not pop over and give it a try. We think that you will be pleasantly surprised!



The next one falls on Good Friday and one lucky person will win a large Easter egg for taking part in our colouring competition, during the family session 6pm to 8pm. This month the food will be curry supplied by Mirch Masala.

AA

Pop-Up Pub Dates: 29th March 26th Apr, 31st May, 28th Jun, 26th Jul, 30th Aug, 27th Sep, 25th Oct, 29th Nov, 13th Dec.

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March Police Update

Following an intelligence gathering operation we knocked a door and found approximately 100 cannabis plants inside a Westcotes house. These have been destroyed along with the growing equipment and we have increased our picture of what is happening and where.

We have been attending locations that our residents have reported are hotspots for drug users and dealers and we are keeping a strong police presence to further disrupt their activities.

The stop searches have also resulted in cannabis being seized from a male who has been charged with the offence.

Every day is different for the Neighbourhood Policing teams. On one particular day in March the Fosse team patrolled hot spot locations linked to drug dealing and use. We held consultations along Mostyn Street where residents were signed up to Neighbourhood Link.

Colleagues located two males who had reportedly been seen trying door handles near Glenfield Road. After a search, they were later found out not to be the suspects and the caller was updated with the outcome. If you see anything suspicious where you live, please report it via 101. The sooner a potential crime is reported, the sooner we can conduct enquiries to identify those involved.

Also on the same day, enquires were conducted relating to ASB around Fosse Road North and we'll be moving ahead with the landlord and the council to reduce the issues occurring here.

The following day we were out in Woodgate speaking with residents on Bonchurch Street and the surrounding area after concerns were raised about road safety issues in the area. We look to gather information about specific issues, how often and what times they occur so that we can decide on the best route of action to deal with offenders.

Whilst taking a stroll through the Western Ward officers noticed that the theme of the week appeared to be dumped motorbikes. We identified the owner of one abandoned/stolen bike who will be contacted. Please secure your expensive motorbike as best you can.

Staying on the transport theme, The Braunstone Beat Team has continued to issue warnings to electric scooter users, meanwhile PC 406 Gandwan along with Western Beat colleagues were out and about stopping and educating people around E-scooters. During this time, they stopped 11 people riding electric scooters. These machines are illegal to use on public roads and pavements in Leicester as the city and county are not in the trial areas. If you are unsure of the legislation around electric scooters please reach out to the team.

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



Gardening in a terraced house presents unique opportunities and challenges. With limited outdoor space, making use of every inch becomes essential for creating a green oasis. Here are some tips to transform your terraced house into a thriving garden sanctuary.

Firstly, how about looking up and considering vertical gardening? Use walls and fences by installing hanging baskets, trellises, or wall-mounted planters. This can save ground space and also adds visual interest and depth to your garden. Climbing plants like ivy, jasmine, or morning glories can flourish in vertical spaces, providing privacy and a lush backdrop.

You could opt for container gardening to make the most of your terrace. Select a variety of containers in different sizes and shapes to accommodate various plants. Herbs, veggies, and flowers can thrive in pots and planters, offering flexibility and easy maintenance. Ensure proper drainage by drilling holes in the containers and using high-quality potting mix for optimal growth.

Create a focal point in your garden to draw the eye and add personality. This could be a decorative

sculpture, a water feature, or a seating area surrounded by lush greenery. Incorporating colourful cushions, outdoor rugs, mirrors and fairy lights can enhance the ambiance and make your terrace a cosy retreat.

Choose plants wisely to suit your terrace's microclimate. Consider factors such as sunlight exposure, wind direction, and temperature fluctuations. Select plants that thrive in containers and are suitable for your specific conditions. Succulents, herbs like basil and mint, and compact ornamental shrubs are excellent choices for terraced gardens.



Regular maintenance is key to keeping your terraced garden looking its best. Water plants regularly, prune as needed, and fertilise to promote healthy growth. Stay vigilant against pests and diseases and address any issues promptly to prevent them from spreading.

With a little creativity, very little money, careful planning and a little green-thumb magic; gardening in a terraced house can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience, turning even the smallest space into a vibrant outdoor sanctuary. **Carey Tunstall**

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E	V	C	B	A	Y	V	A
E	U	J	E	S	E	G	F
S	D	N	I	W	N	N	F
S	F	C	O	I	R	W	O
A	H	R	R	C	U	A	D
R	G	P	U	G	O	L	I
G	S	L	L	T	J	U	L

Can You Solve The Word Wang? Hidden in the above box are the following words:

Buds, Daffodil, Grass, Soil, Turf, Bulbs, earth Journey, Spring, Wind, Crocus, Flowers, Lawn, Trees

Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk

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		3	1	9			
1						6	
5	8	6		7	2		
		5	6				4
9							1
8					4	5	
			9	8		1	4
		9					5
				3	5	9	

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