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BRAUNSTONE GATE REGENERATION SCHEME STARTS



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Hello From The Editor

Well, here's the May Gazette, yet again a bit on the thin side, but still packed with local stories.

They're digging up Braunstone Gate and turning it into a 'mini Holland'. Luckily, there's a canal nearby, so it kind of works.

On the centre pages we outline three of the big events happening around Leicester during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; it's an embarrassment of riches! Where will you go? The party at the Hall @ St Anne's? Glastonbudget? Or The Riverside Festival?

We have our normal features including CareyTunstall's list of spring gardening jobs, Shauna Ashton's local police update and the latest from Project Hive. A local charity is also looking for volunteers to teach life skills to excluded youngsters.

We've changed the Brain Tazers around and there will be a word search replacing the crossword every other month. The sudoku stays to irritate you.

Many thanks to our contributors and advertisers who are keeping the Gazette going through what is probably going to be a massive financial squeeze.

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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: Oh What A Lovely War 19 - 21 May. **Paul Merton** - 22 May. **Jasper Carrot** - 27-28 May.

@DM Hall: Al Murray 21 May. **Go West/Paul Young** 24 May. **Michael Macintyre** 25 May. **Marillion** 27 May.

@Y Theatre: Lou Sanders - 20 May. **Bring The Laughter/Comedy Shutdown** - 22 May.

@Little Theatre: Rabbit Hole - 16-21 May. **Sister Act** - 24-28 May. **Calendar Girls** 14-18 June.

Upstairs @ Western: : **Improv Upstairs** - 18 May. **Simpletones** - 20 May, **The Magic Mic** - 26 May.

Dino Kingdom: 27 May-12 June. Abbey Park.

Glastonbudget: 2-4 June. Glastonbudget.org

Royal Knees-up: 3 June. St Anne's Garden.

Riverside Festival: 4-5 June. Bede Park & Canal.

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£1.5M MINI HOLLAND REVAMP

Work to make permanent a pop-up 'mini-Holland' scheme in part of the West End has got underway.

Leicester City Council is planning to invest up to £1.5 million on permanent measures to help create more space for pedestrians and cyclists in Braunstone Gate.

The aim is to create a more people-friendly place and give more priority to cycles and pedestrians by limiting vehicle access, closing the road to unnecessary traffic at busy times and creating wider pavement areas for visitors to the shops, cafes and bars in the area.



New, wider footpaths will be created, and a section of the street will be repaved in high-quality block paving. The carriageway will be resurfaced in red asphalt. New trees will also be planted as

part of the scheme.

Access to Braunstone Gate from Duns Lane and New Park Street will be restricted to buses, taxis and cycles only, and the left turn from Western Boulevard will be closed to traffic, except cycles.

Most on-street parking on Braunstone Gate will be removed, with the extra space used to create wider pavements. Businesses will be able to apply for street café licences and outside seating areas.

Disabled parking bays will be retained, and additional pay-and-display parking spaces will now be created on Bede Street and Western Road in response to feedback from local businesses.

Most of the measures were originally introduced on an experimental basis in the summer of 2020. Now, following feedback from local residents and businesses, the city council plans to invest around £1.5million to make permanent improvements.

Deputy city mayor and Westcotes ward councillor Sarah Russell said: "Braunstone Gate is home to a vibrant and popular mix of cafes, bars, restaurants and shops and other independent small businesses. It is also a really busy and important route between De Montfort University and the West End.

"This much needed investment represents a huge opportunity for the area. It will help to make it an even more attractive destination, not just for the local community but for the whole city."

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Update

Project Hive is run by the WWCE, local resident group, raising funds to redevelop the former Eco House into a community space.

In 2020, with the help of budding photographers in our local community, we put together a popular local calendar called "Parklife" which raised a spectacular £500 for Project Hive.

This year, we would like to do something similar and from today we are inviting your entries for our "Art In Nature" calendar. Your photograph should be your interpretation of that title, it can be anything; animal, vegetable or mineral. The single most important thing to remember is that it should be something that you think other people would love to look at for a month next year. We will be accepting entries until Sunday 2nd October, after which time an independent panel of judges will choose their favourite dozen which will go on to make up the 2023 calendar which will be on sale by the end of November. Email your entries at full resolution together with your name and age to projecthive@outlook.co.uk All photographs must be presented in landscape format (like a TV screen) and should not have been previously published. Good luck!

K.N

POP-UP BEER FEST DRUNK DRY

It happened again. The Western Park Pop-up Charity Beer Festival returned to the Hall at St. Anne's on Letchworth Road... And every beery drop was washed down by thirsty residents.

Twelve craft ales, two local ciders, bottles of fizz, wine, gin and mountains of samosas and cobs were devoured in the space of seven hours, before the tipsy hoards wobbled home at midnight.

Organisers tweeted: "What a night to start the year of great beer! We'd like to thank everyone who joined us and raised much-needed funds for our three Local charities while enjoying some quality beers.

"Roll on September 9th and 10th for the return of the Western Park Beer Festival!"

Profits go to Be-Inspired, Home-Start UK and The Laura Centre.



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GLASTONBUDGET IS BACK

While many will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, thousands from Leicester and beyond will head to Turnpost Farm in Wymswold for the world's best tribute and new music festival - Glastonbudget.

Back in style, after a two year pandemic induced hiatus, this year's three day boogie fest features the UK's finest tribute bands and more than a few of the midland's best local musicians gracing the four outdoor stages.

Most of us never got to see musical greats like Queen, Bowie, Pink Floyd, Dire Straits, Amy Winehouse or Oasis, but the Glastonbudget tribute bands are as close as you can get.

There's something for everyone, from metal to acoustic and from rap to ska. If the non-stop music gets too much, there's a huge number of stalls and rides across the three field site.

Glastonbudget runs from 2nd to 4th of June.
Tickets and line-up details are available from
www.glastonbudget.org (Advertorial)



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BACK ON THE RIVER

Leicester Riverside Festival returns on the 4th and 5th June. Spread over four areas this free two-day festival features fun on and off the water. Bede Park will feature family activities including a fun fair, food stalls, arts & crafts, beer tent, acoustic music stage and lots of activities, whilst on the Piazza area the large music stage will feature live bands and music for all ages.

Western Boulevard sees the return of the hugely popular street market with arts, crafts, tasty street food plus the Ride Leicester cycling area.

River Soar & Mile Straight hosts the colourful narrow boat rally, boat trips, canoes, boat rides, demonstrations and the opportunity to view and buy work from local artists at Art on The River.

Castle Gardens includes children's activities with an eco and environmental focus. It's sure to be one of the best fun-packed weekends.

Follow Leicester Festivals and Events socials for the latest updates.



FIVEWAYS JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS

Leicester City Council is planning a series of major improvements to completely redesign the busy FiveWays junction which links Blackbird Road, Woodgate, Fosse Road North, Groby Road and Buckminster Road.

The proposed changes include removing the left turn from Blackbird Road into Woodgate, and the right turn from Woodgate into Blackbird Road, as well as closing the existing service road by the shops at the junction of Groby Road and Buckminster Road.

Space will be reallocated for pedestrians and cyclists along with new landscaping and tree planting.

Existing traffic islands, stop lines and signals will be replaced with a simpler arrangement. New crossings for pedestrians and cyclists will also be introduced.

Further improvements between the FiveWays junction and Abbey Gate would see footways widened and a new off-road cycle track along with parking and loading bays. The existing bus stop and pedestrian crossing would be moved and the existing entrance to the supermarket carpark narrowed to improve pedestrian safety.

A new bike docking station is also proposed as part of the Santander Cycles Leicester e-bike hire scheme.

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Warning Zone - Volunteers Wanted

Local Children's safety charity needs more volunteers. Warning Zone wouldn't function without the generosity of their volunteer guides who deliver sessions during school term times. Some stay for the day, while others go for a morning or afternoon session. The minimum guiding requirement is just 5 hours (2 sessions) per month.

In a normal year they will deliver lifesaving messages to around 10,500 primary school children in year 6 from Leicester and Leicestershire at their state-of-the-art Life Skills Centre, on Frog Island.

Warning Zone's aim is to educate young people on understanding risks, peer pressure, anti-social behaviour and its consequences. At the same time, they explain the real risks of life for children in order to encourage responsibility and sound decision making while living full and active lives.

Volunteers range from 16 to 80+ years old, from all walks of life. More information at www.warningzone.org.uk or call 0116 2629739.



Update

Project Hive is run by the WWCE, a group of local residents raising funds to redevelop the former Eco House into a community space.

We are delighted to confirm that our biggest fund-raising event of the year, The Western Park Scarecrow Trail will be returning for its fourth outing in September. Over the weekend of Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th a flock of friendly straw-based persons will descend upon local streets. What we need to ensure that this year's event is the biggest and best yet, is for everyone who is reading this to sign up to be a scarecrow builder and join in with this fun community event.

The theme for this year's trail will be '100 Years Of The BBC' to coincide with this incredible milestone. Let your imaginations go wild! Your creation could be based on any aspect of the BBC, any programme, radio show or film. Registration will be open shortly through www.wwce.org

We can't stress how much of a difference it makes when people sign up early to do this, it gives us the confidence to push on and bring new additions to grow the event.

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May Police Update

Our Fosse team ran an operation to disrupt drug dealing on the beat. The Officers stopped a male who was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply a Class A drug, namely heroin. Enquiries continue.

A 31 year old drug dealer from Beaconsfield Road in Westcotes has been jailed for 4 years after he was found hiding in a bush following a 100 mph chase across Leicester. Brett Smith was found guilty of 5 separate driving, drug and weapon charges.

All the new CCTV cameras have been installed on The Rally which is great news.

2 suspects have been arrested for robbery in New Parks. With the help of CCTV operators, officers were able to locate and detain the two in The Fosse area.

There appears to have been a rise in reports of parcels being stolen from doorsteps by porch pirates. A male was arrested and bailed for this offence while enquiries continue. It makes sense to make use of postal tracking services, video doorbells and secure lockers to prevent theft. The sooner your package is retrieved the less chance there is of it being stolen.

6 uninsured vehicles were recovered by the team over the last month.

A misuse of drugs act warrant was executed on Western Road where £89,000 worth of Cannabis plants were discovered. One male arrested at the scene, charged and remanded to prison pending a court hearing.

A property relating to years of ASB on Bisley Street was closed down after some good partnership work with the city council.

A 21 year old man has been arrested following a report of a serious sexual assault in Great Central Way on April 7th.

A victim has not yet come forward and the report was made by a third party.

A male was arrested following a report of a sexual assault on Western Park on 20th March. Following a witness appeal, he was arrested on suspicion of sexual assault and outraging public decency. Investigations are continuing into both cases.

There has been an increase in the theft of catalytic converters across the city. These contain valuable rare earth metals which are in high demand. If possible, try and park your car where it becomes difficult to access from underneath.

Officers have attended the Ukrainian Church on Fosse Road South and taken part in a special service dedicated to those in the Ukraine.

Officers also attended the local mosque on Barclay Street to take part in prayers during Ramadan.

Sgt Shauna Ashton

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



I've been getting handy with my snippers and doing a lot of pruning this month, especially on spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia, chaenomeles and choisya.

If you cut back the spent spring flowers of the choisya and give it a feed, you are likely to get another set of blooms in the autumn. Additionally, I've been pruning spreading plants such as candytuft, aubretia and alyssum, which create nice shapes and further blooming as they are not overcrowded.



Candytuft

I've been feeding the lawns and repairing any bare patches with seed. New lawns and reseeded lawns need to be kept watered in warm temperatures and seeded areas shouldn't be mowed until approximately three inches long. Healthy lawns can be mowed weekly now, and the blades can be set at your summer cutting height.

It's a good idea to lift and thin out congested spring bulbs like daffodils. I have done this in my garden,

and it will produce a better flowering and more even display next year. I am also earthing up my potatoes, preventing damage from frost on any new shoots which stops light getting to developing potatoes, which will otherwise turn green and be in-edible.

I know we are all desperate to get our bedding plants out, but it's wisest to leave planting out until later in the month. A late frost can damage tender annuals, thus wasting money, time and energy in having to buy new plants. Even if frost is not forecast, it's best to harden them off and acclimatise for about a week which prevents stunting their growth and temperature damage. If you've planted out too early and frost is forecast, try bringing in any containers and cover those in the garden with fleece, which will hopefully give them a little protection. Any plants that you've already bought or grown from seed, and are protecting indoors, should have growing tips pinched out. This produces bushier plants and more chance of flowers.

Now is a good time to trim hedges, but I always check that there are no nesting birds and if there are, leave the hedge until later when nesting has finished. You'll find lots of weeds popping up between plants. It is good to hoe between the plants weekly or take a trowel to the weeds, otherwise they will compete with your prized possessions for nutrients and moisture. As ever, I've been feeding the birds and been keeping their baths topped up.

Carey Tunstall

Martin Page

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**Can You Solve The Word Search? Hidden
within the box are the following words:**

Dancing, May, Pizza, Western, Park, Egg,
Paper, Seven, Zoo, Ink Tuesday, Pier.

Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk



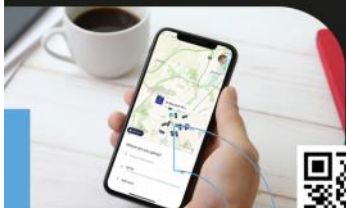
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