



HOT AS CORFU!

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HOT AS CORFU!

Summer insects and birds have been seen across west Leicester, the grass is still growing and snow drops are already poking their heads out of the ground.



With less than a month to go until Christmas, November's temperature have been almost as warm as May's average of 11c and they have been 3c above the normal for this time of year.

Generally in November, the temperature hits 10c, but the second week of the month saw local temperatures in west Leicester rise to 14c; making it the same as Corfu on November 13th.

Forecasters say November will be the warmest since Met Office records began in 1659, in a year that has also included the sixth warmest September and eighth warmest October.

The cause of the warmer than normal weather is the hotter air flowing in from Europe, bringing a more temperate climate.

The opposite happened this time last year. Cold northerly winds funnelled in from Greenland and

we suffered one of the coldest of early winters for 17 years, as temperatures plunged to well below freezing.

Leicester was covered with a thick blanket of snow, the gritters were out and Western Park was a centre of sledding excellence!



Our gardening expert Tony Huxley has his own thoughts on whether we'll have another cold winter: "If you believe folklore; then yes. Many berry trees have been overladen with fruit which is said to be a sure sign that cold weather is coming...but I actually think it might be quite mild."

If you have a story or a comment email editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the November issue of the Gazette.

We've extended the deadline for the Christmas picture competition giving one local youngster the chance to take their family to the De Montfort Hall to enjoy Peter Pan on Ice this Christmas!

The winning entry will also feature on the front cover of the December Gazette, we've already had several entries, so get painting!

This month, we follow the story of the west Leicester girl Bethany Mickleburgh, who is battling leukaemia, Roger Blackmore writes about Fanny Fullagar who was Leicester's first female Poor Law Guardian, Helen Knott gets all seasonal with her mince pies, Tony Huxley gets to grips with ivy and Richard Perry thinks the cost of re-vamping your PC could sky rocket.

And what a difference a year makes. This time last year we were ankle deep in snow, recently it was as warm as Corfu!

We are always looking for contributions, so if you've ever fancied writing for a magazine or you have some local news and information or you're holding an event, please get in touch.

Sharon e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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Virtual Venture



squaring the circle

Beth's Bone Marrow Search

Nearly 2000 people attended the Tiger's Well-ford Road ground for An Anthony Nolan bone marrow drive to help local girl Bethany Mickleburgh.

14 year old Beth from Western Park has fought off leukaemia twice since she was three, but the disease has returned.

She is currently undergoing aggressive chemotherapy, but her only real hope is to receive a transplant of matching bone marrow.



The November 12th event, which now holds the UK record for a donor drive, encouraged volunteers to join the bone marrow register and provide a saliva sample for testing.

As a result, the Anthony Nolan Trust has recruited many more possible stem cell donors with the hope that matches will be found and more lives

saved.

Beth's family and friends mounted a campaign to promote the donor session by distributing thousands of flyers across Leicester and contacting celebrities via Twitter.

Gok Wan, Alan Sugar and Mat Lucas, Kim Marsh and Alistair Campbell are among those who have offered their support.

If you are between 18 and 40, in good health and would like to help in the search; please fill out the on line registration form at

www.anthonynolan.org/register

If you're not eligible to join the register then help Beth's appeal through fundraising at

www.justgiving.com/-bethanymickleburgh

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The Fosse
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St. Anne's, St. Paul's and St. Augustine's

At St. Anne's Church Hall -

Mon - Fri Sandhurst Playgroup 285 7440.

Mon: 5.30 - 7.00pm: W.E.A. Yoga 255 6614.

7.15 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi. Call Rick 285 5159.

2nd Tue: 2.00 - 4.00pm: MU Speakers.

3rd Tue: 7.30 - 9.30pm: W.P. Gardening Club.

Wed: 5.00 - 8.00pm: Weightwatchers.

Wed: 8.00 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi with Rick.

1st Wed: 2.30 - 4.00pm: Wednesday Club.

4th Wed: 7.00 - 9.00pm: MU Speakers.

Thurs: 9.00 -10.00am: Pilates for fitness.

1.30 - 3.30pm: Pram Club. (Term time)

6.30 - 8.00pm: Rebounder Aerobics.

Fri: 10.00am: Coffee Morning.

1st Fri: 1.30 - 1.00pm: Lunch club.

2 & 4th Fri: 2.00 - 4.00pm: Folk dancing.

Tuesdays 10.00am: Mums and Toddlers: Over 60's Club. 12.30 (**St. Paul's**)

Christmas Fayre - 10th Dec, 10.00 am -2.00 pm at St. Paul's & St. Augustine's Worship Centre, Kirby Road Sun 11th Dec 12.00pm. - 4pm.

Church of the Martyrs

Westcotes Drive Leicester

Tomatoes Cafe Church live music alternate Saturdays 19th Nov, 3rd, 17th Dec, 10am-12pm.

Shake Rattle & Roll for babies toddlers & carers every Thursday in term time- 9.30-11.30am.

Street Self Defence 7.30-8.30pm Mondays in the Hall. Call 07788 637 686 for details.

Martyrs Football Training every Weds eve 9pm at New College, Glenfield Rd.

Xmas Fayre 2pm Sat 26th Nov in the Hall.

Christingle Service 10.30am Sun 4th Dec.

Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm Sun 18th Dec.

Beer & Carols 8pm Tues 20th Dec at the Western pub.

Crib Service 5pm Christmas Eve.

Family Service 10.30am Christmas Day.

Details of events and services can be found at www.martyrs.org.uk

St. Andrew's Methodist Church

Glenfield Road East, Leicester

Weds: Brownies. 6.30-8.00pm. T: Heather Valentine 0116 287 1056. **Fri:** Pram Club. Term Time. 10.00-11.30am. T: Jean, 0116 255 2912.

Parish of St. Peter

21 Hinckley Road Leicester

Details of events and services can be found on line at www.stpetersleicester.org.uk

Epworth Methodist Church

Blackbird Road, Leicester

Weds: Boys' Brigade 6.00 - 9.30 (ages 5 - 17 years) Tel: John Ogleby 0116 233 7978

Christmas at St. Anne's

St. Anne's Church will be open if you would like to remember a loved one who has died. There

will be star cards available, to write their name on, which can be placed on the Christmas tree to remain throughout the Christmas season.

You can be part of the largest carol service ever in Leicestershire on 20th December from 7pm. It's Sing Christmas with BBC Radio Leicester at St. Paul's & St. Augustine's Worship Centre.



Events Diary

Zumba Class Tues 6.45-7.45 & 8-9.00pm at New College. Call Sarah 07810 307 113.

Christmas Lights Switch On: Town Hall Square. 4pm. Free.

Advent Calendar Workshop: Abbey Pumping St. 26th Nov. 11-3pm. £4.50. Pre-book: 0116 299 5111

Christmas Customs Talk: Newarke Houses. 27th Nov. 2pm. £3.00.

Student & Younger Persons Market: Leicester Market. 27th Nov. 10-5pm.

Advent Carol Service: Leicester Cathedral. 27th Nov. 5-6.30pm. Free Entry.

Coffee Morn: Fosse Library. 2nd Dec. 11-12pm.

Creative Xmas Cards: Braunstone Library. 3rd Dec. 2-3.30pm. Free.

Xmas Toy and Steam Day: Abbey Pumping St. 4th Dec. 1-5pm. Family Tickets - £8.00.

Italian Market: City Centre. 1st - 4th Dec. 9-6pm.

Farmers Market: Gallowtree Gate. 8th Dec.

Countdown to Xmas (for children): Fosse Library, 10th Dec. 2-30pm. Free.

National Trust Talk: Highpoint Conference Centre. 13 Dec. 7.30pm. Call 0116 2229 133.

Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Music: Guildhall. 16th Dec. 5-8pm. £4.00.

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

A Little Light in the Dark



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CROWS NEST HALLOWEEN PARTY

Nearly 200 adults and children filled the Crows Nest for the annual Halloween Party.

The children, many dressed up in costumes and with their faces painted, were kept happily amused by magician and entertainer Peter Jay.

Landlord Ray Cooper, who made a pretty scary zombie himself, said: "It's been manic. The place has been jammed to the sides. It's one of the best events we put on...and we've got another one for the kids at Christmas on December 26th." Halloween wasn't just for the children, later that night and keeping to the theme, the adults were treated to live entertainment from a Lady GaGa tribute act.



FANNY FULLAGAR

Outside the former registry office in Pocklington Walk is a Blue Plaque commemorating this remarkable woman who, in 1889, became Leicester's first female Poor Law Guardian.

The registry office had previously been the office of the Poor Law Guardians. Most unusually, this is an example of a woman elected to public office almost thirty years before the first women became entitled to vote in parliamentary elections.

Fanny Fullagar was born in 1847 the daughter of a Belvoir Street doctor. Probably as a result of her family background, she became a dogged campaigner on behalf of the training of midwives and worked hard for the creation of the Bond Street Maternity Hospital.

A member of the Womens Liberal Federation, she topped the poll in the local All Saints or Newton Ward in the 1889 elections for Poor Law Guardians, a position she held for 15 years, before being defeated in 1904 by just one vote.

Initially the only woman serving on the board she was joined in time by other women and was not surprisingly a keen supporter of the campaign for women's suffrage.

After her electoral defeat, Fanny Fullagar did not stand again for office but instead devoted herself to various charitable causes and was a founder of the Leicester

branch of the National Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Children (the NSPCC). She also worked for the RSPCA and the local St John Ambulance as well as holding office in the Leicester Branch of the Women's Suffrage Society.

Fanny Fullagar never married, although she was reputedly engaged to a local vicar for seven years. She died in 1918 in the same year that women over 30 attained the right to vote in the general election that followed the end of the Great War. **Roger Blackmore**



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KNOTT'S LANDING

Helen Knott

Christmas is nearly here and with it, the delicacy that is the mince pie. We don't have them until the week before the big day in my house and then they are homemade. This year I even made my own mincemeat in a fit of autumnal domestic insanity. Delia's recipe, but with whisky in case you were wondering and I heated it in the bowl to melt the suet and stop it fermenting!

My Dad goes through the same routine each year since mum does not make her own mince pies. For the last couple of months, every week without fail, he's bought a packet of mince pies from a different retailer so he can assess the quality

of the pies and choose the best ones for Christmas. Apparently this is not just an excuse for him to eat pies in the run up to the festive season. It's a proper quality control measure. I'm not 100 per



cent sure I agree with that, but it certainly keeps us all entertained. Every week we have had updates. So far Tesco Finest are out in front with crisp pastry and moist not too sweet filling.

In a way he's right to do it, although his doctor might not agree. After all, the shops have been full of Christmas stuff since late August. The supermarkets are constantly trying to mess with what is basically a Christmas staple and it's hard to know whether it's innovation or just a Yuletide heap. There was the Ecclefechan tart from Sainsburys a few years ago which has won a place in our hearts because it isn't all pastry. The mini mince pies are great for those of us overwhelmed by too much pastry but this year's big innovation is from Waitrose and Heston Blumenthal who have remade the pie with pine scented sugar. I have to say I was a bit worried eating one would be like sitting in my mother's highly pine scented downstairs lavatory eating a pie, but actually, it's alright. Dad said it passed muster although at over £3 for six it's a bit of a rip off and frankly – the dates on it were short so you couldn't hoard them in November like you can with a Mr Kipling finest.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without traditions like the great Mince Pie hunt and long may it continue. Wishing you all the joys of the season and a warm mince pie!

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Gas Pipe Thefts

The soaring price of metal, could be behind a spate of thefts in west Leicester.

Since October 19th there have been 11 thefts of gas pipes, including one on Cambridge Street and several near the Infirmary.

The police are looking for a man between 45 and 50 years old, 5'6" to 5'8" tall, of medium build, an unkempt appearance with short greyish hair and very bad teeth.

PC Darren Bridges who is investigating said: "These incidents pose a potential threat to not only the suspect but also people living in the area. Anyone tampering with gas pipes run the risk of causing explosions. Live gas pipes are being left uncovered. I would warn anybody to contact National Grid should they smell gas before anything serious happens.

If you know anything about the incidents please contact the Police."

There is a surge in metal theft across the country with thieves targeting railway lines, power stations, church roofs and war memorials.

A metal thief can make £100 for just a few pounds of copper piping. It is estimated that the UK has around 25 million tons of copper infrastructure.

HALLOWEEN HORRORS

Witches, ghouls, zombies and ghosts invaded Western Park for the traditional Halloween Pumpkin Hunt.

Over 180 vampirish visitors, many in fancy dress, joined in the fun and raised over £200 towards improvements to the park's play area.

The MENCAP building was the centre of the activities with Paul Gobi sending shivers down young spines with his spooky stories.



The event is organised by the Friends of Western Park who are lobbying for improvements to the play area. So far, two basket ball posts have been installed following a successful bid for backing out of the Ward budget. Further improvements will take place in the spring if a funding bid to BIFFA is accepted.



Chairman of Friends of Western Park, Adrian Alexander said: "Once successful, we will need to raise £500, so the £200 from the Halloween event is a big step towards this.

Thank you to all that helped on the day, to those who took part and of course, Jane French and Christine Holton, for their planning and support.

Thanks also to the Meridians Vue Cinema, Hollywood Bowl, Frankie & Benny's, Chiquitos, Pizza Hut and Dominoes Toys for their kind donations."

If you're thinking of sticking a new hard drive in your computer or even buying a new laptop, it might make sense to hold off until the New Year.

Nice Box - What's in it? Richard Perry

You wouldn't think the weather would effect your trusty laptop, but it has.

The recent floods in Thailand have caused a huge problems for hard disc drive manufacturers as output from some major companies is temporarily shut down.

The severe flooding has interrupted the production of critical mechanical and electronic parts.

As a result, the cost of buying a new hard drive has sky rocketed, in some cases by more than 50%. Prices are expected to fall back to normal in the new year. But, in the meantime, expect the cost of hardware upgrades, repairs and possibly new computers to go up.

Windows XP. I like it. I have it on my laptop and many businesses and home consumers are still happily using it. But it looks like its popularity is finally on the wane. A 7% drop in its world wide usage share mirrors a 7% rise in Windows 7 usage.

It seems that those who avoided the abomination that was Windows Vista have now come around to upgrading their old XP PC's and laptops which, of course, come preinstalled with windows 7. But I think it will still be a couple of years before XP becomes a dead duck.

But wait... Microsoft are doing it again! **Windows 8** is on its way. Their new operating system covers all the normal platforms including netbooks and Tablet PC's and, they say, it will look and feel completely different.

It has a new tiled Metro start screen, like the windows phone system, full of apps which you can scroll through or if you prefer, the



more traditional desktop. There's an on screen touch keyboard, a simplified start menu, desktop management with a multiple monitors facility. As long as you have a touch screen, you can waft "charms" or menus around and snap and re-size windows around the screen.

And to compete with Apple, there's the Windows Store, similar to the Mac Apps Store where you can browse and download applications.

Windows 8 is expected to be launched towards the end of 2012... just in time for Christmas.

Letterbox



Helen Knott dropped the cat amongst the pigeons last month with her article about the orange recycling bags.

Mark from Western Park quoted Helen when he wrote: "Whoever changed the City Council's recycling scheme, is clearly a man." he adds, "HK goes on to tell us what a pillock her husband is, before smugly concluding that women everywhere will have to do more work now to get it right!

... If I had written something in a similar vein about women, I suspect, a lot of women wouldn't be laughing much!

... There's so much to write about, a good place to start would be a writer who actually has something to say and that clearly is not Helen Knott."

Alyson from Newfoundpool wrote: "The orange bags are an excellent idea and far better than the green boxes, which many of my neighbours agree with. The fantastic thing is we can now recycle so much more waste and lessen the landfills, there is no restriction on the number of bags - much better than 1 box which didn't hold that much and was very heavy, when full, to lift outside. The bags should not be hard work or difficult for anyone to understand (men included, as she feels they are

pretty clueless), there was loads of information with the bags, (a great fridge magnet for ease of memory) and the fact that we can recycle so many items means its not difficult for people to put the wrong things in!

The main thing the article left me feeling was sad that her opinions will now be read by the neighbourhood which has just started the orange bag scheme, and I would be afraid that people may be put off recycling by her views."

Our response is: Helen is a qualified and very experienced print and broadcast journalist. She is also our sketch writer and as such provides personality pieces for the magazine.

It's colour writing which is about creating an emotional response or mood from the reader, which in this case she has clearly done.

Judging by the numbers left out on Thursday nights, we don't believe Helen's thoughts have put people off using the orange bags.

Dear Editor - I would like to say thank you to those who organised the Halloween Pumpkin Hunt on Western Park. I took my 8 year old there and he had a cracking time!

Brilliant, looking forward to next year!

Dave (Western Park)

Email us: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Peter Pan on Ice Competition

There's still a chance to win a family pass to see this year's great Christmas show at the De Montfort Hall!

Peter Pan on Ice is a spectacular adaptation of J.M Barrie's magical story of the boy who never grew up performed by the world famous Russian Ice Stars.



To win this wonderfully seasonal prize, and experience the wonder of Neverland filled with pirates, Indians and ticking crocodiles, we'd like you to paint or draw an original Christmas picture.

Not only will the winner receive a family pass for 4 to Peter Pan on Ice, but the winning picture will

also grace the front page of the Gazette's December issue!

The Competition is open to anyone under 16 and you can use anything from crayons to computers!

Post to **Editor c/o Rapscaillon Media, 62 Ainsdale Rd, Leicester, LE3 0UA.**

Please make sure you use the correct stamp!

Email your picture as a jpeg or tiff by Dec 10th to editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Enter online at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk
T&C's - no cash alternative, prize cannot be used with another offer and judges' decision is final.

Peter Pan on Ice at the De Montfort Hall from 19th -31st December. Box Office 0116 233 3111.

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November Police Update

The first week of November saw a number of burglaries in the Westcotes and New Parks area.

All have happened throughout the day and evening. Patrols have been increased in the areas affected including Mossgate, Hodgson Close, Aikman Avenue, Dillon Road, Sandhurst Road, Holmwood Drive, Westcotes Drive, Eastleigh Road, and Fosse Road South.

A crime-prevention drive by the Hinckley Road Policing Unit has led to 176 local people registering their property details on the free property recording website www.imobilise.com. This site can be accessed by the police in the event someone's valuables are stolen. Being on the register increases the chances that police can return the property to its rightful owner and can help prove that an item has actually been stolen.

Officers investigating a robbery at the BP Service Station on Hinckley Road have released CCTV footage of the incident in a bid to identify the person responsible.

At about 3.15am on Saturday July 9 A man en-

tered the station shop and demanded cash, After a struggle with the shop assistant, the suspect made off with the cash drawer.

The victim was not hurt during the incident and it is believed that the suspect made off on a bike towards Eastfield Road.

Detective Constable Eliot Burgess is investigating the incident and said: "We would urge the public to have a look at the footage and contact us if they recognise anything about the suspect, may be his clothing or voice, any information which helps us move this enquiry on would be appreciated."

You can view the video by following the link on www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

Police are trying to trace five bicycles which were stolen during a burglary from a garage in Glenfield Road between October 14 and 17th.

A purple Kona Explosif, a grey Airborne Black Widow, a black Titus Motolite, a black Omega and a black Klein Mantra bike were all taken. The investigating officer, PC Lee Sands said: "The owners are extremely keen to get their bikes back. If you have seen any of the stolen bikes, know who is responsible or know where the bikes are, please call us."

BRAIN *TAZERS*

1. Some letters are missing from the alphabet. These letters make up a word. What is it?
A B C D E F H J K L M O P Q U V W X Y Z

2. If $99=297$, $59=177$ and $29=87$. What does $9=?$

3. Which 5 letter word can be added to Sand, Note, Waste and Rice to make a longer word.

4. Rearrange the letters in ASTRONOMER to make 2 words meaning something similar.

5. Using the clues, replace the same 3 letter word in each group of boxes and complete the word.

Horse Colouring

☐ ☐ ☐ Black and White Bird

☐ ☐ ☐ Healing Treatment

- 6. Five men walk along a lane when it begins to rain heavily. Four of the men quicken their step but get drenched. The fifth man did not speed up and stayed bone dry. He didn't have an umbrella. How is this possible?**

(Answers at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

SUDOKU

	9						3		
4	6						9		5
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Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



It's probably too late to ignore the fact that Christmas is fast approaching, a time when we often hear about "The Holly and the Ivy".

Many of us buy holly wreathes for our front doors, and a few red berried sprigs for decoration. But how many spare a festive thought for the "the Ivy"?

Ivy has great symbolic significance. Like Holly it's one of our few native evergreens so was associated with hope and rebirth. Its twining, clinging habit meant it represented resilience and fidelity. To most gardeners it's considered a weed.

In a spirit of good will to all plants I am championing common Ivy, *Hedera helix*.

We know that gardens are great for wildlife. Allowing a little ivy to establish itself on an old wall or tree stump will only enhance this. During the summer your garden has plenty to attract local fauna. But as the year draws to a close these options dwindle. Ivy provides a wintery oasis for garden wildlife, giving protection to hundreds of species such as bats and hibernating butterflies and moths.

Flowering from November, it's a valuable food source for insects and in turn their predators.

Its berries provide early spring nutrition to many types of bird. Ivy also creates valuable breeding sites for birds, so if possible leave cutting back till just before or after the nesting season.

Okay, ivy can make a mess of wood work and needs regular trimming to keep it under control, but it does create effective screening, ground-cover in shady areas and even gives walls free organic insulation! In excess it will add to a tree's wind resistance, which may be a problem in high winds. It can be unsightly on certain specimens. But it's a myth that ivy kills trees-it merely gives them a festive hug!



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