The Gazette



No.39 Nov 2012 www.westernparkgazette.co.uk News and Views for Western Park ● Westcotes ● The Fosse





Hello From The Editor

In this issue, as Halloween gripped, the West End we roamed the streets to grab some pictures of the generally happy spookiness! Luckily the weather held off and much fun was had by all!

Also this month, Roger Blackmore looks back on the eventful life of a local hero, Morley Wheeler, who passed away recently. The Square Mile Project, get to grips with cleaning up the graffiti on Woodgate and Helen Knott, takes on her biggest gripe yet... Tufty the Squirrel.

In Techie Thump, IT expert, Peter Coley, explains how you can help with the search for intelligent extra -terrestrial life and in Garden Tidings, the God of Compost, Tony Huxley gets out his rake and gets into leafmould.

On a depressing note, the slow disintegration of our traditional local shopping areas continue as a Hinckley Road grocers closes after 30 years.

And we have the latest from the local policing unit as they keep the streets safe.

If you have any local stories or event information, please get in touch.

e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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HALLOWEENTES!





As Halloween dug its gnarled claws into West Leicester, all manner of ghouls, witches and zombies crept from their crypts to prowl the streets. Happily, grown-ups

were looking after the haunting activates as hundreds of local children roamed the neighbourhoods in search of sweets.

The Eco House on Hinckley Road, worked with the Friends of Western Park group to offer the now traditional pumpkin hunt along with other traditional Halloween activities like apple bobbing. In the end, over three hundred locals joined in.

> Local Halloween parties proved very popular with many households actually looking forward to the knock on the door.

> Festivities started off earlier this year at the Crows Nest pub. The previous weekend, hundreds of children enjoyed the entertainment and goodies laid on by Landlord Ray and his team.

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Bah Humbug... No!

No need to be a Scrooge this year! A Christmas Art and Craft Fair aims to showcase the talent and work of local artists and craftspeople living in and around West Leicester.

One of the organisers, Anita Barrand, says: "It's the perfect opportunity to buy Christmas gifts that are unique and affordable. From mosaics, to stained glass, beautifully made textiles, jewellery, original paintings and



There's a fabulous range of beautifully handcrafted items on offer.

The event will also feature a fabulous 'pop-up' vintage tearoom selling delicious cakes and pastries."

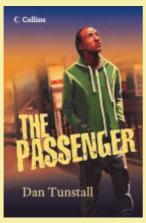
It all takes place on Saturday 8th December at the Robert Hall Memorial Church.

If you are holding a local community event, send the details to editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk Or by post to Western Park Gazette c/o Rapscallion Media, 62 Ainsdale Rd, Leicester LE3 0UA

THE PASSENGER

West End children's writer Dan Tunstall's fourth book is heading for the shops – just in time for Christmas!

The Passenger's central character is 14-year-old Matt. He's on his way home from a Saturday aftershopping noon Renton, when he gets a text from his mum. checking that he's okay. There's been a fatal stabbing in the town. When a strange lad takes the seat next to him on the bus. Matt finds himself wondering if he might have something to do with it. The two



boys talk for a while, and Matt begins to relax. The kid is called Mikey and he seems alright. But then Matt sees a spot of fresh, bright red blood on one of Mikey's clean white trainers...

Following his previous titles Big and Clever, shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award in 2010, Out of Towners and Seconds Out, The Passenger is a slight departure for Dan, as for the first time a supernatural element creeps into the plotline.

"I've tried to give it a sort of *Tales of the Unexpected* feel," Dan says. "But of course I'm not giving the ending away!"

The Passenger, published by Harper Collins, is available from all good booksellers, priced at £5.99.

For further information about Dan's writing, visit www.dantunstall.com



Local Hero - Morley Wheeler

Many readers of the Gazette will be sad to learn of the death last month of Morley Wheeler, formerly of Letchworth Road, who played such a major role in the campaign to prevent the building of a "Techno-Eco Zoo" on Western Park in the early 1990's.

Born in London in 1921 and educated at St Ninian's School in Battersea, at the age of 21, he became a Fleet Air Arm pilot in the Second World War.

It was in this role he flew protection for the Arctic convoys to Murmansk in Russia.



Along with the rest of 846 Squadron, he took on both the biting cold of the Arctic and German U-Boat submarines, as they hunted Allied convoys.

Years after the war, he travelled back to Murmansk where he visited a school and became close friends with both staff and pupils. He maintained this contact for many decades.

He recently contributed to a TV documentary outlining his part in the Arctic conflict, giving eye witness accounts of depth charging submarines and the difficulties of air warfare in severe winter conditions when surrounded by nothing but sea.

Prior to the outbreak of war, Morley worked at London Life Insurance where he met his wife Renee whom he married in 1944. They were married for sixty one years until she passed away in 2006.

In the early 50's the couple adopted two children, Alan and Janet, and the family moved to Leicester in 1955 where Morley became a surveyor for Sketchlevs.

In Leicester he became an active member of New Parks Boys Club and the congregation of Leicester Cathedral and remained a lifelong West Ham fan. He was also a member of the Conservative Party and a keen dog walker.

Morley Wheeler retired in 1983 and later moved to the Charnwood Forest area.

He always retained a deep interest in the life of the Western Park area and gave a talk on his wartime experiences to pupils at Dovelands School only a matter of weeks before he died.

Roger Blackmore

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Fosse Clirs Surgery: Monthly, 2nd Sat, 10.30-11.30, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre & last Sat 10.30 -11.30am Woodgate Residents Association Westcotes Clirs Surgeries: Westcotes Library, 1st Sat each month, 10.30 - 11.30am and 3rd Fri each month, 5.30 - 6.30pm, West End Neighbourhood Centre. 4th Fri each month 9.30 -10.30am

Manor House Neighbourhood Centre, 2nd Friday every month, 10-11am.

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



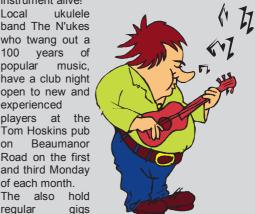
N'uke 'em High!

If you though playing the ukulele had all but died out with George Formby, you're half right. But one local group of enthusiasts is keeping the

instrument alive!

Local ukulele band The N'ukes who twang out a 100 vears popular music, have a club night open to new and experienced plavers at the Tom Hoskins pub Beaumanor Road on the first

of each month. The also hold regular gigs across the city



with the next two being on Friday 16th November at the King's Head Beer Festival, King Street and Thursday 6th December at the Criterion Pub on Millstone Lane.

West End writer and broadcaster Helen Knott might scare the life out of most people, but this month, something small and furry is hanging onto its nuts...

Squirrels are the furry spawn of the devil. There, I've said it. It feels better to be out as a hater.

I have to record that my relationship with the furry hoarders of nuts didn't get off to a good start. When I was small we went on a big trip to London Zoo with my Mum and my brother. We walked through Regent's Park and having never seen



squirrels we were really excited. We offered them treats. The squirrel looked me in the eye and boldly took a huge chunk out of my finger. There was blood everywhere. I had to go to A&E where we stayed for ages and only had a little while at the Z00.

With this in mind you can see why I can't bear having the fuzzy beasts in my garden. Their misdemeanours are many and varied. They eat all the bird food I put out, in spite of the squirrel proof cage, this is more than annoying and means I spend ages pulling little green nets out of the borders. They chew the wires on the side of the house which is not good for the satellite box and if they get into the loft we are in serious trouble because their destructive powers are legendary. Finally, they bury horse chestnuts EVERY-WHERE. Seriously, in spring, my garden looks like a chestnut plantation.

And what can I do about it? Nothing. The helplessness is killing me. You can't get rid of them. They breed incessantly, if you remove one from the garden, another will move in and lastly, in a gloriously ludicrous bit of legislation, it is legal to trap a squirrel, it is illegal to release it from that trap alive.

While I am perfectly happy to eat a squirrel; apparently it tastes like chicken, I'm not sure I could bring myself to knock one on the head so I'd be left with a giant cage full of them, sitting in the garden staring at me.

I wonder if the RSPCA will pay for my therapy bills?

Helen Knott

November Police Update

Police are hunting three masked raiders following a vicious hammer attack on a West End family.

Robbers armed with claw hammers forced their way into a house on Frampton Avenue off Hinck-ley Road on 29th of September.

Jitendra Damani was hit with a hammer when he refused to hand over cash and jewellery, his son, Neel, was also struck and left with a fractured cheek. Mr. Damani's wife was also assaulted.

The raiders made off with cash jewellery, passports and a valuable Russian stamp collection.

Father and son were treated for their injuries at the LRI, before being allowed home.

Officers collected DNA evidence from the crime scene are looking for three men between 22 and 30 years old who escaped in a silver car, heading along Hinckley Road into the city.

Police are appealing for witnesses following a burglary at a house in Linkway Gardens overnight on Wednesday October 10.

A window was smashed open and items were taken from inside including a gold ring with the word 'Mum' engraved into it, a pair of gold loop earrings, a 32" Samsung plasma television, some cash and a BlackBerry PlayBook.

Investigating officer, PC Sam Perry, said: "The victim's are obviously keen to have their items returned but we are also keen to speak to anyone who has information that will lead us to those responsible."

A Binatone electronic book, a Nintendo DSi, an Acer and a Compaq laptop and a Specialized Allez Sport bike were among items stolen from a house on Western Park Road.

The burglary happened around lunch time on 26th of September when the owners were out. Jewellery with sentimental value was also taken including a pearl necklace, with a gold clasp and embedded green stones, a silver pendant cross, a silver Gucci bracelet and a gold ring with a small solitaire.

A 43-year-old man has been charged following two robberies at two local Santander banks on Woodgate and Narborough Road in October.

The man is facing two charges of robbery and two charges of possession of a firearm whilst committing a schedule 1 offence.

He appeared at Leicester Magistrates' Court on November 1st and was remanded in custody.

Sq. Mile Graffiti Clean-Up

Up to 20 De Montfort University students joined residents and city council wardens to clean-up graffiti left by a vandal in Woodgate.

The graffiti was left by a tagger earlier this month at which point the Mile2 Project started to put together an emergency response team of student volunteers to contribute a few hours of their day to help clear-up the area.

The team planned to work until

3pm, but by mid-morning had already made a remarkable difference to the fronts of businesses which had been targeted by vandals.

Resident Adran Ablett felt that the clean-up was important and said: "What a place looks like affects how you feel about it. The graffiti makes the area seem unsafe and people don't feel comfortable walking around it."

The clean-up will have a positive impact on the area as the volunteers cleaned and painted over the damage. Student Matt Cox said: "Walking back along the road on the way home you could tell we had made a difference."

Leicester city wardens in attendance were impressed with the turnout of volunteers. The war-

den for the Fosse area, Jamie Stubbs, said that: "Everyone worked really hard, there's clearly a visible difference and we've had good feedback from the public."



The team of students worked on the clean-up throughout the day and some were interviewed by BBC Leicester and BBC East Midlands TV News. While the volunteers improved Woodgate, it remains to be seen whether or not the area will stay graffiti free. Leicester city warden, Jethro Swift, who helped to coordinate the clean-up said: "The clean-up has made residents and business owners very happy. Hopefully we won't suffer the same kind of tagging any time soon."

Another One Bites the Dust

Tony Hawkins, the fruiterer and green grocer, in the parade on Hinckley Road has sold his last cauliflower.

Tony, who retired 5 years ago, left the business to his son David to run. Now David has decided to call it a day and move on, bringing an end to 30 years of service in West Leicester.

With shops closing on a daily basic across the UK, more vacant store fronts are becoming visible in local shopping areas.



Tony said: "It's been tough recently. Our customer were getting older, some have died or moved into homes and the younger generation don't seem to use to use shops like these anymore. But where will older locals and the less mobile go for their Christmas Tree's and house plants?

"I'm sad to say goodbye to our customers, but glad we don't have the responsibility of running a small business any more.

"We've had a lots of presents and thank you's from people saying they'll miss us, which is really nice... And we'll miss them too."

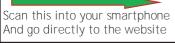
Tony's customers in search of fresh fruit and veg can still find them at Monty's Deli, just a few yards away, since deli owner Trina has stepped in and agreed to run a limited range of produce.





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Online at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk







Have you ever pondered upon the existence of little purple people on far away worlds?

The questions are - Where are they and, purple or not, how do we find them?

A fairly rational approach has been to try and analyse the massive amount of radio "static" coming from space to identify anything which could be artificially (intelligently) generated.

In 1999 a project called SETI@home (search for extra terrestrial intelligence * @ home) was launched to look for any evidence of life on other worlds. The project



collects data from radio telescopes and distributes it to the home PC's of millions of volunteers to be analysed to look for anything which could indicate intelligent transmission rather than the random noise of space.

Packages of information, or "work units", are downloaded to your home computer and then, whilst it is idle, your computer can process the data and then send it back to Berkeley University who host the project.

Currently there is a network of over 5 million volunteers. This constitutes the world's largest supercomputer, using just spare computing power. You even get an animated high tech screensaver showing the data being analysed.

Since the launch of Seti@home there have been lots of additional projects added in all areas of science. Users can choose which projects to participate in, aiding the understanding of climate change for instance.

The software which makes distributed computing possible is called BOINC (Berkeley Open Infrastructure for Network Computing) and if your inner geek is interested you can join the project and download the software from here:

http://boinc.berkeley.edu

The BOINC software lets you participate in more than one project, and lets you specify what fraction of your computer time should go to each project. So go on, instead of your PC just sitting idle while you are not using it, why not help map the Milky Way, understand earthquakes or even look for aliens, without leaving the comfort of your armchair.

According to BOINC statistics my productivity world ranking is 2460th out 2,480,000 active volunteers... so quite some way to go yet!

Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



The large pear tree at the bottom of my garden has turned buttery yellow and the Acer japonicum "Aconitifolium" is wearing blood red leaves.

Autumn is obviously in full swing. The lawn is already awash with leaves. Some refer to this seasonal garden clutter as leaf litter, but it deserves recycling and not treated as waste. At the very least add it to the compost heap. If you have huge amounts add a bit at a time, mixing with other ingredients. You could simply use it as rough mulch at the back of borders.

It's a good idea to remove thick layers of leaves from lawns before they kill off the grass. The easiest way is to mow them off. If your mower is good at shredding leaves you could simply remove the grass box and blow it back onto the lawn as a top dressing. If you don't have a proper leaf blower you can use the mower to clear paths and drives etc, but be careful in gravelled areas not to create pebble shrapnel!

Another good use for autumn leaves is to make leafmould. This is easy to do and produces excel-

lent homemade compost. You could simply fill bags with leaves, make a few holes in the bags to aerate the contents, and put to one side for a couple of years. If you have more room, and leaves, then make a larger container using mesh or chicken wire stretched around four stakes in the ground. Fill



with as many leaves as possible and in couple of years you'll have lovely light, crumbly and free potting compost. Leafmould is ideal for seed sowing and cuttings but is low in nutrients so will need mixing with other compost or garden soil for use with established plants.

Happy Autumn raking!

If you're holding an event or perhaps you're doing something special and you'd like people in West Leicester to know all about it:

SHOUT IT OUT!

Letter Box



much, of the beloved Pump and Tap. Now long gone and its memory sullied by that ugly Wimbledon scoreboard looking DMU/LCC gym!

I think also exaggerated by the predictably sad news of the closure of that fine fruit and grocers store on the Hinckley Road parade of shops.

Run for years, they have finally been driven out of business, not by a single issue like the nearby Tescos, but a number of things.

The variety of businesses is not there. No baker, butcher, cafe, book, record or DIY shops.

Parking is hostilely policed by an anally retentive Council. There is a recession and a generation of shoppers who have learnt to shop lazily at one store.

The Community has broken down. We don't stop to chat, say hi, look out for each other, help the elderly across a road and even just look at each other and say hello with a smile! We need to learn to rebuild our communities or Leicester will become an even more ugly pale copy of Nottingham.

Only Queens Road, Evington Road and Francis street work together to trade well, even in difficult times.

We in LE3 are becoming an area of junk food takeaways, charity shops, crap "sitting room" emotion numbing booze suppliers and pound shops.

We are watching our soul get flushed away with the community dying off.

Sam (Western Park)

e:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

As a long time resident of the West End, I am very concerned about the dreadful state of some of our roads.

In particular Livingstone Street, off Shaftsbury and Hinckley Road, where it is possible to see the original cobbles through the tarmac.

There are not just one or two small potholes, there are dozens.

Bearing in mind the amount of Council Tax we all have pay, would it be prudent for those who receive our vast sums of money, to buy a pair of glasses and take a look?

Perhaps then, they might actually like to fix the basic problems instead of squandering £4 million on the so called Jubilee Square.

Annoyed of West End

Gazette Competition

Here's another chance to win a great prize from the Western Park Gazette!

We've got our hands on a copy of the new DVD release of "The Amazing Spiderman".

Out earlier in the year, this successful movie re-boot of the classic Marvel character follows the story of bullied, nerdy student Peter Parker as he become the web slinging, crime fighting, leotard wearing Spider-man!



To win, just answer the question below:

In the comic, what causes Peter Parker to get super powers?

- 1. He drinks a potion
- 2. He is exposed to gamma radiation
- 3. He is bitten by a radio active spider.

Answers by the 25th of November 2012 to editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk or by mail to Western park Gazette, c/o Rapscallion Media 62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester, LE3 0UA

(Terms) 1 entry per person. 1 correct answer chosen at random. No cash alternative. Prize is not transferable.





Events Diary

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

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

Leic' Ladies WI: Meets monthly on 3rd Mon.7.15pm Upstairs in The Almanack, 15 Bath House Lane. Breastfeeding Group: West End Sure Start Chil-

dren's Centre, Catesby Street, Tuesdays. 1:30pm -3:00pm. 0116 225 2225.

Online Sessions: Westcotes Library, Weekly, Mon. Tues &Thurs. 1-3.30pm. Free.

Fosse Singers: Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm. Fosse Singers Xmas Concert: Church of the Martyrs. Dec 8th.7.30pm.

Stiff Little Fingers: 14th Nov. O2 Academy. 7.00pm.

£15. www.02academyleicester.co.uk

Diwali Hangama: 17th Nov. Curve. 7.30pm. £12. Tales from the Darker Side: 17th Nov. The Guildhall. 7.30pm. £9. www.leicester.gov.uk/museums Christmas Lights Switch On: 18th Nov. Town Hall Square. From 4pm. Free

Winter Food and Craft Festival: 18th Nov. Leices-

ter Market. All day. Free.

Ghosts of the Newarke: 24th Nov. Outside Newark Museum from 4.00pm. £5 Tickets from Visit Leicester, 51 Gallowtree Gate.

Heritage Sunday's Tour: Blue Badge tours of the Magazine, Leicester Castle and Wygston's House. 25th Nov. From 11am. Free. Meet at Leic Castle. Blackfriar's Advent Market and Craft Fayre: 25th

Nov. Holy Cross. Wellington Street.

8.30am-1.30pm. Details-0116 243 1289. Christmas Wreath Making: 28th Nov. Guildhall 7-

9.00pm. Contact venue for cost. 0116 253 2569. Hello Dolly: 29th Nov-12th Jan. Curve Theatre.

www.curveonline.co.uk

Christmas Fair & Santa: 1st Dec. Mother of God Church, New Parks Boulevard, 10,30-1,00pm.

Adults 50p, Children Free.

Christmas That'll be the Day: 3rd Dec. DeMontfort

Hall. 7.30. www.demontforthall.co.uk

A Christmas Carol: 6-8th Dec. Curve Theatre.

2.30pm, 7.45pm. £12.

Bootleg Beatles: 8th Dec. DeMont Hall. 7.30pm.

Tickets from £23.50

Bolshoi Ballet - The Nutcracker: 16th Dec. Phoenix Square. 2.45pm £14. www.phoenix.org.uk Celebrating Hanukkah: 16th Dec. Victoria Park. 4.pm. Free.

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

At St. Anne's Church Hall -

Mon - Fri: Playgroup 07837 628689. (term time) 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 - 3.15pm: Pram Club. (Term time) 6.30 - 8.00pm: Rebounder Aerobics.

10.00am: Coffee Morning. Fri: 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 Worship Centre)) Xmas Coffee Morning & Table Top Sale: Sat 10th Nov. 10-4pm. (St. Paul's)

Family Barn Dance & Raffle: Sat 10th Nov.

7pm. (St. Paul's)

Church of the Martyrs

Westcotes Drive Leicester

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

Martyrs Football Training: every Weds eve

6.30pm at Nelson Mandela Park...

Craft Group: for any type of craft. Thurs 12th July and every 2nd Thurs of the month. Karate: Fridays in the Hall. 6.00-7.00pm.

Rainbows: Mondays 5.15pm. Brownies: Mon & Thurs. 6.30pm. Guides: Tuesdays. 7.00pm.

St. Andrew's Methodist Church

Glenfield Road East, Leicester

Fri: Pram Club. Term Time. 10.00-11.30am. T: Jean. 0116 255 2912.

Parish of St. Peter

21 Hincklev Road Leicester

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

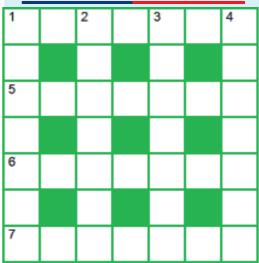
Epworth Methodist Church

Blackbird Road, Leicester

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

The Western Park Gazette 10,000 Homes and Businesses e: sales@westernparkgazette.co.uk editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

BRAIN TAZEA



Across: 1. Long-standing and recurrent 5. Panacea 6. Pear-shaped tropical fruit 7. Beam Down: 1. Mythical half man, half horse 2, React 3, Paradise 4, Write music

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

- 1. What are the five different taste sensations?
- 2. Madsen Job is an anagram of which literary and film character?
- 3. A woman gives a tramp a pound; she is the tramp's sister, but the tramp isn't her brother. How come?
- 4. What are the next three letters in the following sequence and why? Watntlitf - - -
- 5. What number is next in this sequence? 51, 51, 40, 40. 29. 29 - -

Answers on line: www.westernparkgazette.co.uk