



## NIGHT OF THE ZOMBIES

### Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the 50th issue of the Western Park Gazette.

To Celebrate we're having a gathering at the Park café bar on Hinckley Road. So if you want to find out whether Helen Knott actually does eat raw kittens, as has been suggested, rub shoulders with Roger Blackmore or ask our gardening god, Tony Huxley, how to combine veggies with Kung Fu, just come along and ask. It's all happening at the Park café bar 237 Hinckley Road, LE3 0TG on December 10th from 7pm.

This month, the kids were out for Halloween, local artist, Nat Cloalson launches an exhibition of his work, Roger examines the life and times of Janet Setchfield, Helen gets into a pickle over jam, Tony dips his fingers into the garden pond, Rod has the latest from our local police and we get up to date with the latest Square Mile news.

As we head towards Christmas, there's the chance to win a family set of four tickets to see the first performance of Aladdin at the De Montfort Hall and as always the dreaded Brain Tazers lurk on the inside back cover.

## Make a Splash!

In The Western Park Gazette

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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,

## EMAIL US!

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# NIGHT OF THE ZOMBIES

The creatures of the night roamed west Leicester over Halloween. Tiny versions of the undead, skeletons, witches, mummies, vampires, monsters of all description and possibly a Ninja Turtle, took to the streets, travelling from house to house, dragging their parents behind them.



There was no Halloween Trail on Western Park this year so more than the normal number of little goblins were out and about demanding sweets from the open doorways of spookily bedecked houses.



Many had got into the spirit of the festival and held parties of their own, with one household inviting passing children to plunge their hands into cold, gloopy green spaghetti to find hidden goodies.

This year's centre of spookiness was the Crows Nest pub with landlord Ray Cooper putting on his regularly huge and ever popular Halloween kids party complete with life sized ghostly mannequins and children's entertainment.



# Janet Setchfield

**When we lived in Winchester Avenue in the late sixties one of our neighbours decided to stand for election to the City Council in our local area.**

I did not realize until some years later that Janet Setchfield had been steeped in Labour politics since birth. From her first election as councillor for North Braunstone in 1970 she was to hold numerous posts in both the City and County for over thirty years.

Janet's father Thomas Rowland Hill was an eminent Labour councillor in Leicester and was to become Lord Mayor in 1951. One of his roles during his year in office was to give his daughter Janet away in marriage to Jack Setchfield a local builder. Thirty four years later Janet was herself to become Lord Mayor !

Janet went to school at Newarke Grammar School on the site of what is now Fullhurst College and went on to study at Leicester Domestic Science College and went on to become a cookery teacher. Before entering local politics she and Jack had three children Jean , Katy and David. With local Government reorganization in the early 1970's Janet became a County Councillor in addition to her City role. She quickly rose to prominence at County Hall and in 1982 became the first ever woman Chairman of the County Council as well as the first ever Labour councillor to hold that office.

Janet was described by all who knew her as a formidable woman. True, she liked to get her own way and she had very firm views on how things should be done. She also cared passionately for the area she represented and undertook a huge variety of roles within the community. She also turned out to be one of the most widely travelled Lord Mayors of post-war times being particularly keen on the city's twinning links with Strasbourg and Krefeld. She also played an active part in the 500th Anniversary of the Battle of Bosworth celebrations in 1985.

Janet Setchfield died in December 2008 aged 81. Shortly afterwards the City Council decided to name the area beside St Nicholas Circle as Janet Setchfield Place with members of her family happily able to attend the naming ceremony.

Let us hope her name does not disappear with the changes that are going on in that area today.

*Roger Blackmore*



## Western Park Gazette



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## COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

**Fosse Cllrs Surgery:** Monthly, 2nd Sat, 10.30-11.30, Fosse Neighbourhood Centre & last Sat 10.30 -11.30am at Woodgate Residents Association.

**Westcotes Cllrs Surgeries:** Westcotes Library, 1st Sat each month, 10.30 - 11.30am and 4th Fri each month, 10.am-11am. Manor House Neighbourhood Centre, 2nd Friday every month, 10-11am.

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

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

### **Western Park**

**Tues 14th Jan 2014** at 7.pm - St Anne's Church Hall, Letchworth Road.

**Tues 11th March 2014** at 7.pm

### **Westcotes**

**Tues 21 Jan 2014 & Tues 25th March 2014** at the East West Community Project. 7.pm.

### **Fosse**

**20th Nov** at 6.00pm - Fosse Library, Mantle Road. **19th Feb 2014** 6.00pm - Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centre, Pool Road.



*Journalist & broadcaster Helen Knott rolls up her sleeves and gets into a pickle over jam...*

## KNOTT'S LANDING

**The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us and this year it's a doozy. It's a mast year!**

According to the Forestry Commission: "Mast years' are a natural phenomenon where some tree species produce very large crops of seeds in some years, compared to almost none in others."

The tree's have been laden, the hedgerows have been full. The apple tree on my allotment has had me handing out bags of apples to anyone who will take them. Unfortunately all the other apple trees are doing the same so there are fewer people around to accept the bags of apple goodness. There have also been a lot of blackberries to pick before the devil pees on them. (October 11 apparently!)

It makes me happy to have this much free fruit to play with. I make jam, I make chutney. It's really easy and don't listen to those people who say you



need special pans and thermometers. You don't really. Jam is just equal quantities of fruit (apples, blackberries, plums, raspberries, elderberries etc) and jam sugar heated to boiling and boiled for a while until when you drop a bit on a cold plate and push the jam with your finger you can detect a whisper of a wrinkle. Oh and just put the jars in the dishwasher to sterilise them. Chutney is even easier. Just chop a load of fruit and veg, add sugar, vinegar and spices and boil it until it's thick and chunky. Voila.

The ONLY thing that bothers me about this time of year is the people who take too much. Seriously, I've seen people on the park taking kilos of blackberries away. Do you really need three bucketfuls of blackberries? And then go back for more? I know there are a lot this year but that's selfish. But no... you just carry on and steal the joy from other people by taking so much. I hope your jam goes mouldy.

*Meet Helen at our 50th Issue Party at the Park café bar, 237 Hinckley Rd on Dec 10th from 7.00pm*



## Aladdin Competition!

**Panto is back at the De Montfort Hall after a gap of nearly 20 years... Oh yes it is!**

Your family can be the first to see it because we're giving you the chance to win a family set of four tickets to the ultimate Christmas Show in Leicester- Aladdin on it's first public performance on 14th December!

**Just answer the question below before the 2<sup>nd</sup> December to be in with a chance of grabbing the four tickets.**

### THE QUESTION!

What was the last Panto to be staged at the De Montfort Hall?

- A. Puss in Boots,
- B. Snow White
- C. Cinderella
- D. Peter Pan
- E. Jack and the Beanstalk



Answers by email only to:  
[editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)  
**Please include your contact details.**

*Comp T&Cs: Only 1 winner chosen at random. 1 entry per person. No cash alternative. Judge's decision is final. Correspondence only entered into with the winner.*

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# SHOOT 2 THE FUTURE



## Free Basketball Sessions


### SESSIONS ON FRIDAY NIGHTS

John Sandford Centre; 7-9pm

Rushey Mead School; 5.30-6.30pm


Beaumont Leys School; 8-9.45pm

New College; 7-9pm

 [leicesterriders.co.uk](http://leicesterriders.co.uk)

 @RiderUp67

 /RiderUp67

 ridersbball



**mile<sup>2</sup>**

# Square Mile News

mile<sup>2</sup>

## Come to our Christmas Concert

Residents are invited onto the campus of De Montfort University to enjoy a Christmas concert by the Square Mile Community Choir and band.

The singers will perform in the historic Trinity Chapel in The Newarke, Leicester – one of the city's oldest buildings – the perfect setting for a festive performance. The choir will be joined by The Influx band, which was put together by current DMU students who regularly volunteer in Fullhurst College to perform music with pupils. Young people from Fullhurst will also be joining the concert to perform some of their favourite Christmas songs.

The concert will take place on Thursday December 12 from 7pm. Entry is free and festive refreshments will be provided.

If you wish to attend please email [awhite@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:awhite@dmu.ac.uk) or call 0116 257 7135.

## Canal clean-up

De Montfort University students are working with the community transform the area around the canal in the west end of Leicester.

The Square Mile programme has joined forces with the Canal and River Trust for a project which aims to have a huge, positive impact on the local environment. Work involved in the project will include hedge planting, weir clearing, painting and improving seating areas along the River Soar.

The clean-ups run from 1pm-4pm every Wednesday up to 27 November – and residents are welcome to take part.

If you are interested in finding out more please email [awhite@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:awhite@dmu.ac.uk) or call 0116 257 7135.





# Join the Square Mile Community Choir

The Square Mile Community Choir  
rehearse every Thursday  
from 11am–1pm and welcomes  
anyone with a love of singing

You do not need any experience to join the  
choir and it is completely **free!**



Please contact the Mile<sup>2</sup> team for more information:

**T:** (0116) 257 7135  
**E:** [mile2@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mile2@dmu.ac.uk)  
**W:** [dmu.ac.uk/mile2](http://dmu.ac.uk/mile2)

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[@DMUSquaremile](https://twitter.com/DMUSquaremile)



# Square Mile News



## Get funny with Square Mile!

If you think you are funny – then now is the chance to prove it through two projects being hosted by De Montfort University's Square Mile (Mile2) programme in the area.



Sessions which teach Improvised Comedy are taking place at the Tudor Pub, Tudor Road on Wednesday nights from 7-9pm, leading to a show at the Leicester Comedy Festival in February. It's free to attend and the group is called Whose Square Mile is it Anyway?

If you think stand-up comedy is your thing, then join the group that meets on Thursday nights at Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centre from 7-9pm to learn the art of telling jokes.

Anyone is welcome to take part. To register your interest in either of these sessions, email [mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk) or call 0116 250 6183.

## Boost your business with Square Mile's IT.4.Free

Are you looking to start up a social media campaign for your business or charity?

Or are you looking for free advice on your Businesses social media strategy?

Then Square Mile's IT.4.Free project can help.

We use local professionals to provide free advice and guidance sessions on social media, every Friday 2-4pm, running out of Fosse Neighbourhood Centre in Mantle Road.



For more information, or to book your place, please call 0116 257 7102.



# Come and Meet Us!

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the Western Park Gazette, we're holding a little get-together at the Park café bar on the Hinckley Road Parade of shops - Western Park end.

The Gazette's Publisher Richard Perry said: "I'm amazed we're still here. Trading conditions are very difficult at the moment, especially from an advertising point of view, so to start up a magazine in the middle of a recession, with income solely based on local businesses was a bit mad, but it's worked."

"A lot of people have contributed to our success, and many readers have wondered who on earth we all are, so now's their chance to come and find out!"

This little celebratory Christmas bash is your chance to meet our regular contributors including Helen Knott, Roger Blackmore, Tony Huxley and the Gazette's publisher Richard Perry. So if you've got any questions, bring them along and meet the Gazette team on Tuesday December 10th from 7pm at the Park café bar 237 Hinckley Road, LE3 0TG.



# Spicing Up Hinckley Road!

**Taking kids out to eat in a restaurant is a nightmare for us.** We don't have the kind of boy who sits nicely in his chair waiting for everyone else to finish which is why buffets are a godsend, even better if that buffet serves a selection of different kinds of foods to please all tastes.

It took us a while to get round to visiting Chef and Spice on Hinckley Road. We've been distracted from that end of town since Entropy closed its doors. We took a big group of family and friends there, complete with kids and old folks so it was going to be a challenge to keep everyone happy.

We didn't reserve a table but we got seated straight away and the kids were able to get straight into the business of choosing their food.

When I was little there was no such thing as a buffet restaurant. Well there probably was but I don't remember them. There was a good range of choices available. Old favourites from the Indian restaurants plus the big teppanyaki stir fry and the inevitable chips.



I made the classic mistake of filling up on starters and a big plate of curries of various types, all of which were very nice, along with fresh naan cooked in their tandoor. At this point the kids were already moving onto dessert having spotted the chocolate fountain very early in their visit. It's amazing how much of an incentive to eat your greens a chocolate fountain can be. Anyway it wasn't until I went to help limit the chocolate consumption that I realised there was a whole grill section I had completely missed and at this point was in no position to try.

The kids dipped fruit in chocolate and I sneaked a couple of gulab jumun.

There really was something to please everyone and by the time everyone was finished there were smiles all round. We'll be going back because I've got to try that grill section.

Simon Knapton

(Sponsored Article)

## \*It Takes YOU\*

### To start the trend

### Shop Small

### Shop Local

### Eat Local

### Spend Local

### Enjoy Local

### Please support the local businesses in the Western Park Gazette

# November Police Update

*The Smart View with Sgt. Rod Smart*

## Braunstone Gate Doorman Attack

**Police have released CCTV footage of a brutal attack on a Braunstone Gate doorman in a bid to trace those responsible.**

The attack took place just after midnight on Sunday November 3 outside the Mobius Bar, Braunstone Gate leaving the 40 year old victim with serious head injuries.

Mohamed Senesie, refused to allow in four men of Middle Eastern appearance.

Following an altercation three of the men assaulted him using a metal barrier. The victim sustained a fracture to his skull and was released from



hospital on November 6th, following treatment.

DC Matt England is investigating and said: 'This was a nasty assault which left the victim with a significant injury to his head, no one should be subjected to violence of this nature especially at their place of work.'

'We would urge the public to take a look at the footage and contact us if they recognise any of the men, even if you're not 100% sure we would still ask that you contact us as we can quickly eliminate people from our enquiries.'

'Any calls received will be treated in confidence.'

Contact DC 625 Matt England on 101, follow the instructions to leave a message and when prompted, key in the officer's identification number 0625. Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers, which is free and anonymous, on 0800 555 111.

View the video at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

**The clocks will have come forward and the evenings are well and truly drawing in.** With the darker evenings and darker journeys to and from work, local residents are advised to be even more aware of their personal safety when out and about. Readers are advised to travel on well lit streets and to keep valuable items such as phones and MP3 players out of sight.

The darker nights and wet weather also make driving home from work more hazardous during the

difficult light of dusk. Motorists are reminded to keep their windows clear, to leave more space and consider making journeys at times of better lighting.

On 28 September a disturbance took place at a petrol station on Hinckley Road. A 38 year old Beaumont Leys man was arrested at the scene and was charged with theft from the garage, racially aggravated threatening behaviour against one of the staff and assault on a Police Officer.

On 5 October the owner of a house on Wyngate Drive, detained a 15 year old youth damaging his wall. The matter is being dealt with by way of community resolution, which allows the boy to face up to his behaviour and pay for the damage.

On 6 October a 38 year old local man received a broken jaw and bruising during a fight on Kate Street. A 45 year old man from the Westcotes area was arrested but later released as the victim declined to cooperate with the investigation

During the early hours of 10 October, 3 youths and a girl from out of the area were arrested for damaging vehicles on Glenfield Road. The group are currently on bail while enquiries continue.

On 12 October a 40 year old local man was arrested and charged in relation to fourteen shop thefts around the area. He has subsequently received a seventeen week custodial sentence.

On 1 October, St. Anne's Church Hall was burgled on Letchworth Road and around about 16th October, an amount of lead was stolen from the Baptist Church on Upperton Road. We have had a number of thefts from Churches around the area over recent months and readers are asked to be vigilant for criminals stealing from our places of worship. Any suspicious people or vehicles, especially flat-bed trucks, should be reported to the police on 101 or 999; if it appears that there is a theft in progress.

For more information about policing in your area visit [w:leics.police.uk/local-policing](http://w:leics.police.uk/local-policing) Follow us on

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# Getting Abstract

**For two weeks in November an American visual artist, now living in Western Park is presenting a solo exhibition in Leicester.**

Nat Coalson, originally from Colorado, travels the world taking photographs in picturesque locations, creating images of iconic landmarks such as castles, abbeys, country estates, and natural settings.

The exhibition called *Ignes Fatui: The Light Beckons*, is named after the phosphorescent light seen at night over marshy ground or Will-o'-the-Wisp and features eighteen abstract photographs printed on canvas and embellished with acrylics.

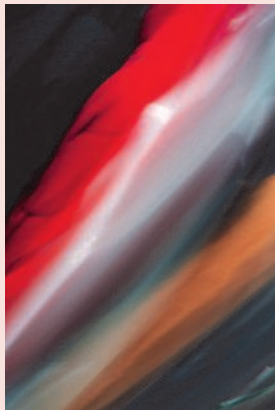
Over many years, Nat has developed a distinctive artistic vision and an unusual creative process. He says: "Practicing photography in England has provided fantastic opportunities to produce new work. Old stone walls, interiors of medieval castles and grand estates are perfect subjects for my abstract art."

"I try to create each picture as completely as possible within the camera but my process is the opposite of typical photography; these pictures look nothing like the things I pointed my camera at. I work to give the illusion of motion to still objects and to design captivating images that show something other than what's actually there."

The prints are given a protective coating and mounted onto wooden stretcher bars. He then paints over each print using transparent acrylics, glossy gels and texturing mediums. Some of these contain suspended glass beads, lava flakes, synthetic fibres and other exotic materials. This unique process yields one-of-a-kind, mixed media artworks with deep texture, vibrant colour and dramatic visual impact.

*Ignes Fatui: The Light Beckons* runs until 25th November at Pedestrian Gallery in Leicester.

To find out more visit [www.NatCoalson.com](http://www.NatCoalson.com)



## Events Diary

**Zumba Class** Tues. 7.15 - 8.15 at New College. Call Sarah - 07810 307 113.

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

**Fosse Singers:** Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm.

**International Folk Dancing:** Monthly 2nd & 4th Fri. St. Anne's Hall. 2-4pm. T: Geoff on 0116 285 8352.

**Xmas Lights Switch on:** 17 Nov. 2-5pm. City Centre. Free.

**Light the Night:** 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. Cultural Quarter. From 4.30pm. Free Outdoor Festival.

**Strange Tales from the Darker Side:** 23 Nov. Guildhall. 7.30pm. £8-£10.

**Donkey Work- In Pieces:** 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. The Western Pub, Western Rd. 8pm. £6-£8.

**One Night of Queen - Tribute:** 29 Nov. De Montfort Hall. 7.30pm.

**Craft Fair & Coffee Morning:** 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. St. Anne's Hall. 10-12noon. Coffee, cakes & Xmas gifts. Free.

**Salt of the Earth Charity Sale:** 30 Nov. 11 Cooden Av. LE3 0JS. 2-5pm. T. 0116 291 3098

**Guildhall Xmas Craft Fare:** 30 Nov. Guildhall. 11-4.30pm. Entry £1.

**Peter Crebbin & his Cool Swing Band:** Café Cino at Hilton Hotel Meridian. 1st Dec. 5th Jan, 1pm-3:30pm.

**That'll be the Day Xmas Show:** 1st Dec. De Montfort Hall. 7.30.

**Aladdin:** 14<sup>th</sup> Dec-5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014: De Montfort Hall.

## Western Park Gazette

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# Curtain Up!

**City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby re-visited his roots in when he attended a special event in October to launch Upstairs at the Western, Leicester's first pub theatre.**

Located in what was once a spare, upstairs room at popular West End local The Western, the venue underwent a major transformation over the summer as a stage, lighting and new seating were installed thanks to support from Steam-in Billy Brewing Company Limited, Westcotes Community First, Leicester City Council, O2 Think Bigger, a successful crowdfunding campaign and many local businesses.

A real community spirit also developed as a platoon of dedicated, local volunteers armed with paint brushes and power tools spent many hours at the pub getting the theatre ready for first night. Speaking at the launch Gary Phillpott, Artistic Director of Off the Fence Theatre Company who run the venue, said: "The original idea for Upstairs at the Western was to bring affordable theatre to



new and existing audiences, something which is important if we are to keep theatre alive and which, sadly, is often the first thing to be cut when times are hard. But here we are, opening this wonderful new venue with plans for more projects featuring new writing and providing opportunities for people to get involved in the Arts."

Over sixty VIP guests enjoyed bubbly and canapés, as well as sampling a specially brewed bitter, Off the Fence, only available during the performance season. Speakers included City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby and Billy Allingham, director of Steam-in Billy Brewing Company Limited. Guests also enjoyed three short plays inspired by cinematic legend Sir Alfred Hitchcock.

Highlights of November's performances include *High Vis*, the untrue tale of a traffic warden under siege and *The Coldest Day Yet*, a moving and funny play about supermarket life and escaping.

There's an old saying about this part of Leicester: West End, best end. And now, the best end of Leicester can say it has a West End theatre. Why not come and see for yourselves?

The Autumn season runs to 30 November. Full details of all performances and how to get involved with Leicester's first pub theatre may be found at [www.upstairsatthewestern.com](http://www.upstairsatthewestern.com)

## Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



**Gardeners often talk about "putting the garden to bed". While it's wrong to think the whole garden goes to sleep certain areas do need their metaphoric winter duvet on and pillows plumped, especially the pond.**

Pond plants have enjoyed a terrific summer. Now you need to cut-back excess waterweed and old pond plants before they die back and decompose.

Rotting vegetation removes oxygen from the water making it stagnant. Excess pond weed is full of nutrients and is great on the compost heap, so are those exotic looking Water Hyacinths you bought for the pond earlier in the year. They may look fabulous in the height of summer but unless they can spend the winter in a warm, well-lit green house they'll be a water polluting pile of mush after the first hard frost.

Fish eat a lot less in cold weather so reduce their feeding. A raft of old soggy pellets is a sure sign



the fish aren't interested, and rotting food can quickly ruin water quality. Leave a rubber ball floating in the pond. If the water freezes over the ball can be removed to let out any toxic gases that build up. Don't be tempted to smash the ice, the shock waves can harm or even kill fish.

Ponds are great for encouraging garden-friendly fauna.

Frogs, toads and newts are terrific predators of plant pests. Some male frogs will hibernate in the pond, but

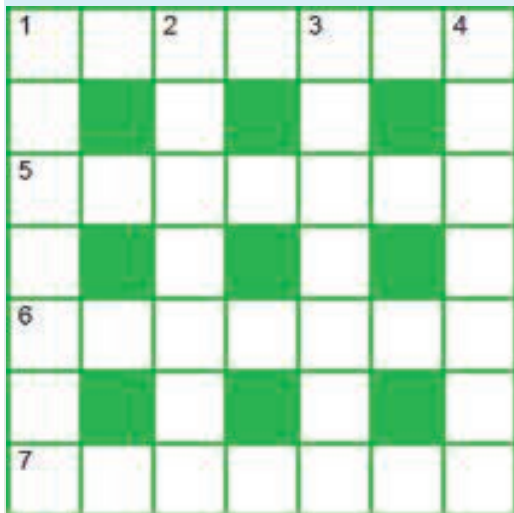
most amphibians will seek refuge elsewhere in the garden, so be careful when you carry out your winter clear up. Sometimes it pays to be a little messy. The occasional pile of logs, twigs, leaves and stones can make a greater winter shelter for all sorts of wildlife, from hedgehogs to slug-munching ground beetles. Personally I'll be sticking with my duvet this winter!

*Tony Huxley*

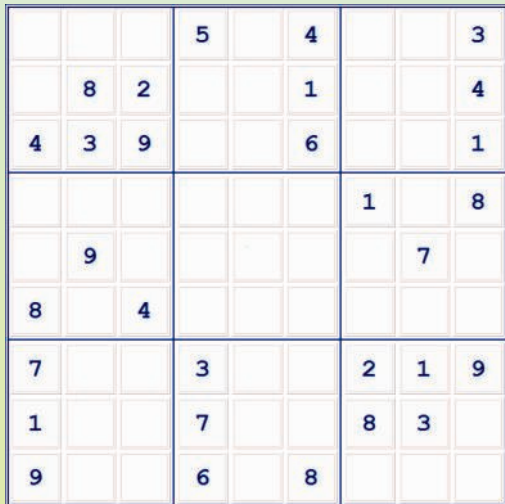
*If you have any gardening questions you can meet Tony at the Gazette's Xmas party at the Park café bar 237 Hinckley Road on Dec 10th from 7pm*



# BRAIN *TAZERS*



**Across:** 1. Wander 5. Extraction 6. Paradise  
7. Assuage **Down:** 1. Seafarer 2. Supreme  
commander 3. Diverge 4. Relinquish



- What individual number should follow next?  
4,10,6,6,6,5\_?
- Two people are in a house. Nobody enters or leaves but suddenly there were three people. How?
- A man and his dog walking through a wood and spot 4 rabbits, 3 foxes and two deer. How many total feet were there?
- Make a short phrase out of XQQQME
- "Hot Chirping Spasms" is an anagram of which currently popular activity?

Answers on line: [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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