



SCARY MONSTERS



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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the latest issue of the Western
Park Gazette!

It's that time of year; the clocks have gone back, the nights are drawing in and the thermometer is dropping as we dive headlong into the run up to Christmas. The most important date in the Christmas calendar or ten days of indulgence and sloth... whichever you prefer.

As always we went out and about on Halloween to grab a few pictures of the undead lurking around West Leicester and we also took a camera to the 43rd Scout Group's firework night. All in all a very busy and fun start to the month.

Our regular contributors have been busy too. Roger Blackmore took a personal pilgrimage to the Tower of London to view the ceramic poppy field, Helen Knott explodes in righteous anger, Rod Smart from Hinckley Road Policing Unit has his local crime update and our Green Garden God, Tony Huxley revels in the sweet smells of his winter garden. As always the Brain Tazers are squatting on the inside back cover.

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Events Diary

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.

Peter Crebbin's Cool Swing Band: 1st Sun Monthly. Café Chino at Hilton Hotel, Meridian. 1-3.30pm.

22nd Nov: Craft Fair & Coffee Morn: St. Anne's Hall, Letchworth Rd. 10-12noon.

Kids in the Museum Takeover Day: 22nd Nov.

New walk Mus & Gallery. 12-4pm. FREE.

Heritage Tours & Open Days: 30th Nov. Magazine, Castle & Wygston's House. w.goleicestershire.com

Carols after Work: Dec 4th. Leic Cath. 6.00pm.

Xmas Toys & Steam Day: 7th Dec. Abbey Pumping St. 1-5pm. Family £8.

Dick Whittington: 5th-7th Dec. **Oh What A Lovely War!** 9th-10th Dec. Y Thtr. w.leicesterymca.co.uk

Puss in Boots: 12th Dec-4th Jan. Little Theatre. w.littletheatre.net

Santa at Gorse Hill City Farm: 13&14th Dec. 11-3pm. £3 per child.

Cinderella: 13 Dec-Jan 3rd. w.demontforthall.co.uk

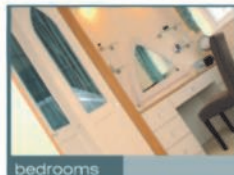
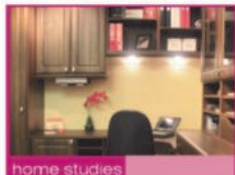
Sherlock Holmes & the Ruby Affair: 13-15th Dec. Guildhall. w.leicester.gov.uk/museums

Fosse Singers Xmas Concert: Dec 13th Church of the Martyrs. 7.30. Tickets on the door.

Spirit of Xmas Ghost Stories: 19th Dec. Guildhall. w.leicester.gov.uk/museums

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43rd Scout Group Bonfire Night

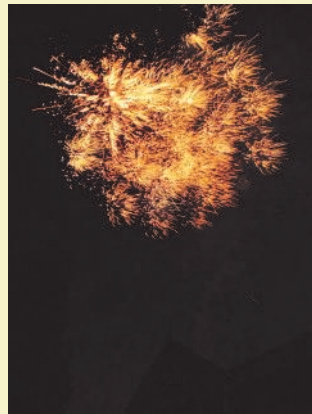


80 parents and children from the 43rd Scout Group made their way to the West Leicester Conservative Club on November 5th to celebrate Guy Fawkes Night.

Organiser Dave Hornby said: "It was a brilliant night. Everybody pulled together to make it a success. Tesco's on Braunstone Gate helped with a donation of fireworks and the Conservative Club went all out to make us welcome and put on hot burgers and chilli".

The scout group meets at St. Peter's Church Hall off Hinckley Road.

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FAMILY TIES

Last month Hilary and I went down to the Tower of London to witness the ceramic poppy field spread around the moat of this most historic of buildings. We were joined by my second cousin and her daughter and, at what would have been sunset, (it was in fact pouring with rain) the Constable of the Tower began to read out 180 names to add to the Roll of Honour. One of those names was that of my mother's brother, Sergeant Arthur Becklake, who had been killed near Ypres. The first name read out that evening was that of Nurse Edith Cavell.

It is notable how the anniversary of the start of the First World War has kindled a real interest in family history. The poppy field at the Tower has been visited by millions, and up and down the country, people have become interested in the stories of their own relatives who lived in those times.

Here in Leicester, on the edge of Victoria Park, stands the impressive war memorial, designed by the celebrated architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. This has become the focus of our own annual Remembrance Day Civic Service, attended by thousands each year. The monumental arch, erected in 1923, is complemented by the twin Victoria Park lodge gates by the same architect. As folk mingle after the service, memories are exchanged covering the

stories of many who had both survived and died in the conflict.



Interestingly it is not only veterans of other conflicts who share in these conversations; there are plenty of young people these days who take a lively interest in their own ancestry. Moreover, Family History groups and societies have spread all over the UK with a vast amount of research being undertaken into the period from 1914 to 1918, investigating the effect on the lives of ordinary people caught up in the conflict one way or another.

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Helen Knott is a journalist and broadcaster based in West Leicester. This means she gets out and about quite a lot; sometime this makes her a little annoyed... at people... again.

KNOTT'S LANDING

One day my irritating sense of justice is going to get me into trouble. I was dropping off some bits and bobs at a local charity shop recently. Parking was a bit of a nightmare as it usually is and it was raining. When I finally got my bags out of the car I noticed a guy in a motorised wheelchair who was obviously stuck because a car had parked across the dropped kerb. He was quickly joined by another chap in another motorised wheelchair. Both stuck. Both cross.



The woman who had parked her car so inconsiderately across a dropped kerb and on double yellow lines appeared and there was some shouting. I crossed the road and looked at the woman and she seemed to be seeking support. I said I was sorry but she had parked on double yellow lines, implying that she deserved a bit of a telling off. She told me in no uncertain terms she had been donating goods to the charity shop as if this somehow vindicated parking on double yellow lines. I shrugged and went inside to deliver my goods.

While inside, I heard the row escalating with more shouting and some truly choice language was used by the two men in the wheelchairs. The sort of language that is derogatory to women and is never heard on television. I got a bit cross at this point and went back outside to express my anger and disappointment that the two men should use such language and told them I found it appalling and I expected it to stop right now. The woman said something smug and I told her she should be quiet and move along as she was also in the wrong. I went inside feeling like I'd admonished a bunch of children, not grown adults.

The problem was born of selfishness, that ugly character trait of which we are all guilty to some extent and the message is clear, THINK before you act so you don't adversely affect others. If someone does something that affects you, make your point but remain POLITE! Are we all clear now? Good.

© Helen Knott

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Further operations are planned to take place elsewhere around the area in the future.

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Sun Shines on Sunshine Studio

Nicola Coleman is one of Leicester's most accomplished nail & beauty technicians, specialising in bespoke nail design and first class beauty treatments, has just won a major beauty industry award.

She walked away with 1st Prize for 'Salon Nails in the North' at The North Nail Championships held at Professional Beauty Manchester Central on October 19th. To win Nicola had to compete against some of the top nail technician in the country by creating a perfect set of Acrylic enhancements.

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Nicola qualified in Level 3 Beauty Therapy, is a CND Nail Master, an Assessor, a fully qualified Dermalogica Skin Professional, an expert in Holistic, Advanced Waxing, Crystal Clear, Nail Art, Lash Perfect and NSI acrylics, to name just a few.

It was her talent for acrylic nail enhancements was recognised by the beauty industry last month in the North Nail Championship.

This win was achieved after 14 years of dedication to the Nail & Beauty Industry with support & encouragement from all her loyal customers, colleagues, husband to be and family.

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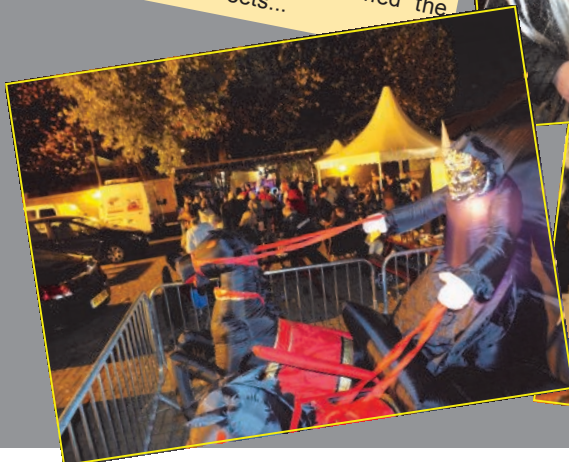
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Farmers Sandra and Anthony Herbert have been long time supporters of the charity SEND A COW so all the proceeds from the day will be helping to support families in East Africa - families who struggle to feed their children and send them to school. Send a Cow helps by providing livestock - goats, cows, pigs, chickens and even bees to mainly women's groups. With the right training in simple farming techniques including using the manure, they quickly see the benefits - improved diets, education, cash to improve their lives and just as important a sense of worth and value. Lives are changed for ever!

Sandra and Anthony have visited and seen the transformation for themselves. Christmas is a time not only to indulge ourselves but to help those in need. Send a Cow also pioneered the ethical gift catalogue, check it out on www.sendacow.org

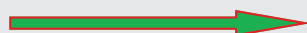
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DOVELANDS DINNER WIN

A healthy school lunch inspired by the computer game Minecraft has taken first place in this year's 'Grow Your Grub' competition.

Pupils from Dovelands School on Hinckley Road have held onto the winner's award for a second year with their imaginative menu.

The competition, organised by Leicester City Council's parks team, asks youngsters to come up with ideas for healthy meals using fresh ingredients grown in their school gardens.

Dovelands' winning entry included 'Villagers' pink houmous' as a starter, a main of 'Steve's sausage hot-pot' in homage to Minecraft's main character and a dessert of 'Creepers crumble'.

Assistant City Mayor Cllr Sarah Russell presented the winner's trophy and a gardening voucher to the school at a special assembly in October.



Cllr Russell Presents the Prize

The Crow's Lights up the Sky!

Nearly 500 hundred people crowded into the Crows Nest pub and car park to enjoy a free night of fireworks, fun and food.

Landlord Ray Cooper said; "It was manic. I've never seen anything like it!

"We put on free food and kid's entertainment for our customers and let off a massive pile of fireworks. We got through 168 jacket spuds and 300 servings of bangers and mash. The response on Facebook has been amazing!"

"A lot of kids around here don't get the chance to go to expensive displays. I thought the weather's clear so lets do it and see what happens".



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November Police Update

The Smart View with Sgt. Rod Smart

On 1st October, a 45 year old man from the Saffron Lane area was arrested on Narborough Rd, having racially abused a local lady who he had begged for money. The man has been charged with a racially aggravated public order offence.

On 9th October a 68 year old man from Henley Rd was sentenced to four months for breaching a Restraining Order by racially abusing his neighbours over a period of time.

Such incidents of hate crime are relatively rare and are treated as especially serious by the Police and the Courts due to the impact on the victim and on wider society. We would urge anyone who is the victim of hate crime (whether due to race, religion, gender, sexuality or disability) to contact the police as soon as possible so that the matter can be investigated and suitable support offered.

On 13th October, a 21 year old student damaged a taxi mirror whilst arguing with his girlfriend on Paton Street. The student was arrested and the matter has been dealt with by way of *Community Resolution*, with him paying for the taxi to be repaired.

On 22 October, a 56 year old local man was arrested for theft of a car on Henton Road. He has been charged with taking the car and driving without insurance.

Over the last few months the west side of the City has been suffering from a significant spate of Peugeot 206 cars being broken into. The problem has been particularly prevalent around the Westcotes area and Rowley Fields. On 25 October a 39 year old local man was arrested following a theft on Rowley Fields. He has subsequently been charged with twenty six thefts of motor vehicles across the area.

On the same day, a 31 year old man from Spinney Hills was found in the secure compound of a business address on Blackbird Rd. He has been charged with attempted burglary, going equipped to steal and possession of a knife.

Over the past few months, the number of burglaries across the area have been reduced but we are still suffering from a significant number where the occupants had left a door or window unlocked. During October, 14 burglaries took place across our policing area through unlocked doors or windows. Local residents are reminded to lock their doors and windows, even if they are in the house. Fitting window locks allow them to be left ajar but secure. Anyone needing crime prevention advice should call into their local Police Station or contact the police on 101.

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



Robert Duval may have loved the smell of napalm in the morning, but I personally can't beat the scent of *Viburnum x bodnantense* on a winters day. Forget the blousy flowers of summer; winter is when the freshest, sweetest most sophisticated perfumes paint the air.

Viburnums range from compact shrubs to small sized trees, both evergreen and deciduous with many that flower during the winter and early spring. *V.farreri* is another sweet smelling deciduous shrub. *V.tinus* is a common evergreen species with clusters of fragrant apple white flowers. It can be grown as informal hedging, but it's prone to *Viburnum* beetle that make the leaves look like miniature tea strainers.

Some shrubs can look dull and boring most of the year, but come winter produce flowers with knock-out scent. *Lonicera fragrantissima* or winter honeysuckle is one such shrub. In the middle of winter its leaf-less twiggy form is smothered in small creamy flowers that pump out a heady sweet and spicy perfume.

Mahonia are evergreen shrubs, many lend the garden a sculptural presence and their sulphur yellow flowers exude an intoxicating aroma. *Mahonia x Media* are the most common winter flowering species. There is even a variety called "Winter Sun". The razor edged leaves form rosettes on ribbed yellow stems that can grow to 4mtrs high. To maintain a sensible size you'll need to prune back hard after flowering, but wear tough gloves and a thick coat because *Mahonia* really is the Freddy Kruger of the plant world.

But it's probably *Sarcococca confusa* that tops my winter scent list. Also called Christmas or Sweet Box it can sprout as high as six feet and can be grown as a blight free alternative to *Buxus* or Common Box.

Even as winter's grip tightens; *Azara*, *Clematis armandii*, *Hamamelis* or Witch Hazel and many more plants will continue to perfume the garden when you can no longer smell the roses.

Tony Huxley



Sarcococca confusa



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TIN ANNIE FUNDRAISING

More events on the way to raise money for the rebuilding of Tin Annie, the community hall, on Letchworth Road:

Casino Night: Sat 29th Nov at the hall. Tickets £12.50 which include chips and refreshments can be booked on 0116 225 8048.

French Hens & Turtle Doves Christmas Concert: Glenfield Ladies Co-operative Choir. Tickets £7.00 adults, children £1.00. Includes refreshments. Tickets from 0797 007 5039 / 0798 1127 481.

HUNG OUT TO DRY

If you are one of the growing band of wild swimmers who scoff at council pools and would prefer to dive head long into a secluded British lake, then this is the book for you.

Western Park author and outdoor swimmer, Chris Ayllis, is now on the third edition of his privately published book, Hung Out to Dry which examines Britain's love affair with water. He asks how has swimming changed from a working class, playful outdoor activity into a competitive indoor pool sport? To find out visit: www.hungouttodry.co.uk

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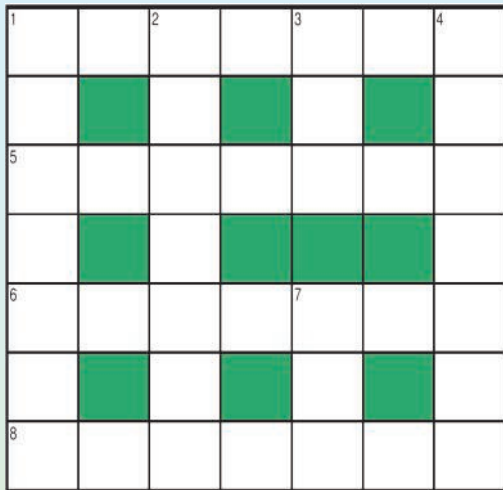
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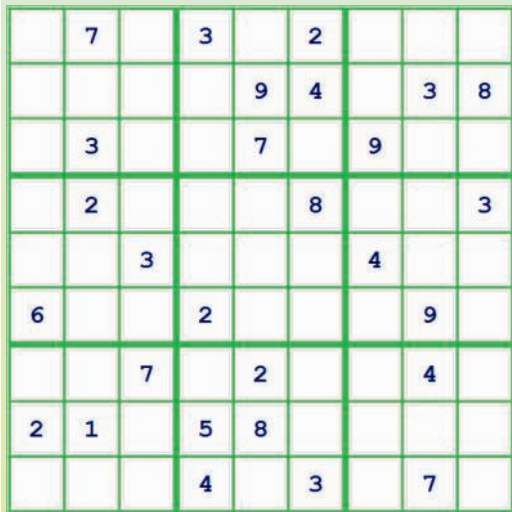
*Club terms & conditions apply. Xmas meals served through December



BRAIN *TAZERS*



1 across: A shuddering fear 1 down: Apexes 2: Mechanically human 3. An eyeball 4: Screams
5: Takes a steadying dram 6: Malevolent 7: Entrance charge 8: Mysteries. © Paul Towers



1. Rearrange GRABE, RYFER, WERLART, OCEAN to make 4 related words?
2. Using all the letters rearrange AEELPRS to give 4 words.
3. A man is writing a book he can never actually finish. Why is this?
4. Why are manhole covers round not square?
5. Make 42 out of 2, 3, 4, and 9.
6. Why is a man found dead in the arctic with a pack on his back? (Solutions at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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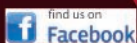


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