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Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the October edition of the Western Park Gazette.

We're on the big slide down to Christmas! The clocks go back; Halloween is upon us; Diwali is ready to go and Bonfire Night awaits! However and whatever you celebrate, have a wonderful and safe time.

In this month's Gazette, The Rally Park off Tudor Road will get an enormous £1.8 million facelift thanks to a successful bid by the city council to Active Travel England.

In our regular features, Helen Knott returns with one of her epic rants, Carey Tunstall battles her way through the Autumn chores, before winter creeps in. Project Hive get us up to date with their current finances, and there's the local policing update from Sgt Lee Cannings.

Don't forget to have a go at the fiendishly difficult Brain Tazers on the inside back page.

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Published by Rapsallion Media
62 Ainsdale Rd
Leicester LE3 0UA

Printed by Flexpress Ltd
6 Coal Cart Road, Interchange,
Birstall, Leicester, LE4 3YB



Events Diary

Free Thurs Club: 2pm. **Meet & Eat:** Weds 5pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narborough Rd.

Fosse Camera Club: For details visit Facebook page or fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk

Hall @ St Anne's, Letchworth Rd: Knit & Natter: 1.30pm, 4th Tues. **Weds Club:** 2.30pm, 1st Weds.

Musical Memory Box: 1st & 3rd Tues 2pm **Pram Club:** Weds 9.15-11.30am. **Women's Taekwondo:** Thurs 8-9pm taekwondo4all.com **Fri Coffee:** 10am

Free Tea/Coffee @ St Paul's Worship Ctr / Community Hub, Kirby Rd Weds, 2-4pm. T-Top sale. 2nd Sat.

Free drop-in Coffee Morns: Tues. 10-12 noon. St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Glenfield Rd East.

Diwali Lights Switch-on: 29 Oct, 3-9pm. Belgrave Rd/Cossington Street Rec Ground.

Upstairs@Western: Short Sharp Shocks 31 Oct, Mental Tentacle Pentacle 5 Nov, Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde 2 Nov. Trinity 9 Nov.

@ Curve: The Drifters Girl 31 Oct-4 Nov. **Diwali Day** 5 Nov. **A Ghost Story** 7-11 Nov. **Evita** 27 Nov-31 Jan.

@ DM Hall: Evening With Anton Du Beke 30 Oct. Beverly Knight 31 Oct. The Manfreds 9 Nov.

@ Little Theatre: The Innocents 23-28 Oct. **Legends of Motown** 1 Nov, **Carpenters Experience** 2-3 Nov.

Y Theatre: Carl Hutchinson 2 Nov. **Emily Saunders Band** 3 Nov, **14-48 Theatre Festival** 10-11 Nov.

Friday Social Pop-ups: Hall @ St. Anne's, 24 Nov.

Firework Display: Abbey Park. 4 Nov. 5-9pm. Tickets online from Visit Leicester.

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£1.8 Million Facelift For The Rally Travelling through West Leicester's Rally Park for walkers, wheelers and cyclists will become more pleasant thanks to a successful bid for funding from Active Travel England.

The city council has won £1.8million from the Active Travel Fund to create new walking routes and cycle tracks through the park off Tudor Road, as well as funding for improvements to entrances, street furniture and additional planting.



Wider walking routes and segregated cycle tracks will be built along existing routes, including National Cycle Network Route 63, the Forest Way, which runs through the park. This will link to the new dedicated cycle lanes on Fosse Road North, ex-

tending the route as far south as the A47, and connect with a new cycleway up Groby Road to the Glenfield Hospital.

Access to the park will be improved, particularly for those going to and from the Castle Mead Academy, while new sealed-surface paths will replace the well-used but muddy routes surrounding the school. Seating, landscaping and new trees are also planned to enhance the route between Tudor Road and the school.

Deputy city mayor Cllr Adam Clarke, who's responsible for active travel, said: "When this scheme's complete, there will be a much-improved link between Newfoundpool, Frog Island and the new Waterside neighbourhood for people on foot, on bikes or using wheelchairs or other mobility aids."

Consultation will get under way with local residents, park users and schools over the coming months, with stakeholders invited to consider design proposals this winter.

Construction work is expected to get under way during the spring and is likely to take several months to complete.



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KNOTT'S LANDING

In a world full of ills, sometimes the only thing between us and insanity is "the taste of dried leaves boiled in water... with milk... Squirted out of a cow."

Douglas Adams was right that it should probably be Earl Grey from M&S (other tea is available) and the water has to be boiling when you pour it onto the leaves.

Why then, is it so hard to get a good cup of tea? I recently visited a motorway service station - one of the posh ones with plants on the roof and £15 cheeses in the fridge - and bought a brew to ease my soul on a long, wet drive. The teabag was promising. It wasn't a paper one. It was one of those posh net bags you get these days. Big leaves floated about in the bag as they infused merrily. However, all was not well. Perhaps I should have been alerted by the weird bubbles - which might uncharitably have been described as scum - around the edge of the cup. Maybe the



fact that they didn't tell me I needed to add milk. The slightly murky colour of the water in the cup? I can't sugar coat it. I added milk and got a brew that looked like dishwater.

The disappointment of dishwater tea is incomparable in human experience. It's shocking and appalling and leaves you hollowed out as you sip your bilge. You go from having your soul bolstered and balmied to having it battered and barfed on. Instead of being fortified for my onward journey I became an angry, entirely disappointed person.

Did I drink it? Of course I drank it. My brew cost me nearly £4. It became the very definition of highway robbery. I'll know for next time - steer clear of posh service stations who promise it all but deliver a teavestry of a drink.

Helen Knott



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LETTER BOX

Thank you to everyone who celebrated Friendship Month this September. It was wonderful to see so many people from Leicestershire come together and enjoy themselves at our special events.

Our gratitude also goes to Wyggeston's, Gynsills Farm, and the Braunstone Civic Centre and not forgetting the Oddfellows Brass Band who helped to make it such a success and whose kindness shown to our guests and members was second-to-none.



A key reflection this year was how some of our newcomers mentioned that in later life their struggle was-

n't in having the desire to meet new people, but in knowing where to begin.

We'd like your readers to know that if this is the case with them, our meet-ups are a great starting point for building local friendships, as we've activities running throughout the year that bring people from all backgrounds together.

If anyone would like to try us, or want to receive a copy of our local events diary, then contact me on **0116 2543106** or email:

jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk We look forward to welcoming you.

Jo Brown Leicester Oddfellows

Dear Editor: I have lived in the Narb for more than 3 decades and I have noticed many changes over the years - and not for the good. I know the West End well. Narborough Road was the site of a dreadful murder earlier in October, the whole place feels extremely unsafe at night and judging by the smell there must be cannabis farms on every street.

The crack-down on HMO's does not seem to have made much difference.

Long term local businesses have closed like the Sir Charles Napier and Woodgate Chippie. It is curious that many of the shops now opening are expensively equipped affairs which appear to be empty much of the time. Time to move, I believe, and I'm not the only one upping sticks. **(Name withheld)**

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PROJECT hive Update

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

You may be wondering where the project stands from a fundraising point-of-view as another year draws to a close. To date the lion's share of our funds have come from the local community, predominantly via supporting our events. Broken down in simplified terms:

Income to date. Money raised during our 2019 crowdfund: £26,500 Money raised from other events and donations: £18,700 Giving a total of £45,200. Expenditure to date. Surveys & Searches: £3300 Architects Fees: £23,500 Planning Application: £950 Public Liability Insurance: £600 Giving a total of £28,350. This leaves the current balance of the WWCE bank account at £16,850

The next stage of the project requires the capital funding to get the building re-developed. We will not be asking the community for this and will be seeking funding from national streams. We are in negotiations with an experienced bid writer who we feel will give us the best chance of securing this. We will provide updates on this soon.

The Western Park Pumpkin Roll returns on the afternoon of Saturday 28th October.

The family event sees people of all ages launch their prized pumpkin from the top in a hill in Western park in a frantic race to the bottom.

Bring your decorated Pumpkin along to the hillside behind the Bowls Club in Western Park at 1:30pm to be ready for the first race at 2pm. Entry is £2.50 and there will be prizes for the fastest and best decorated pumpkins!

It's also the perfect chance for you to have a face to face catch-up with members of our group about the progress we are making on our redevelopment plans for the site.

Find out more at our website wwce.org.uk or on Facebook @wwceleicester

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Oct Police Update

Well last month has seen a mixed bag of incidents we have dealt with.

No month would be complete without our efforts in dealing with the scourge of cannabis growing and yet again we have uncovered another dangerous address containing over 300 plants. Once again, we are reassured that the person in question is no longer growing cannabis, a property is made safe and HMP will have another all-inclusive guest. Please report any suspicious behaviour regarding cannabis growing in the area, we feel that those responsible are getting the message and together we can drive this from our doors.

I do understand some peoples view on the use of cannabis but regardless, it is still an illegal substance. The addresses we target are often part of a bigger picture which can encourage County Lines drug dealing and lead to those more vulnerable becoming involved.

There is mention in national news about shop-lifting and a lack of Police action. I can say that as a team on the Fosse Ward, we take this very seriously and make every effort to identify those responsible to support our local stores. Several individuals have been arrested and we continue to show a presence in the area. Please feel free to speak to Officers in shops, they can also inform you in person of the work we do and ways to engage through the Neighbourhood Link if you give them an e-mail.

We have also had an increase in incidents involving e-scooters being ridden dangerously. One chap almost hitting pedestrians on the pavement before crashing to a stop and running away. Thankfully no one was hurt and I now have his £500 scooter and phone. Feel free to come and collect it from PS825 Cannings!

E-scooters fall under Road Traffic legislation. We will speak to those using them in public first, to advise and educate regarding the law. But will seize them if this advice is ignored.

We have had reports of some youths causing Anti-Social Behaviour on or around the Rally Park, impacting on others enjoyment of the area. I believe we know who they are and have been in the process of engaging with them.

Once again, the team have made good use of stop and search powers to target those carrying weapons and/or drugs during proactive patrols. On a lighter note PCSO 6017 has managed to work with LCFC to provide some youth coaching engagement at the Rally Park. It is open to those between 8 – 18 years old, 1-2.30 on each Saturday until 11th November.

October is upon us, the season of Halloween and fireworks. Please be responsible and stay safe.

Lee Cannings

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



October, the season of mist and mellow fruitfulness, marks the transition into the autumn season. As the days become cooler and shorter, there are several important gardening tasks I like to tackle to prepare for the winter months in the hope of ensuring a vibrant garden next year.

October is the ideal time to plant spring-flowering bulbs like daffodils, tulips, and crocuses. They'll establish roots over the winter and provide a burst of colour when spring arrives. I'm also trimming back spent perennials, removing dead or diseased plant material, and clearing fallen leaves. This tidying up helps prevent diseases and pests from overwintering.

I like to gather the last of my homegrown fruits and vegetables. This includes apples, pears, pumpkins, and squash. I store them in a cool, dry place so they can be enjoyed throughout the winter. I'm continuing to mow my lawns as long as they are growing, but I am gradually raising the cutting height. I'm also aerating the lawn to im-



prove drainage and prevent waterlogging where needed. Now is a good time to sow Green Manure, such as clover or field beans in empty vegetable beds, this enriches the soil and suppresses weeds. Autumn is an excellent time to plant new trees and shrubs. It gives them time to establish roots before the winter sets in. It's also perfect timing to divide overcrowded perennial plants like hostas and irises. Replant the divisions elsewhere in your garden or share them with friends. Once planting has taken place, add compost to your garden beds to enrich the soil and apply a layer of mulch to insulate the soil and reduce weed growth.

I like to put out new or fully cleaned bird feeders and provide fresh water for the local bird population. It's a challenging time for them to find food, and they will appreciate your support. In addition, I like to plan for next year. I use this quieter time to reflect on my garden's successes and challenges. I plan improvements, consider new plantings, and research gardening projects for the coming seasons.

October is a month of change in our gardens, with the last hurrah of autumn colour and the start of preparations for winter. By taking care of these essential tasks, you can ensure a beautiful and healthy garden in the months to come.

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Can You Solve The Word Wang? Hidden in the above box are the following words:
Autumn, Fire, Gunpowder, Bang, Fireworks, Cam, Pantomime, Calendar, Football, Potato, Inn, Ban,
Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk

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