



Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the October issue of the Western Park Gazette.

This month we pay tribute to West Leicester's own Superhero - Can Man! A local man who's dedicating his spare time to ridding the streets of thousands of thrown away drinks cans. And sticking to a superheroes theme, Helen Knott, has her own thought on what makes a hero.

The Square Mile Project continue their search for the West End's stand up comedy star, Sir Peter Soulsby outlines his plans for Frog Island and Sergeant Rod Smart from Hinckley Road police station has his regular news round up. Our gardening expert, Tony Huxley tackles the dreaded Laylandii and the pupils of Dovelands Primary School win the Grubs Up! Award. We tried the school dinner which was cooked using vegetable grown in their garden and stayed for seconds... Are we greedy? Oh yes!

As always we have more nasty Brain Tazers on the inside back cover just to annoy you and if you are holding an event or you would like to contribute to the Gazette then please get in touch e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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MEET CAN MAN!

Move over Batman - West Leicester now has our own superhero!

By day a mild mannered recycling advisor, by night he becomes Can Man; ridding the streets of thousands of discarded aluminum cans!

Adrian Ablett from Fosse Road North has already won a Local Environmental Champion Award from Keep Britain Tidy as he continues his one man can collecting crusade.

Adrian said: "I was made redundant in 2012 and was volunteering with the Riverside Team (environmental clean up) and decided to do my own thing so started picking up cans and taking them to the supermarket collection points. The whole thing grew from there."

"I didn't see unemployment as bad. I got up and did something but it would be nice to see more people take a lead in their community and do some good."

Adrian has picked up a staggering 93,000 cans so far and is delighted that he now has help in the form of a battery assisted cargo trike presented to him by the Leicester City Council. "I'm sure I'll hit 100,000 in a couple of weeks. I can fill the front box in about four hours and it holds around 800 flattened cans. This is the busy period, as the leaves drop off you can see the cans thrown away in the undergrowth."



Adrian says there are some particularly bad grot spots in West Leicester: "The Empire pub is terrible with smashed glass, cans and flytipping. Bosworth Street and Dannet Street are also particularly bad at times but any areas of greenery can attract this type of litter."

Adrian's dedication even spills out into his private time. "It started as a hobby really but now even if I'm going shopping and spot a can, I just have to pick it up. I can't help it. It's almost become an addiction!"

One particular thing that bothers Adrian, apart from the huge number of thrown cans is: "If I'm picking up thousands of cans a month why aren't the professionals?"



From Butchers to Bar

A blast from the past was unveiled at the start of October as renovation work on Oscars bar on the Hinckley Road parade of shops revealed the sign of a previous tenant.

Heard and Son, the Butchers, was a well respected business on Hinckley Road near Western Park for decades and one that many in West Leicester remember very fondly.

Heards closed suddenly in October 2006 following the unexpected death of its owner 48 year old John Preston. John was a well known figure in the area, not only for his giant size and his fervent love of Leicester City Football Club but for his awesome home made sausages!



The butchers shop was later converted into Oscars, but that closed in September and now a new venture called The Park has been launched by two local men, Steve Bruin and Guy Churchill, who aim to create a new café/bar experience for Western Park.

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The Western Park Gazette

Journalist & broadcaster Helen Knott says we don't need to be superheroes to show a little kindness...

KNOTT'S LANDING

Sometimes it would be really nice if superheroes were real. Then they could help with all the little things that really would make life easier.

Things like swooping in to help when a mummy is stuck in the house alone with a poorly child and can't get to the chemist for more medicine. Maybe they could help when someone is taken ill at a bus stop and make sure the poorly person is safe and looked after or drive a little one home when they get hurt on the park. Perhaps they could help direct someone trying to park at the Leicester Royal Infirmary so they can take their child to Accident and Emergency and get the cut on their head glued. Or checking to see if the old folks a few doors up are OK because we haven't seen them for a while. Maybe they would be able to return the lost dog found in a garden to its owner.

The great thing is that all these things have happened in my neighbourhood and people stepped up to the plate to help. You see you don't need to wear your pants over your trousers to be a super

hero to someone. You just need to show a little bit of kindness and be a bit unselfish for just a few minutes and it is a shame people can't manage that more of the time. Do you really need to park on double yellow lines to drop your kids at school? Is it necessary to jump the traffic lights to get home a millisecond quicker? Will it really matter if you don't snatch the last yellow stickered food item in the supermarket? Could you maybe manage to not swear around little kids when you are out in public or make sure your dog is under control on the park? Perhaps not rev your engine like mad at the pedestrian crossing when an old person is trying to get across?

Super heroes are not always the ones who do the big flashy rescues, a lot of the time it's the little things that make the difference to living somewhere so maybe we should all try to wear our pants over our trousers one in a while to make our patch a brilliant place to live.

Follow Helen on Twitter @radiohelen1



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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.

Crochet & Stitch Group: Central Lib. Every 2nd Thurs. 10-12 noon.

Diwali Light Switch on: 20th Oct. 7.30pm. Belgrave Road and Cossington Street Recreation Ground. Free.

The Big Draw: Comic Strip Capers: 20th Oct. Jewery Wall Museum. 11.30am. £2.50.

Worklight Theatre's How to Start a Riot: 21st Oct. The Western pub. 8.30pm. £8.40. T: 0116 2545 287.

Ghosts and Ghouls Craft Activities: 24th Oct.

Guildhall. 11-3.30pm. £2.50. **Dread of Night Edwardian Ghost Stories:** 8.00pm. £8 & £10.

Ghostly Engineer: 28th Oct. Abbey Pumping Station. 7.00-9.30pm. £3.00.

Abbey Park Firework Display: 2nd Nov.

Diwali Day Fireworks and Fun: 3rd Nov. Cossington Street Rec Ground. From 6pm. Free

Continental Market: 30th Oct - 3rd Nov. City Centre. **Peter Crebbin & his Cool Swing Band:** Hilton Hotel Meridian. 3rd Nov. 1pm-3.30pm.

Woodcraft Folk Craft Fair: Ukrainian Hall, Fosse Rd South. Sat 9th Nov. 11-3pm. FREE.

Winter Food Festival: 17th Nov. Market Place. FREE

Game For A Laugh?

The search for stand-up stars from the West End of Leicester is on.

De Montfort University's Square Mile (Mile2) programme is hosting weekly training for those who want to give comedy a try.

The free sessions lead up to a performance at the Leicester Comedy Festival in February and follows on from the success of the Square Mile Smiles comedy showcase at last year's Comedy Festival.

Square Mile manager Mark Charlton said: "Last year we took a group of residents who wanted to give stand-up comedy a try and with the help of professional comedians trained them to deliver their own material at the comedy festival.



"Our Square Mile Smiles showcase at Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centre sold-out and was a real hit with the audience.

"We want to do the same again by discovering some new talent."

West End Resident Liam Smith took part in the stand-up training last year. He said: "I have always wanted to be a stand-up comedian so when I saw this course I signed up.

"The great thing about the atmosphere on the training course is you get to hear what works and what doesn't. You get the advice and it's great to be able to try out ideas and get feedback."

Liam is now regularly gigging around the country and has his own show at Leicester Comedy Festival next year with fellow Square Mile Smiles participant Jason Neale.

There are up to 15 places available on the comedy course in Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centre, Pool Road, and Leicester every Thursday between 7-9pm from October 10.

The coaching will lead participants towards a 'Square Mile Smiles' showcase during the comedy festival on Thursday, 20 February 2014.

Anyone interested in taking part should email mcharlton@dmu.ac.uk for details or call 0116 250 6183.

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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.

GRUB'S UP!

PUPILS from Doveland's Primary School on Hinckley Road were treated to a mouth-watering school meal that they helped create, as they celebrated winning this year's 'Grow Your Own Grub' competition.

Doveland's beat thirteen other schools in the competition organised by the City Council's parks team which asked youngsters to come up with ideas for healthy meals using fresh ingredients grown in their school gardens.

Doveland's Primary School's winning menu offered a starter of tomato soup and crusty bread, followed by pumpkin risotto and a dessert of strawberry pavlova.

Assistant City Mayor Cllr Piara Singh Clair presented the winner's trophy, and a gardening voucher, to the school at a special assembly.

The whole school then enjoyed the tasty menu for themselves when it was served for dinner.

Liz Latham, acting head teacher at Doveland's Primary School, said: "We are delighted that we have won and are all very proud of the gardening club and groups run by Mel and Christine. Not only is our garden a beautiful oasis and a valuable resource for teaching and learning, but it also provides produce for the children to eat."

"Winning the competition is a great way to reward the children for all their hard work."

If your school has something to shout about please email : editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk



Shopping Area Spruce Up Starts

Local councillors, officials and a deputy mayor took a walkabout around the shops on Hinckley Road to answer some of the concerns raised by shopkeepers.

Western Park Councillors Susan Barton and George Cole were joined by Assistant City Mayor Sarah Russell, City Warden Caroline Walsh, Hughie Blair from city cleansing and PCSO Sally-Ann Morgan. They met by the Hinckley Road Parade shops to discuss how the city council could help the new Western Park Row Trading Association improve the area.

So far the association and shopkeepers have been offered anti graffiti kits and hanging baskets. The council is also investigating the possibility of having Christmas lights up in December.



New bins and bike racks are also planned with funding from the Western Park ward budget.

The trading association was launched in July with the aim of improving the handling a number of issues including parking, littering and trade.

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Arti Jewellers

There have been a great many changes on Narborough Road over the years and Bhassen Pattni, owner of Arti Jewellers has seen them all over the last twenty eight years.

Bhassen was born in Tanzania and into a thriving family jewellery business started by his grandfather. "After the expulsions of the Indian community in Uganda, in 1974 we moved to the UK in case the same thing happened in Tanzania. We arrived in the winter and England was a cold place. We had a house on Fosse Road South with my mum and dad working in local factories for a time while I went to school in Beaumont Leys. There was a lot of bullying but you take it in your stride. That's how you start off."

"When we opened on Narborough Road in 1985 there was a lot of rag-trade retail with shops selling clothes and shoes, then the clothing wholesal-



ers arrived and it changed again with China's exports expanding and supplying the small pound shops that have sprung up. Now there are more takeaways than anything else."

"During the rag-trade time there was a lot of money floating around and we sold a lot of gold jewellery, but now the gold price has gone up and people are cashing in on the difference."

Arti's Jewellers import their new products directly from India. "It's all hand made by artisans using traditional methods. We import rings, necklaces, bracelets and bangles; all made from 22carat gold or white gold and silver."

Even with jewellery catering for all occasions there is one item that is proving very popular: "With gold being such a good investment at the moment, we've experienced more people coming in to buy it in the form of bullion bars."

"Yes, we've seen a lot of changes over the years and we've had our ups and downs but the shop is now twice the size it as when we opened, so the future's good, the future's golden!"



Glenfield Road Petition

A gran from Western Park is petitioning City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby and West Leicester MP Liz Kendal for a crossing on Glenfield Road near Christ the King School.

Dianne McDermott and daughter Selena say that with three children it is difficult to safely cross Glenfield Road to school everyday. Selena says: "There hasn't been a lollipop lady or man for well over a year, when up on Hinckley Road they have a lollipop man pressing the button on the crossing.... Seems daft! Unfortunately, there have been a few near misses on Glenfield Road and it is an accident waiting to happen."

To sign the petition go to www.change.org and search for "Christ the King crossing".

Shop Front Scheme Extended

The shop front grant scheme run by the City Council which allows shop owners to spruce up their fronts along Narborough Road and Braunstone Gate has ben extended.

The scheme will now include the Hinckley Road Shops from Narborough Road to Fosse Road South.

Shop owners can now bid for up to £5000 and match the sum with their own money.

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Frog Island

The run-down route heading into Leicester through Frog Island and Woodgate must have a new lease of life says Leicester's City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby.

Sir Peter hopes that the Bede Island Scheme in the 1990's may be the template following a £37.5 City Challenge investment which transformed that area from contaminated scrapyard land into a park, offices and housing.

A new Government scheme could supply up to £50 million from 2015 along with other public and



private investment to kick start the project.

Leicester City Council currently hopes to create 14 workspaces in the derelict Friars Mill factory building, next to the canal, which was targeted by arsonists last year, and according to Sir Peter, could be the focus of the project.

The Frog Island project which Sir Peter described as having "enormous potential," is part of his economic plan to drag in £60 million of new investment to generate or protect 8,500 jobs and dramatically improve Leicester's general surroundings.

New West End Speed Limits

Parents will be able to pick up their children from school more safely as some West End streets will see their speed limits cut to 20mph by the end of the year.

The Newfoundpool 20mph zone around Sandhurst Road and Tetuan Road will cover Inglehurst infant and junior school.

Speed humps will also be installed off Narborough Road covering the area around St Mary's Fields Infant School, in Heyworth Road.

The new zones are designed to reduce accidents and encourage more walking and cycling.

To comment e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



Summer's over and now's the time gardeners dust off hedge-cutters as they tidy up for winter. It is also the time people throw the "L" word at me in voices of desperation and exasperation. Leylandii - the modern pariah of suburban society!

This plant is great at doing its job, filling an area with a uniform green block. But this cross bred plant has inherited tremendous vigour from its parents. It easily grows a metre plus each year. Believe me taking the top off a 15 metre specimen is no easy task. Yet trimmed regularly



it's easy to maintain as a boundary. If your neighbour ignores their duty to maintain an evergreen

hedge at 2 metres (6 ½ feet) tall you can seek redress through the Anti-Social Behaviour Act. This requires contacting your council and paying a fee.

On the otherside of the hedge responsible *leylandii* fans may be warming up hedge-trimmers. It's usually recommended to trim conifers during the growing season, but this runs the risk of disturbing nesting birds and trampling down flower beds so I often opt for the autumn prune. **But hold on!** Pruning in October has been shown to increase Cypress Blight. Yes, *leylandii* isn't just under attack from the law. Cypress aphid is the prime suspect for Cypress Blight, which causes ugly and increasingly common dead patches in the middle of conifer hedges. Aphid infestations can require the repeated application of insecticides. *Pestalotiopsis*, *phytophthora* and honey fungus are blight suspects but the effectiveness of fungicides is unknown. Environmental stresses like drought or water-logging can also cause die-back. Another common problem is cutting back into the old wood. When the green is gone it won't come back!

So think kindly of the old Leyland Cypress and remember there are no bad trees, just occasionally bad tree owners.

Tony Huxley

October Police Update

The Smart View with Sgt. Rod Smart

Halloween will be upon us very soon and although it's a fun time for many young people, it can be troublesome for especially older people, so please keep an eye on elderly neighbours. The Police do not advocate practices such as 'Trick or Treating' but if considering it, we would encourage parents to educate their offspring on how to do it whilst causing as little disruption to local residents as possible. Parents should be mindful of their children's safety if out 'Trick or Treating', and ideally should accompany their children.

On 26 August, a burglary occurred at a property on Tudor Road. Two brothers, aged 33 and 38, have subsequently been charged with this offence and are appearing in Court.

On 26 August, officers from the Ministry of Defence Police executed a search warrant on Dulverton Road involving a significant number of officers. More enquiries are being undertaken by the MOD Police and local officers. Although it is unusual for such operations to be undertaken in this area by officers from other forces, the search did not relate to offences within Leicestershire, that it was not terrorism related and that there was no risk to local residents.

During the early hours of 30 August, a 22 year old local man was found by officers on Fosse Rd South with a loaded air weapon and knife. He was arrested, charged and bailed to Court.

On 30 September, a dog escaped from an address in the Tudor Rd area, ran into another nearby home and attacked the family pet. Whilst trying to pull the dogs apart, the owner of the second dog was bitten. Following this, a 33 year old local man has received a caution for being in charge of a dog dangerously out of control.

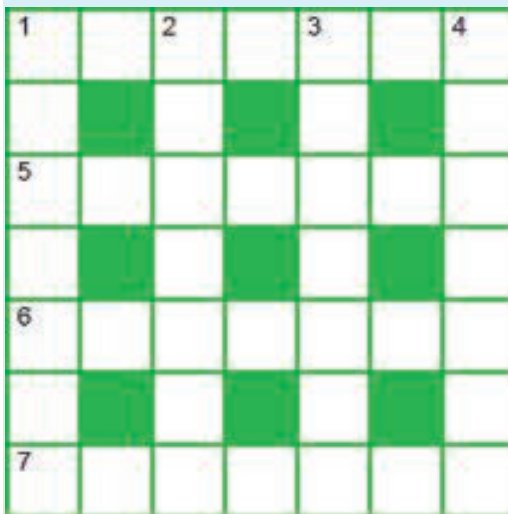
On 1 September unknown offenders entered an address on Cooden Avenue through an insecure window and stole a phone, watch and the keys to a Mercedes. They were able to leave through the front door because the occupants had left the keys in the door. The car is a silver diesel engine CLS coupe and has not yet been located.

On 4 September unknown offenders stole a red Audi A3 diesel car from an address on Glenfield Road overnight, having entered through an insecure door. The vehicle has not yet been found.

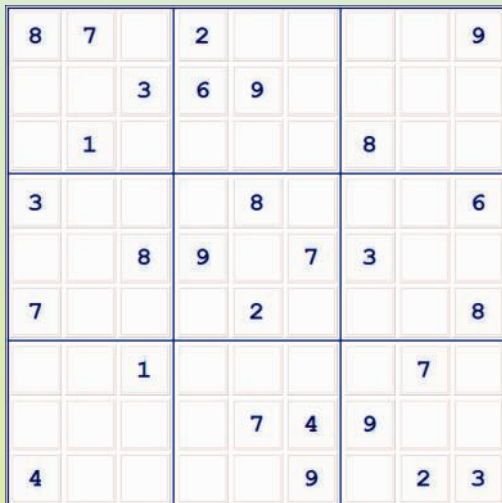
Members of the public are reminded to make sure that they fit window locks and hide away vehicle and house keys were they cannot be found by a potential offender.

On the afternoon of 8 September, two drunken Beaumont Leys men, aged 20 and 22, collapsed in a stupor on Blackbird Road when they had their pockets searched and mobile phones stolen.

BRAIN *TAZERS*



Across: 1. Omen 5. Fall apart 6. Rising air current 7. Delete **Down:** 1. Image 2. Gather livestock together 3. Make plain and comprehensible 4. Supporting tower



1. Funks With A Yegg is an anagram of what Autumn activity?
2. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures 3m by 4m by 6m?
4. You are running in a race and pass the person in second place. What position would you be in?
4. Using the same two letters, on each side of the "i" complete this word: - i- -
4. what is no sooner spoken than broken?

Answers on line: www.westernparkgazette.co.uk