



No.48 Sept 2013 [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

News and Views for Western Park • Westcotes • The Fosse



## WENT WITH A BANG!

*More inside!*

### Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the September issue of the Western Park Gazette.

This month the Crows Nest played host to over a thousand people over Bank Holiday Monday with massive bouncy castles and the Territorial Army Show. Roger Blackmore has the story of Emily Forley who gave her name to the former Glenfield Road special school and Helen Knott wonders why West Leicester busses aren't as nice as Oadby's. Ours don't have Wi-Fi you see...

Sergeant Rod Smart from Hinckley Road police station has their news round up and there's more from De Montfort University's Square Mile Project who have come to the rescue of the Studs FC local youth soccer team. Our gardening expert, Tony Huxley looks at what the hot summer has done to his garden and how to deal with it.

And if you like the theatre and drinking real ale, then the two have been combined into Upstairs at the Western. Yes, theatre in a pub; sheer genius, whilst the 43rd St. Peter's Scout group tell us what they've been up to.

As always we have more nasty Brain Tazers on the inside back cover as well as the chance to win a meal for two at the Chef and Spice buffet on Hinckley Road.

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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.

**Fashion Charity Night in aid of Small Pet Rescue:** Sept 16th. West Leic Cons Club, Westcotes Drive 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from 07799 427 058 or on door.

**Post war Polish Community Exhibit:** From 16th Sept for 1 week. Westcotes Library. FREE

**St. Peter's Scouts Quality 2nd Hand Clothes & Accessory Sale:** Fri 20th Sept. West Leic Conservative Club. Westcotes Drive. 6-10pm. £3 on arrival.

**Talk on Comets:** 24th Sept. National Space Centre. 7.30pm. £1 for non members. 0116 261 0261.

**Puppet Fun:** 28th Sept. New Parks Centre Library. From 10.30am - 2.30pm. Kids event. FREE.

**Cartoon Capers:** 28th Sept. Braunstone Lib/Brite Centre. 1.30-3.30. Kid's event. FREE.

**Magic Worlds:** New Walk Museum. Until 29th Sept. Fantasy exhibition. FREE

**Author Rod Duncan:** 1st Oct. Westcotes Library. 10.30-12.30pm. FREE.

**Peter Crebbin & his Cool Swing Band:** Hilton Hotel Meridian. 6th Oct & 3rd Nov. 1pm-3.30pm.

**Woodcraft Folk Produce Fair:** Ukrainian Hall, Fosse Rd South. Sat 9th Nov. 10.30-3pm. FREE.

## Crows Nest Family Fun Day

The Crows Nest pub on Glenfield Road East became the centre of August Bank Holiday fun in West Leicester as over a thousand revellers turned up to enjoy the fun.



The free show, put on in aid of LOROS, included inflatable castles, face painting, cartoon characters and a visit from the Territorial Army Show run by The Royal Yeomanry B Squadron Leicester Division who let enthusiastic children clamber all over their armoured desert Land Rover and sit behind a heavy machine gun!



The Fun Day was organised by landlord Ray Cooper to raise money for LOROS who looked after his parents in their final months. He said: "It's been manic and we've not stopped all day. Everyone's mucked in - friends, staff and the community. We've tried to create a family atmosphere; somewhere where local people can take their kids, have fun and enjoy the Bank Holiday in the sun and I think we've done it. It's my way of saying thank you to all our customers."

When Ray and partner Yvette took over the Crows Nest four years ago they had an uphill battle to rescue the struggling pub with the worst reputation in West Leicester and turn it into a family friendly community pub.

They certainly succeeded over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

# Emily Fortey

**It is some seven years now since the Emily Fortey School merged with the former Piper Way School on Glenfield Road to form West Gate School. So it's time perhaps to ask: "Who actually was Emily Fortey?"**

Born in London in 1866, the child of a relatively well to do family whose father was, for a time, working for the British Raj in India as Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools in Madras. She seems to have had a penchant for scholarship, first studying at Bristol University where she gained a BSc degree in 1895 then going on to read Sociology at the London School of Economics. Her studies also included training as a sanitary inspector as well as becoming a qualified midwife.

She first came to Leicester in 1909 and soon became actively involved in Labour politics. She was elected to the Board of Poor Law Guardians and later became a Vice President of the Leicester Temperance Society. During the First World War she undertook various forms of voluntary work in France, including the supervision of a YMCA rescue home in Normandy.

In 1923 Emily Fortey gained election to the City Council for the St Margaret's Ward thereby be-

coming the first woman Labour Councillor ever to be elected in the city.

Her relationship with the Labour Group on the council was often controversial, however, not least when, as a committed Catholic, she fiercely opposed the promotion of birth control within the city. On at least one occasion she was strongly reprimanded by the Labour group for her stance.

Interestingly one of her great disappointments came over the issue of the employment by the city council of married women. Taking the view that jobs were hard enough to come by for men the council barred the employment of married women. In 1929 she worked hard to try and change the position to allow the employment of married women but the proposal was defeated. What rubbed salt into the wound was that at least one other woman councillor voted against her.

Emily Fortey was a somewhat unorthodox character. Her religious beliefs were very important to her and she was known to wear rather unusual outfits resembling a nun's habit.

This remarkable lady died in 1946 in her eightieth year. *Roger Blackmore*



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## COUNCILORS 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**

**Weds 2nd Oct** at 7.pm - St. Paul's & St. Augustine's Worship Centre, 2 Kirby Road.

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

### **Westcotes**

**Tues 1 Oct** 2013, **Tues 21 Jan** 2014 at the East West Community Project. 7.pm.

### **Fosse**

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



*Journalist and broadcaster Helen Knott has a busy schedule so when she uses a bus timetable that schedule is ripped up and probably eaten...*

## KNOTT'S LANDING

**I hate buses. I want to love them. I just can't. Every time I use a bus something goes hideously wrong.**

After a recent stint on BBC Radio Leicester I tried to get a bus home. You might think going into my part of West Leicester from town would be easy at rush hour, buses every 10 minutes, all those bus lanes to use but no! I stood and waited for over 45 minutes as buses heading for every bit of the city but mine whizzed past. Finally one with the right number appeared but it had "out of service" in lights on the front, it was quickly followed by another. Our now sizeable queue of customers flagged this one down and the driver asked in amazement why we hadn't stopped the one in front. He did not seem surprised when we told him.

More recently I wanted to get into town in the evening. I had read up that the last bus went at 8.20pm and I dutifully stood there at 8.10pm waiting. The sign that used to tell you when the next

bus is coming, a great innovation - hasn't worked for a while now. I waited. By 8.40 nothing had turned up so I figured I'd missed it and ran to get my car, only to find the bus coming past at 8.50pm precisely. I gnashed my teeth in frustration.

These things could be written off as coincidence, bad luck or whatever but then I was in Oadby and saw the new Sapphire Bus from Arriva!

Dear Lord we are all being taken for mugs by the bus companies. Anyone who has sat on a normal bus should be clamouring loudly for an internet enabled Wi-Fi hub that allows you to pay for your trip on your mobile phone! These buses do not look smelly, they are clean and looked after and they seem to run with alarming regularity and with some fanfare. So why can Arriva do it for Oadby residents but not for the rest of us? Are we not worthy? Are we not rich enough? Are we not a prestige route? I fear the answer is yes and for now I shall keep using my car because the bus is never there when you need it.



## STOP-CAMERA OR FINE!

**Three West End red-light cameras have made it into the top ten of Leicester's most jumped traffic lights.**

Woodville Road, Narborough Road/Fullhurst Avenue junction and Lubbersthorp Way caught 3177 drivers running red lights last year.

Sensors in the road only trigger the cameras when a vehicle crosses on the red, taking a picture of the car with the traffic lights in the background.

A fixed penalty fine is now £100, but that hasn't deterred the 4780 motorist who ran the red across the city's most profitable fixed camera on Soar Valley Way near Fosse Park.



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# The Square Mile



De Montfort University's Square Mile (Mile2) programme has lots of free activities for people to get involved in over the next few months.

As the new academic year begins at DMU, students and academics are looking forward to working with local residents to offer the chance to improve health, share skills, provide youth activities and create a sense of community through more than 40 different projects.

This summer the Square Mile team held a family fun day and film festival in Rally Park which attracted more than 2,500 people. The team is now hoping to organise a number of family events this year as well as a number of new projects for residents to get involved in.

Over the next few pages, there are some of the current opportunities displayed – from free IT lessons to learning how to be a stand-up comedian. More activities will be advertised in the Western Park Gazette over the coming months.

The Square Mile Programme uses DMU's academic expertise to offer opportunities to people living in the Woodgate, Newfoundpool and Fosse neighbourhoods of Leicester.

Anyone wishing to join the Square Mile mailing list to keep up-to-date with events and forthcoming sessions is asked to email [mile2@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mile2@dmu.ac.uk) or find out more by calling 0116 257 7135.



Image by Darren Cotton

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# Search for new comedians

**Free stand-up lessons with Mile<sup>2</sup>**

Thursday evenings, 7-9pm

For more information please contact the Mile<sup>2</sup> team on **(0116) 257 7135**  
or email **[mile2@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mile2@dmu.ac.uk)**



# 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!**



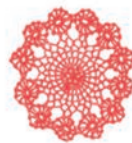
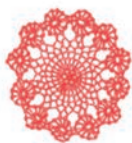
Please contact the Mile² team for more information:

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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## Theatre on Tap at The Western

There's a good chance you've seen Off the Fence Theatre Company in and around the city as they've produced performances at several iconic Leicester landmarks - the Market, the Castle, even the NCP on Halford Street.

The company is now creating a new and permanent performance space at another legendary building in the heart of the Westcotes community: The Western pub.

Whilst looking for rehearsal and performance space in 2012 Off the Fence's Artistic Director Gary Phillpott and Producer Verity Bartsch found the upstairs room at this popular local. A short run of *Godot Was Here* last October by Loughborough writer Thomas Scully signalled the birth of Upstairs at the Western, Leicester's first pub theatre. This was followed in March and April this year with a successful season of performances by local and touring companies featuring comedy, music, theatre and spoken word events. All of the acts performed on a unique stage built on beer kegs – what else?

Boosted by invaluable support from Westcotes Community First, O2 Think Bigger, Leicester City Council, a crowdfunding campaign and, crucially, The Western's brewery, Steam'n' Billy Brewery Company Limited, Off the Fence is now developing the space into a permanent venue. Building work is underway and performances are being programmed for their Autumn season beginning 16 October 2013.

Pub theatres have been in existence for hundreds of years and are a popular addition to a city's culture, particularly important for Leicester

as the city bids to be awarded UK City of Culture 2017. One of Off the Fence's core beliefs is to bring performance to new audiences and now, with Upstairs at the Western, opportunities to see established and emerging artists at affordable prices will be on tap – and practically on your doorstep.

A popular local and enjoyable theatre in the same building? Cheers!

Details of the Autumn programme will be available soon at [www.upstairsatthewestern.com](http://www.upstairsatthewestern.com) or visit [www.off-the-fence.com](http://www.off-the-fence.com) Sally Jack



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## Kitted up For Success

**A local youth soccer team scored a hit with the DeMontfort University's Mile2 Project following publicity in the Western Park Gazette.**

Studs FC is a team of under 16 boys who approached the project looking to connect with the Mile2 programme for the start of the football season.

The side has had a turbulent couple of years, first losing their manager and also not being able to afford to have a proper full kit to play in; instead using a makeshift kit of hand-me-down home and away shirts.

Despite this the boys reached the semi-finals of the cup led by rookie manager Treena Hallam, a mum of one of the players, who was desperate to keep the squad together.

Treena approached Square Mile for help and it was agreed that this season Studs FC will be part of the Square Mile programme.

The aim is to connect the team with some of the academic expertise at De Montfort University to give them an edge. This includes nutritional advice from Health and Life Sciences and training for students as volunteer sports coaches to run football training sessions.

Square Mile has also sourced a new kit for the start of the season for the players who all live or attend schools within West Leicester.

Treena is hoping that the players will not only benefit from the support of DMU but connect with the university and learn more about the opportunities to study within Higher Education.

*If you have a local story or event email us  
editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk*



## Scouting for Funds

**A West Leicester scout group are to hold a major fundraising drive to raise money for much needed equipment.**

The 43rd Saint Peter's Scout Group has been running from Hinckley Road for over 30 years and currently have around 60 members including young Beaver Scouts aged 6 to 8, Cub Scouts aged 8 to 10, Scouts aged 10 to 14 and Explorers who are over 14.

This year the troop have undertaken a whole host of trips and activities, including visits to the London Science Museum and the Aviation Museum, a swimming gala as well as several amazing local camping expeditions. The group have continued to meet through the summer evenings and have made the most of the warm dry weather, getting out playing games including cricket, rounders and dodge ball and spent an evening in county woodland and bell boating at the Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre.



To help raise funds, various events have been held recently including a sponsored bike ride, table top sale and exercise challenge.

To boost the equipment fund the troop are holding their first **Second Hand Quality Clothes, Shoes and Accessory Sale at the West Leicester Conservative Club on Westcotes Drive on Friday 20th September from 6-10pm.** One of the organisers, Emma Harrison-Thompson said: "There may be some fabulous designer wear to tempt you, so if you would like to find yourself, partner or child a good quality, new to you outfit, for a fraction of the cost, or simply fancy an evening out with friends trying on some bargains and supporting a highly valued and much loved local Scout group please put this date and event on your calendar and join us on Friday 20th."

£3.00 per person on arrival includes entry, a free glass of bucks fizz and a raffle ticket.

To find out more about the Scout Group: contact Lianne Mason. e: lianne.mason@43rd.org

# Make a Splash!

In The Western Park Gazette

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# WHAT'S ON *at* WOODGATE RESOURCES CENTRE



## **Music Lessons for Children**

Guitar, Keyboards, Violin, Recorders and Singing. Lessons in groups  
Various times depending on instrument and ability. £35.00 for a twelve week term

## **Music for Babies**

A new music for babies group BubbaBeats  
Visit [www.bubbabeats.co.uk](http://www.bubbabeats.co.uk) or ring Davina on 07816612766 for more information

## **Senior Citizens Lunch Club**

Mondays and Thursdays, 12.30pm  
Cost £2.50 for two course meal plus tea/coffee.

## **Senior Citizens Club**

Mondays 2.00 – 4.00pm. Cost 60p

## **Senior Citizens Keep Fit**

Thursdays 11.00am – Noon. Cost 60p

## **Our Co-op Friendship Group**

Tuesdays 10.00am – Noon. Cost £1.00. Learn craft skills and make new friends

## **Yoga**

Mondays 6.00 – 7.15pm and 7.30pm – 8.45pm.  
£3.50 per session, unwaged £3.00. Must book in advance

## **Zumba Classes**

Tuesdays 6.30 – 7.30pm  
Ring 07701039508 or e-mail [saskia\\_glenn@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:saskia_glenn@hotmail.co.uk) for further details

## **Computer Classes**

These will start in October. Contact Centre for further details

## **Tetsudo**

Martial Arts. Sundays 11.00am – 1.00pm. Cost £4.00 Under 12's £2.50  
Ring 01509 260875 for further information

## **Narcotics Anonymous**

Tuesdays 7.30– 9.00pm.  
Ring NA helpline 0207 7300009 and ask for Woodgate – Leicester meeting

## **Abbey Social Club**

Monthly second Wednesday of month. 1.45 – 3.45pm. Members 75p, Non-Members £1.00

## **The Centre is also Available for Bookings**

There are two rooms. The main room is particularly suitable for children's parties and other family events. The small room is suited for meetings and small training events.  
Contact Centre for rates and availability or visit our website.

**For further information contact the Woodgate Residents Association, Woodgate Resources Centre, 36 Woodgate, Leicester LE3 5GE Tel. 253 0717 e: [woodgateresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:woodgateresidents@hotmail.com)**

Please visit our new website. [www.woodgate.org.uk](http://www.woodgate.org.uk)

The Woodgate Resources Centre is funded by Leicester City Council



## Win a Meal for Two!

Here's your chance to win a meal for two at the Chef and Spice!

This is an email only competition and your answers must be in by 30th Sept 2013

Please include your address:

### THE QUESTION

In the dish chicken tikka masala, what does masala mean?

- A. Hot and spicy
- B. A creamy sauce
- C. A mixture of spices



Answers by email only to:

editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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



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## September Police Update

### *The Smart View with Sgt Rod Smart*

**As the end of an excellent summer approaches and with darker nights closing in, you should consider setting lights on timers when you are out so that it appears to potential burglars that there is someone in the house.**

Despite additional patrolling and a number of arrests, people are still becoming victims of theft when cyclists are riding up behind them and grabbing their mobile phone or laptop.

You are urged to be aware of your surroundings and who is around, keeping your valuable possessions out of the reach of others.

On 26 July two 11 year old boys were robbed of a cycle on The Rally Park. The bike has been successfully recovered and a 21 year old man and 17 year old youth have been charged with robbery and remanded in custody.

On 15 August, a house was burgled on Harrow Rd. A quick thinking member of the public witnessed the offence, telephoned the police and gave a commentary to our control room staff as she followed the offenders. Unfortunately, the offenders split up but she continued to follow one of them until he was detained by the police. Subsequently a 48 year old local man has been charged with burglary and remanded in custody.

On 16 August, a 75 old man accidentally dropped £200 cash after visiting the ATM machine at a bank on Narborough Rd. Two men immediately picked the money up and made off. The men were followed by an eye-witness who flagged down a passing police car and pointed out the offenders. A 28 year old city centre man has now been charged and remanded in custody for theft and a 26 year old local man has been charged and bailed to Court for receiving stolen goods.

On 19 August a house was burgled on Beaconsfield Rd and a ladder in the back garden was used to enter through an insecure upstairs window. Householders are reminded to secure away ladders and tools after using them in order to make life a little more difficult for criminals.

On 24 August, a 41 year old man from Battenberg Rd was charged with Perverting the Course of Justice and Witness Intimidation. He was remanded in custody following an incident that occurred earlier in the Tudor Rd area.

After leading the Hinckley Road policing area for some time, we are delighted to see Inspector Parkes move on to the role of Detective Inspector and welcome his replacement, Inspector Dales, who brings a wealth of experience to the area and our community.

# Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



**We've finally had the long summer we've been waiting for. The dandelions in my lawn have decided it's spring again.** Even though Autumn looms I had to abandon pruning a holly tree after discovering pairs of nesting blackbirds and doves.

The dry weather has checked the late summer flush I'd hoped the borders would produce. I've resorted to using a sprinkler early in the morning. Irrigation at dawn reduces the possibility of the sun scorching the leaves.



Watering in the evening increases the chance of waking hordes of hungry slugs and snails that long for cool, damp Autumn nights to lubricate their munching march across my borders. Or is that just gardeners paranoia?

You can't turn your back on fruit and veg this time of year. A family member told me he forgot to pick his courgettes for a fortnight by which time the fruit was too big for him to lift! Unless you want just a couple of massive flavourless marrows make sure

you pick courgettes regularly. The more you pick the more you get. The same goes for other edibles like runner beans or even inedibles like sweet peas that reward you for filing vases with blooms by flowering even harder.

Tomatoes can't be ignored either. Water and feed regularly to avoid split fruit and blossom end rot. Regular watering will also help prevent brassicas and salad crops from running to seed.

Now is the time to catch many pests before they wriggle off and hibernate in their pupa till next year.

Lily beetles, cabbage whites and sawfly larva can be located by their obvious trail of destruction.

This year a varied selection of moth caterpillars are be chewing holes in a multitude of my low growing perennials. Maybe we can all rest when Autumn finally arrives-then again... *Tony Huxley*

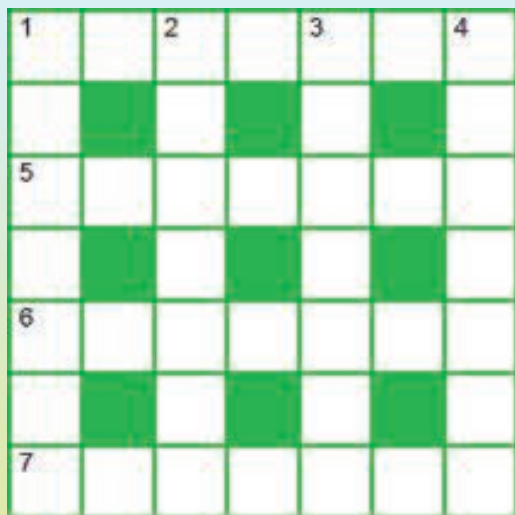


Sweet Pea



Lily Beetle

## BRAIN *TAZERS*



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

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

- Two players complete five complete games of chess. Each player wins the same number of games. There are no ties. How?
  - How many 2nds are in a year?
  - Which five letter word becomes shorter when two letters are added to it?
  - How can you make 100 using only the number 9?
  - Name 4 days of the week which begin with the letter T.
- Answers on line: [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)