

# BOING!

## SCARECROW TRAIL BOUNCES BACK

More on Page 4



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# Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the latest issue of the Western Park Gazette.

September's an interesting month. The holidays are over, the kids have gone back to school, the weather starts to become autumnal and the slide towards Christmas begins. And things are about to get really, really expensive. It's a bit like waiting to be shoved down a hill on skates towards an open iron maiden.

Whether or not we all can actually afford to exist at Christmas this year is moot point, so let's ignore it and talk about the Scarecrow Trail, street parties, local fundraisers, and the soon to be demolished Open Air School on Western Park, all of which feature in this issue.

Carey Tunstall has her regular gardening update. This month she has a few ideas about prepping the garden for winter, and the local police have been arresting suspected burglars right, left and centre.

This month the crossword is back with another fiendishly difficult sudoku on the inside back page.

And many thanks to our contributors and advertisers!

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# 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](http://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 Tues 2pm **Pram Club:** Weds 9.15-11.30am. **Women's Taekwondo:** Thurs 8-9pm w: [taekwand4all.com](http://taekwand4all.com) **Fri Coffee Morn:** 10am

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

**Family Friends:** Term time 4th Mon. St Paul's & St Augustine's Centre, Kirby Rd. 2nd Sat at New Parks Methodist Ch. Contact Sarah on 07465 431 585.

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

**@Curve:** Mama Mia 13-24 Sept. **Othello** - 19 Sept- 1 Oct. **Ed Gamble** 28 Sept. **Bugsy Malone** 4-9 Oct.

**@DM Hall:** Dawn French 17 Sept. Billy Joel Songbook 22 Sept. Peppa Pig 24/25 Sept.

**@Y Theatre:** Glenn Moore - 16 Sept. Mr Singh's Had Enough 18 Sept. Mark Thomas - 22 Sept.

**@Little Theatre:** Black Coffee 12-17 Sept. **Secret Diary of Adrian Mole** - 20-24 Sept.

**Bike Fest:** 24 Sept. New College. 1-4pm.

**Upstairs@thewestern:** Courtney Askey 16 Sept. **The Magic Mic** 28 Sept. **The Great Almighty Gill** 30 Sept.

**Wistow Maze:** Until 18 Sept - [www.wistow.com](http://www.wistow.com)

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## SCAREWROW TRAIL 2022

It was great being able to bring the Western Park Scarecrow Trail back for its fourth year to raise funds for Project Hive and pull us together as a community.

The local Ward Councillors have recognised this, and showed their support by covering our overheads again, which helps maximise the fund-raising potential of the event.

Fifty-seven scarecrows were spread across our streets with the theme this time of "100 Years Of The BBC". They were joined by a record fifteen independent stalls, many of which were manned by industrious local creators. It was also brilliant to welcome visiting crafters to our expanded offering inside the Church Hall this year, along with some fun games and activities for our younger visitors.



This event couldn't happen without residents willingness to join in, so thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support. Keep an eye on our social media channels where we announce this year's favourite scarecrow, as voted by trail-goers and the grand total we raised over the weekend.

*Kristian Naylor*



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## DEMOLITION GIVEN GO-AHEAD

The Open Air School on Western Park had its fate sealed as the City Council's Planning Committee unanimously voted to allow two of the three blocks to be knocked down making way for new office buildings. The remaining structure will be converted into a café to be run by the Western Ward Community Enterprise residents group.

The 92 year old school closed in 2005, and has been the target of vandalism and arson ever since in spite of costly security measures being put in place.

The plans from Parmer Properties, who are behind the scheme, were met with some opposition from local people who say the land should be reclaimed and kept in public hands. Speaking at the start of the consultation in 2015, City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby said there was no realistic prospect of the council developing the site themselves, but they were actively seeking an outside organisation with a sustainable plan for the buildings.



## SCOUTS ON FUNDRAISING TREK

Six local scouts from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Glenfield Leicester Scout group are fundraising to pay for a once in a lifetime 12-day trip to Nepal next October.

Whilst each scout must raise £2600, they will also be donating to the charity 'Classrooms in the Clouds' who provide safe educational environments for children of all ages in Nepal. The charity buys school equipment and pays teacher fees.



Kurt & Josh

The Western Park Yard Sale on Park Rise, at the beginning of September, raised £452 to help three local scouts make the trip. The money raised came from the stalls and a donation bucket, one of which is at the nearby Sportsman pub, who are supporting the fundraising.

The scouts will continue their fundraising adventures through the next year, working hard to achieve their targets. Upcoming events include two charity nights at Chef & Spice on 19th September and in Feb/March 2023, a Halloween family party the 29th of October and a Christmas Craft Fayre on 26th November.

**Lisa Sewell**

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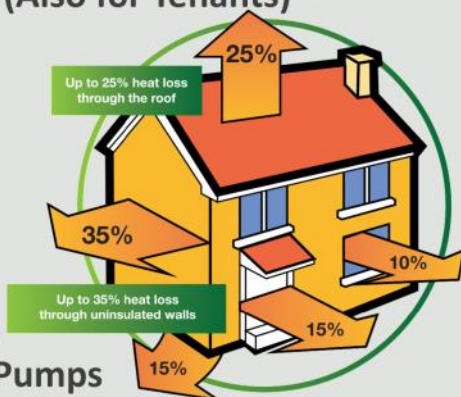
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Ring 0116 253 0717 or e-mail [office@woodgateresidents.org](mailto:office@woodgateresidents.org)  
(We wish to thank Leicester City Council for funding this event)

### Music Lessons for Children

For 5 to 17 year olds. Guitar, Keyboard, Violin, Cello and Drums. Possibly other instruments. Various times depending on instrument, ability and numbers. Contact Centre for booking & prices

### Music @ Woodgate

After school 5 days a week term time provision. £3.50 per session or £15.00 for 5 sessions. Booking in advance is essential. Contact Sim on 07825 559 271 or e-mail [sim@drumandbrass.co.uk](mailto:sim@drumandbrass.co.uk)

### Mini Music

Tuesdays 1.30 – 3.00pm. Free. A fun, relaxed music session for babies, toddlers and under fives with their parents/carers. Book in advance through Eventbrite – search for Mini Music at Woodgate, or just turn up. Thanks to Children in Need for financial support. Donations to the charity are invited

### Children's Dance

Saturdays 12.45 – 1.45pm. Cost £2.50 per session. Ring 07861 800 283.

### Amika Choir

Meet on Saturdays 2.00 – 4.00pm. First session free. Email: [joinus@amika.org.uk](mailto:joinus@amika.org.uk) for further details.

### Senior Citizens Lunch Club

Mondays and Thursdays, 12.30pm. Cost £3.00 for 2 course meal plus tea/coffee

### Senior Citizens Club

Mondays 2.00 – 4.00pm. Cost £2.00 per session

### Senior Citizens Keep Fit

Thursdays 11.00am – Noon. Cost £1.00 per session. Includes tea & biscuits

### 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 & 7.30pm – 8.45pm. £5.00 per session, unwaged £4.50. Book in advance

### Tetsudo

Martial Arts. Sundays 11.00am – 1.00pm. Adults & children from 13 upwards.  
Session cost: Adult £4.00 Children £3.00. Ring 01509 260 875 for further information

### JKS Shotojuku Karate Club

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Cost £3.00 per session. Contact 07568 370 811

**The Centre is also available for bookings.** There are three rooms. The main room is suitable for children's parties & family events. The small rooms are suited for meetings and training events.

Contact Centre for rates and availability. Special rates for community group block bookings.

**For more information contact the Woodgate Residents Association**

**Woodgate Resources Centre, 36 Woodgate, Leicester LE3 5GE**

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**The first Gimson Road Street Party was held in June 2018, a few months after the Hinckley Road explosion.** That made us all consider the importance of community and from that notion, the Gimson Road Street Party was born.

Our first party garnered a lot of press coverage and the fame obviously got to our heads, so we followed up with a Christmas Party that December and our second street party in June 2019. We thought that this would become a tradition, but sadly world events put a halt to that. The following two years brought lots of changes to Gimson Road, so at the start of 2022 our WhatsApp groups began to discuss the possibility of a street party. There were lots of new neighbours and we had sadly lost some of the longest residing residents. It was time to meet each other and celebrate the community which is Gimson Road.

So, on a very sunny day we set up tables, gazebos, chairs, games and music. Slowly neighbours emerged from their houses, some meeting for the first time, others renewing connections. Everyone

brought a little something to eat and share, and as ever the food was exceptional. The treats included samosas, Punjabi rice, home made scones, sandwiches of all sorts...in fact so much food we all needed a little doggy bag to take at the end of the day.



Children and dogs had fun playing on the quiet traffic free road, making one of the residents comment; "Wouldn't it be nice to have this road traffic free for the children play every now and again?" Something for the residents to consider, perhaps?

The party continued well into the afternoon, giving everyone an opportunity to chat and relax in the sunshine.

On a final note, a huge thank you to the organisers.  
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**Sept Police Update**

Residents in Westcotes have recently reported an increase in drug activity, so in August we targeted hotspot locations, with support from Fosse Beat officers, which resulted in two males being arrested for drug supply offences. Both were put into custody and the investigation is continuing.

You can report concerns, ASB or crime online at <https://www.leics.police.uk/report-online>

On the 29<sup>th</sup> August the Westcotes Team arrested a man for burglary. Shortly after booking him into custody, we then arrested another male for domestic assault while traveling back to the station! Drugs were also seized. The day before, while on foot patrol in the West End, we arrested a male for several offences including burglary. Right place and right time, or wrong place/time for him!

Two men appeared in Magistrates Court on 25<sup>th</sup> of August charged with assault. Kian Moore, 21, from New Parks and an 18 year old from South Wigston were charged with Section 18 – wounding with intent. Moore has also been charged with possessing a knife blade/sharp pointed article in a public place.

A warrant on the Western Ward, executed on 24<sup>th</sup> of August by the beat team and local officers, resulted in the seizure of a quantity of cocaine and cannabis along with weapons which will be destroyed. A positive result with two arrested and court appearance now scheduled.

It was also a busy evening shift on the Fosse as one male was arrested for multiple offences including theft of pedal cycle, going equipped, possession of Class A. Another man was arrested for possession of large amount of Class B drug driving and a car was seized for no license or insurance.

The Fosse Team struck again on August 21<sup>st</sup>! Two were arrested for immigration offences and a large amount of money has been seized which is believed to have been made as a result of crime. They say it comes in three's; their car was also seized for no insurance and driver for having no license. Investigation is ongoing.

Criminals can't hide forever. Earlier in August, a man was finally arrested by Fosse officers and our Neighbourhood Proactive Team. He was charged with domestic related offences, two commercial burglaries & theft of a motor vehicle.

Once again, we have seen an increase in theft from motor vehicles. Please don't make your vehicle an easy target and remove items from view or out of the vehicle.

Ensure that your vehicle is locked and secure, park under a streetlight or near CCTV or ring doorbell, if possible, and report any suspicious behaviour through **101 or 999** in an emergency, as this may just provide the missing piece of evidence police are looking for.



# CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



**My tomatoes have been fantastic this year and they're not done yet, so long as I continue to apply a high potash feed and water regularly!**

I know that watering was a bit contentious during the recent hot spell, but I use grey water. That's used water from baths and dish washing for instance. So long as it doesn't touch the edible parts of plants or has too harsh chemicals, it's absolutely fine to use in the garden.

It's also not too late to sow some quick growing or hardy/overwintering vegetables. Unfortunately, my beans didn't do as well as the tomatoes this year, so I'm replacing them with some lettuce, radish, winter spinach and carrots. I'll be planting some onion sets alongside the carrots in the hope that it will deter carrot fly as they're not fans of pungent plants.

As ever, I'm continuing to deadhead flowering plants which removes some of the risk of pests and diseases, encourages further flourishes of flowers and makes the garden look tidier and healthier. Whilst doing this, I've also been collecting heads from any flowers that have gone to seed so that I can scatter them into a position that

is preferable for my garden. I've swapped collected seed heads with friends too, such as Knapweed, Cornflowers, Love in a mist, poppies and Honesty.

I've also been pruning back quite a few perennials and shrubs. Wisteria should be pruned back now, unless you have the space to let it ramble, but pruning it now should encourage better flower production next year. This time of year I remove all the whippy green growth to about six leaves, which lets the air circulate, thus preventing disease. This also promotes flowering bud growth rather than general plant growth. In addition, I've been pruning Weigela, Philadelphus and Deutzia.

As usual, I'm continuing to top up ponds and bird baths as the water can evaporate very quickly during hot spells, as well as putting food out for the hedgehogs. I've also been enjoying the sight of a lot of pipistrelle bat activity during dusk as they swoop across the garden munching their way through all those flying garden pests!

**Carey Tunstall**



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## BRAIN TAZERS

1			2			3			4
5									
6									
7									

1 Across: Singing show 1 Down: Oops 2D: Enticed 3D: Needing more mastication 4D: Lucky dip 5A: Grief stricken 6A: File away 7A: Older

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Answers at w:westernparkgazette.co.uk

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

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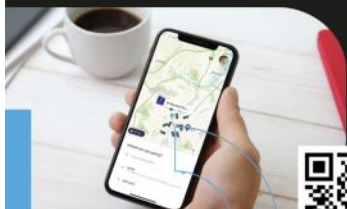
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