

# Western Park The Gazette



No.57 July 2014 [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)  
News and Views for Western Park • Westcotes • The Fosse



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*Pictures – Centre Pages*

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## Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the latest issue of the Western Park Gazette! July is definitely party time as 10,000 of us headed to the third massively successful Western Park Festival to discover the delights of music and beer!

This is just as well because Helen Knott has a fashion rant about festival clothing. Roger Blackmore looks at the history of the Leicester Literature and Philosophy Society. Will we be getting a local Lidl in place of the Empire? It looks like it if a survey by MP Liz Kendall is taken on-board.

Another cannabis farm has gone up in flames, this time on Luther Street and separately two local people have been jailed for drugs offences. Rod Smart from Hinckley Road police station has his latest update and Tony Huxley literally beetles about his garden.

Dovelands and Christ the King primary Schools are in the money for playground improvements and our guest writer Sandra Herbert tells us about life on a fruit farm and offers you the chance to sample one of her excellent cream teas and take home a kilo of fresh fruit!

If you have a local story or event to publicise drop a line to: [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk) Visit [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk) or follow us on Twitter @mygazette and Facebook by searching for the Western Park Gazette.

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# Events Diary

**Fosse Camera Club:** Fridays. St. Peter's Church Rooms. 7.45pm. 0116 299 2230.

**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.

**22 July:** Kid's Woolcraft Workshop. Gorse Hill City Farm. 10.30am. More - [www.gorsehillcityfarm.org.uk](http://www.gorsehillcityfarm.org.uk)

**22 July:** Finger Puppets & Fridge Magnets. Abbey Pump Station. 11am. £2.00.

**23 - 30 July:** Summer Reading Challenge. Fosse Library. 2pm. Free.

**25 July:** Royal Anglian Parade. High St. 12.15pm.

**26 July-10 Aug:** Annie. Curve Theatre.

**26 & 27th July:** Simon Says. De Mont Hall & Grounds. [www.demontforhall.co.uk](http://www.demontforhall.co.uk)

**31 July-7 Aug:** Rent. Curve Th. [w.curveonline.co.uk](http://w.curveonline.co.uk)

**2 Aug:** Animal Rescue Railway Day. Abbey Pump Station. 11am. Free entry.

**2 & 3 Aug:** Church of the Martyrs. Great War Commemoration. Afternoon. Free

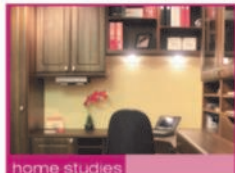
**9th Aug:** New Parks Summer Extravaganza. New Pks Leisure Centre, St. Oswalds St. 11-3pm. Free.

**16-17 Aug:** Night of Festivals. Humberstone Gate West. From 11am. Free.

Email events to: [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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# Up in Flames

**Police evacuated 20 houses on Luther Street, off Hinckley Road, as firefighters tackled a blaze in a terraced house that was being used as a cannabis factory.**

The blaze took hold shortly before 9pm on June 20th, setting two houses next door alight. Six fire engines attended with fire crews hosing down nearby properties preventing the fire spreading further, using an aerial ladder to douse the flames in the lofts and first floors of both properties. A number of neighbours helped rescue an occupant of a neighbouring house.

Fire fighters were still damping down the following morning before building inspectors and a demolition company started work to make the buildings safe.

Both houses were severely damaged and were cordoned off next to a neighbouring property which nearly lost its roof in the blaze.

Nobody was hurt, but paramedics treated several people for the effects of smoke.

Police later found the remains of nearly 100 cannabis plants inside the roof space of one of the houses. No arrests have been made, but police are asking residents to report any signs of canna-

bis factories, such as pungent herbal smells, unusual venting and covered up or steamed up windows.



Cannabis farmers are known to steal electricity to power the growing lamps and heaters by tapping into the mains lines and distributing power through a patched up plug panel. It is believed this fire was caused by an electrical fault due to shoddy wiring.

Detective Constable Stu Palmer is asking for anyone with information about the drugs and occupants of the house to get in touch directly on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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### **MARCH ENTERTAINMENT**

**Sat 19th July: Untouchables**

**Sat 26th July: Mick Knight**

**Sat 2nd Aug: The Rebels**  
(Glam/Pop Rock)

**Sat 16th August: Dave Mazzei**

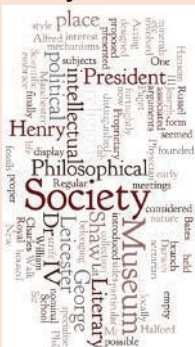
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# Leicester's Lit & Phil

Every year, on alternate Mondays throughout the autumn and winter months, several score Leicestershire people make their way to meetings of a society that will soon be celebrating its hundredth and eightieth birthday.

It was in 1835 that Dr Shaw and Mr A Paget set up the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, which has ever since been known as the Lit and Phil. Its Honorary President was Sir Henry Halford of Wistow, who was the Royal Physician to the then reigning Monarch, William 4th. Amazingly Dr G Shaw was to become President of the Society again in 1884 some fifty years after he had been one of the key founding members.

Initially lectures were given by members of the Society, although from about 1870 onwards professional speakers from various fields of expertise were engaged, as is the case today. (Recent talks have included widely differing subjects ranging



from The Genius of Michael Faraday through Living Fossils to the Secret History of the Cuban Missile Crisis.)

In its very early years, the Society worked for the setting up of a Museum to take care of the various fossils and other items. The collection was presented to Leicester in 1849 and eventually found its permanent home in the former school building on New Walk, where of course it is still situated today. The Society was also vociferous in its support of a free public library for the town.

Early on in its life, the Society established several specialist Sections to cover differing areas such as Botany and Fine Arts. Two of these, the Geology Section and the Natural History Section, remain and meet regularly today.

Over the past forty years or so the Lit and Phil has acted as host to hundreds of well known guest speakers. These have included David Bellamy, Patrick Moore, Margaret Drabble, Malcolm Bradbury, Penelope Lively, Bill Deedes and Lars Tharp as well as both the Attenborough brothers. Leicester was undoubtedly one of the earliest towns to see the benefits of establishing an intellectual society of this kind. It has lost little of its original popularity. *Roger Blackmore*

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# KNOTT'S LANDING

The sun is shining so it must be summer and time for the festival season. I find this lurch towards people gathering in fields and listening to loud music very odd because I spent my teenage years being told off and sometimes chased by police for gathering in fields and listening to loud music. Then it was called a rave and was frowned upon by everyone. Now the farmers have decided to make money from these gatherings on their land they are called festivals. Grab a tepee and some flowers for your hair and off you go, but don't expect a hippie idyll. Festivals seem to be all about consumption these days.

I saw the pictures of the sheer volumes of rubbish created at the Glastonbury festival and I was horrified. I was taught to either throw stuff into bins or take it home with you. Leave no trace! Not a rule anyone at Glastonbury has heard. People buy tents to take to one festival and leave it there. There are whole tent cities just abandoned, mostly used as toilets,



along with thousands of camping chairs. Profilage waste! It's stupid but not entirely unexpected of society which believes festival fashion is a thing! Women's magazines encourage us to be 'festival ready' and have treatments and buy enormous quantities of stuff to enable us to look good at a festival. It's a ridiculous idea that anyone who is sleeping in a tent with no electricity hook-up can look bouffed and coiffed. You will wear clothes that will be slightly damp, you will be a bit stinky because there are very few showers taken and you will probably get rained on and covered in mud at some point. All preparations you might try and make are folly. Your hair will look awful. Get over it. Sunscreen, cut off jeans, a t-shirt or two, flip flops, wellies and dry socks is all you really need. Bunting, flowers for your hair, designer anything, flowing clothes and items of any value at all are just dead weight for you to carry and lose. As someone who has witnessed a woman watching her valuables bag containing her glasses, passport and engagement ring slowly sinking under the faecal matter in a long drop toilet pit I can say with some authority, you are not festival ready unless you have a plan to deal with that!

*Helen Knott*



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# FESTIVAL!

The third Western Park Festival proved to be another massive success as an estimated 10,000 people enjoyed local bands, stalls and activities.

The festival is organised by local company Zander Events who will be handing over more than £2000 in donations to Friends of Western Park to fund more play equipment in the children's area.

The day started off slightly slower than organisers would have liked but by the early afternoon and as the sun crept out - the crowds flocked in. One of the organisers, Adrian Alexander said: "The ever present family element to the festival made for a warm friendly atmosphere which managed to get people to their feet and dancing to some tremendous local musicians.

"Thank you to all of the bands and the local groups, KT Performers, Braunstone and Huncote Hearts Cheerleaders for their marvellous dance shows, Leicester Blue Sox Baseball, for their have-a-go batting experience, DMU Square mile, LCFC, The Vikings of Middle England, for their amazing village and performances and Cyclone Worx for their mind blowing, very popular biking experience".

(Front Page Pic: Vikings of Middle England)



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**CIMA**

**Academia - It's not Nuts...**

**A local composer is hitting the big-time in New York as his latest musical collaboration takes to the stage.**

Academia Nuts with music by Julian Blackmore could be heading towards Broadway success following its debut this month.

Described as an Englishman in New York, Western Park born Julian is a regular on the Greenwich Village music scene. He is the composer for musicals Spandex, A Year With... Veronica Sexton and The Suicide Club, all of which have been performed in New York. His music is used worldwide in theatrical and television productions. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild and holds an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Julian's latest offering Academia Nuts tells the tale of dreamy-eyed brainiac Maggie McCutter hoping to win a scholarship so she can escape her controlling mother. Maggie's world is turned upside down as she falls for a football-loving opponent.

He may call it "Nerd-Rock" but Academia Nuts is a winner of the coveted Kevin Spacey Foundation: America Grant which supports emerging artists to develop creative projects in the performing arts or film.

**Western Park Parking Scheme**  
**The decision whether or not to launch a permit parking scheme in part of Western Park has still not been made.**

The controversial scheme which would operate on several roads adjacent to Westcotes is the subject of a public consultation. 1188 consultation packs were mailed out generating 442 replies.

Further details will not be made available until the decision has been made.

**DRUG DEALERS JAILED**  
**A couple from Battenberg Road have been jailed for serious drug offences.**

David Bennett was sent down for 4 years and 3 months for dealing along with assault, possession and witness intimidation offences. His partner Donna Thurman was jailed for 3 years and 3 months for possession and intent to supply.

Mary Saville from Hawthorn Road received a 1 year sentence, suspended for 2 years for intent to supply and concealing criminal property.

Rebecca Aitkin of Westcotes Drive got 8 months for possession, perverting the course of Justice and shoplifting offences.

Police discovered £1500 in cash as well as a large haul of cannabis, heroin and amphetamine.



# Lidl? Survey Says Yes

**The proposals by supermarket chain Lidl to build a new store on the sites of the Empire Hotel and the ruins of St. Augustine's church should probably go ahead says Leicester West MP Liz Kendal.**

She says: "I've been working with the Fosse Ward Councillors to make sure the views of my constituents are put front and centre when a decision on this proposal is taken, including sending out over 1200 surveys".

111 residents completed the survey with 76% in favour and 24% against.

## Conclusions

"It's clear that the remains of St. Augustine's Church and the vacant Empire public house are in absolutely desperate need of regeneration. They've stood neglected for years, have attracted anti-social behavior and are a real eyesore that the local community shouldn't have to tolerate.

There is clear local enthusiasm for Lidl's proposal which will bring significant benefits to the area in terms of jobs, regeneration and diversity of retail. Questions remain over the impact of this development on traffic but the main objection is that a building of rich character and heritage will be de-

molished. Ideally many of my constituents would like to see a scheme which incorporates the Empire and brings it back to its former glory. I'd repeat my call to Lidl to look again at their plans to see if there's any scope to build a supermarket that incorporates the existing building.

But ultimately if it boils down to a choice between the site as it currently stands or a new Lidl supermarket, all of the conversations I've had suggests that the majority of my constituents would choose the supermarket".

**More details including a breakdown of the survey and opinions visit: [www.lizkendall.org](http://www.lizkendall.org)**



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**Summer brings many pleasures but tucking into lots of delicious fruits must be one of them, especially if they are locally grown!** For me it brings extra pleasure because along with my husband Anthony we grow a whole range of fruits, blackcurrants, gooseberries, redcurrants, raspberries, blackberries and everyone's favourite - strawberries.

At our Pick your own farm just 2 miles from Blaby, you can choose to come and enjoy the countryside and pick your own or still enjoy the freshness and taste of fruit Straight from the ground by buying ready picked. We host school groups, special needs groups, brownies and beavers and provide parties with a difference for any age. I love seeing children running in the fields so excited about picking strawberries, although they do find it hard to resist popping them straight into their mouths! We do operate a Pick Weigh Pay Policy as some pickers still think they can eat as much as they like without paying. Some pickers come and buy enough to last them a year, filling up their freezers to make jams, pies, crumbles, smoothies, wines and liqueurs. Why buy imported fruits when you can still enjoy the fruits of our countryside all year round. I am always available to give tips on what to do with fruit and how to make the best jam!

It's a great family outing, toddlers can pick; even those in a wheelchair can pick raspberries. We have a children's play barn and a rustic farm courtyard with tea room offering freshly baked scones with lashings of my jam and local organic cream.

Sandra Herbert

**Our opening hours are:**

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(Sponsored article)



## Strawberries & Cream!

**Strawberry picking in the summer months, followed by a cream tea on the farm - there's nothing quite like it!**

Our friends at Whetstone Pastures Farm near Blaby are offering you the chance to do just that.

To be in with a chance of winning a kilo of freshly picked fruit and a homemade cream tea for 4 just answer this question:

### THE QUESTION!

Strawberries are native to most parts of the world. But one of the countries listed below is not believed to have an indigenous species of strawberry until they were introduced by settlers. Which country is it?

- A. Australia
- B. Japan
- C. Canada



Email answers only by July 31st 2014 to:

[editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

**Please include your contact details.**

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

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**Got a story or picture? Holding an event or you're doing something special?**

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# Playground Cash Awards

**Two West Leicester Schools have cashed in a winning ticket through the National Lottery and Sport England to upgrade their playgrounds.**

Dovelands Primary School and Christ the King Primary have been granted £30,000 each to encourage pupils to get more active.

New College supported the bids by both schools as part of its schools sports partnership, which along with fundraising activities by parents and staff, has resulted in enough cash to revamp both playgrounds and buy new equipment.

Plans for Christ the King include a multipurpose sports field, whilst Dovelands is planning an all weather pitch.

Dovelands also had new equipment installed in their Foundation Stage Playground.

Funding came from a pirate themed sponsored walk and fundraising event held in March along-



side various other sources.

Western Park Ward supported 2 grant applications totalling £2070 and the Dovelands PTFA agreed to cover the shortfall to ensure a quick installation.

This follows over £7000 worth of changes which were funded by the school during the Easter break to make the best possible use of the limited space available.

## Braunstone Carnival

**Peppa Pig and SpongeBob SquarePants were among the attractions at this year's Braunston carnival held in the grounds of Fullhurst Community College.**

Numbers were slightly down on last year but organisers estimate around two thousand turned up for the family themed event which included traditional stalls, fair rides and activities such as bouncy castles, bungee trampoline and sporting activities.

Money raised from 50p donations on the gate and the sale of soft drinks goes towards funding next year's carnival.



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## July Police Update

*The Smart View with Sgt. Rod Smart*

**On 23 May, a drunken customer abused the staff and damaged the door of a grocery store on Upperton Road.** A twenty year old local man has been charged with threatening behaviour and criminal damage. He was remanded in custody due to being wanted for offences in other parts of the country.

On 6 June, a drunken twenty four year old man (no fixed abode) jumped on the roofs, bonnets and windscreens of cars parked on Norman Street, causing damage. Due to his level of intoxication he was taken to the LRI, where he went on to abuse staff. He has been charged with two offences of criminal damage and disorderly behaviour and has been remanded in custody.

On 13 June an address on Glenfield Road was burgled through an insecure ground floor window. This is one of a number of similar offences that take place when occupants leave windows open. Residents are reminded not to leave ground floor windows open unless they are fitted with window locks. Fortunately in this case, an eighteen year old Belgrave youth was located nearby and has been charged with burglary and remanded in custody.

On 24 June, a sixty eight year old lady was robbed of her gold chain on Andrews Street, suffering cuts and bruises during the attack. Two Braunstone men, aged twenty and twenty three, have been charged with robbery and remanded in custody. We do find that the number of chain snatches increases during the summer months, when members of the public are wearing more open neck clothing. Local residents are urged to not have valuable jewellery on display and to be aware of their surroundings.

On 28 June, a thirty five year old Beaumont Leys woman was given a police caution for racially abusing a police officer at an incident on Tewkesbury Street.

We are pleased to report that a thirty two year old local man has been sentenced to twenty months imprisonment for a number of offences in the area, including burglary and robbery.

For more information about policing in our area visit [www.leics.police.uk/local-policing](http://www.leics.police.uk/local-policing)  
Alternatively follow us on [www.facebook.com/leicestercitypolice](http://www.facebook.com/leicestercitypolice) or Twitter on @LPWesternPark, @LPFossePolice or @LPWestcotesCops  
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## Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



**The Great British Summer is now in full swing. Red, white and black currants are bejewelled with a juicy crop, strawberries are sweet and plentiful, and cane fruit poised to deliver a bumper crop.** Good weather combined with the previous mild winter it's created the ideal conditions for a glut of soft fruit, and garden hungry bugs!

For a good your soft fruit, water regularly, feeding with potash rich fertilizer, such as tomato food. Avoid watering from above, to reduce the risk of mildew. To be sure of getting your precious crop to the pudding bowl you'll need to net them. Birds can easily strip a crop just before you get to pick them. But these feathered scrumpers are also an ally. They naturally control many pests so open up the netting



once your crop is picked. Many moth and beetle grubs, such as sawfly larvae pupate in the soil. Lightly forking or raking under plants especially in the autumn will expose them to our sharp eyed feathered friends. There are numerous species of sawfly and many also attack ornamental plants. The sawfly too seem to be having a bumper year.

Another garden gremlin I've seen a lot this Summer is the Lily beetle.

This imported pest can decimate plants. It's particularly fond of Asiatic lilies but will happily munch many other lily types as well as Fritillaries.

The adult is a bright red jewel like insect. Its larvae are less attractive, slimy faeces covered grubs. I find vigilance the best control. The adults crunch satisfyingly when squashed and the grubs can be picked off attached to a leaf. The eggs are like tiny orange sausages on the underside of leaves, often in a line.

As usual summer looks like being a harvest of the good, the bad, and the bugly!

**Tony Huxley**

*More from Tony in the next issue.*



# Martin Page

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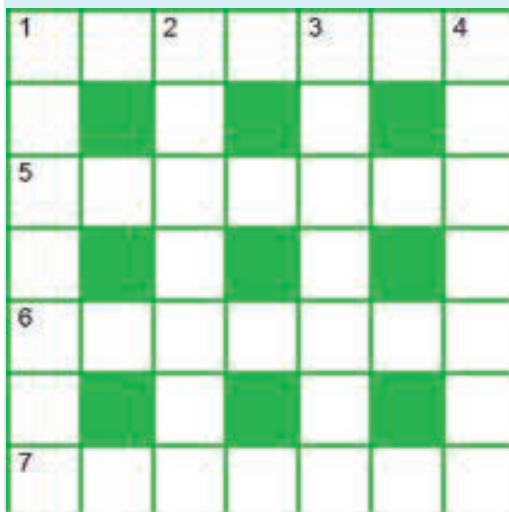
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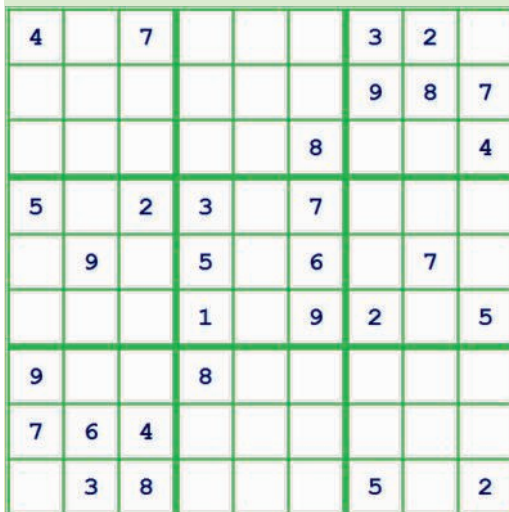
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## BRAIN *TAZERS*



**Across:** 1. Musical passage. 5. Daydream. 6. Squeeze out. 7. Interminable.

**Down:** 1. Retinue. 2. Dedicated. 3. Foster. 4. Everlasting.



1. **lons My Ass** Is an anagram of which public event taking place in Leicester in July.

2. Which non negative value when multiplied by 6 is not larger than 3 times that number/value?

3. You pick up something edible in a field which doesn't have meat or bones. You take it home and put it on a shelf. 3 days later it walks off. What is it?

4. What are tree mistake in this sentence?

(Answers at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk))





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