



## FESTIVAL TIME 10 000 on the Park!



*More inside!*

### Hello From The Editor

**This July, the second Western Park Festival took off proving to be a resounding success and we have the pictures to prove it.** Never have so many people been seen on Western Park!

Richard Perry dives into our Celtic past to reveal a story that could even predate the ancient tale of Leicester's King Lear.

We meet Julian Blackmore, a West Leicester composer now living in New York who has had his first Off Broadway show produced, Peter Coley returns with his Techi Thump about how to improve your broadband at home and Helen Knott fights a losing battle with her son as she tries to get him to eat his school dinner.

Sargent Rod Smart from Hinckley Road police station has the latest round up from the boys in blue and our gardening expert, Tony Huxley says it's time to get to grips with the garden veg.

And we've teamed up with the DeMontfort Hall to offer you a pair of free tickets to their huge Simon Says event on July 27th & 28th.

And if you fancy getting really frustrated, we have more evil Brain Tazers on the inside back cover. e: [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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The Western Park Gazette

# Western Park Festival

**The sun blazed down and temperatures hit 28 Celsius as thousands made their way to the second Western Park Festival.**

Around 10,000 people descended on Western Park, trebling last year attendance, to enjoy the sights and sounds of a free summer festival.

Lounging in the sun, visitors enjoyed hearing nearly thirty emerging local bands and acoustic acts across three stages whilst the busy Kidzone hosted an array of fun and interactive activities for the young and young at heart.



From Zorba to Zumba and from kick boxing to baseball, there was something for everyone. The real ale tent and food outlets were stacked out alongside a variety of stalls lining the park road as people constantly streamed in.

Organised by the Friends of Western Park, who raise money for park projects, their spokesman Ady Alexander said: "A massive thanks to all the volunteers, local residents for parking and the bowls club for being so accommodating. We're really happy with the attitude of those attending which created a friendly festival atmosphere."



More photos at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)  
Or visit our Facebook Page.





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# The Llyr Alternative

It has been said that William Shakespeare stole the idea for King Lear from Geoffrey of Monmouth's 12th century account of a 1000BC tale originally set in the town of Kaer-leir.

According to the story Kaerleir or Leicester, as it became known later, was built by King Lear on the banks of the Soar. As an old man he died wracked with guilt after mistakenly dividing his kingdom up between two unworthy daughters disowning his youngest and most honourable child, Cordellia.

Although Shakespeare's tragedy has been performed for over 400 years, Geoffrey of Monmouth's original tale could be based on another even older legend with a deeper Celtic angle.

The Welsh god of the sea Llyr founds a city called Llyrcester. Before returning to the ocean, he has several children including Bran, one of the three 'blessed' Kings of Britain, the clever and beautiful Branwen and step brother, the disloyal Ebnysian.

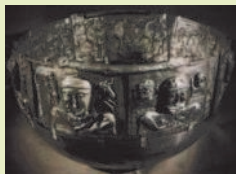
An Irish king travels over the sea asking for Branwen's hand in marriage. The marriage feast was ruined by Ebnysian who, angry at not being consulted over the marriage, maimed the horses given to the Irish King as dowry. Bran makes amends by replacing the horses and offering a staff of sliver, a plate of gold and a magic cauldron which brings dead warriors back to life. The Irish King then took Branwen home, but shortly after imprisoned her in the kitchens when the earlier insult became public knowledge. Bran learns about this and attacks Ireland and rescues Branwen. Later her son Gwern is named king of Ireland, but is killed by Ebnysian causing a massive battle to the death between the British and Irish armies in which Bran is beheaded but not killed.

This tale was first put on paper in the 13th century and is based on Celtic oral traditions.

In pre-Roman times the Celtic world stretched across Britain, Ireland and France but today this story survives in North Welsh myth and legend.

Some scholars believe that Celtic Leicester was a centre of Llyr worship and the story may have hung around for a millennia or two, changing a bit at a time, turning into the story of King Lear.

It is a tenuous connection to the ancient Celtic world but it is nice to imagine that ancient sagas of the demi-gods of old were told over the hearth fires of Leicester thousands of years ago.



## Western Park Gazette



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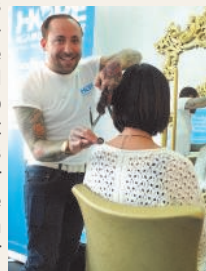
## Malcolm's a Cut Above!

West End hair dresser Malcolm Murphy sharpened up his scissors and snipped his way through a 24 hour haircutting marathon.

Working nonstop from his salon on Hinckley Road, Malcolm did more heads than the French Revolution. He cut and styled 28 from 9am through to 9am the next morning as part of 10 charity challenges he's undertaking to raise money for the Leicester charity Hope Against Cancer. Malcolm says: "I've lost clients to cancer and I've seen family members and friends suffering, so I decided to raise money by doing a series of challenges; this is the fifth."

Malcolm has already raised £1000 of his £3000 target by not shaving or cutting his hair for 6 months, abseiling and skydiving.

"I looked like a tramp after not cutting my hair or shaving for that length of time, but it was worth it. I've still to get my body hair waxed off, have the Hope Against Cancer charity logo tattooed on my chest, I'm making cupcakes, there's a ten mile dog walk planned and I'll be serving drinks naked except for an apron at a ladies charity night!"





*Journalist and broadcaster Helen Knott says that when it comes to school dinners, kids are just plain difficult!*

## KNOTT'S LANDING

**Pork alla Roma and gypsy tart. Those were my two favourite dishes at school when I was in primary school.** I remember the smell, I remember how they tasted and none of it was bad.

When number one son started school we were invited in to eat with them and while the food was hardly gourmet, the mince was "not like yours mummy", it wasn't awful and so he was duly dispatched to school with dinner money jingling in an envelope. Since then it has become apparent that I am in a minority. Most kids in his class take a packed lunch to school and so I have been on the receiving end of some whining and every so often I cave in and allow him a packed lunch. I try and make it healthy. I pack veg sticks, grate carrot, add sweetcorn, include hummous dip, cold pizza and more tricks but I may as well be sticking it straight in the bin. All of his veg comes home. A bit of bread might go in, sometimes some cheese is eaten but mostly the things he eats are the crisps, the cake or biscuit I lovingly craft (tip out of

the box), the yoghurt and any red berry I care to provide.

I thought it was just my awkward child until recently I witnessed on two separate occasions parents asking their little snowflake why they hadn't eaten any of the important good stuff in their packed lunch, just the extra treats!

Kids, it turns out, are wise. They know that we will pack treats to go with the sandwich and, we are not there to make them eat the sandwich before they eat the treat! All your good intentions go to hell in a handcart when faced with a child who likes cake or biscuit more than the nutritious packed quinoa salad with goji berries and sprouted lentils (or cheese sandwich). If you think your little one is not doing this then you are deluded.

This is why I am sticking to the school dinners. They are actually nutritionally balanced. They can tell you how much selenium your child will eat over a four week period! But more than that, it's a proper meal that they have to sit down to eat with a knife and fork, a meal where they may choose to try new foods and a meal that is monitored by a fearsome dinner lady who won't let them eat their pudding before their main course!



## Western Park Gazette



Yes, that's right... 10,000 copies a month

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## Classic Day on the Farm

If you fancy coming to a farm and enjoying a very different musical experience then come to Whetstone Pastures Farm for a performance of the **MIKADO**, one of Gilbert and Sullivan's most loved operas.

On Sat August 17th at 7pm Opera Anywhere will be joined by local singers at our strawberry fruit fields! You will have a seat in our splendid new wooden barn and enjoy fresh air and bird song along with refreshments and drinks. All proceeds will go towards the charity Send a Cow which is celebrating its 25th Birthday.

Anthony and I have been supporters all that time and have seen what the amazing results that providing families with live-stock and simple farming techniques brings. We have helped over a million people out of poverty in 7 African countries.

For tickets and more information contact Sandra Herbert 0116 2774627 check out Opera Anywhere [www.operaAnywhere.com](http://www.operaAnywhere.com)  
Sandra Herbert



## Royal Visit for Mile<sup>2</sup>

His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex came to Fosse Neighbourhood Centre as part of a visit to De Montfort University.

Prince Edward was keen to see the activities local residents and students undertake together as part of the Mile<sup>2</sup> (Square Mile) Programme.



The Prince was given a performance from young people taking part in the Moving Together dance project before going on to meet people taking part in computer and social media lessons in the Mile<sup>2</sup> IT suite.

Volunteers from the Stem Cell project, including Rik and Kas Basra from the Rik Basra Leukaemia foundation, were on hand to explain how DMU's Mile<sup>2</sup> organised the most successful stem cell register event ever held at a British university.

## Computing courses at Fosse Neighbourhood Centre

Working in partnership with the Square Mile Programme, the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) are going to offer computing courses from September. These sessions will be held in the Square Mile IT suite at Fosse Neighbourhood Centre on Mantel Road.

The following sessions will be on offer for 11 weeks from September 19<sup>th</sup> on Thursdays:

- Beginners - BCS Online Basics and Digital Skills, 9.15 to 11.45 am.
- People with good basic computing skills – European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) levels 1 and 2 from 12.30 to 3 pm.

For more information or to book your place call 0116 255 6614 between 9am – 4pm, Monday to Friday, email [101leicester@wea.org.uk](mailto:101leicester@wea.org.uk) or visit [www.wea101.org](http://www.wea101.org).

Get Digital. Learning on line with the support of friendly tutor. Small groups.





## Mile<sup>2</sup> Film Festival and Family Fun Day

The magic of cinema is coming back to the Tudor Road area with the first Square Mile Film Festival. Local groups, movie enthusiasts and community members have all helped shape the event which runs from Tuesday July 16th culminating in a fun day in Rally Park on Saturday July 20.

The aim of the festival is to bring to bring movies back to Tudor Road, where there was a cinema until 1958. There will be four nights of films shown in a makeshift cinema in the barn in the garden of the Tudor Pub in Tudor Road, Leicester before a day of films is shown in a pop-up cinema in Rally Park.

All shows are free but entrance is by ticket only. Details are at the bottom of the page opposite. The Rally Park film day will co-inside with the Summer in the Square Mile fun day with activities for all the family, including bouncy castles, a play area, stands and stalls.

### Film festival line-up:

**Tuesday July 16: 7pm, The Elephant Man (Rated PG) – The Barn, Tudor Pub.**

*The Elephant Man is based on the true story of Leicester-born Joseph Merrick, a severely deformed man in the 19th century. The film was directed by David Lynch and cast includes John Hurt, Anthony Hopkins, Anne Bancroft, John Gielgud.*

**Weds July 17: 7pm, Monty Python and the Holy Grail (PG), The Barn, Tudor Pub**

*Holy Grail is considered the first "proper" film by the Monty Python comedy troupe. It generally parodies the legend of King Arthur's quest to find the Holy Grail. King Arthur is played by Leicester-born Python Graham Chapman.*

**Thursday July 18: 7pm, Polish Film Night: Wesele (PG) (The Wedding) (Subtitled) – Tudor Pub, 7pm**

*The history of cinema in Poland has universal achievements and from 1955 onwards, the works of directors of the so-called Polish film school had a great influence on many contemporary trends. Polish residents living in the Square Mile area have selected acclaimed black comedy Wesele (The Wedding) to show off this fascinating genre of film-making. It will be shown with English subtitles and open to all.*



## **Friday July 19: The Bridge on the River Kwai (PG) The Barn, Tudor Pub, 7pm**

*This film will be opened with a short talk from the son and grandson of Reg Twigg, a Leicester-born survivor of the prisoner of war camp immortalized in the film. Reg died recently, the last of the survivors of the British soldiers forced to build the infamous Burma railway for the Japanese Imperial Army. Short extracts from his book, *Survivor on the River Kwai*, will be read by his son, to set the film in its context. *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, directed by David Lean, is a work of fiction but borrows heavily the construction of the Burma Railway in 1942/43 for its historical setting.*

## **The Festival then moves on to the portable cinema in Rally Park:**

### **Saturday July 20: 11am Toy Story, (U) Rally Park**

***Toy Story** – the epic family animated adventure story – starring the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. The heroes of the tale, Woody and Buzz Lightyear, feature regularly in the Square Mile Inspire Days with our Business and Law faculty which bring children on to DMU campus – so this is a great opportunity to show the film.*

### **Saturday July 20: 1.30pm Jour de fete, (U) Rally Park**

***Jour de Fête** ("The Big Day") is a 1949 French comedy film directed by Jacques Tati. It tells the story of an inept and easily distracted French mailman who frequently interrupts his duties to converse with the local inhabitants, as well as inspect the traveling fair that has come to his small community.*

### **Saturday July 20: 3.30pm Jurassic Park, (PG-13 ) Rally Park**

*The Stephen Spielberg blockbuster **Jurassic Park** stars Leicester-born actor and director Richard Attenborough as a billionaire philanthropist, who, with a small team of genetic scientists, have created a wildlife park of cloned dinosaurs – what could go wrong?*

### **Saturday July 20: 7pm The Dark Knight, (PG-13) Rally Park**

*Billed as "**The Dark Knight** in Rally Park", Christian Bale reprises his role as Batman to combat the new rising threat of a criminal mastermind calling himself "The Joker" in a classic tale of good versus evil.*



## **TICKETS:**

Tickets for the film showings are free and co-ordinated through the Square Mile office. To order tickets visit [www.dmu.ac.uk/mile2events](http://www.dmu.ac.uk/mile2events) or call 0116 257 7135.



# Join us for our Square Mile family fun day in Rally Park

**Saturday 20 July**  
**11am–5pm**

Children's activities  
and inflatable fun

Play area

Food and craft  
stalls and  
much more!



For further details contact  
[mile2@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mile2@dmu.ac.uk)  
0116 250 6183

# Off Broadway!

From the West End of Leicester, to the stage of an Off Broadway production in New York, local composer and musician Julian Blackmore is heading for success.

Julian who attended Dovelands and New Parks before completing his music degree at Leeds University is the composer behind a brand new musical.



Spandex which had it's debut at the 777 Theatre in New York at the end of May has already received positive reviews and interest from some major US theatre producers.

Set in the bouncy, camp world of the 80's aerobics craze, Spandex tells the story of two women who find strength in their friendship, Spandex (Lycra) fueled dance exercise and power ballads.

Composer Julian who studied Musical Theatre at NYU, also writes, produces and performs at venues across New York. He is optimistic about the show's future: "What a run it was! Great audiences, wonderful feedback and the possibility of growth and a life after. Since then it's been a game of catch up; sleep, writing, dog-walking - you name it, I've been doing it."

Julian is already working on his next musical, Academia Nuts, which is due to hit the New York stage next year.

To find out more visit [www.julianblackmore.co.uk](http://www.julianblackmore.co.uk) or Twitter @JulianBlackmore

If you're holding an event or perhaps you're doing something special and you'd like people in West Leicester to know all about it,  
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## DIGGING INTO THE PAST

If the discovery of the skeleton of Richard III and the remains of the Greyfriars' Friary piqued your interest then why not join one of the events created for the Festival of Archaeology at Castle Hill Country Park?

This includes displays about earthworks at Castle Hill, King William's Bridge and other nearby



King William's Bridge

stone packhorse bridges. There will also be displays detailing other important archaeological sites around Beaumont Lodge and medieval parks associated with the Beaumont Leys area.

There is an opportunity to join a newly founded group that aims to undertake community archaeology at Castle Hill. Volunteers with an interest for fieldwork, document research, artefact identification and processing as well as experimental archaeology, are invited to sign up at the event.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (10am–6pm) at Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association Centre, Astill Lodge Road, Beaumont Leys, Leicester LE4 1EF (Tel: 0116 2351111) No booking necessary, toilets, cafe and disabled access is available.



## Simon Says Competition

On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of July the DeMontfort Hall welcomes the best of Leicester's musicians to the hall and gardens as part of their centenary celebrations.

Showcasing the cream of the city's music scene, the line-up has been pulled together by three of Leicester's best known independent music venues; The Donkey, Firebug and The Musician.

With three stages; indoor main hall, outdoor in the gardens, an acoustic stage and the very best of Leicester's talent, Simon Says will be a great weekend for local live music fans.

And to win a pair of weekend tickets worth £40 just answer this question.

How much did the DeMontfort Hall cost when it was first built?

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| A. £19,000 | C. £21,000 |
| B. £20,000 | D. £22,000 |

Answers by email only by 24th July 2013 to:  
[editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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

## BRAUNSTONE CARNIVAL

The warm summer weather brought out the crowds to the Braunstone Carnival held in the grounds of Fullhurst Community College at the end of June.

With something for everyone, revellers arrived to enjoy the many stalls and attractions on offer.

Sport was a major theme with Beat the Goalkeeper, table tennis and human Subbuteo for children as well as boxing demonstrations. There was also the chance to ride some of the bizarre bikes from Cyclone Works who specialise in creating the world's weirdest peddle powered machines.

Visitors could also try their hands at a spot of graffiti or create mixes in the DJ Workshop.

This is the second Braunstone Community Carnival to be held at Fullhurst College. The carnival was originally a much larger affair and was regularly held on Braunstone Park for many years but has now been scaled back to a more intimate



## 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.

**LOCAL BAND?**

**LOCAL SINGER?**

**LOCAL ARTIST?**

**GOT A GIG PLANNED?**

If you're based in West Leicester and you're performing in the city, drop us a line!

And we'll give you a mention!

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# Tin Drum Ducks!

We had a family of ducks living for a while in the backyard of Tin Drum Books on Narborough Road. The backyard is not a bad place for duck rearing, well protected, an agreeable microclimate, sheltered from predators apart from our cat who was confined to the house for the duration.



Anyway, this duck chose to lay her eggs on top of an outhouse and eventually hatched five ducklings. They managed to jump down into the yard and then both families, ducks and booksellers,

encountered problems.

The only way out of our yard leads to Narborough Road, which meant that they were trapped. They ate the food we provided (mostly seeded whole-meal bread soaked in water) and paddled in dishes of water for a week, but by now the cat was getting cabin fever and it was obvious that they had to be moved to a pond or stream. Luckily we were all rescued by the excellent people from the Leicestershire Wildlife Hospital in Kibworth who turned up well equipped with nets and boxes and, with the minimum of fuss, captured our urban ducks and moved them to the country.

We notice that there are very few ducklings on the canal this year, probably because of the very bad winter and spring weather, so we are pleased to have done our bit towards protecting the duck population. The poet Frank W. Harvey wrote: "From the troubles of the world I turn to ducks-beautiful, comical, things..." We recommend a bit of duck therapy.

*Ian Smalley*

## Western Park Gazette

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## DOVELANDS CENTENARY

Dovelands Primary School on Hinckley Road celebrated 100 years of history by inviting over 200 former pupils and staff to a special celebration tea party.

The Lord Mayor of Leicester Mustafa Kamal and Head Teacher Cathy Moss, welcomed visitors and invited them to look around the school, watch the specially commissioned centenary film and reminisce over the displays and photographs.



Lord Mayor & Head Teacher Cathy Moss with Year 6 pupils



## TECHIE THUMP

### Peter Coley

Many households now have broadband internet and currently the most common way to connect equipment to it is via wireless or Wi-Fi, which for the most part, is simple, reliable and effective.

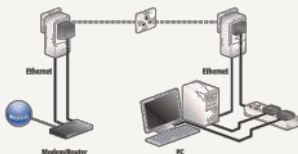
Wi-Fi works well in modern compact houses but if you happen to live in a solid, Victorian, 3 storey villa there will be dead spots where you struggle to get a connection at all, so playing online games in an upstairs bedroom is probably not feasible without some additional hardware.

Probably the best fix is the powerline or homeplug adapter. These are small boxes which plug into mains sockets and carry the internet connection through the house wiring. Plug one in near the router and connect it with a short data cable then plug the other one where you need the network, connecting with another short cable. The units then set up a secure data link between them using the mains wiring.

These cost from around £35 to about £90 a pair. The cheaper units have a slower data rate and need a spare socket to plug into but the top end units are more than double the speed. They have a pass-through mains socket on the front so you can still use the socket.

Currently, Powerline adapters come in 200Mbps (mega bits per second) and 500Mbps versions, although real world performance is much less. Units claiming 200Mbps actually only deliver about 40Mbps. This is slower than a good wifi connection but probably fine for most things although it may struggle streaming HD films. The 500Mbps models, particularly those which state they have the faster "gigabit" port, should be much more capable. You can use several of these adapters together to form a secure network. Like Wi-Fi the speed drops off the further they are apart but the range seems better.

The downside is that to get a reasonable speed they need to be plugged in to the same ring circuit in the house (same fuse/circuit breaker). Although they are dependent on the wiring in your house, they can be a good way of building or extending your home network.



## There's only one Western Park Gazette Anything else is junk



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## The Lost Future

The older you get, the nosier you become if midlands rock band The Lost Future have anything to say about it.

Comprising of members from across the East Midlands, with lead singer and guitarist Simon Parker Leehane from Western Park, this bunch of old rockers are growing old disgracefully. Simon says: "We play mainly our own songs with a few covers. Depending on the venue or event we add more covers if needed. Our style is mainly punk and rock; a blend of Motorhead and the Ramones."

Formed in 2008 and with an average age of 52, these four piece noise merchants take their inspiration from some of the loudest bands on earth. The Sex Pistols, Zeppelin, Rammstein and Hendrix all have a place in their set.

See them at the Musician on Clyde Street on Saturday August 31st Supporting the Green Day tribute band Green Date.

For more info visit [www.thelostfuture.org.uk](http://www.thelostfuture.org.uk)



## July Police Update

*The Smart View with Sgt Rod Smart*

**The summer months with lighter nights and better weather sees an increase in the number of incidents involving children.**

Incidents where young people are the victims of crime, such as robberies and thefts, increase on parks and open spaces. Parents should be aware of where their kids are and try to make sure that they keep safe. Young people with expensive bikes or phones are at risk of becoming victims of crime.

At the opposite end of the scale, incidents caused by children and young people also increase at this time of the year. What some consider normal youthful high-jinks can be upsetting antisocial behaviour to others. Parents should be aware of where their children are, what they are doing and who they are.

On 30 May two thirteen year old children were robbed by youths on the Fosse Recreation Ground and Paget Road. An eighteen year old youth has been charged with the offence and remanded in prison and a fourteen year old girl has been charged and released on bail.

On 7 June, a seventy nine year old visiting an address on Kate Street was assaulted by a man who came to visit the occupant. Due to the victim refusing to cooperate with the police we have been unable to identify the offender but the lady is making a good recovery.

Later in the month, a laptop and a small amount of cash were stolen from a house on Carlisle Street when the occupants forgot to lock the front door when they went to bed.

Over the past few weeks

there has been an increase in the number of cycles being stolen around the area, especially high value road and



mountain bikes. Bikes have been taken from a number of different locations, but predominantly from back gardens, sheds and from outside shops. Cyclists should invest in good quality security equipment such as D-locks and ground anchors and should make sure that they are securely locked up when not in use. Leicestershire Police have a selection of D-locks and ground anchors for sale at subsidised rates at Hinckley Road and other police stations around the county. Cyclists should also photograph their bikes, security mark them and record the model and serial numbers on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com).

## 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.

**Leic' Ladies WI:** Meets monthly on 3rd Mon. 7.15pm Upstairs in The Almanack, 15 Bath House Lane.

**Fosse Singers:** Fosse N'hood Centre. Weds. 7pm.

**Search for the King in the Car Park (Crafts):** 18 July 11am. Guildhall. £2.50. **Duelling Across the**

**Ages:** 21st July. Jewry Wall. 11.30. **Festival of Arch':** 14th-27th July. [leicester.gov.uk/museums](http://leicester.gov.uk/museums)

**Crime and Punishment Day:** 25 July. 11am. Kids Activities. Guildhall. £2.50.

**Simon Says Weekender:** 27/28th July. DeMontfort Hall. Tickets £20 from box office.

**Heritage Sunday Tours:** 28th July. Leic Castle etc. 11-3pm. From £2.50. [www.goleicestershire.com](http://www.goleicestershire.com)

**Hathern Brass Band:** Western Park band stand. July 28<sup>th</sup> & Enderby Brass Band on August 18<sup>th</sup>. 3-4pm Free events. Both 3-4pm.

**Caribbean Carnival:** 3rd August. 12.30. Victoria Park. Free Event.

**Gorse Hill City Farm – Summer Fun Day:** 4th Aug. 10-4.30. Tickets from £1.

**Peter Crebbin and his Cool Swing Band:** Hilton Hotel Meridian. Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Aug & Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. 1pm-3:30pm.

**The Mikado:** 17th Aug. Whetstone Pastures Farm. 7pm. 0116 277 4627

If you're holding an event or you're doing something special and you'd like people in West Leicester to know about it, e: [editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk](mailto:editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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## Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



**We're already half way through Summer and many plants in the garden have given their all.**

Now's the time to sharpen the secateurs and wade in. Dead heading roses can keep them flowering through till winter. Look out for speckled caterpillars on the leaf edges. These sawfly larvae can quickly defoliate whole plants. Just knock or pick them off, but don't be tempted to spray – it'll kill too many beneficial insects such as aphids who will devour hoverfly and ladybird larvae.

Hardy geraniums have just finished their first flush. A good haircut will stop them sprawling, and give you compact plants that should flower again.

My garden was awash with *Aquilegia*. Now they're a mass of seed heads with dormant buds underneath, waiting to blossom. Nipping the seed off most of the seed heads will stop me having a carpet of seedlings next year. It's a fiddly process so dead head some



*Aquilegia*

and shear back others. With good conditions, they'll put out new flower spikes by the end of the summer. Many spent perennials respond well to cutting back. Prune recently flowered Weigel, Philadelphus, Forsythia and other early blooming shrubs for a good show next year as they flower on the previous seasons growth.

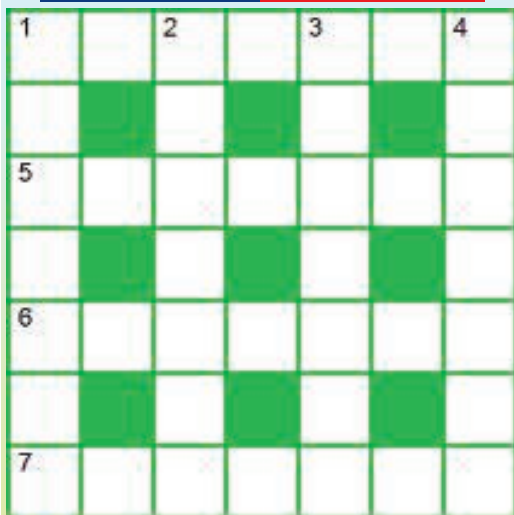
In the vegetable patch, pinch the tips out of tomato plants when you've got them to the right height and with enough fruit. Keep removing side shoots on cordon varieties and water regularly to stop your fruit splitting. Pick runner beans and courgettes as soon as they are ready and you will have a continuous supply. There's still time to grow greens and plant brassicas and now the risk of bolting is reduced.

But most importantly, don't forget to take time to sit out and enjoy all that horticultural splendour, because that's what it's all about.

*Tony Huxley*



## BRAIN *TAZERS*



**Across:** 1. Procedure 5. Spire 6. Paradigm  
**Down:** 1. Part between the fetlock and hoof 2. Gap 3. Make good use of 4. Part of a stage set

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

1. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?
2. If 4 peacocks lay 16 eggs in 8 days, how many peacocks will lay 64 eggs in 24 days?
3. If 7 is equal to 13 then what is 16 equal to?
4. Deaf Troll Month is an anagram of what famous Leicester landmark?
5. What do these numbers represent?  
1111121111312223222

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