



Leonardo DeWestend!

More Page 4

Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the June issue of the Western Park Gazette.

This month, we celebrate the career of West Leicester artist Peter Bunney as he turns his home into an art gallery.

Roger Blackmore delves into the life and times of Sir Charles Keene who gave his name to the former college and Helen Knott finds something smelly lurking in her allotment.

Sargent Rod Smart from Hinckley Road police station has the latest round up from the boys in blue and our gardening expert, Tony Huxley gets as busy as a bee!

We headed off to the he biggest tribute group festival in the world, Glasonbudget, over the May Bank Holiday weekend and you can find out what we thought of this unique, not so little, Leicestershire music festival.

For this month's competition, we've teamed up with the new Chef and Spice restaurant on Hinckley Road to offer you the chance to win a meal for two.

And we have more typically head scratching Brain Tazers on the inside back cover.

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Copy Deadline June 20th 2013

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Published by Rapscaillon Media



Leonardo DeWestend!

A well known local painter has thrown open his home to art lovers so they can view his work.

Ceramics, sculpting, stone and wood carving; guitarist, drummer and pianist - 80 year old Peter Bunney can do all that too!

Peter originally worked all over the country as a stone mason, specialising in steeples but he didn't start painting until he was 32 when a post-card dropped through his letter box. He said: "I had been up steeples since I was 14. If you can carve then you can draw and paint, so when I saw this picture of Polperro in Cornwall, I painted a copy for my wife at the time."



Peter then started work as a Leicester Council pollution officer which gave him evenings free to study the art of painting and a new career began. He managed to squeeze this in between his day job and working as a session musician for many Leicester bands and singers including the Danny Rogers Band.

Peter's work has been exhibited all over the country and hangs in many homes and galleries. "I'm not a bluebells in the woods sort of man. People inspire me and I'm painting all the time. But I wanted to exhibit my work and since holding an exhibition is so expensive I decided to open my home up as a gallery."

There are over 150 works adorning the walls of Peter's home on Westfield Road. "I'm amazed at the interest. It's been very popular with young mums and kids, keen to see how an artist works."

Peter's latest project is to get his children's book 'Winston the Weather Cock' published which was inspired by his time working on church steeples as a young man.



The Westfield Gallery is open to private viewings. To book call 0116 285 8548.
www.peterbunney.com

SIR CHARLES KEENE

The LERO building at the end of Painter Street just off the Belgrave Road was originally the power station for Leicester city tramways.

Built in 1904 it was later to become part of the College of Art and Technology. In 1961 it became part of the newly named Charles

Keene College of Further Education named after the long serving city councillor and former City Lord Mayor Charles Robert Keene.

Charles Keene was born in Bradford in 1891 the son of a Charles Edward Keene who later moved to Leicester and set up Kingstones on the Belgrave Gate. The father was elected to the city council in 1923 and the son three years later.

The younger Charles Keene was always interested in education, particularly further and higher education, and for many years he was either Chairman or Vice Chairman of the City Education Committee. He was also Chairman of the Governors of Gateway College for several decades after its foundation in 1928. He felt it a particular honour to have the new College of Further Education named after him.

Thus the LERO building became the training base for generations of local engineering apprentices. In addition to Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Motor Vehicle skills were also taught in the building and for a time the Art department was also based there.

Subsequently, Business Studies and General Education departments were established on neighbouring sites. A new Computer Studies block and library was housed across the canal, on the site of a former British Waterways warehouse. It is estimated that, over the years, up to a quarter of a million students, both full time and part time, enrolled at the Charles Keene College. Charles Keene himself was knighted in the Birthday Honours list of June 1969. A couple of years later he retired as Chairman of the Leicester Polytechnic. He died in 1977.

Charles Keene College survived until 1999 when it merged with Southfields College to form the new Leicester College. A brand new teaching block was built at Painter Street and this was opened by the Princess Royal in 2009, but sadly the LERO building itself was demolished!

Roger Blackmore.



© Leicester Trams 31 Group

THE **STRONGEST** MAN IN BRITAIN!

It's official! Jay "Ursus" Pateman is Britain's strongest man... until he breaks his own powerlifting record again!

Nicknamed "The Bear", Jay took part in the English Bench Championships at the Warehouse Gym on Parker Drive in May and managed to break the Superheavy British record and hit 237.5kg on his second lift.

Jay, originally from Western Park said: "I want to thank all my great friends, family, my incredible extended gym family and all who travelled to support me. Thanks for the backing of Lynton Dell and all the gang at The Warehouse Gym. Thanks to Marc Giles and the rest of The GBPF Powerlifting Federation. All of my training partners and lastly, but not least, my beautiful wife Elizabeth who always helps, supports and feeds me!"



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KNOTT'S LANDING

I sometimes wonder if I am a magnet for weird stuff. The most recent foray into the world of strange was a surprise even for me.

I was up at the allotment, one blustery day recently, just doing a little digging, sorting things out, moving some stuff around and having a bit of a bonfire. I was planting rhubarb. I got a bit of a crown from another plot, a big pile of farmyard manure and I was ready to put it all together to make rhubarb magic.

I selected my spot, a little corner that a couple of weeks ago had been home to some weird flies but which mostly looked OK, and got ready to dig. I got my spade, shoved it deep into the soil and lifted a clod. It was an odd shaped clod, long and rectangular. It should have been a warning. The smell that erupted out of that hole was like the stink of a demon's navel cheese. I gagged. I moved the spade again and prayed that I wasn't about to dig up someone's rectangular granny. The rectangular thing came out of the hole. I dropped the spade and threw up a bit. The wind blew the stink away a bit. Never have I been more thankful for the wind. I scraped some of the mud off the thing. It turned out to be a plastic packet.

The label on the front proclaimed it to be a frozen smoked lobster. I threw up a bit more as the smell hit

me again. It had clearly been there a few weeks, long enough to defrost and go really quite manky, but not long enough for the plastic to degrade in any way.

What do you do with an over-ripe frozen smoked lobster? I seized the initiative. I picked it up on the end of my spade, walked it over to the bonfire carefully making sure I was downwind and threw it in. I piled lots of wood on top so the fire got good and hot and I incinerated the nephropidae. It stank worse than a sheep's clag nuts on a hot day.

As I stood using the fire to clean my spade I got to wondering. Why me? Why put a frozen smoked lobster on my allotment? Why bury it? Where the hell do you get a frozen smoked lobster? Who leaves one lying about?

A few days later I was chatting to people about it at the allotment plant sale. Apparently it's foxes. They steal stuff and bury it so they can come back later and eat it. Although clearly not even a fox was ready to eat rotting frozen smoked lobster. It still doesn't answer my questions about how it got the lobster out of the freezer!

If you lost a frozen smoked lobster, a treat you were looking forward to that was cruelly stolen from you, then I can tell you it ended up on my allotment and by the time I found it, you wouldn't have wanted it.

Next time, take better care of your crustacean.



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LET THERE BE SHEEP!

The 500th anniversary of William Wygggeston continued with a special event at the retirement home which bears his name.

Wygggeston House on Hinckley Road played host to local school children, as they got to grips with Wygggeston's career as a successful wool merchant.

The children were able to get close to the visiting sheep and watch a spinning demonstration from the Wigston Framework Knitters Museum.

William and Agnes Wygggeston also made an appearance in the guise of Roger and Hilary Blackmore.



Chef and Spice

It's opened - the biggest dining experience in West Leicester!

After months of construction, the New Chef and Spice buffet restaurant on Hinckley Road opened in March to a huge fanfare!

Owned and run by Syed Rahman, who already has the hugely successful restaurant Cuisine of India in Wigston under his belt, this new venture is proving to be a huge success already.



Syed Rahman

Syed has done a huge amount of very high quality renovation work to the old Richmond pub building, bringing it right up to date and up to spec. It is unrecognisable from the place of old.

Once inside, the restaurant is beautifully and comfortably finished in a modern style; bright and airy with a dizzying array of different foods from across the world arranged in a central dais alongside one of the two teppanyaki bars.

Walking in, customers are greeted by a member of staff who escorts them to a table, then it's off to the bar to buy a drink or head to the food area and choose something from the dozens of different dishes on offer.

Certainly a relaxing way to spend a few hours, this is a great addition to the West Leicester dining experience! *Sponsored Article*

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 June 2013. Please include your address.

THE QUESTION

What county does teppanyaki come from?

A: Australia, B: Japan C: France D: Brazil.

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.

Get Growing!

Rancliffe Allotments on Rancliffe Crescent were founded in 1918 and over the years numerous changes have occurred.

Recent years have shown a surge in grow your own gardeners and allotments.

At Rancliffe we have young and old working their plots side by side; the old imparting their years of knowledge and the young teaching new methods.

I have had my allotment for 6 years now. It took over 2 years to get it up and growing properly but all that hard work was all worthwhile especially when picking and tasting your first new potatoes of the year.

It's also the best hideaway from the world too, added to this the fresh air, the exercise you get and the money you save. We have social events - plant swaps, coffee mornings, fun days and more.

If you are interested in an allotment contact 07857843314 for more information.



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The Western Park Gazette

Nothing Quite Like Glastonbudget!

Yes there are bigger festivals with bigger names, but Glastonbudget is unique.

It's the largest tribute band and new music festival in the world, attracting some legendary retro names and the cream of the UK's tribute bands. Better still - it's right on our doorstep.

This year, the weather gods at Turnpost Farm near Wymswold smiled and allowed the capacity crowd to enjoy sunshine and gentle breezes as some blisteringly good acts took to the 3 stages.

80's fans were particularly well catered for on the main outdoor stage as Heaven 17, Howard Jones, ABC and the Christians proved that they can still belt out their classic hits with style and energy.

If you can think of a group, there was a tribute band for it. Oasis, Robbie, Green Day, Nirvana, Simple Minds and more; they were all there. Maybe not in person but certainly in spirit.

The big tribute acts are very good indeed and have spent long hours perfecting their sound and

performance and it shows.

Of particular note are the festival's two tribute group lynchpins. Mercury, the Queen tribute, is quite brilliant. You'd swear it really was Queen with Joseph Lee Jackson strutting about the stage as Freddie. He has the pomp, pose, voice and probably the teeth of the original. A great tub-thumping set played like maestros!

The other biggie is MJUK. Breathtakingly good and note perfect too, Ben is Michael Jackson. There's no doubt that he's captured the King of Pops physical essence in a brilliant piece of musical entertainment.

Make sure you put Glastonbudget 2014 in your diary, it's definitely worth the trip!

Richard Perry

Full review on line www.westernparkgazette.co.uk



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Polish up the Studs!

A West End youth football team is looking for sponsors to help fund some new kit.

Studs United are 15 young lads under 16 who have practised and played out of Winstanley Community College for the last two years.

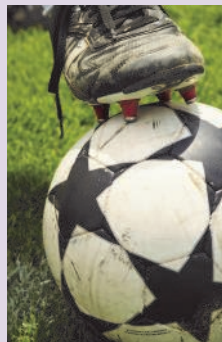
Trainer Treena Hallam said: "Last year we had a fantastic season and reached the league semi finals but we're playing in hand-me-downs!

"For the next season we're looking for local

companies to sponsor our new kit. In return we'll promote our new partners on our shirts, website and Facebook."

The team are part of the Studs initiative which is a Leicester organisation dedicated to promoting excellence and discipline in football.

Any local company wishing to help can contact Treena on 07874 012 607 or email: treena-hallam@live.co.uk



June Police Update

The Smart View with Sgt Rod Smart

The warmer weather often see an increase in burglaries due to householders leaving windows or doors open. Students are often victims of these offences and it is a very bad time to lose coursework stored on computers.

Please make sure doors and windows are locked or are fitted with security devices allowing them to be locked in a semi-open position, even when at home. Those in terraced properties are also reminded to ensure ally-gates are kept locked. An open ally-gate can give a potential burglar unrestricted access to the backs of a number of houses.

On the evening of 2nd May, a 29 year old man received serious facial injuries when he was assaulted at a takeaway on Hinckley Road. A thirty four year old local man has been charged with grievous bodily harm and has been remanded in custody.

On 24 May, a 36 old local man was arrested and charged with a burglary, a few days earlier on Hinckley Road. His prison licence was revoked and he has been returned to gaol.

Over recent weeks, a number of people have reported suspicious devices attached to ATM machines at banks on Narborough Road. Such devices can be used to grab innocent victim's bank card details so that they can be used fraudulently. You should always be aware of unusual devices on bank machines and always shield the keypad when entering the PIN number. Anything suspicious should be immediately reported to the police or bank.

Recent weeks have seen an increase in the number of mopeds and motorcycles stolen across the area. Most have been stolen during the evening or overnight from outside the fronts of houses or driveways. A 14 year old Braunstone youth was arrested on suspicion of theft of a number of mopeds on 26 May. He was charged with one offence of unlawful taking but there was insufficient evidence to prove that he was responsible for the others.

During the lighter evenings, there is the risk of more bikes being stolen. Motorcyclists are advised to invest in good quality security devices in order to protect their machines, ideally securing them to a fixed object such as a post, wall or the ground; ensuring that they have permission. Local police stations, including Hinckley Road, do have a supply of as disk locks, heavy duty chain locks and ground anchors for sale at subsidised rates.

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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.

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.

Knit in Public: 11th June. Town Hall. 11-2.30. Free.

DeMontfort Uni Dance Festival: 14/15 June.

Curve. 7.45pm. £5. www.curveonline.co.uk

Peter Crebbin and his Cool Swing Band: 16th June at Western Park Bandstand 3-4pm. *St. Anne's Hall if wet. Free.*

Romeo & Juliet: 21st June. Guild Hall. 8pm. £12.

Armed Forces Celebration Day: 22nd June.

From 10.30. Cathedral, followed by parade.

Leic Vintage Fest: 22/23 June. 1-5pm. Abbey Pumping Station. Free.

Vista Summer Music Jam : 22nd June. 6-11pm. Whetstone Pastures Farm, nr Blaby. Featuring local girls Mia & the Moon. £10 inc burger & strawberries.

Cancer UK's Race for Life: 30th June. Victoria

Park. 9-4pm. Entry £14.99. www.raceforlife.org

Western Park Festival: Sat 6th July. Noon-8pm.

Western Park. Stalls, food, music and more. Free.

Continental Market: 10-14th July. City Centre.

Bands in the Park: 14th & 28th July. Western Park Bandstand. 3-4pm. *St. Anne's Hall if wet. Free*

WESTCOTES: COMMUNITY FIRST

Community Grants

Westcotes Community First Panel has £7,000 of government money to give to organisations working to improve life in Westcotes. The money needs to be spent by October.

Grants between £250 and £2500 are available. Voluntary groups need a constitution and a bank account. Matched funding must be offered in the form of volunteer hours or money raised by volunteers.

Our priorities when awarding grants are based on what residents said Westcotes needed and are as follows:

- ▶ Improving the environment by cleaning up the urban areas and improving the green areas.
- ▶ Making a better society especially with respect to anti-social behaviour and night time noise.
- ▶ Increasing leisure activity to bring people together.
- ▶ Improving all kinds of communications.

To apply for a grant please visit our website at:
www.westcotescommunityfirst.wordpress.com
and download an application form.

For help or advice visit Tin Drum Books 68 Narborough Road or phone Val on
0116 254 4607 or email: comm1stwestcotes@gmail.com

**Deadlines for
Applications**
June 31st
September 1st

Westcotes Panel

The group allocating the grants are volunteers chosen through ward community meetings.

We would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to become a member as we have 2 vacancies.

E: Comm1stwestcotes@gmail.com

Some Grants Already Given

Manor House

£1500 to improve the rounds with seating

Girl Guides

£820 for camping equipment

Street Pastors

£995 for uniforms

Off the Fence

£1750 to create a theatre at the Western pub

Friends of Bede Park

£2,100 for resource materials for outdoor activities, to be available to any group in Westcotes that needs them.

Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



Last month I ranted about an EU bill that could stop gardeners exchanging seeds. Thankfully the legislation will now only apply to commercial growers. But now they've banned something else, and for once I am on their side.

Since the eighties there's been a decline in the bee population. This isn't good for wildlife, gardeners or consumers. Without our little honey-making friends it's not just flowers that suffer but crop yields, which quickly impacts on food prices.

There's growing evidence that a major culprit could be a group of pesticides called neonicotinoids, quite a mouthful, and a deadly one for bees, even in low doses. They've been banned in France, Germany and Italy since 2008. Now a two-year EU wide ban has been implemented. So if you have any products containing acetamiprid, imidacloprid, thiacloprid or thiamethoxam, you can legally use them till the end of the year or dispose



of them appropriately. If you decide to keep them, try saving them for indoor plants or spray on non-flowering plants at dusk to reduce contact with bees.

To redress the balance you could make your garden more bee-friendly. Make sure you've plenty of native species which have simple flowers that make nectar easy for the insects to get at. Foxgloves, Geraniums, Aquilegia and herbs like Lavender, Marjoram and Borage are particular favourites. As are shrubs such as Cotoneaster, Buddleja, and Fuchsia. Many garden centres sell seed mixes that attract bees and butterflies, and thankfully they are usually easy to grow. Late flowering plants such as Penstemon, Sedum spectabile and Crocosmia will keep the nectar flowing and bees happy until the end of the season.



By making an effort to attract more pollinators to your garden you may even find an improvement in the vegetable patch. Now that should give you a buzz! *Tony Huxley*

GROUNDWORKS - BURIED

Twenty Six people lost their jobs as Groundworks Leicester and Leicestershire based on Western Park shut.

The environmental charity ceased trading and went into voluntary liquidation on May 3rd.

Groundwork Leicester is part of a national network of independent trusts, working within the volunteer sector and with local organisations to promote a greener lifestyle. They also ran the Eco-House, next door, which has also closed.



Originally launched as Environ in 1987, they helped many local councils, businesses, schools and colleges improve their green credentials. They have also helped run the Bikes4All and Allotments4All initiatives.

Funding was provided by the Department of Communities and local government, councils, the Big Lottery Fund and public and private contracts with the trust spending £875K on wages in the year ending April 2012.

Officers at Leicester City Council are assessing their options and hope to rescue some of the joint projects the council worked on with Groundworks Leicester and Leicestershire.



Transition Leicester
grassroots action for a thriving and resilient city

Want to cut your carbon footprint and help other like-minded neighbours do the same?

Transition Leicester is running a Footpaths course in Western Park this autumn.

Footpaths aims to create supportive non-judgemental groups in which people can feel safe to be themselves and explore changes that they want to make. Each session takes an aspect of everyday life such as food or home energy, and uses activities to help stimulate learning and discussion. Footpaths courses are fun and also help to strengthen local communities, with many participants saying that they feel much more engaged with their local community than before the course.

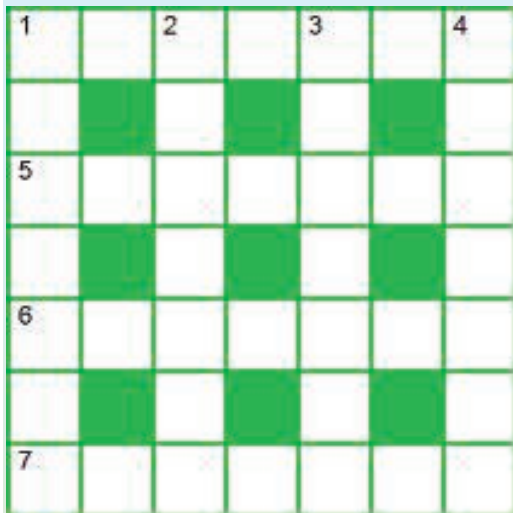
The course is 8 fortnightly sessions and organisers hope for a September start.

A course booklet, full of useful information is £10 but the course itself is free.

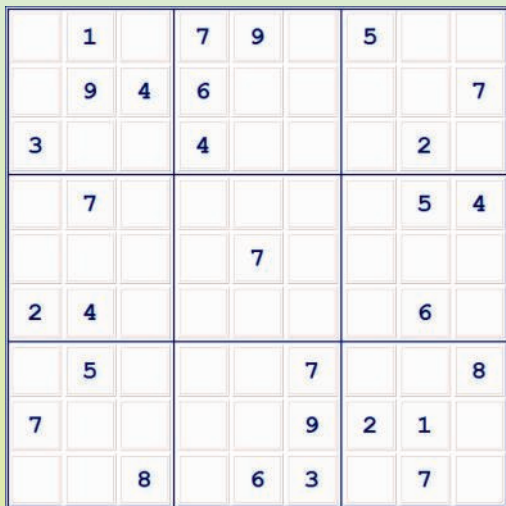
To register or to find out more contact:

Leigh Picciano Moss 0116 233 7644 or Mel Gould 0780 401 7587.

BRAIN *TAZERS*



Across: 1. Move deeply 5. Upstart 6. Bombastic 7. Ring-shaped **Down:** 1. Course certificate 2. Cut of meat 3. Poorly balanced 4. Embarrassing mistake.



1. Which number is spelled in alphabetical order?
2. If 5 mice eat 5 cheeses in 5 seconds, how long would it take 4 mice to eat 4 cheeses?
3. A man is found dead in a field. The police find a bag next to him which could have saved his life. What was in the bag?
4. Which word is always pronounced incorrectly even by the cleverest of people?

Answers on line: www.westernparkgazette.co.uk

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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!

e: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk



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