

Western Park Gazette

Information and advertising for the Western Park Area

February 2009

www.westernparkgazette.co.uk



JOBS DELIVER CONTROVERSY

Tesco might have just posted their smallest Christmas gain in 15 years, but that hasn't stopped the worlds third largest and the UK's biggest retailer expanding onto Hinckley Road onto the old Jessops site

Tesco who account for £1 in every £8 spent in shops, expect to increase their number of supermarkets and Express stores this year, creating up to 10,000 new jobs on top of the 280,000 they provide in the UK.

Some of those jobs will be heading towards the Western Park area. But this is not without controversy.

The Jessops camera shop closed last November after 30 years.

Jessops announced the sale of the 20,000 sq ft site which employed 19 after Tesco made them a high undisclosed offer.

Originally called "Jessops of Leicester" the company was started in 1935 and now operates over 230 stores and a popular internet site, but many regard the loss of "The World Photo Centre" on Hinckley Road as a real blow to the area.

The addition of another shop selling alcohol has also caused major concern for some local residents who petitioned against it, but the licence was granted subject to appeal.

Tesco are also seeking planning permission for further change to the site.

Greetings from the Editor

The response to January's launch edition has been fantastic!

We seem to have created quite a stir, proved by phone calls and emails galore. As a result, we've put more features up on the website as we start to make it more interactive and the first port of call for Western Park's on-line residents.

In addition I've created a Facebook page, so you can become a fan of the Western Park Gazette with just a click of your mouse.

In this issue, Roger Blackmore goes delving into Western Park's Roman past, local journalist Helen Knott gets out her ration book and our resident computer genius Andy Miarkowski tells us why we will be giving Bill Gates even more money next year.

And we give you the chance to win a traditional fish and chip meal for 4 from Fat Fish....Yum!

Sharon



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Events Diary

Leicester's YHA, the Ratae Ramblers meet for regular weekend walks and socials on Wednesdays from 9pm at the Western Pub on Western Road.

Phil Humphrey 0116 259 2414

Fosse Singers (Adult Community Choir) meet at the Fosse Neighbourhood Centre on Mantle Road from 7pm on Wednesdays during term time.

Hannah 07814 935049

10th Feb - National Trust talk on "Life in the Workhouse" with Dr Wendy Freer at the Premier Inn on Braunstone Lane South from 7.30pm. Cost £3.00

12th Feb - Western Park Councillors Surgeries now being held at St Paul's Church House on Kirby Road every 2nd Thursday between 7-8pm.

NEW WESTERN PARK ARCHIVE

We're launching an on-line archive to document life across Western Park over the last 110 years.

The park itself was created in 1897 and at 178 acres, is still the largest in Leicester. Although the park has stayed the same, much has changed in the area over the last century.

Many will recall the path of the old Hinckley Road, before the terrace houses and shops opposite the Parade were demolished and the carriageway expanded. You might remember the glorious flower festooned roundabout at the junction of Wyngate Drive and Woodville Road.

Some might even recall the little joke shop at the bottom of King Richard's Road, close to the junction with Tudor Road.

To illustrate our ever-changing neighbourhood, dig deep into your photo albums to find your personal snaps of the Western Park area and send them to us.

The most evocative will be uploaded onto the website for all to enjoy.

Send a copy to

The Editor c/o 62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester LE3 0UA.

Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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THE ROMAN'S ARE COMING!..... 300 years later they went, but they left their mark on Western Park. Roger Blackmore unearths the story

WESTERN PARK AD50

The presence of the Jewry Wall and its attendant Museum serve as a constant and visible reminder of Leicester's Roman past astride the Fosse Way, one of the major roads built in the early years of the Roman occupation of these islands.

Running the entire length of Britain from beside the harbour on the Axe estuary in Devon, through Bath and Cirencester, this great highway passed through Leicester to Roman Lindum (now Lincoln) ending at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Situated at the crossing of the River Soar Leicester soon emerged as a significant regional capital of the Coritani tribe and before long, solid villas were being established in and around the cherry orchards which were for long a feature of what is now the Western Park area of the city.

The remains of one such villa were discovered in Norfolk Street and there is strong evidence to suggest that the area became relatively prosperous for many years.

Near the current Eco House in Western Park the remains of a pottery dating from this period have also been unearthed on the side of what is now Shoulder of Mutton Hill.



Not a lot changes on Shoulder of Mutton Hill in 1800 Years!

Longstanding local residents may also remember the days when the mosaic Peacock Pavement could be visited in the basement of a house on the site of what is now the Holiday Inn. The mosaic was relocated in the 1960's to the Jewry Wall museum which also contains numerous discoveries dating from the Leicester of the first few centuries AD.

And who knows what other remains of Roman Leicester lie buried deep beneath what is now the Highcross Centre or perhaps even your back garden?

Get Set To Laugh!

The Leicester Comedy Festival from the 6-15th February is the longest running comedy festival in the UK, and it returns with a packed programme of the finest comedy talent

With 300 events in over 50 venues across Leicester, the comedic line up for this year includes 2008 if.comedy winner David O'Doherty and if.comedy Best Newcomer Sarah Millican.

Other headline acts include Andy Parsons, Count Arthur Strong, Barry Cryer, Ed Byrne, Ivan Brackenbury, Jimmy Carr, Josie Long, Mark Watson, Wil Hodgson and BBC Radio Four favourite Milton Jones, who will be the first stand-up to perform in the Leicester Cathedral.

Details on line at www.comedy-festival.co.uk



Isy Suttie

You don't have to travel into town to get a flavour of the festival; some acts are appearing just a short walk down the road.

Fresh from The Peep Show, **Isy Suttie** and her Suttie Show performs at the *Looking Glass*, Braunstone Gate between 8 and 9pm on Wednesday 11th of Feb.

Patrick Monohan —Time Bandit; Jonglers veteran and regular TV studio warm up for Jonathon Ross, The IT Crowd and many others - is there on the 12th from 8pm. Afterwards from 9.30 until 11.30 you can enjoy A Late Night Laugh.



Patrick Monohan

Also on the 12th *The Black Horse* offers **Only Fools and Black Horses** between 8 and 11pm.

If you have a funny bone, be prepared to get it tickled!

Holding an event near Western Park?

TELL US ABOUT IT!

Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

The editor c/o 62 Ainsdale Road
Leicester LE3 0UA

Computer users of Western Park take heed! You might have finally become used to Vista or you're still happily running XP.

But this happy situation may not continue for as long as you think because there's something new on the horizon from Bill Gates and Co.

Nice Box – What's In It?

Andrzej Miarkowski

Some of you may have noticed that Microsoft has just released a beta or trial version of their next operating system called Windows 7. Oddly, this is the first time that a beta version of an OS has been publicly available; but do NOT download this unless you have very good reasons to do so. I have come across faulty beta version device drivers that have caused hardware damage!

If you're running an older computer, you may not know that Microsoft has a policy to stop supporting software products that are more than five years old and providing security updates for products more than ten years old. Assuming that the majority of us are running Windows XP, after

April 2009, only critical security updates will be provided and even this will stop in April 2014. Anyone using **Windows 98 or ME** should be aware that even critical security updates have not been produced since 2006, making these systems extremely vulnerable when connected to the internet.

See <http://support.microsoft.com/lifecycle/> for more details on specific products.

Do not just upgrade operating systems just for the sake of it. If you use your computer for web browsing and email only then there is no advantage, but if you are into more adventurous computing, let your chosen applications dictate the operating system to use – it may even be a wiser choice to buy a new box!

Andrzej Miarkowski is a Western Park based Microsoft Certified Professional Developer.

Comment on this article

Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk



Journalist, broadcaster and Western Park resident Helen Knott begins her regular column

KNOTT'S LANDING

Being broke in the New Year is nothing new and this year the pinch is particularly painful.

But anyone over 60 will tell you, it's nothing compared to living off wartime rations and, like my mum, they remember it well.

It's a standing joke in our house that if the ration ever comes back we should register one of the kids as a vegetarian - you get extra cheese.

This Christmas we bought Mum a book of recipes from the war called Good Fayre and it was the most talked about present of the season. Everyone wanted a look, young and old, so we wondered if maybe there was something in it.

We decided to conduct a little experiment to see if we can survive for a couple of weeks on just the wartime ration.

It took a bit of searching but finally we agreed a list of allowed ingredients, plus anything we had in the store cupboard, and it makes challenging reading.

Bananas were unheard of and chocolate was severely restricted although wine and beer appear to be freely available.

It also seems you had to be on pretty good terms with your butcher, although since the closure of Heards on Hinckley Road I don't have a butcher other than the supermarket.

So it's out with the recipe books and onto the internet to find recipes, hints and tips for making the food go round.

Marguerite Patten has proved a godsend with many recipes online, so far, Duke pudding and syrup loaf are on the cards and I'm hoping mince will go a long way with oats and lentils added to it. Will we manage it? We'll let you know next month and in the meantime if you have any hints and tips we'd love to hear them.

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Meat – 1 shilling 2d a week - £1.84 per person at 1944 £2.08 at 1941 prices.

Chicken was scarce, **offal** and **sau-sages** were not rationed but hard to get.

Wild game such as rabbit was not rationed. **Milk** - 3 pints, **sugar**- ½ lb, **butter** – 2 oz, **margarine** – 4 oz, **cooking fat** (dripping/lard) – 3 oz **cheese** (English hard cheese) – 3 oz, **bacon, ham** - 4 oz, **eggs** -1, **dried egg** -¼ packet (equivalent to 3 eggs), **sweets and chocolate** - 2 oz, **jam**- 3 oz, **tea** -2 oz (18 teabags).

There was a points system of 16 per person per month which allowed you to buy tinned goods, orange juice, cereals, rice and pulses.

Off ration were bread, potatoes, oats, fresh fish, and home grown fruit and vegetables.

Wine and beer were not rationed.

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Celebrations at St Anne's

This year is a very special one for St. Anne's, the C of E parish church serving Western Park.

As part of their celebration of the 75th anniversary of the current building, they are planning events for each month during this special year, including Open Gardens, concerts, exhibitions and special worship and lunch with their Bishop very near the actual anniversary date in June.

On **Valentine's Day, Sunday 15 February** at 7 pm enjoy an evening of music and poems in the church on the theme of love. This is one of a series of activities where you can meet and enjoy each other's company.

Some Interesting Facts

1: "**Tin Annie**", currently in the middle of the church hall, came on the back of a lorry in 1914 and was first used for worship on what was then a new estate.

2: **New people** have been joining the congregation and on the strength of that a new curate will be joining the team in July.

To find out more, pick up a copy of **LINKS**, the parish magazine, or contact The Reverend Chris Oxley on 285 8452 or at oxleycr@btopenworld.com for any details about the anniversary programme or for any other information about St. Anne's and its activities.

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GAZETTE COMPETITION

Congratulations to our reader Gwennyth Jones who is pictured below receiving last months prize of a box of Nene Organic vegetables from Jit Parekh.



Gwennyth correctly identified that a Winter Banana is a type of apple.

Thank you to everyone who took part, every single entry was right!

This month's competition gives you the chance to munch away on a fish and chip dinner for 4 from Fat Fish on Fosse Road South. (Competition is over)



Win a Fantastic traditional Fish and Chip meal for four with Fat Fish on Fosse Road South.

Answer the question below correctly and you'll go in a draw. One lucky winner will receive 4 large portions of freshly cooked fish and chips!

What is another name for Rock Salmon?

Is it.....

- A. Lobster
- B. Spiny Dogfish
- C. Brown Trout

Email your answers by February 14th to

editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Or Western Park Gazette

c/o 62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester LE3 0UT

All correct answers go into a draw on 15th of February. 1 correct answer will be picked at random. There is no cash alternative. Editor's decision is final. The competition is limited to Gazette readers living within the LE3 Postcode.