



## ONCE IN A BLUE MOON



Page 8

## HUGE DRUG HAUL SEIZED

**One of the biggest cannabis hauls in Leicester has been found in Western Park.**

Police took away thousands of cannabis plants and piles of growing equipment from The Huntsman's Rest, better known as the Blue Moon pub on Carlisle Street.



Police acting on information made the discovery in the closed down pub on June 19th and began removing the plants and equipment in flat bed lorries the following day.

Residents of Carlisle Street and Bolton Road were stunned that a huge cannabis farm had been set up right on their doorstep. Dave Barratt who works next to the Blue Moon said: "We had

no idea this was going on. The first we knew was when the police started taking the stuff away in the morning." Jim Smyth who lives opposite said: "I didn't notice anything unusual at all. Its amazing this could be right in front of us and nobody saw a thing."

Police also took away dozens of grow bags, gallons of plant food, lights, wiring and humidifying equipment. A large wooden panel covered in plugs and adapters was also spotted being removed.



The cannabis plants and growing equipment has been sent for analysis and investigations are continuing, but nobody has been arrested, so far, in connection with the discovery.

A police spokeswoman said: "We're delighted such a huge haul of Class C drugs has been taken off the streets." She also urged anybody who has any information to call Crimestoppers anonymously or the police on 0116 222 2222, especially if they have seen suspicious activity in the area recently.

## Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the July issue of the Gazette.

The big news this month is of a massive cannabis farm found, in of all places, the disused Blue Moon Pub on Carlisle Street. We can't confirm it, but we think it must be one of the biggest hauls in Leicester with a phenomenal street value. The name 'Blue Moon' is also a strain of cannabis; so spot the irony.

Most of the normal features this month, Helen Knott - is away and will be back next month, Roger Blackmore, makes the Leicester connection between an Irish song writer and John Wayne! Tony Huxley, does a bit of pruning, we have more from Hinckley Road Policing unit, Richard Perry takes a look at some of the best free software for your computer and we keep you up to date with some of the events that took place across our area.

Contributions are always welcome, so if you've ever fancied writing for a magazine or you have some local news, please get in touch.

And if you're new to the Gazette, visit the back issues at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk).

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

## Events Diary

**Zumba Class** Tues 6.45-7.45 & 8-9.00pm at New College. Call Sarah 07810 307 113.

**Free Computer Courses:** Westcotes Library: 0116 299 5510.

**Fosse Singers Summer Concert:** 9th July. Fraser Noble Building, London Road. 07814 935 049.

**Race for Life:** 9th-10th July. Western Park. Details at [www.raceforlife.org](http://www.raceforlife.org)

**Belgrave Mela:** 10th July. City Centre. 11-6pm.

**Roman Army Day:** Sun 17th July. Craft activities for children at Jewry Wall Museum. 11.30am. Free.

**Lego Space City launch:** 16-17th July. Space Centre. 10-5pm. Children's tickets - £11.00.

**Bands in Western Park:** 17th July. Hathern Brass Band. 31st July - Peter Crebbin's Cool Trad Band. Afternoon performances. Bring a chair! Free.

**Showtime at Toddler Time:** 18th July. 10-10.45am. Fosse Library, Mantle Rd. Free.

**Basketball U16 Tournament:** 18th-20th July. Braunstone Lsr Ctre. [www.leicester.gov.uk/sport](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/sport)

**Stories and Activities for Children:** 20th July. 2-3.30pm. Westcotes Library. Free.

**Westside Story:** 18th-24th July. Community Production. Curve. 7.30pm. Tickets from £5.25.

**Outdoor Pursuits Open Day:** 24th July. 10.30-5pm. Taster sessions at centre on Loughborough Rd £1 - £4 per activity. Details from [www.lopc.co.uk](http://www.lopc.co.uk)

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Virtual Venture



## MAKE IT SNAPPY!

The Fosse Co-op Camera Club are gearing up for the Autumn.

They are launching an initiative from September until May to boost membership and encourage more people to take up photography as a hobby. President of the club, John Walters says: "We are always looking for new members and you would be very welcome to come along to any meeting. We are very friendly club catering for both digital and film users. People of all standards are welcome and we're offering tuition on Photoshop and Elements as well"

Meetings are held from September at St. Peter's Church Rooms, West Holme Street, (Off Hinckley Road), each Friday at 7.45 pm

For more information contact: John Walters – 0116 299 2230 or [e:john.walters8@ntlworld.com](mailto:e:john.walters8@ntlworld.com) or Mary Staps on 01455 820 439



## Western Park Band Stand

Concerts start at 3.00 pm and end at 4.30pm.

**Hathern Brass Band:** 17th July and **Peter Crebbin's Cool Trad Jazz Band:** 31st July.



*Former Lord Mayor, Roger Blackmore, is a huge fan of Irish Country Music so he's just the man to tell us about the Leicester's connection to one of Ireland's most famous popular songwriters.*

## Galway Bay to Leicester Via John Wayne

**Having a lifelong love of Irish Country Music I find that many Irish visitors to Leicester (and indeed more than a few Leicester residents of Irish extraction) are amazed to discover that one of the Emerald Isles most famous tune-smiths actually spent much of his life and did most of his composing in Leicester.**

Arthur Colahan was born in 1885 in Enniskillen, before moving to Galway where he grew up.

He was awarded an arts degree at University College Dublin, before studying medicine and graduating in 1913. He was very active in the University debating and musical societies where his talent for composing



first became apparent. He began his medical career in Galway before serving in India during the First World War. During his time with the British Army Medical Corps, he was badly effected by mustard gas.

By the 1920,s Colahan was working as a psychiatrist and consultant neurologist in Leicester's Welford Road Prison and living in Prebend Street just off the London Road, close to the railway station. (I was told at one stage that he was an eye surgeon at the Royal Infirmary and would be interested to know if this is true?)

In his leisure time he turned to musical composition, writing many Irish songs, including "Cade Ring" and "Macushla Mine". Most famous of all his songs, however, was "Galway Bay", full of nostalgia for the county of his birth and written as a tribute to one of his brothers who drowned there. Bing Crosby recorded the song which added to its already world wide popularity, becoming the biggest selling record of all time at one stage. The song also features in the classic John Wayne film 'The Quiet Man' but Colahan is not credited as the composer.

Arthur Colahan died at his home in Prebend Street on September 9th 1952, where a blue plaque commemorates his life.

He was buried in Galway - where else?

## Messing About on the River!

**Thousands gathered to enjoy the boats, music and stalls of the Riverside Festival in Bede Park.**

As the sun blazed down on the River Soar, visitors to the free two day festival near Western Boulevard, enjoyed the spectacle of



brightly decorated narrow boats and barges along with up and coming local bands and street performers.

For the youngsters there were puppet shows and story telling, as well as the chance to enjoy Bede islands play area and for the grown ups an arts an craft area along with a very busy real ale tent. The festival is now in it's 14th year, continued during the evenings in Braunstone Gate with live music on at several venues.

But as always the traditional highlight was the dragon boat race, which this year raised money for Leicestershire charities LOROS and Prostaidd.

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## OUT OF TOWNERS OUT ON THE STREETS

West Leicester - based writer Dan Tunstall has a reason to smile this summer, even if the promised heatwave doesn't seem to have arrived yet. His second novel, OUT OF TOWNERS, was published in early June.

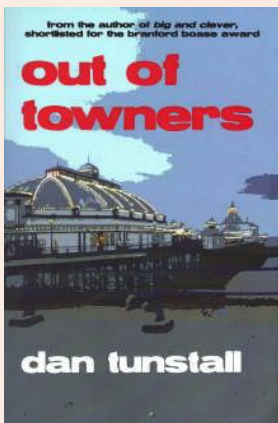
OUT OF TOWNERS follows the exploits of four 16-year-old lads on

a first holiday without their parents around to keep them in line. In fact, their parents don't even know they've gone. It shouldn't be a problem though. I mean, what could possibly go wrong on a trip to the sea-side? The boys are hoping for a bit of harmless fun in the sun, but of course things don't turn out that smoothly. Al-

most as soon as they set foot in the tatty resort of Whitbourne, the lads find themselves in a confrontation with some local hard-cases who really aren't too keen on tourists...

Dan Tunstall's first novel, BIG AND CLEVER, was shortlisted for the prestigious Branford Boase Award in 2010, and he has high hopes for this follow-up. Dan says: "I regularly visit schools to talk to kids about writing and read some extracts from my work. So far, all the responses to OUT OF TOWNERS have been very positive."

OUT OF TOWNERS, published by Five Leaves, is available from all good booksellers, priced at £5.99.



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## Open Garden Success

**Torrential rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of visitors to this year's Western Park Open Gardens Weekend.**

Building on the huge success of the last event in 2009, organisers pulled out all the stops to make this year's fundraiser for LOROS and the St. Anne's Hall Re-building Fund a record breaker!

Almost 500 people from all over Leicester descended on 20 gardens in Western park raising £2,800 in the process, £300 more than in 2009.

Pat Abraham, one of the organisers said: "We would have raised even more if the weather had been better on Sunday. The one good point is how cheerful everyone was; I didn't hear a single grumble."

Organisers are considering another Open Gardens Event in 2013: "But we'll need at least 20 gardens and community support for it to succeed." said Pat.



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# And the Winner is...!

**After 13 heats and two semi finals, the Crows Nest on Glenfield Road East was packed to the corners as 16 finalist took to the stage in West Leicester's biggest ever karaoke competition.**

The standard was high and the enthusiasm and nerves of the participants palpable as they belted out classic hits from the likes of Tina Turner, Frank Sinatra, Queen and Meatloaf.



After 16 weeks of heats, the judges from the local entertainments industry, media and Everards Brewery finally made their decision. Each

singer performed two songs and were marked out of ten for singing ability and entertainment value.

It was a close run final with little to choose between the top three but the eventual winner was Kelly Smethhurst, who walked away with the £250 top prize.

Landlord Ray Cooper said: "It was amazing! It's going to hard to beat, but next year's will be bigger, bolder and even better with more prize money - Over 200 people entered and we'll beat that next year."



From right to left: Winner - Kelly Smethhurst, Runner's up Carly and Leeanda

## ST. ANNE'S MEMORIAL WINDOW

**A new Parish Memorial Window commemorating those parishioners who lost their lives on active service has been unveiled at St. Anne's Church during a special Ascension Day Service.**

In 2009, a small group inspired by nonagenarian Doreen Butterworth, who lost her navigator husband over France during the Second World War, started work on the idea of a stained glass window. With the help of local glass artist Claire Williamson, support from local people and the Art Department at New College, a unique design was eventually created.



The window incorporates various medals and their ribbons to reflect not just past conflicts, but to also include those who lost their lives during non military service to this country.

The window was finally fitted on May 31<sup>st</sup>, just two days ahead of the unveiling.

At the service of dedication, Doreen Butterworth spoke eloquently of her personal loss and said that whilst generations know nothing of the losses incurred during World War II, life has moved on, as it should, but now there are new wars, new struggles for freedom, precious lives are being shattered and lost.

Michael Walker, who was one of the movers behind the project said: "Now there's special place where we can pause and remember; special for all those who pray for world peace whilst remembering those who gave their tomorrow for our today".

## The Western Park Gazette



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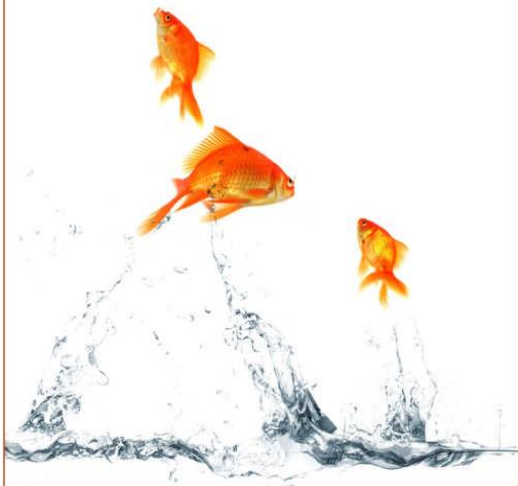


# Make a Splash!

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## Dovelands Feted for Success

Dovelands School on Hinckley Rd held another highly successful Open Day and Fete to raise money for playground development, library books, and theatre workshops.

Hundreds turned up on July 2nd to enjoy the many traditional stalls and activities which also included the ever popular Sponge the Teacher!

Parents and staff meet though the year to plan the event and parents donate the prizes.

In 2010 the school raised over £2,800 and organisers hope to have done even better this year.



Elliot Hornby pummels the living daylights out of his teacher – Mr Smith

## July Police Update

**Offenders have been clearing the grounds of the West End Community Centre, as part of the 'Community Payback' for their crimes.**

Four Community Payback workers, wearing high visibility vests, mowed lawns, cut back hedges and picked up litter at the centre on Andrewes Street.

PC Sam Perry, who's Idea it was, said: "I decided to use the 'Community Payback' scheme, as the neighbourhood centre has encountered a number of issues with graffiti and damage to the building. The improvements in the grounds form part of my strategy to reduce these offences. With a clean and tidy site that is cared for, along with the reduction in bushes and overgrown areas, it will hopefully have the positive impact in reducing the offences that occur at the centre."



The Community Payback work at the West End

Neighbourhood Centre is due to continue every Friday until the work has been completed.

The centre's facilities manager, Kirit Vaja, said: "Having the workers clear the area at no cost to us will really benefit the whole community."

**A woman had her black iPhone snatched out of her hand by a cyclist on Western Boulevard, near the junction with Upperton Road.**

The incident happened at around 11.50 on June 13th. Police are looking for a man of medium build with sandy blonde hair.

Another similar mobile phone robbery took place on June the 15th on Haddenham Road off Narborough Road South at 3.10pm.

A 19 year old woman was pushed to the ground and her black HTC mobile was snatched by a man described as 18-20 years old, dark brown shaved hair and brown hood and top, riding a red bike.

If you can help with either of those incidents contact call 0116 222 2222 and follow the instructions.

**There's a new way to keep in touch with your local police service; Facebook and Twitter!**

Join them at [www.facebook.com/leicspolice](http://www.facebook.com/leicspolice) and click your local page or search for Leicester Police on the Twitter network.

*Why spend a fortune on expensive software when there are some free alternatives that are almost as good?*

## Nice Box - What's in it? Richard Perry

**With the smoking demise of my trusty PC and its wonderful XP operating system, I have been forced to buy a new one.** And of course it runs on Window 7. It's a very clever bit of software, but I hate it because stuff is in different places, so I have to learn where it all is and I don't want to.

Nevertheless, the best of the best had to be loaded, but I'm tight and don't want to pay for software, so I go for the freebies.

First up – Anti Virus software. This time I gave the premier freebie, AVG, a miss and went for **Avast!** A nice and simple antivirus programme which seems to be better than the last time I used it. Very simple interface which keeps a watchful eye on the computers innards.

Next up, some anti-malware in the form of **Malwarebytes**. This is a great little programme that roots out any nasties that have managed to sneak past the antivirus; and they do - you can't stop all of them. If you think your PC has a malware infection, like pop-ups or unwanted programmes appearing out of nowhere, run this programme and will stamp on it's face until it goes away. It is a must have.

Most PC's come ready fitted with the Windows Media Player, but I prefer the **VLC** version. Admittedly its not pretty, there are no visualisations or swirly patterns to gawp at, but it will play almost anything; music and video files or DVD's with the exception of BluRay discs. It's also available for Mac users and it outstrips most bought media players for features.

If you like fiddling with pictures and you don't fancy buying Photoshop, then **Paint.net** is the answer. It is full of useful tools, but it can be a bit of a learning curve for a novice. It's not a professional package, but like the others, it's free and that counts for a lot. You could move up one with **GIMP**, which aims to be the free equivalent of Photoshop and almost manages it, but you need time and the instruction book to get used of it.

These are just the tip of the freebie iceberg and you can find them at [www.filehippo.com](http://www.filehippo.com) or any good download platform.



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**It looks like we are back to good old British summertime! One minute the sun is out - the next it's wet and dull.**

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# Off to Oz!

**A local couple and their family have left West Leicester behind and headed off to Australia.**

Leanne and Rick West, along with children Maisie (18 months) and Ethan (7) who all lived in Western Park, emigrated to Perth at the end of June.



Leanne says: "We wanted a better way of life for ourselves and our children. In Australia, they're not restricted to the house and can enjoy an outdoor life, and make the most of what's available. And its less commercial. We've been before on holiday and we loved it; it was like coming home. Rick can't wait; he'd have gone last year when the visas arrived!"

Rick, who ran a successful plumbing and gas business and Leanne who's a trained jewellery maker expect to put their skills to good use once they arrive in Australia. Rick said: "We've rented a holiday home for a month, which will give us time to find a place near the beach, then it's back to work. I'm starting work as a male model. I look great in a thong!" (Editor: He doesn't)

## COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

**Fosse Cllrs Surgery** Monthly, first Sat (10.30-11.30) Fosse Neighborhood Centre. and last Sat (10-11.30am) Woodgate Residents Association.

**Westcotes Cllrs Surgeries** Westcotes Library, 1st Sat each month, 10.30 - 11.30am and 3rd Fri each month, 5.30 - 6.30pm. West End Neighborhood Centre, 4th Tues each month 1.30 - 2.30pm.

**Western Park Cllrs Surgery** Monthly-2nd Thursday, St. Paul's Church Rooms, Kirby Road. 7-8.00pm.

### No Councillors' Surgeries in August.

Your City Councillors hold regular **Ward Meetings** to update their constituents on local issues and concerns. To find out when and where, click the link at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

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## SHISHA SOUND

**Residents of Woodgate are objecting to an application by the local shisha café to extend it's alcohol licence, opening hours and have a music licence.**

People living in and around Frog Island are up in arms over the proposals which could mean the Moon Shisha Lounge on Woodgate selling alcohol half an hour later until 11.30pm and increased noise.

The café which used to be the Old Robin Hood pub has already been checked by the council's planning officers and noise teams, following complaints of loud music.

The café has planning permission for an outdoor smoking area on the condition that it is not used after 11.00pm and is music free.

Council officers, have gathered evidence of a breach in planning permission and noise nuisance and will present their objections at the licencing hearing on July 19th.

In response, the café's owner has promised to create a designated taxi area and to remind patrons to be quiet as they leave.

To comment - join the Gazette forum at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk/forum](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk/forum)



## Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings



### It's now time for a summer prune to encourage spring flowering shrubs to bloom well next year.

This includes plants such as *Forsythia*, *Ribes* (flowering currant), *Weigela* and early flowering *Viburnum* like *x bodnantense*. Cut back up to a third of older stems to ground level to encourage new growth. To maintain size reduce overall height by around a third.

Afterwards mulch with compost or a handful of slow release fertilizer. Treat *Kerria* the same but dig out unwanted stems to restrict spread.

It is also the time to give *Wisteria* another haircut. I loosely follow the 2 and 6 rule. In Feb, the 2<sup>nd</sup> month, cut back all shoots from a main stem to 2 buds. In the 6<sup>th</sup> month-June, cut back all side shoots to 6 buds. They really benefit from a hard prune so don't be precious. Limit the amount of



shoots you let grow from ground level allowing none to come from below the graft or you may find a poor or none flowering rootstock taking over. Resist applying fertilizer, this often encourages the plant to produce masses of unwanted greenery.

While in pruning mode, I discovered a Damson in distress! It was overgrown and in danger of pushing our garden wall over!

Luckily it's also a good time to prune deciduous members of the *prunus* family, i.e. cherries, plums. If growing for fruit you may want to wait till harvesting is completed, but try to prune before summer's end to reduce the risk of silver leaf spores infecting the cuts.

*Punus* trees, my damson included, often produce lots of shallow roots that lead to a thicket of suckers, so think carefully before planting close to lawn or paving. The best remedy is to dig the offending root out before it gets too big. Happy hacking!



Read Tony's Garden Tidings on line at [www.westernparkgazette.co.uk](http://www.westernparkgazette.co.uk)

## Events in the Parish

St. Anne's, St. Paul's and St. Augustine's

**At St. Anne's Church Hall -**

**Mon - Fri** Sandhurst Playgroup 285 7440.

**Mon:** 5.30 - 7.00pm: W.E.A. Yoga 255 6614.

7.15 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi. Call Rick 285 5159.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tue:** 2.00 - 4.00pm: MU Speakers

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tue:** 7.30 - 9.30pm: W.P. Gardening Club.

**Wed:** 5.00 - 8.00pm: Weightwatchers.

**Wed:** 8.00 - 9.00pm: Tai Chi with Rick.

**1<sup>st</sup> Wed:** 2.30 - 4.00pm: Wednesday Club.

**4<sup>th</sup> Wed:** 7.00 - 9.00pm: MU Speakers.

**Thurs:** 9.00 -10.00am: Pilates for fitness.

1.30 - 3.30pm: Pram Club. (Term time)

6.30 - 8.00pm: Rebounder Aerobics

**Fri:** 10.00am: Coffee Morning.

**1<sup>st</sup> Fri:** 1.30 - 1.00pm: Lunch club.

**2 & 4th Fri:** 2.00 - 4.00pm: Folk dancing.

**Tuesdays** 10.00am: Mums and Toddlers: Over 60's Club. 12.30 (**St. Paul's**)

**Fri 8th July:** Quiz Night in St. Anne's Hall - 6.30pm. (There will be pizzas!) **Sat 9th June:** MU

Coffee Morning - 10.00-12.00 & table-top sale 10.00-2.00 (St Paul's Worship Centre). **Sat 16th**

**July:** Organ Music Fundraising Concert in St. Anne's Church. 5.00-6.30. (Suggested donation-

£5.00) **Sat 13th Aug:** Coffee Morning for The Children's Soc - 10.00-12.00 & table-top sale. 10.00-2.00 (St. Paul's Worship Centre)

## Church OF THE MARTYRS JULY EVENTS

Westcotes Drive Leicester

**Tomatoes cafe church** with live music Sat July 9th -10am-12pm.

**Shake Rattle & Roll** for babies toddlers & carers every Thursday in term time - 9.30-11.30am.

**Craft Group** 8pm 14th July in the Hall.

**Martyrs Football Training** every Weds eve 6.30pm at Nelson Mandela Park.

Details of events and services can be found at [www.martyrs.org.uk](http://www.martyrs.org.uk)

## Parish of St. Peter

21 Hinckley Road Leicester

Details of events and services can be found on line at [www.stpetersleicester.org.uk](http://www.stpetersleicester.org.uk)

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# BRAIN *TAZERS*

1. Rearrange the word groups below to give five words; but which is the odd one out? ZIPZA, SOTAT, TRAWA, ATAPS?

2. Substitute the 4th letter of each word to create a new word. Then combine the new letters to make a word. What is it? CRUET, SQUAD, SCARE, CHIME. QUILT, DAILy?

3. Rearrange the following letters into a US State. OLACITHONNRAR.

4. A lorry gets completely wedged under a low bridge and won't move forward or backwards. How could it eventually be freed?

5. Add 2 to 191 to make it less than 20.

6. You enter a cold deserted barn late at night. Inside there is a gas fire, wooden stove and an oil lamp. You only have one match, so which would you light first?

7. How would you build a house with all the windows in all of the rooms facing south?

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

# SODUKU

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(update and create new pages yourself)

UNIQUE, CREATIVE, EFFECTIVE

**£40.00 per month** *all in*

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