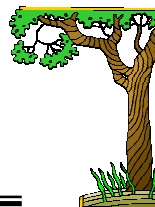


Western Park Gazette

Information and advertising for the Western Park Area
March 2009 www.westernparkgazette.co.uk



END OF THE ROAD FOR LANES

One of Leicester's longest running family businesses is to close its doors after 73 years.

Lane's Pork Butcher's on King Richard's Road will sell their last home made pork pie and last rasher of home cured bacon on March 31st as Alan and Tom Lane join their brother, Rob in retirement.

The firm originally set up by their Grandfather Bernard nearly 100 years ago, in Daventry, has served generations of customers in Western Park from their King Richard's Road shop since it opened in 1936. Coming from a family of pork butchers, Alan and Tom, who took over the business from their father, have mixed feelings about closing at the end of the month.

Alan, 62, and his older brother have been up every working day at 4am since they were teenagers and between them, have put nearly 100 years of effort into the firm.

"We've reached retirement age and after working 70 hours a week for so long, we're looking forward to putting our feet up, spending time with our families and finding out what hobbies are for," said Alan. They'll be joining their elder brother Rob, who ran Lanes in Anstey for 40 years before hanging up his apron.

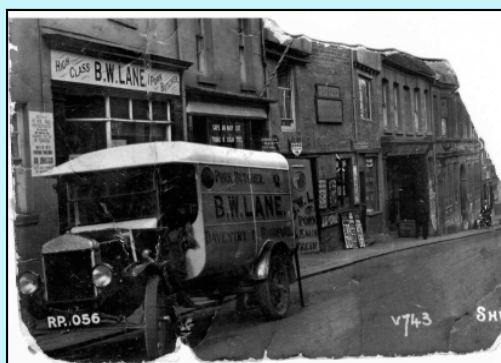
Tom and Alan accept that there is nobody to take over the family business. Their children are grown up and moved away and the skills of a traditional pork butcher are very hard to come by.



TOM AND ALAN LANE: END OF AN ERA

**WIN TICKETS TO CHICAGO!
INSIDE**

"It's taken three generations of knowledge and know-how to run this place; we make all our own pork products from scratch and unfortunately we're the last pork butchers in Leicester".



Lanes in Daventry where it all started

In fact they are probably the last pork butcher in the county as well. You would have to head towards Lincoln in order to find another one.

It's the end of an era and that's not lost on Lanes customers who view the closure with great sadness. One said, "My Gran shopped here, my Mum did and I do. The pork pies...the bacon! Supermarket stuff just doesn't compare. I can't think of anywhere else to get such great food".

As the doors finally close on March 31st, Alan and Tom Lane will be looking forward to their first lie-in for decades.

Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Greetings from the Editor

Hello and welcome to March's edition of the Western Park Gazette.

In this issue, we examine the loss of one of the few remaining traditional pork butchers in the Midlands. Lane's on King Richard's Road are closing after 70 years of trading.

Roger Blackmore once again delves into our local past to reveal that one of the most powerful men in England's history used to ride up Hinckley Road to hunt in Leicestershire's forest.

Helen Knott, forgoes cake and attempts to survive on war rations, Andy Miarkowski our computer expert, gets to grips with computer passwords. And we welcome local gardening guru, Tony Huxley to our regular writing team.

If you take a look at the web site, you'll notice that local photographers are already contributing pictures to the new photo archive as we start to document change across Western Park over the years. We've printed a few memory joggers in this issue. So if you have any you'd like to share, email them across.

And don't forget this month's competition!

A pair of tickets to see Chicago at the DeMontfort Hall in May.

Sharon

editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Several centuries ago, the political and military might of England rested on the shoulders of just one man....And he lived a stone's throw away from King Richard's Road.

Our local Historian Roger Blackmore looks at the legacy of John of Gaunt.

THE KING MAKER

If you lived in the shadow of Leicester Castle, in the late 1300's, towards Dane Hills and what is now Western Park, you were closer to the centre of English political power and influence than at any other time in English history

You would be accustomed to witnessing regular hunting parties setting forth over the West Bridge and off into Leicester Forest, led by the most powerful man in England at the time, John of Gaunt.

Being Duke of Lancaster and Earl of Leicester, as well as holding numerous other titles, he was uncle to the young King Richard the Second - effectively ruling as Regent for a number of years.

Leicester Forest was his favourite hunting ground even though he owned some thirty other estates throughout England and France.

No doubt the facts that his palatial London home had been burnt down by the mob at the time of the Peasants Revolt made Leicester a much more peaceful and secure residence.

Of course there were no noise enforcement officers in those days, and just as well, since there was much loud local revelry before and after the hunting parties sallied forth, to and from the forest, spanning what is now the Leicester Forest East and the Desford area.

From his Spanish connections (his second wife was a Spanish princess) he is rumoured to have brought back to England colourful Moorish forms of music and dance which quickly became popular in the Leicester area as Morris Dancing.



John of Gaunt: Responsible for every English Monarch since 1399, 5 US Presidents and Morris Dancing

The most famous poet of the age Thomas Chaucer became his brother in law as a result of his third marriage to his former mistress Catherine Swynford.

Indeed local historian Malcolm Elliott Writes in his book *Leicestershire Events* that "Leicester Castle was something of a Camelot in Gaunt's day, echoing to the Canterbury Tales as well as the songs of merry minstrels".

Upon John of Gaunt's death in Leicester Castle on 3rd February 1399, his estates were seized by the crown. The same year his son Henry Bolingbroke deposed and exiled Richard II and reigned for 14 years as Henry the IV

Gaunt is the ancestor of every subsequent British monarch and no less than five American presidents.

More from Roger next month.

To comment on this article email:

editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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Western Park resident, journalist and broadcaster Helen Knott takes research to ridiculous lengths

Last month Helen discovered the intricacies of war-time rationing. This month she and her family fed themselves according to a WWII ration book. How did they get on?

KNOTT'S LANDING

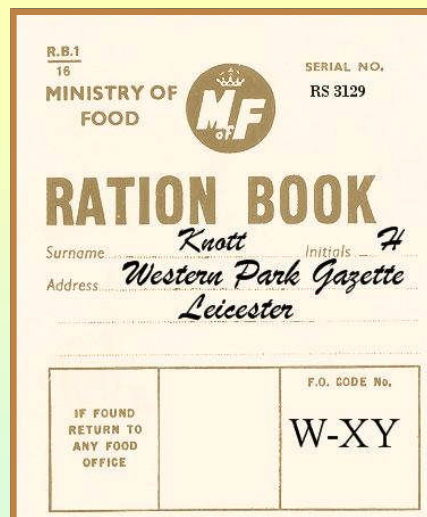
Helen Knott

Two weeks living off wartime rations doesn't sound that difficult does it? It was the challenge I set myself after Christmas when I bought a war-time cookbook as a present for my mum.

Back then you received one shilling 2d per person a week for meat. That's around £4 for two. My trip to the supermarket had to be carefully planned to be authentic. I made sure the fruit and vegetables were from the UK and everything I bought would have been available in wartime. I couldn't find any dried egg but everyone I spoke to said it was horrible so as my husband is from farming stock – we got our eggs free in exchange for some chutney and jam from my store cupboard. I also discovered that you can no longer buy margarine in this country. You can buy spreads but nothing called margarine – even Stork isn't called margarine any more!

It began to dawn on me; I was going to have to do an awful lot of cooking.

We ate a lot of pie. Bacon and onion pie, cheese, potato, carrot and swede pie and Lord Woolton pie from an online recipe.



We also ate loads of veggies and surprisingly – a lot of custard. Pudding became really quite important and the steamer always seemed to be on cooking up some kind of dessert.

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It was hard work living off rations but we managed it. The hardest bit for me was just having 18 tea bags a week, reusing bags makes nasty tea. At the end, we weren't much thinner but we certainly seemed healthier and it was fun, although five or six years of rations might dull my enthusiasm!

If you'd like to have a go at making Lord Woolton Pie, here's what you do.

Dice up around 1lb each of potatoes, carrots, swede, add a handful of any other vegetable leftovers you have to hand and make sure you include 1 onion. Pop in a pan with enough water to cover, add a couple or tea spoons of vegetable extract, a tablespoon of oats and any herbs to taste.

Heat and stir regularly until cooked, then cool and transfer into a pie dish, cover with pastry or sliced potatoes and cook in the oven on a moderate heat until brown.

Serve with gravy and mashed potato.

Then order a takeaway, open a bottle of wine and forget about rationing. (Editor)

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GAZETTE LETTER BOX

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Very interesting article on rationing. Really made us think. We could go along way in this household with the bread, potatoes, oats, fresh fish and home grown fruit vegetables being off ration. Where we would come unstuck is with spices, especially chilli and things like coconut milk or soy products as one of us is lactose intolerant - no dairy. Look forward to reading the next instalment.

Jo and Nick
Wynfield Road

I understand that the City Council are looking into the possibility of erecting half a dozen electricity generating wind turbines in Leicester's parks.

Western Park has apparently been earmarked for a 450 foot tall turbine, complete with a viewing platform at a cost of more than three million pounds.

This machine "could" generate enough electricity for around 1500 homes.

But, they are highly unreliable power generators that require a lot of maintenance. No wind - no power. Too much wind and they shut down, so no power.

This is more about advertising green credentials, than doing anything concrete to reduce electricity consumption.

If wind power were economical, oil tankers would be sailing ships.

SP Western Park

Events Diary

Stay and Play - West End Children's Centre Catesby Street. Free activities and nibbles or under 5's and carers. Weekly, Weds 1-3pm & Fri 9.15-11.15. Tel: 0116 2252225.

Charity Coffee Morning at St Paul's Worship Centre. Sat 14th March. 10am-12 noon.

Organic Gardening Courses at the Eco House. Composting - 22nd March, Seed Sowing and picking out - 19th April. £6.00. Tel: 0116 222 0254.

Lanes Pork Butcher Closes. Get your final pork pies! 30th March.

Spring Fayre at the Glenfield Road/Fosse Road Centre. 4th April 10am - 2pm.

Easter Half Term Activities at Western Park. 6-8th April 1.30 - 3.30pm Tel: 0116 254 8540

Western Park Community Meeting. Dovelands Junior School. 27th April. 7pm.

Western Park Bowling Club welcomes new members. Tel: 0116 291 2094

If you're holding any "not for profit" events across or close to Western Park, then let us know.

Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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New for Western Park

Get Fit for the Spring

If you're tired of hauling your podgy little self around, then the **Health and Wellbeing** event at St Anne's could be just the tonic.

It's being organised by the Mother's Union on **Tuesday 24th March from 2.00 until 6pm.**

There are "have a go taster" sessions for fitness classes, relaxation techniques, complimentary therapies. There's also the chance to get a health check.

Choir To Choir

On **Sunday 29th of March at 6pm**, you're invited along to St Anne's Church for a free musical event.

The St Anne's' choir will be swelled by members of Leicester's Tudor Choir to perform Stainer's "Crucifixion".

This is considered to be one of the greatest expressions of English spirituality in the English choral tradition

For further information, you can contact the Vicar, The Reverend Chris Oxley, on 285 8452.

City of Leicester Singers

Beethoven's The Ruins of Athens will be performed by the City of Leicester Singers (*Includes several Western Park Residents*) at St. James The Greater Church on London Road on Saturday 28th of March at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £12 (concessions £10, under 15's free) on the door.

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GAZETTE COMPETITION

Murder, greed, corruption, exploitation, adultery and treachery.....So begins the international award winning musical, **CHICAGO**.

It's on at the DeMontfort Hall from the 11th of May and you can win a pair of tickets to enjoy the story of a jazz age Chicago nightclub singing killer, a double-murderess, a smooth-talking lawyer and a cell block of sin! Oh Yes....and Jimmy Osmond is in it as well. Songs such as *All That Jazz* and *Razzle Dazzle* helped it win 6 Tony, 2 Olivier, 1 Grammy, 2 Baftas and 6 Academy Awards.

If you would like to win a pair of tickets to see the opening night on May 11th, just correctly answer this question.

In the film version of Chicago, Double Murderess, Velma Kelly is played by which actress?

A. Nicole Kidman

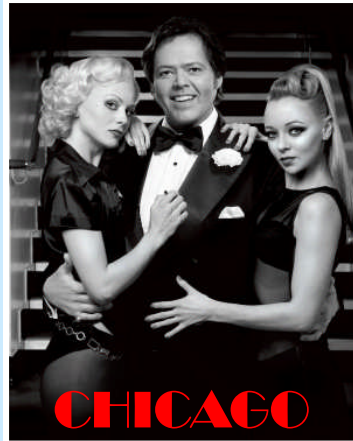
B. Catherine Zeta Jones

C. Kate Winslet

Email your answers by the 17th of March to:
editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk or by post to Editor, C/O
 Rapsallion Media, 62 Ainsdale Road, Leicester, LE3 0UA.
(1 winner will be picked at random, editor's decision is final)

Congratulations to Gazette reader Paul Erridge who is pictured along with Helen, and daughters Megan and Dawn receiving last months prize of a sumptuous fish and chip meal for 4 from Vicky Poles of Fat Fish.

Paul correctly identified that another name for Rock Salmon is Spiny Dogfish.



MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

The Swinging 60's are coming to the Braunstone Civic Centre at 209 Kingsway on Saturday May 9th!

Leicester's premier Beatles tribute band, **The up-Beatles** will be performing live along side Cliff...as if and a special mystery guest, to provide a lively evening of musical nostalgia

Radio Leicester's Tony Wadsworth (John Lennon) and Chris Highton (Ringo) team up with local Pete Hancock (Macca) and Leicester Lad Mark Whitehouse (George)

The Band first formed as the Radio Leicester All Stars Band in April 2007. Now reformed as **The upBeatles**, they have raised over £18,000 for various worthwhile charities.

The Doors of the Braunstone Civic centre Swing open on Saturday May 9th for a Magical Mystery Tour for Coping with Cancer, so if you're a 60's fan come along and enjoy the show!

Tickets are £10, including lite bites, a fantastic raffle and a special auction prize.

Marianne Hancock



The upBeatles: With real hair...honest!

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GAZETTE PHOTO ARCHIVE

The Western Park Gazette's photo archive is up and running and we've already received pictures of bygone Leicester.

You'll find them at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk. Just click the archive link.

We're documenting the enormous change in our area over the last 100 years, as well as jogging a few memories along the way and we'd like your help.

For instance, Graham Greer sent in some evocative images of King Richard's Road. You can view the whole compilation on the website.

So delve into your photo collection for anything you think might suit the cause.

It's not just historical photo's we're after, anything that reflects life in Western Park can be submitted.

We had snow in February and hundreds of people made their way to the park for a little sledging.

For some youngsters it was the first time they'd played in snow - pictures were taken!

If you'd like to share them, email them across and we'll post the best on line.

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King Richard's Road - into town 1978



That first night of snow in February

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If you're taking your Mum out on Sunday 23rd of March will you be celebrating Mothering Sunday or Mothers Day?

MUMS THE WORD!

Believe it or not, they're not quite the same.

In 16th century England, people returned to their "Mother" Church or Cathedral to mark the end of Lent with a "Laetare Sunday" Service. You'd be "going a Mothering" as it was called, hence Mothering Sunday.

It was also known as Rose Sunday, following the tradition of giving flowers to mothers and later to all the women in the congregation.

Other names included, Simnel Sunday, after a traditional marzipan covered fruit cake and Refreshment Sunday, because the Lent diet had ended and gorging could recommence.

Later in Victorian times it became a day off, so young female domestic servants could see their families.

Mother's Day is different. That was born 150 years ago in America, when Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian house wife organised a day to raise awareness of poor living conditions in her community which she believed would be best advocated by mothers. She called it "Mother's Work Day." In 1914, this became "Mothers Day" an American national holiday.

Over the years both traditions have become diluted. They are still a celebration of Motherhood but are now a commercial force which sets the tills ringing in florists, card shops and restaurants across the world.

There could be something nasty living in several of Western Park's home computers. It's no good sticking your fingers in your ears and going "La la la"...it won't go away. But one simple measure could make it much harder for this particular electric menace to threaten you.

Nice Box - What's in it?

Andrzej Miarkowski

The software industry regards the currently circulating 'conficker' virus as a criminal attack and a sizable reward is on offer to catch the creators.

This virus takes advantage of computers that have not kept up to date with Windows security patches. It can infect machines via a network connection or by hiding on USB memory drives used to ferry data from one computer to another. Once in a computer it sets up defences that make it very hard to extract. Security specialists say the virus attacks computers by guessing usernames and passwords so they recommend using strong passwords.

The question is - what is a strong password? "eUT0P>vc10W4OG" is very strong but is somewhat hard to remember. Passwords should mix numbers, capital letters and punctuation marks and should contain dictionary words. Try to think more

of a pass phrase such as "I drink coffee at eight fifteen" then mangle and shorten it to something like "cOf.815.fEe".

Using simple rules such as splitting words into three letter groups capitalize the second letter and separate the parts with punctuation.

For instance, "elephants" could be "eLe5pha?nts" Changing words in the pass phrase gives you a new password. Unlike a security PIN code, you can safely write down the pass phrase and even write down some hints for the rules - on separate pieces of paper of course!

Andrzej Miarkowski is a Microsoft Certified Professional Developer.



**Holding an event near Western Park?
TELL US ABOUT IT!**

Email: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

Or write to

The editor
c/o 62 Ainsdale Road
Leicester

Tony Huxley's Garden Tidings

Gardeners across Western Park have been complaining about the lack of a proper winter for years.

In February, we had the antithesis of mild, dreary, winter months, previously blamed for an abundance of garden pests.

Now is the time to launch a pre-emptive strike, especially on those molluscs that caused such devastation during last year's wet and wimpy summer and are now hibernating in our unheated greenhouses and cold frames.

Check for snail and slug eggs, like little translucent pearls, in the bottom of pots. Carefully knock out suspect plants and inspect the compost. You may also discover white "C" shape grubs of Vine Weevil, driven to the bottom of pots by the cold.

This unwelcome guest needs dispatching with extreme prejudice.

I tend to find squashing or chopping up both these pest is the best short term method-but not for the faint hearted.

Chemical and biological controls are less effective this time of the year.

When the weather eases it'll be time to finish the winter pruning.



It's not too late to prune apple and pear trees, but make sure it's all done by early March before the start of bud break.

As I looked across my own little winter wonderland I sneaked a peak at several trays of freshly sown tomato seed sat snugly in my conservatory, while wondering if this "proper winter" weather meant decent summer weather in four months' time?

Editor's Note:

Following on from previous editions, where we included pictures of Black Annis, robbing cars and a Roman legion on Shoulder of Mutton Hill, we continue this tradition with the above photo.

David Attenborough has been informed.