



THE GREAT NEW YEAR FLY TIP

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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to a much thinner and advert heavy
January edition of the Gazette.

First of all: Happy New Year to our reader and contributors! And secondly, January is always a difficult month in which to publish. So the decision was made to cut the number of pages but retain our advertising commitments. The upshot is less copy but more advertising. It's far from ideal but hopefully we'll be back to normal in February. Our main story, more of a scream of rage really, is about the huge amount of fly tipping that we saw across the West End after Christmas. The mess was shocking especially around Narborough Road. Our regular features are still shoehorned in: Helen Knott discovers a henge on Western Park, Roger Blackmore finds out about the five faces of secularism, Project Hive have their latest update, we find out about plans for this year's Pop-up pubs and beer festival based shenanigans and Tony Huxley has advice on what to do with your old Christmas tree.

No Sudoku this month but there's the regular crossword still lurking on the back page.

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Events Diary

St Anne's Weds Club: Monthly, 1st Weds. St Anne's Hall. Letchworth Rd. 2.30-4pm.

Free Thurs Club: 2-4pm. Robert Hall, 147 Narb' Rd.

Perfectly Edible UK's Market & Community Cafe: Fri 11-2pm. West End Centre, Andrewes Street.

Coffee Mornings: Fridays 10-12 noon. St Anne's Hall.

Women's Taekwondo. Fridays. Brite Centre -10am & Thurs - 8pm at St Anne's Hall. 07951 426 386

Sun Eve Dru Yoga with Emma: St. Anne's Hall, Letchworth Rd. 7.15-8.30pm 07393 811150.

Musical Memory Box: Monthly, 1st Tues, 2-3.30pm. St. Anne's Hall. £3 donation.

Free Children's Art Club: Saturdays 10.30-12.00. Fosse Neighbourhood Centre. Mantle Rd.

Free drop-in Coffee Morns: Tues. 10-11.30am. St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Glenfield Rd.

Upstairs @ Western 5th-23rd Feb **Comedy Fest Shows**

De Mont Hall: 23rd Jan: Bombay Cycle Club, 31st Jan: Paul Carrack, 2nd Feb: Classic Rock Show

Little Theatre: 3rd-8th Feb: Around The World In 80 days.

Leic Comedy Fest: 5th-23rd Feb. Various Leicester venues. Tickets from w:comedy-festival.co.uk

Y Theatre: 3rd Feb. An Interesting Evening With Steve Davis.

Giggles at The Gate Quiz: Feb 12. Black Horse Pub. Br/Gate. 8.00pm. 8.00pm. Teams of 4. Book through Comedy Fest website.

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Falling down an internet rabbit hole is a fact of life these days and it is a rather marvellous thing that while procrastinating for clothes one can suddenly find oneself discovering there is a Stone Age henge in Western Park!

The thought process went something like this... Ooooh purple paisley flowery top! Nice. That reminds me of my Glastonbury festival top. I'm not going this year... (sadface). Maybe I could go to Stonehenge for the summer solstice? It's a long way... it gets very busy... and the toilets are a bit grim. I'm not sure I can be bothered... I wonder... Are there any standing stones round here? Wanders aimlessly around search engines for a bit... Finds megalithic.co.uk... blow me there's a henge across the road!

A henge is basically an earthwork enclosure, usually circular that contains a flat area of ground and a ditch inside the enclosure. Forget the whole Stonehenge thing – it's a ruse to confuse you, the word henge means hanging and was given to Stonehenge



because of the lintel stones, but an archaeological henge is not about stones. Although, further in the rabbit hole, it turns out Leicester has a few of those, I had no idea the Humber Stone was an actual thing! It's near the KFC at Hamilton, you can go and see it if it hasn't been overgrown! But that's beside the point. There are only around 500 henges in Britain and one of them is in our park.

According to the website I found it has to be quite a big thing.

"Grass marks show a complex of 6 interrupted ring-ditches which may be a henge or possibly causewayed barrows."

Six ring ditches! You would think something like that would have a plaque, some kind of recognition, but no. I've been all over that park and I've never seen anything to indicate there's a henge there. So where the hell is it? I started looking at aerial photographs and apart from a baseball pitch and cricket pitches I can't see anything obvious.

Then I got looking at old maps but there's nothing in there either. I drew a blank. So help me! Where is our henge? How can we misplace 6 ring-ditches in a park with no development on it? I will happily make cake for anyone who can show me where our Stone Age ancestors were hanging out.

Helen Knott

If you have any idea where the henge is/was or may be please email editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

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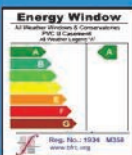
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THE GREAT NEW YEAR FLY TIP

A year ago West Leicester was one of the worst fly tipping areas in the city and it seems little has changed over the last 12 months.

The last figures (Up to Nov 18) revealed that there were 2980 instances of illegal fly tipping in Western Park, Westcotes and the Fosse neighbourhoods.

A New Year walk around the area, uncovered a huge amount of waste left dumped on street corners creating an on-going headache for the City Wardens and the Cleansing Dept.



Areas, like parts of Westcotes and the Fosse, with high density rented housing and low car ownership tend to be the worst effected in spite of council interventions to make residents aware of their responsibilities.

Across the UK fly tipping has reached a 10 year high and £50 fines are failing to deter offenders said the Local Government Association.

All Hale The Ale 2020

Western Park's pop-up pub will be returning to St Anne's Church Hall on Friday 20 March.

The popular event - featuring ale, cider, wine, soft drinks and snacks - will raise funds for the annual charity beer festival on the 18 and 19 September.

Selina Conroy, Chairman of Western Park Beer Festival, said: "After last September's event we were able to donate an incredible £12,000 to local charities.

"This means we have, with the continuing support of locals, raised £52,000 for good causes since we started pouring pints five years ago.

"People attending our popular pop-up in March can once again expect the usual good quality beer, great company and a short walk home."

The 2019 festival supported Leicester Wheels For All, Leicester Home-Start Horizons and Project Hive. Sadly, the plan to support Coram's East Midlands adoption agency in Shepshed failed when head office announced it was shutting the branch.

The PUP runs from 5pm to midnight and is for over 18s only.

For more, see @westernparkbeerfestival on Facebook and Instagram, @westernparkleics on Twitter or westernparkbeerfestival.org

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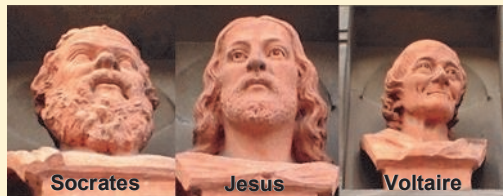
The most striking Victorian building in Humberstone Gate is undoubtedly the Secular Hall.

Secular Society had been founded in the nineteenth century by Josiah Gimson and others. They soon took up the idea of establishing a base for the society somewhere in the City Centre. Gimson, founder of the huge Vulcan Engineering works and a member of a famous Leicester family, was a significant public figure and prominent free-thinker. He was elected a city councillor for the St Mary's ward (Around St Mary de Castro Church) and in time served as Mayor. Having identified a site for the proposed new Secular Hall in Humberstone Gate, he set to work, with the designer Larner Sugden, from Leek in Staffordshire, on the building we see today. He also donated significant funds to the new project.

The Secular Hall was opened in 1881 in the presence of, amongst others, no less a figure than George Bernard Shaw. Throughout its long history it has acted as host to many famous people. In 1884 William Morris, of the Arts and Crafts Movement, gave a talk on Art and Socialism, while a hundred years later, some of us remember going there to hear Michael Foot, the Labour politician, who on that occasion sported a very smart suit, thus contradicting the comments often made about his outfits.

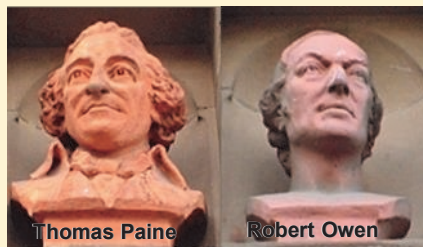
Josiah's elder son, Sydney, went on to become

President of the Secular Society having always been a very enthusiastic member. In this, he was unlike his younger brother Ernest, the architect, who moved away and became a significant figure in the Arts and Crafts movement.



An interesting, and, at the time, controversial, feature of the building are the five busts on the outside. They are of Jesus, Voltaire, Tom Paine, Socrates and Robert Owen and the equality of status accorded to Jesus with the other figures provoked a considerable hostile reaction.

Roger Blackmore



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Update

Project Hive is run by the WWCE, a group of local residents raising funds to redevelop the former Eco House into a community space.

Now is the final chance to support our crowdfunding campaign. All pledges need to be in by Friday 24th January. Your support has generated pledges of over £22,500 towards the first stage of the works and we are £3,000 from the finish line.

Looking ahead we are busy working on a list of returning events for 2020 including the Western Park Scarecrow Trail and The Pumpkin Roll, (hopefully with better weather this time). Our project has been praised by many as a great example of community activism. It is vital that the momentum built during this past year is maintained as we approach national funders for the remaining money required to complete the redevelopment. We hope that we can continue to count on your support for the year ahead.

Find out more about WWCE and Project Hive at our website wwce.org.uk or on Facebook @wwceleicester

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Jan Police Update

Leicestershire Police is thanking the public after 500 fewer calls were made to the force over the festive period in comparison with last year.

On 24, 25, 26, 31 December and 1 January, the force received a total of 5,120 calls to 999 and 101 compared to a total of 5,620 calls to 999 and 101 for the same dates last year.

Superintendent Grant Wills, Head of Contact Management Department said: "It is very welcoming to see such a reduction on last year's figures and I would like to thank the public for only calling us in a genuine emergency or for police assistance."

"Despite 500 fewer calls, Christmas and New Year still puts a significant amount of demand on the department and I would like to thank all those involved in working hard to deliver this service to the public."

Chief Constable Simon Cole said: "New Year was particularly busy for us with 243 emergency 999 calls received between midnight and 3am."

"This resulted in a huge team effort by colleagues to answer and deal with these calls and action where police attendance was needed."

"2019 has been a demanding year for the force but I am extremely pleased that we were able to start 2020 on this note."

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Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



Hurrah! You've survived Christmas.

By now the decorations are all stowed away, ready for next year. But if your home was adorned with one of the seven million real Christmas trees where is it now? Is it sitting in a neglected corner of the garden while you try to forget about it? Conifer wood is very resinous so decomposes very slowly. During a recent garden make-over, I discovered the skeletal remains of 5 previous trees, lined up like ghosts of Christmas past.

I could have stripped the leaves off and used the trees as stakes for beans or flowers to grow along or spread the needles across a muddy path to make it less slippery or even used the branches as part of frost protection measures over delicate flower beds... I did none of those.

The best thing is to recycle your tree. It can be cut up and put in with the green waste, assuming you're not on one of those council schemes that stops during the winter months, because who needs to dispose of garden waste during the main pruning season? Your local recycling centre will gladly accept your old tree, where it will be chipped and turned into compost. Only 10% of

Christmas trees get recycled. Many end up going to landfill where the average tree will release 16kg of CO₂ into the atmosphere, so do make the effort to dispose of it responsibly.

Some believe a tree isn't just for Christmas, it may even stretch to a second outing! Potted Christmas trees rarely make it through a month in a centrally heated house unscathed. Many never recover. Some are bare root plants that are lifted and potted up just before Christmas and have had their roots trimmed. Container grown specimens tend to fare better. If you have a potted tree, make sure it's put outside as soon as possible. Plant it into a bigger pot and water well, especially in the warmer months, but don't leave it standing in water. You could plant it out for a year and lift it next December. Or you may be planning to plant it out permanently. But beware. If I had a pound for every time the owner of a "free-range" Xmas tree has told me "I never knew it would get this big!" I'd have paid for next Christmas already!

Tony Huxley





Martin Page

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1 Across: Pedantic **1 Down:** Allegorical story **2D:** Look for a reason **3D:** For making ice cubes **4D:** Blissful **5A:** To recover possession of **6A:** Type of rum taken with coke **7A:** Flexible **8D:** Keeps the motor running **9A:** Over there in short. © Paul Towers 2020. Answers at w:westernparkgazette.co.uk

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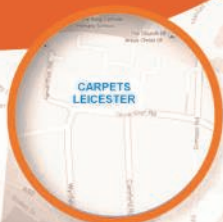
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