



NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENED



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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the March edition of the Western Park Gazette.

Don't Panic! Is emblazoned on the front cover of the Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy. We took that advice and resisted the temptation to put the international warning sign for coronavirus on the front page. It's a red triangle with a loo roll in the centre.

Talking of which, in the spirit of "keep calm & carry on", Helen Knott has an epic rant at the bovines ransacking Earth for loo rolls, just ahead of the Vagon's arrival... And Gardener Tony Huxley points out that self isolation doesn't actually mean staying indoors.

Our main stories include the new community garden created by Prince's Trust volunteers on Upperton Road. There's a £145K improvement scheme on the way for Narborough Road and students from New College test out their impressive self built rocket cars!

In our regular features: Roger Blackmore asks how many Braunstones are there in Leicestershire? Tony Shelley encourages us to look above our normal eye line and there are updates from Project Hive and the local police.

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Events Diary

ST. ANNE'S HALL LETCHWORTH RD

Weds Club: Monthly, 1st Weds, 2.30-4pm. **Coffee Mornings:** Fridays 10-12 noon. **Dru Yoga with Emma:** Sun, 7.15-8.30pm, T:07393 811150. **Musical Memory Box:** Monthly, 1st Tues, 2-3.30pm, £3 donation. **Int Folk Dancing:** 2nd & 4th Fri 2 - 4pm. T:2858352.

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

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

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

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

Bede Street Arches: Open Weds & Sat 27th March 10am-2pm.

Curve: Cry Baby 26-28 March - 21st March, Cinderella (Ballet) 31 March-4 April. 1984 2-4 April.

Upstairs @ Western: Too Pretty To Punch 3 April, Uncle Armandos 8 April, Powered By Fairy Dust 9 April, Gush 10 April, Me & my Doll 17 April.

DM Hall: Magic Of Motown 2 April, Frank Skinner 3 April, Sartaai Live 4 April, Rhod Gilbert 5 April.

Little Theatre: The Producers 31 March - 4 April

Y Theatre: Women In Rock: 4th April.

Community Litter Pick: 5th April. Arch 1 Bede St. 2-4pm. (Bring gloves & grabbers)

Events Subject To Cancellation

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An oasis of calm has just opened in the grounds of the Robert hall Baptist Church, on the corner of Upperton Road, thanks to the efforts of Prince's Trust volunteers.

NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN

Team 136 is a group of 10 young individuals who are completing a 12 week development programme with the Prince's Trust. Part of the programme gives groups the opportunity to fundraise for a local community project, and then get stuck into making it happen!

When we heard that Robert Hall Baptist Church were interested in making a community garden we jumped at the chance to get involved, as the Team Programme has been based in one of the Church's community rooms for just over 2 years. The support that we receive from the church community is phenomenal, so this has been a wonderful opportunity to give back.

The team worked so hard to fundraise over £500 to put towards their work, and have made such a difference in just one and a half weeks.

When they started, the garden area was a mess. It was overgrown and full of rubble and rubbish; simply an overlooked space with nothing to offer.

Now thanks to the efforts of Team 136, it is a functional community garden with a relaxing feel to it. Some of the group's more artistic members



have worked really hard to create a wall mural, and have painted a beautiful angel design at one end of the plot, with a relaxing wave pattern running the length of the garden.

Thanks to donations from a local garage, we have been able to use old car tyres to build furniture and planters.

This project has challenged us all, as none of us are gardeners or DIY experts. But the results demonstrate what can be achieved with hard work and determination! As Team Leader, I am so proud of the group and all we have accomplished together.

Natasha Adams Prince's Trust Team Leader

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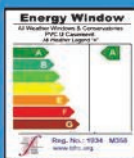
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Sat 25th April: The Big Bad (Ska, punk & Pop covers) May 2nd: Marcus Reeves Project

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KNOTT'S LANDING

COVID-19 is a serious matter. It's probably going to be a global pandemic. A lot of people are probably going to die as a result. By the time you read this, things may already be looking grim.

So why on earth have the British public responded by panic buying toilet paper? I mean, of all the items on your shopping list to panic buy, toilet paper is surely one of those at the bottom of the list, last thing you think of items.

But yesterday, I watched people in a large American warehouse club fighting over bulk packs of lavvy paper! Well I say fighting. It was all very British. People were reaching for a pack and then glaring at each other until someone let go.

If we look back to the last time rationing reared its head, World War II, the received wisdom was this: register one of the family as a vegetarian because you get more cheese. My Mum was very clear about this. AT NO POINT did she say buy as much toilet paper as you can carry.



I find it all incomprehensible, selfish and stupid really. No-one needs to bulk buy loo roll, especially given that diarrhoea is not one of the big symptoms of COVID-19 infection. I can understand the panic purchasing of hand sanitiser a bit more but for goodness sake; no-one needs to steal it from the foot of a hospital bed when soap is just as effective!

The facts are these – the virus hides itself inside a fatty coating, a lipid envelope, but this can be burst and the virus destroyed simply by washing your hands with soap, any kind of soap – washing-up liquid, hand soap, solid soap and bubble bath. Anything designed to get rid of grease is going to nuke the virus, especially when combined with hot water and a good 20 seconds of scrubbing.

Sneaking into the hospital and pinching the hand sanitiser off the wall in A&E is not necessary. Snatching bottles of anti-bacterial liquid soap out of the hands of the elderly with compromised immune systems or parents with little ones who need to wash hands a lot is just rude, selfish and unpleasant.

You may not be taking the soap or toilet paper out of someone's hands physically but by bulk buying you are making the lives of other people less able than you harder. You may not care so long as you are all right jack - but all your friends are judging you and so am I. You do not come out of it covered in glory. My judgement involves a few four letter words, none of them kind.

Helen Knott

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What's In A Name?

Some Years ago a discussion took place in the local paper about the case for the county area of Braunstone being given a separate name to the area of the Braunstone Estate lying within the city. In the course of these discussions the paper's cartoonist came up with name of Burton Nase!

Local geographers were aware that there is also a Braunstone in Rutland. There is, of course, the famous capital of the Midlands canal network of Braunstone just across the county boundary in Northamptonshire.

To prevent any confusion many of our Leicestershire villages do have distinguishing names. Thus various Kirbys are known by an additional name such as Muxloe, Mallory or Bellars. In most counties there are many Newtons just as we have Linford, Harcourt or Unthank.

The name of Belton also creates a problem for the postman, amongst others. Belton in Rutland proudly displays its full title on the village sign, to distinguish it from the others. These include a Belton up in neighbouring Lincolnshire, as well as the Leicestershire Belton, up on the northern fringes of Charnwood Forest. This one is the only village in the county with a maypole in the village square.

I have always found the study of place names fascinating. I have long puzzled over the "Thurs" a bunch of villages close to the city with unusual sounding names. How did these villages come to get their names and is there a link between Thurlaston, Thurmaston and Thurcaston? You will be interested to know that suggestions do vary.

Long ago, to the south and west of the City of Leicester lay the medieval estate of Glen, giving its name to many places still on the map today. Thus we have Great Glen, Glen Parva, famed for the burial site of a Saxon lady, Glen Frith and of course Glenfield. That at least is the way I was once told it by a local.

Incidentally part of the Braunstone in the county did eventually get renamed: It is called Thorpe Astley. See how many other Thirpes you can find.

Roger Blackmore

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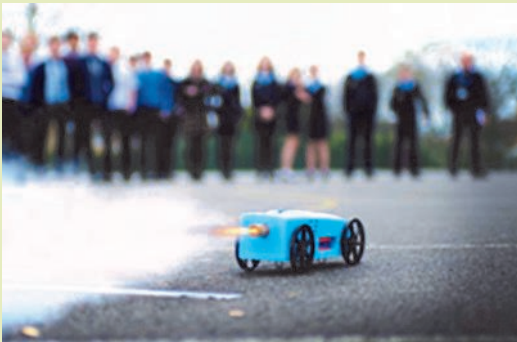
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ROCKETING ACROSS THE LINE

Nearly 200 Year 7 students at New College took part in the nationwide learning partnership 'Race for the Line', a project-based STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) activity linked to the curriculum. The students were taught about what makes a car go faster, weight, aerodynamics and velocity. The students built their cars in teams of 4 from a given selection of materials and a total of 40 cars were built. They raced over a 25 metre track using model rocket engines!



The event was sponsored by local precision engineering company, Lestercast Ltd, who attended the event, assisted throughout the race day and

also funded the training and equipment.

New College has been in a successful employer engagement collaboration with the company for the past three years and appreciates the value of working with local employers.

The two winning teams will visit and work with staff at Lestercast Ltd to develop their cars further using 3D technology and experimenting with aerodynamics and weight. They will then attend the regional finals competing against 160 schools.

Diana Bryce, STEM ambassador at the school said: "We are delighted to be working with Lestercast Ltd and very much appreciate the time and commitment they give to staff and students at the College. It gives the students the opportunity to work with a team and develop their skills within a competitive environment. Last year we were successful and reached the final, so we are very much hoping with further development, and support from Lestercast Ltd, we will be winners this year!"

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CIMA



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.

The waiting game has begun, our architect has submitted the plans for the changes we are hoping to make to the building and now the decision is in the hands of the planning department. It will be a while until we hear anything, so you might think we can have a little break now... You'd be wrong. We have already started work on Phase 2 of the project.

During this stage we will be writing bids for funding from national funding streams for the money required to complete the building works. One of the key things we need to make these bids successful is evidence of public support for what we are doing which thanks to the crowdfund, we now have.

Our community events will be carrying on too. We are very pleased to confirm that the Pop-Up Tearoom at St Anne's will be supporting Project Hive again this year. It will be returning, slightly later than last year, on Saturday 2nd May at 10:30am. So pop it into your diary now to avoid missing out on your cakey fix!

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

LETTER BOX



Dear Editor: I read with interest the letter from Pam Nutting about the mud bath on the Groby Road grass verges and pavements caused by parked cars. Ms Nutting first copied me into an email about this problem on 22nd January and I immediately raised it with the Council officers. I have arranged to visit Groby Road with the relevant officers to look at the problems on 20th February and informed Ms Nutting of this on 30th Jan, inviting her and other interested residents to join us. Similar problems have been reported by residents on Buckminster Road and we will also be inspecting the grass verges there on the same date. Following the visit I will be making recommendations to the Council by asking officers to look for ways to reduce the problems experienced by residents.

I would like to assure Fosse Ward residents that I take up all cases of problems that they tell me about, and that I am always happy to hear from them.

Cllr Sue Waddington Councillor for Fosse Ward
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TRAFFIC CALMING GETS GREEN LIGHT

Two new traffic calming schemes and 20mph zones are due to be introduced covering Letchworth Road and the area around Dovelands Primary School, following strong support from local residents and businesses.

The scheme will cover two residential areas, to the north and south of Glenfield Road.

The area north of Glenfield Road, covered by the 20mph zone, will include Letchworth Road, Perth Avenue, Wood End, Withens Close, Mossgate, Lindfield Road, Poynings Avenue, Lancing Avenue, Ditchling Avenue, Balcombe Avenue, Westfield Road, Hilders Road, Plymstock Close, Vincent Close, Ambrose Close, Danehurst Avenue, Sandhurst Close, Sandhurst Gardens and Ashdown Avenue.

Within this area, speed humps are proposed for Letchworth Road and Westfield Road.

The other area covers the streets between Glenfield Road and Hinckley Road. It includes the remainder of Letchworth Road, as well as streets around Dovelands Primary School, including Meadow, Westhill Road, Westfield Road, Brampton Avenue, Eastfield Road, Nevanthor Road, Denis Close, Gimson Road, Denton Street, Neville Road, Clarefield Road, Wynfield Road, Meadhurst Road, Sunnycroft Road, Mellor Road and Western Park Road.

Physical measures will include further humps on Letchworth Road and Westfield Road, a pedestrian refuge on Westfield Road and alterations to the kerb line at the crossroads between Letchworth Road and Westfield Road.

Detailed designs for the scheme will be drawn up with work taking place from April to June 2020.

Local support for safety measures was shown in the recent consultation process, in which 80 per cent of people who responded from the Letchworth Road north area, and 86 percent of those from around Dovelands Primary School, supported the implementation of a traffic-calming scheme.

Leicester City Mayor Peter Soulsby said: "Local residents and campaigners have been calling for action to tackle vehicle speeds in this busy residential area, and close to a popular school.

"I do hope this 20mph and these traffic-calming measures help tackle the problems and make these streets safer for everyone who uses them."



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BOMBER STAYS LOCKED UP

Hawkar Hassan, one of the three men who were jailed for life for murdering five people in the Hinckley Road explosion two years ago has failed in his appeal against conviction.

He was imprisoned for a minimum of 33 years after being convicted of murdering Shane Ragoober, his brother Sean, Leah Beth Reek, who was Shane's girlfriend, along with the brothers' mother, Mary Ragoober and shop worker Viktorija Ijevleva.



Hassan was convicted of murder and conspiracy to commit fraud at Leicester Crown Court last year.

His application to seek leave to appeal against the conviction was rejected at the Court of Appeal in London on earlier this month.

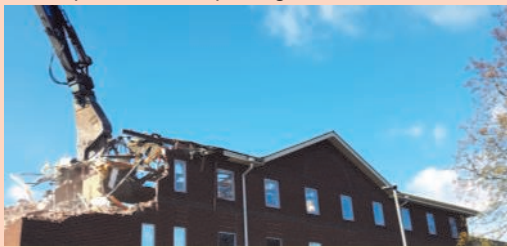
Aram Kurd from Braunstone and Arkan Ali of Oldham, were also convicted of the same offences and will serve at least 38 years each.

Kirby & West Dairy Demolished

The Kirby & West Dairy on Richard III Road has been knocked down as building work continues on the new Castle Mead Academy.

It had been Kirby & West's headquarters for nearly 35 years before their move to Uxbridge Road.

Plans drawn up by the Department of Education for the 1,200 pupil three storey secondary school includes a sports hall and pitches, teaching areas, a main hall, drama and music studios, dining, library, office spaces and car parking.



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Few of us bother look up as we walk along the roads in Leicester's West End. We miss a lot of history Tony Shelley writes...

WEST END'S FADING ART

Bovril, the old signage on Narborough Road reminds us, is something we used to have as children, served up in a large mug. My mother used to tell me it would keep me warm throughout the day. It was an acquired taste.

It's best described as a thick and salty meat extract paste, and first became available in the late 1880's as I understand.



Back in the 1950's one magazine arrived through our letterbox every week or so. Picture Post was a photojournalistic based magazine published in the United Kingdom from 1938 to 1957. It was different to other news magazines, its strength being the quality of the photojournalism. It was an overnight success, selling 1,700,000 copies a week after only two months. It has been called the UK's equivalent of Life magazine. The very first issue was published in 1938, the final issue hit the stands in 1957.



This old sign is embedded in the entrance to the newsagents on King Richards Road, and I cannot remember who Case's was, and what they sold. But this lovely artwork has survived, and I always stop to look when I pass by.

Tony Shelley



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NARBOROUGH RD IMPROVEMENT

Narborough Road is being spruced up to the tune of £145,000 as an improvement scheme focusing on pavement repairs, better street furniture and new bollards gets under way.

The first phase of the work includes pavement maintenance to replace broken slabs, improved drainage, resurfacing work, and also installing new bollards, benches and cycle racks.

Damage to the footways has been caused by underground tree roots cracking or distorting paving slabs or vehicles parking on pavements.



The works, co-funded by the city council and the Fosse Retail Park developers, will be carried out

over 14 weeks in the area between Narborough Road's junctions with Upperton Road and Equity Road.

It is the first stage of a series of improvements planned along the road, which will take place in gradual phases to avoid disrupting businesses.

Leicester deputy city mayor and Westcotes ward councillor, Sarah Russell, said: "Narborough Road is a thriving retail and residential area, with a bustling community of shops, restaurants and bars, as well as being one of the key gateways into the city.

"We are carrying out these improvements to help make it a more attractive, pleasant environment for people to live and shop.

"(We will) be installing bollards in areas to prevent pavement parking in future and new cycle racks, benches and other street furniture to help the area for everyone who uses it.

"We are mindful that this is a very busy street, with scores of small businesses, so we'll carry out this work over time to ensure it doesn't cause too much disruption to businesses, residents and road users in the area."

The road will remain open to traffic during the majority of the works. However, Upperton Road will be closed on occasional Sundays and at off-peak hours when work is being done around the traffic light junctions.

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March Police Update

With no let up in the wet weather and now the coronavirus, one thing for certain is that the Police, as an emergency service, will continue to function no matter what.

This month your teams have been working alongside our partners focusing upon the gig economy. There are elements within this sector that seek to exploit the vulnerable, skimp upon safety, placing their workers and the wider public in danger. They can also be a front for a raft of criminal behaviour. Operating in plain sight, they are not always recognised within our communities and fall off the priority radar.

Thank you for the continued flow of information regarding so-called cannabis factories. We have enforced upon a number of houses which had been converted to grow cannabis. Anyone unfortunate to have lived next door to one, will testify to the level of misery such places bring. On a personal note, it fills me with a great sense of satisfaction upon being greeted with a thumbs up of approval from residents as my team bashes in the door of these properties. Dismantling the scenes takes an inordinate amount of time, and I am grateful to the community for their words of encouragement, particularly the offer of refreshments (if I happen to be in your area, I have tea, white, none!)

This month also sees Leicestershire Police move to a new operating model in readiness for the growth in police numbers. We are currently recruiting and expect to see fully operational constables on the streets and in the communities towards the latter part of the year. Whilst the current operating model was necessary to implement the required austerity measures, an unintended consequence was the sense of 'production line policing'. Having lived and breathed the changes to policing over the years, I am confident this new model will benefit the people that matter most i.e. you. Officers will be based locally, with a focus upon more localised policing. As such they will become more proficient in recognising and tackling the local issues within the community. The benefits will not be immediate as our young officers, unfamiliar with this way of working, will need time to adjust. In the long-term it will be worth it.

On a final note I wish to say a fond farewell to PCs Baxter and Espin who are moving roles; PC Baxter is being promoted to Sergeant and PC Espin is moving to our Integrated Offender Manager team. Both were part of the team that won the Neighbourhood Beat of the year. I thank them for their hard work on the beat and wish them well in their future endeavours. Next month I look forward to introducing you to the new members of the Fosse Beat Team. Until then, be safe, be a good neighbour and keep telling us what matters the most to you.

Sgt Ed Jones

Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



Tense, frustrated and angry at your self isolation due to a bout of COVID-19?

You could stay indoors, avoiding all human contact and existing on takeaways for a couple of weeks or you could release some of the pressure with a **solo** venture into the garden and prune a *Buddleja*. Go on, give it hell - it can take it, and will love you for it. Obviously avoid cuts and wear gardening gloves which should be disposed of outside and use antibacterial wash or soap afterwards.

Since last autumn, and in between a hectic work life, I've been trying to prune at least one tree or shrub a week. Eventually I've got to the *Buddlejas*.

First was a large *Buddleja globosa*. Introduced from South America in the 18th century it has hundreds of small round orange coloured flowers in the summer. This should have been



Buddleja globosa

pruned after flowering last year but it'll just have to tolerate a spring trim. At over 4m (15ft) tall and wide it was engulfing all in its path. I kept the shape of its domed crown but reduced the size by a third, removing some of the larger branches that were crossing and rubbing.

Next I tackled the *B. Davidii*, the "Butterfly Bush" we all know, but not all love. In just over a century they have colonised all but the bleakest areas of Britain. I confess to being a fan. The intense coloured cone shape flower panicles are magnets to bees and butterflies and the heavy, sweet perfume is the smell of hot summer afternoons. This week it met the less poetic charms of Mr Chainsaw. Now that gnarled and rampant tree has been tamed and my spleen vented. Luckily *Davidii* tolerate aggressive pruning as they can easily put out 2m (6ft) of growth in a year.

Spring is the ideal time to prune them. *Buddleja* often become congested, so thin it, starting with crossing or damaged branches. Cut to an outward facing bud. Don't be afraid to cut out larger sections that hamper an open framework. Finally reduce the height to allow for the expected summer growth.

Then relax... Or not. These are difficult times.

NOTE: If you are self isolating please seek appropriate medical advice before gardening.

Tony Huxley



Martin Page

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1		2		3		4
5						
6						
7						

1 Across: Seat supports **1 Down:** Sunday **2D:** Not a hare **3D:** American falls **4D:** Pieces of wood to secure meat **5A:** Father of computing **6A:** Stir-up pedant **7A:** Hungarian light cavalry members © Paul Towers 2020.

Answers at w:westernparkgazette.co.uk

3	8	7	1	6	9	5	4	2
5	1	4	2	7	3	9	8	6
2	6	9	8	5	4	7	3	1
7	5	1	6	4	8	3	2	9
9	4	8	3	2	1	6	5	7
6	3	2	5	9	7	4	1	8
1	2	6	9	3	5	8	7	4
8	7	5	4	1	6	2	9	3
4	9	3	7	8	2	1	6	5

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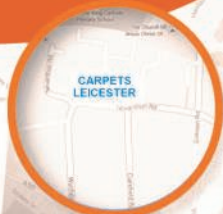
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