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Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the May edition of the Gazette. We are now, after 14 months of painful lockdown, a little closer to normal. We can go out to restaurants, pubs, clubs and some venues; we can start to live a little more. There's still some way to go but at least we can see the horizon.

So, in this new and slightly weird spirit of optimism, what have we got for you this month? There's a spectacular new Battle of Bosworth mural gracing the side of Bazaar Mart on King Richards Road, Project Hive prepare to launch this year's Scarecrow Trail as they continue fundraising towards redeveloping the Eco House, Helen Knott is slightly squirrely about venturing out to party, which is not like her at all, and Tony Shelley looks at the life and times of a Leicester born stained glass genius.

Regular features continue with Ed Jones's local policing update and our Green Guru, Carey Tunstall, has May's gardening advice.

Finally, on the inside back page, the masochism that is the Braintazers await to curdle your brain.

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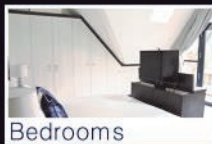


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KING RICHARD RIDES AGAIN

As the Foxes took on Chelsea in the FA Cup Final, local artist, Mono, was putting the final flourishes to a large mural on the wall of Bazaar Mart on Glenfield Road. The mural was commissioned through Graffwerk Arts Projects in collaboration with Leicester City Council. Graffwerk's Izzy Hopkins said: "LCC approached us to create a mural depicting a battle scene during the time of King Richard the Third's reign.

"We decided that it would be great to work with local artist MONO as his style was a great fit for the project. Following consultation and a number of drawings, the final design was selected and it was agreed to complete the work."

The mural was originally due to be started in the spring of 2020 but things did not go to plan as Emily Johnson from Bazaar Mart explains: "Trevor Mee, the council's development manager, came in just before lockdown with a plan to regenerate the area with a mural. He showed us a few drawings and we chose one; didn't think it'd come off; then Boom, it did. Then, covid hit and put it back a long way but we had to have the wall rendered as well."

Both Emily and her dad, Jim, are impressed with the results: "It's phenomenal, really good. Better than we could ever have imagined."

Leicester born Lee Drummond, better known as

Mono, is the talent behind much of the city's street art including the Leicester City mural near the Magazine. This current project has been occupying him and his spray cans for over a month. He said: "The council approached me wanting a Battle of Bosworth mural for this area. We went through a design process and whittled it down to this one - then it gets delayed for a year."

Creating the mural is an intricate and time consuming job. "First of all, we have to plot it all out and get it in proportion, I get on the scaffold tower and mark it all out, as accurately as I can and then start working into it with colour. There's been a some delay, down to the rain, but it's done now!"



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PROJECT
hive Update
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WWCE's Project Hive is run by local residents who are raising funds to redevelop the old Eco House into a community space.

We are thrilled to announce that registrations are now open for entries into this year's Western Park Scarecrow Trail which is returning for its third year. The event itself will be held over the weekend of the 4th and 5th of September and the theme for entries this time is "The World of Books" which could include more than just what goes on between the covers.

The Trail is populated by the fantastic scarecrow creations from the residents of Western Park which are displayed in their front gardens and spread over a walkable route through our streets.

It makes for a lovely couple of days with the chance to chat with your neighbours and share in the genuine community buzz.

We need to ensure this event continues to be a success. So we'd like as many people as possible to sign up to be scarecrow builders. Last year more than sixty entries competed for the title of "Favourite Scarecrow" this year we would love to make that number seventy or more. All the money raised will go towards Project Hive.

You can find out more about the Scarecrow Trail and register your entry through our website or social pages which are wwwce.org.uk or on Facebook @wwceleicester

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KNOTT'S LANDING

Staying in is the new going out. No really! I might not make myself popular here but I'm really not bothered. I used to like going out but when everything reopens and we can eat and drink inside, the hospitality industry is really going to have to pull something out of the hat to make me go back. No longer will I put up with being crushed, waiting around for tables, waiting for service and getting mediocre food and drink for my pains.



The night lockdown lifted and pubs opened, I watched, bemused, as people sat in their ski gear in the garden of their local having a pint. I like beer. I like my friends. I was not going to be sitting in the snow at midnight for either of them. I watched the antics from my nice warm house with a very nice old vine red in my glass, for way less than £7 a glass.

I've used lockdown to enhance my cooking skills

so any food I pay for has to be something I could not or would not do myself. That's quite a high bar these days. Mr Restaurateur you better be creating reductions, flavour spheres and picking crab for me. You better be making on point street food from somewhere in the world I love, and can't get to, because, as of now some reheated frozen shizzle from Brake Brothers or Bidfood you've nuked in the microwave just isn't going to cut it.

Queuing to get into the little pavement café areas has, in just a few weeks, become normal. People lining up less than 2m from the nearest person desperate to get a drink. It strikes me that this is unhealthy in the current pandemic.

My reluctance to go out is partly based on the restaurant experience but it's also for health reasons. I like to see what the rich and powerful are up to before I go barrelling out in public. Google has told its staff to work from home until the end of the year. Most major banks are the same. Doctors and virologists are not going out. Parliament and local councils are mostly working from home. The rich and powerful are not rushing out to go to the pub. I'm going to take my cue from them. Order me a takeaway and a box of those Huxley's bar cocktails everyone round here is talking about.

I understand the clamour to get back to normal but I think that's a rubbish plan. We need to go back to the future.

Helen Knott

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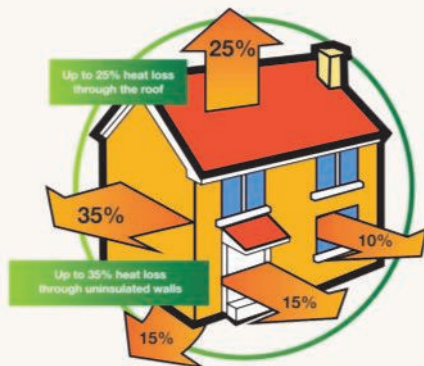
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FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology will be running from July 3rd to August 1st. The county festival is part of the UK's national Festival of Archaeology.

With lockdown restrictions easing, it's now possible to get out and explore local places, discover the archaeology and rich heritage that is all around us and uncover the stories, sites, buildings, places, people and events that make our local communities so special.

Events, on the ground and online, are planned across Leicestershire and Rutland's villages, in museums and at heritage sites.

The Festival brings together over 40 guided walks, live digital talks by some of the counties' leading heritage experts, self-guided walks to enjoy at your own pace, online archives of past talks and a host of family friendly activities, exhibitions and hands-on events.

Local organiser, Peter Little said: "We have fabulous sites locally and we plan to show people a different dimension to popular beauty spots like Bradgate Park, Beacon Hill and Abbey Park, where the archaeology may go unnoticed – until our expert guides point it out."

More information and a full list of events can be found at: <https://leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology>

WESTERN PARK OPEN GARDENS

The very popular biannual Western Park Open Gardens' event returns in June.

Hundreds of local residents are expected to roam across the Letchworth and Westfield Road area to take in the sights and smells of 10 or so gardens that will be thrown open to the public.

This year the money raised will go to local community groups St Anne's church, the local neighbourhood Watch and Project Hive.

It runs between 2pm and 5pm on 12th and 13th June, tickets are available from St Anne's Hall and cost £5.00 for one day or £8.00 for the weekend. Under 16 are free.

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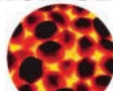
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(Lucy Johnson)

Dear editor, As a long term resident of Western Park, I am delighted that the new speed humps across the Letchworth Road area have considerably slowed down the traffic. It is a much need improvement. However, it would have been more economical for the city council to let giant pot holes develop, as they have so successful achieved in the past, on other city roads. This along with other ludicrously vertical traffic calming measures would permit unwary motorists, driving at over 10 miles an hour, to have their sumps ripped off thereby allowing them to spend hundreds of pounds in repairs. Although this is not a fine it would be a timely and expensive reminder to thoughtless motorists that driving with more care is, ultimately, a much cheaper option.
(P.T)

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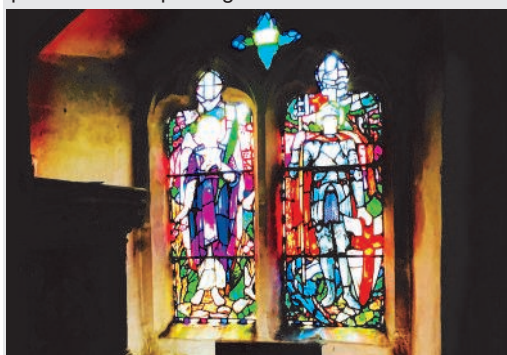
STAINED GLASS GENIUS

Theodora Salusbury is not a name that readily comes to mind I guess. But in the world of Stained Glass Art, she is known as one of the most prolific and talented artists of this genre, and of her generation. Many fine examples of her work can still be found locally, casting their colourful, sunlit intricate patterns over historic church interiors.

She was born in Leicester on May 24, 1875. For many years Theodora and her family lived in Lianwern Lodge, next to St. James The Greater on London Road, where her father (Llewelyn), was appointed a warden to the church which was newly built at the time. He faithfully carried out his duties from 1894 to 1901.

At the age of 19 in 1894, Theodora was attending the old Leicester School of Art where she excelled at drawing and obtained a first class grade. From here she went to The Royal College of Art. Other studies followed, and eventually she found her path into designing stained glass windows, taking on commissions throughout England, many of which are in and around Leicester and Leicestershire.

She was actively involved in the creation of her windows - choosing the coloured glass and either cutting it herself or supervising the work and then painting it. Look carefully and you'll see many of her windows are signed by her artist's mark, a peacock in full plumage.



The above image is 'The World War One Memorial' at All Saints Church in Newtown Longford, and it was one of two commissions from Theodora by the Everards family. Other windows can be found at churches in Charnwood, Narborough, Queniborough, Kimcote, Birstall, Scraftoft, as well as several church's in the city.

Her final years were spent first in St Agnes Cornwall where she had a studio, finally settling in the city of Bath, sharing a house with her sisters. Theodora Salusbury died on September 27, 1956 and is buried in Bathwick Cemetery, Bath. In accordance with her will, her studio and all her records were destroyed.

Tony Shelley

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CIMA

May Police Update

I hope there will be a time when I won't start off by mentioning Coronavirus. That time seems tantalisingly close. As infection rates continue to fall, the road to recovery appears on track. We will see the imminent re-opening of the hospitality sector, an easing of households meeting indoors and what, seemingly, is a glimpse of the 'old normal'. Rather like a retreating glacier, this virus has scarred our landscape, meaning our behaviours and how we interact with each other has had to adjust. We know that viruses thrive in the winter period. How we conduct ourselves now will determine the threat we face in the future months. An eye on the rest of the world tells you that the pandemic is far from over. Through regular hand washing, wearing of face masks when required to do so, frequent testing and getting vaccinated, we can secure a better outcome in the future.

A good outcome worthy of mention is our week-long anti knife crime operation. This led to 36 arrests across the force and more than 50 knives being taken off the streets. Your teams carried out a number of knife sweeps, deployed the portable knife arches, conducted proactive patrols and performed a number of stop and search activities where appropriate. The **We Don't Carry #LivesNotKnives** online campaign reached over 350,000 people across digital and social media channels. Tackling Knife crime is not confined to targeted operations but continues as part of our daily business. There is no "respect" or "bravery" in carrying a knife, only cowardice.

I am pleased to report that Sgt Shaun Randall has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery. Shaun has been policing the West area for over a decade as a PC and more recently as a Sergeant. The Hincley Road explosion in 2018 remains fresh in the minds of many. Shaun was one of the first on scene in what can only be described as carnage. In a selfless act, and in spite of the marauding fire, he crawled through the rubble to pull a young man to safety.

A particular mention to the selfless work of the Woodgate community Food bank, which has now moved to Rally House on Bonchurch Street. The work they do for the community is simply astounding, and it is great to see this old building being put to good use. We also hold regular beat surgeries there, which are advertised on Neighbourhood link and our West Leicester social media pages (Twitter & Facebook). Pop down and see for yourself the good work that is going on there, and if you have some spare time to give, then get involved. In the interim, keep safe and be a good neighbour

Sgt Ed Jones

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER



As soon as May arrives we're itching to plant out our summer bedding. However the climate doesn't always offer the best growing conditions; frost can be forecast even into June.

The safest practice is to keep your carefully selected bedding plants indoors or in a warm greenhouse until at least the end of May. You'll find me running outside with rolls of horticultural fleece trying to protect them as much as possible if there's a frost forecast! Any bedding plants grown indoors or in the greenhouse need to be acclimatised; that means putting them outside on warm days and bringing back in for the cold evening or protecting with fleece. This ensures that plant growth is not stunted.



To produce bushier plants, I like to nip out the growing points. I also remove any flower heads if I'm not ready to plant them out as this conserves the plants' energy. When I'm ready to plant up, I always have water retaining granules at the ready, good quality peat free compost and granular feed. These three items help to retain moisture in the container and provide enough food for the bedding plants for three months.

I have applied a top dressing to my lawns this month; you can do this anytime during the growing season in spring or autumn, but I find it best when a prolonged wet period is on the way. Topdressing helps to improve drainage, promote growth, level lawns and enables repair of patchy or worn areas. I use a mixture of loam based soil and sand, followed by a scattering of grass seed on any bare or thin patches.

In the coming weeks I will earth up my potatoes and protect their top-growth if there is a frost. The frost won't kill the potato plants but can delay flowering and subsequently harvest. I am going to build a support system for my runner beans for when they are finally able to go out. I shall also thin out my carrot seedlings and cover them with a horticultural fleece, this reduces damage by carrot fly. Finally, I am going to keep on top of weeding – I want all the nutrients to go to my plants and not moisture-hogging weeds.

Carey Tunstall

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BRAIN TAZERS

1		2		3		4
5						
7						

1 Across: More bowlegged **1 Down:** Preparer of coffee
2D: Short book **3D:** lettuce variety **4D:** Raised dais
5A: Theatrical appreciations **6A:** To go astray morally
7A: An alloy of mercury and other metals.

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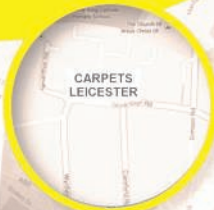
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