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# Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the first edition of the Western Park Gazette for 2025.

After a bitter start to the New Year with sub-zero overnight temperatures and severe local flooding, including a small ocean which sank several cars on Fosse Road South, the temperature slowly rose and we can, hopefully, get on with the rest of the year.

In this issue, the organisers of the Western Park Beer Festival handed over £4000 to two local charities, There are more roadworks to deal with, this time on Dunns Lane, just off Braunstone Gate and there are some much needed plans to clean up the River Soar.

Additionally, the scourge of erratically ridden escooters could soon be a thing of the past!

In our regular features, Carey Tunstall, has some January gardening advice, there's the latest policing update as well as a Word Wanger and a sudoku on the inside back page. You'll find the answers on our website.

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# <u>Events Diary</u>

@ Robert Hall: Free Thurs Club 2pm. Meet & Eat Weds 5pm. 147 Narborough Road.

Hall @ St Anne's, Letchworth Rd: Knit & Natter: 1.30pm, 4th Tues. Weds Club: 2.30pm, 1st Weds. Musical Memory Box: 1st & 3rd Tues 2pm Pram Club: Weds 9.15-11.30am. Women's Taekwondo: Thurs 8-9pm taekwondo4all.com Fri Coffee: 10am Free Tea/Coffee @ St Paul's Worship Ctr / Community Hub, Kirby Rd Weds, 2- 4pm. T-Top sale. 2nd Sat. Wonderful Walks on Western Park: Monthly 3rd Sunday. 9.30am start at Hinckley Rd gates. @ De Montfort Hall: What's Love Got To Do With It: 1 Feb. Pretty Vacant 2 Feb. The Bowie Show 3 Feb. @ Curve: The Lion The Witch & The Wardrobe 30 Jan - 8 Feb. & Juliet: 17-22 Feb.

(a) Little Theatre: Breath of Life 3-8 Feb. Murder She Didn't Write 9 Feb. Oh What A Night 11-12 Feb.
Leicester Comedy Festival: 5-23 Feb. Various venues across the city. comedy-festival.co.uk
(a) Guildhall: Laurel & Hardy Cabaret: 8 Feb 6pm.
Guided Hall Tours: 10 Feb - 3 March.
(a) 02 Academy: Music of Prince 14 Feb. The Phonics + A Band Called Malice (Tribute Bands) 21 Feb.
(a) Metal Monocle: Dijinova, King Abyss, Awaiting Ends 1 Feb. Meteora 7 Feb. Lake Acacia 14 Feb.
(a) The Musician: Imagine The Beatles 15 Feb.
(a) Abbey Pumping Station: 1/2 Term Railway Day 18 Feb. Steam Toys in Action 23 Feb.

Light-up Leicester Festival: 12-15 March City Centre.

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- Homework Club on Mondays, 3.30pm-6.00pm



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### E-scooters Run Out Of Time

The scourge of being run off the pavement by battery powered bicycles and scooters could soon be at an end as the City Mayor asks the public for ideas on ways to shape a new approach to keeping the city's public spaces free from anti-social behaviour.

Sir Peter Soulsby is worried about the nuisance associated with street drinking, begging, the unauthorised use of PA equipment, and the dangerous use of bikes, e-bikes and scooters.

E-bikes and electric scooters are a particular menace in West Leicester where a lot of them treat the pavement like a roadway and a red traffic light is just a suggestion.

Leicester's police has joined

other forces across the UK and announced that they will now seize illegally souped-up e-bikes and e-scooters on public highways without any initial warning. Since June 2023, they have issued 152 warnings and seized eight e-scooters and five e-mopeds.

new online consultation to establish if there's support for the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which would let the police and authorised council officers take swift enforcement action against those causing a nuisance in the protected zone.

Sir Peter said: "We know that other cities are experiencing similar problems, but it's unacceptable that the behaviour of a few individuals should spoil the city centre for the rest of us."

The currently proposed PSPO would only cover the area just beyond Leicester's inner ring road, and does not apply to West Leicester, but other protection orders could very well be in the offing.

If adopted, the PSPO is valid for three years and would take effect from 1 April 2025.

The online consultation runs till midnight on 17th Feb and to take part scan this code to your device.



# ighting Up The Sky

The free Light Up Leicester festival returns between March 12-15. It's a spectacular mix of large-projection, light and sound installations with free interactive performances by local, national and international artists. It offers something different to enjoy each evening, alongside the dazzling programme of illuminated installations.

Highlights include an illuminated trail, playground As part of his response, the City Mayor has launched a of giant glowing bubbles, a dramatic 2km-high column of light projected into the sky and two stunning art installations that combine movement, music and digital technology to produce a dynamic and mesmerising experience.

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# **BEER YOU GO!**

Thousands of pounds have been handed over to two local charities, thanks to the thirsty efforts of Western Park residents.

The Bodie Hodges Foundation and Volunteer Action LeicesterShire (VAL) were the chosen charities for last September's Western Park Beer Festival, which once again attracted hundreds of people from across the area.

And as well as having a great time, participants also raised  $\pounds4,000$  for the two charities. Representatives from the Western Park Beer Festival recently handed over two cheques for  $\pounds2,000$  each to The Bodie Hodges Foundation and VAL.

That means the voluntary group has raised about £64,000 for good causes in the local area since it started back in 2015.

David McAuley, Chairman of the Western Park Beer Festival, said: "The ethos of the festival is to have a great time with the local community while also helping local charities - and we are thrilled to be able to support both The Bodie Hodges Foundation and Volunteer Action LeicesterShire.

Thank you everyone who came along to support the festival and, in turn, help these two worthy charities."

This year's Western Park Beer Festival will take place on August 29th-30th at its usual location, St Anne's Church Hall.

And this year, the voluntary group will be celebrating in style with its tenth anniversary festival. The Bodie Hodges Foundation offers services to families bereaved of a child, while VAL has been supporting voluntary and community groups across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland for over 50 years. **Phil Hibble** 



TO CONTACT THE GAZETTE E: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk E: Sales@westernparkgazette.co.uk FB @mygazette X @ourgazette

### UK Government's Home Energy Efficiency Scheme – ECO4

# IN LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AREA NOW NEW FREE BOILER SCHEME

A new Government scheme is available to households with an old "Non-Condensing" boiler. The manufacture of these Non-Condensing boilers was stopped in 2005 as they are very inefficient and will be costing you £100s a year in wasted energy, also parts for Non-condensing boilers are becoming increasingly unavailable.

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#### BRAUNSTONE GATE ROADWORKS

#### A £600 000 scheme is under way to improve a busy Plans to improve the River Soar in West Leicester road in Leicester's Braunstone Gate area for pedestrians and cyclists.

The city council is carrying out 3 months of roadworks A new partnership called "Restoring the Soar" has on Duns Lane, to create new cycle tracks and improve footpaths along the full length of the road, between Braunstone Gate and St Augustine Road.

Duns Lane is restricted to one-way traffic, from Braun- Canal & River Trust and stone Gate to St Augustine Road and a diversion is in Leicestershire & Rutland Wildplace but businesses are open as normal.

Cllr Geoff Whittle, assistant city mayor for environment and transport, said: "This will help provide a muchimproved link to existing infrastructure for people on foot, on bikes, using wheelchairs or other mobility aids, extending the network of people-friendly routes in and around Braunstone Gate and De Montfort University."



#### **RIVER SOAR CLEAN-UP**

have received a funding boost of more than £500,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

been given the cash to develop plans for enhancing the river corridor from West Bridge to Watermead Park.

Leicester City Council, the life Trust are joining forces to improve this urban stretch of the river. following a successful bid for the development funding led by the council.

These partners will be asking local people their views about issues such as litter in the river, and how it affects people and wildlife. Consultation sessions



will take place at venues throughout the catchment area and have already began in Belgrave, where people can join the team for a walk and talk to see the project area and share their views.

The project will aim to improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitats and encourage more people to use and eniov the river and surrounding areas.

To find out more and how to volunteer email: nature.conservation@leicester.gov.uk

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# CAREY'S COMPOST

Happy New Year! I know that after all our festivities January and early February may seem like a quiet time for gardening, but there's plenty to do to prepare your green space for the year ahead. From pruning to planting, the colder winter days provide opportunities to tend your garden and get it

ready for spring. It's the ideal time for tidying and organising. I generally start by clearing away debris such as fallen leaves and dead plants. This helps prevent pests and diseases from overwintering in my garden. Then, my least favourite chores: I clean and sharp-



en the tools and organise the shed and greenhouse for easy access to equipment when spring arrives.

Once the housekeeping is done, It's not a bad idea sweet peas in pots. Ke to prune dormant trees, shrubs, and hedges, using watered. your newly sharpened tools! Focus on fruit trees like By tackling these task apple and pear, as well as wisteria and roses, to stage for a vibrant, he encourage healthy growth and flowering. Avoid prun-year. Happy gardening!

ing stone fruits such as cherries and plums until summer to prevent the spread of silver leaf disease.

Use any downtime to plan your garden for the year ahead, but that can really depend on your level of enthusiasm! Some ideas include ordering seeds, bulbs, and plants from catalogues or online. You could easily draw up a planting schedule to ensure a continuous supply of flowers and veggies throughout the year. There are online guides which can help.

Protect tender plants from frost by covering them with horticultural fleece or cloches. Move potted plants to sheltered areas or indoors if temperatures are forecast to drop significantly. If the ground isn't frozen, spread well-rotted manure or compost over your beds. This enriches the soil and prepares it for spring planting. Avoid digging when the soil is waterlogged though, as it can damage its structure.

I think it's important to help garden wildlife by leaving out food and fresh water for birds. Clean bird feeders regularly to prevent the spread of diseases. Consider building bug hotels or leaving log piles for insects and small mammals.

If you have a greenhouse or cold frame, now's the time to sow early seeds like broad beans, peas, and sweet peas in pots. Keep them protected and well-watered.

By tackling these tasks in January, you'll set the stage for a vibrant, healthy garden throughout the year. Happy gardening! *Carey Tunstall* 







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# <u>Jan Police Update</u>

An investigation is underway after a police car collided with three pedestrians close to the junction of Narborough Road and Upperton Road.

Shortly after 4.40pm on Monday 13 January a pursuit was authorised in relation to a blue BMW that failed to stop for police. As the officer driving the police vehicle attempted to pursue the car it collided with three pedestrians.

A woman in her 30s and two 10-year-old children were assessed at the scene. The woman suffered a minor injury. The children were not injured.

Investigating officers are asking anyone who witnessed the collision to come forward if they have not already spoken to police.

The blue BMW, that failed to stop, made off from the area. Enquiries are ongoing in relation to this.

The incident has been reviewed and does not require a referral to be made to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

Anyone with information can report online or call 101, quoting reference 25\*023881.

While the start of the New Year was bitterly cold and very wet, it still turned out to be surprisingly productive on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of January.

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, a report of an attempted house break-in on Muriel Road, off Glenfield Road, turned out to uncover a cannabis farm! One rather large and hard door knock later, the house was secured and a substantial amount of plants seized. Officers went back there the next day when the electricity had been made safe and the cannabis grow dismantled. Investigation is still ongoing regarding this grow and the incident leading up to its discovery.

The Fosse Beat Team Fosse have been on patrol to deter people from causing harm within the community. Officers have been busy investigating recent thefts from motor vehicles on Franche Road & Tyrrell Street. Sadly, there's been an increase in vehicles being targeted across West Leicester. Please be mindful when leaving your vehicle, ensuring they are locked and secure, and do not leave anything inside. Thieves are looking into vehicles and checking door handles to see if they are open or are using an object to smash the window. Also think about your insurance!

The Braunstone & Rowley Fields beat team helped colleagues at a concern for welfare call at an address in Westcotes, whilst on patrol a stolen van was located, recovered and sent for forensic examination and officers have been conducting arrest attempts, collaring a number of people wanted for drug and weapon offences in the process.

All the Beat Teams are committed to preventing the supply of drugs in our communities, and to reducing the demand for these substances by encouraging users to seek support from local services.

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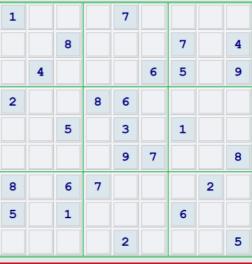
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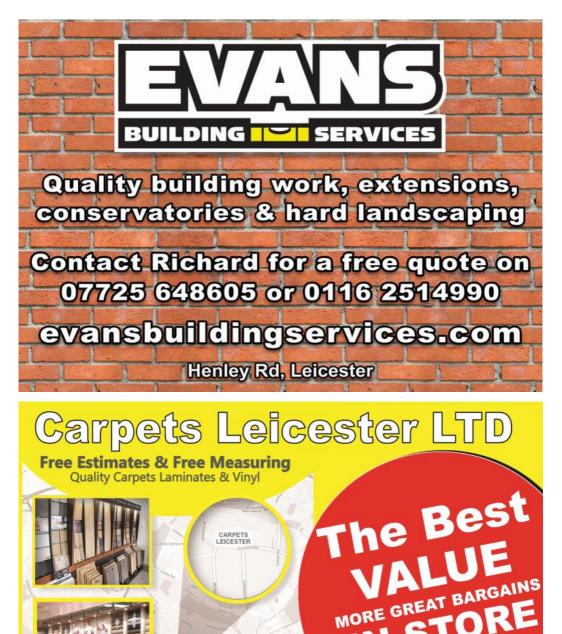
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Can You Solve The Word Wang? Hidden in the above box are the following words: Eggnog, Ice, Rain, Snowman, Winter, Hangover, New, Sleet, Snuggle Hogmanay, Panto, Snow, Wet. Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk © Paul Towers



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