



## FUN AT THE FAIR!

*More on Page 3*

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# Hello From The Editor

Welcome to the July edition of the Western Park Gazette.

Summer has finally arrived and we celebrated in style with the yearly Western Park Festival and the biannual Western Park Open Gardens. Our cameras have never been so busy! Take a look at the Gazette's Facebook account to view more pictures.

This month, Dovelands School shows real flower power, Project Hive continues fund raising and residents of Gimson Road hold a street party.

Helen Knott and Roger Blackmore are having a break, but gardening gnome Tony Huxley has found the Holy Grail of stinky plants!

De Montfort University have arranged a ton of activities to keep us amused over the summer break and Mark Brennan from Hinckley Road police has their regular update.

As always the crossword and Sudoku squat menacingly on the back page.

If you're going on holiday – have fun, keep safe and make sure your homes are securely locked up.

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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.

**West End Pay As You Feel Café:** Thurs 7-8.30pm. Tues, Fri & Sat 11-3pm. WE Centre. Andrewes St.

**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

**Walking Group:** Sundays. 2pm. 96 Deg. B-Gate.

**Sun Eve Dru Yoga with Emma:** 28th July & 18th Aug. St. Anne's Hall. 7.15-8.30pm 07393 811150.

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

**Curve: 2nd Aug -11 Aug: Bollywood Jane.**

**Little Theatre: 16th-20th July - Edinburgh Fringe Preview Shows.**

**Y Theatre: 19th July - Gothia, 23rd July - Rough Draft, 27th - Blaby Mind Matters (Variety show).**

**DM Hall: 16-26th Aug - Gigs In The Garden.**

**Haymarket Th: 16th Aug- Real Magic (Queen tribute) 23rd Aug - Another Day in Paradise (Phil Collins tribute)**

**Nat Space Centre:** One Giant Leap (Exhibition & activity about Apollo lunar landings).

**Caribbean Carnival:** 3rd Aug. Victoria Park.

**Ride Leicester Festival:** 17-31st Aug

**Belgrave Mela:** 18th August.

**City Festival:** 19th-25th Aug. New Market Sq.

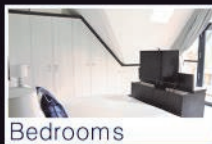
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# FUN AT THE FAIR

The Weather could have been nicer but the afternoon drizzle didn't dampen any spirits as the eighth Western Park Festival geared up for another successful day's fun.

Thirty Leicester based bands and singers graced the three stages belting out everything from psychedelic rock to swing classics. The other festival priority is food; and there was a lot of that - from organic burgers and curries to fudge and cakes, all interspersed with charity stalls and family activities from Zorbing to a fun fair.

Festival organiser Ady Alexander said: "Thank you to everyone who came along and a huge thanks to all of the volunteers and sponsors who contributed to make the day run so smoothly".



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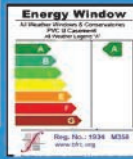
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## WESTERN PARK GARDENS 2019

Hundreds of green fingered folk from far and wide roamed across the Letchworth Road area to enjoy the June sunshine and experience the explosion of colour that is the Western Park Open Gardens event.

This year twelve homes threw open their gates to visitors for this charity event which was raising money for Rainbows, Linking Lives, St Anne's Church and the local Neighbourhood Watch.

Visit our Facebook page for more photos.



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## Dovelands Flower Power

Dovelands has been awarded 3rd prize at the prestigious RHS Chatsworth Flower Show. 39 schools from across the Midlands entered the RHS Chatsworth Schools Competition in June, held in the grounds of the Derbyshire stately home. The Brief was to make a sensory planter with either upcycled or recycled materials. 70% had to be plant material, with the majority of that grown by the school children.

Over 270 Dovelands children were involved and chose to upcycle an old "packed lunch" trolley by weaving willow, grown in the garden, through the metal bars. Seed sowing started as early as February with more being planted before and after Easter. The five senses; were enhanced by a wide variety of plants chosen along with other elements. The upcycled blue toy boxes and pots were decorated by adding pottery flowers and leaves, glinting with silver foil, all made during gardening lessons. The magical orange watering can be poured water endlessly into a bucket containing tasty watercress.



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

This month we've been busy meeting new faces at the West Gate Family Festival and the Dovelands Summer Fayre. Scarecrow Sam has been touring Leicester posing for selfies and we've just attended this year's Western Park Festival. The positive feedback about Project Hive on our travels has been great!

31<sup>st</sup> July will be your last chance to enter a scarecrow into the very first Western Park Scarecrow Trail on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> September, so don't miss out on your chance to be part of the fun! Scarecrow building is a great activity to keep the kids busy during the summer holidays!

If you live outside of Western Park you can still register to enter but your scarecrow will join others on the playground of Dovelands School rather than along the trail.

First prize is £100. For more details, search "Western Park Scarecrow Trail" on Eventbrite.co.uk or follow the link via our Facebook event page.

**Find out more about WWCE and Project Hive at [www.projecthive.org.uk](http://www.projecthive.org.uk) or on Facebook @wwceleicester**

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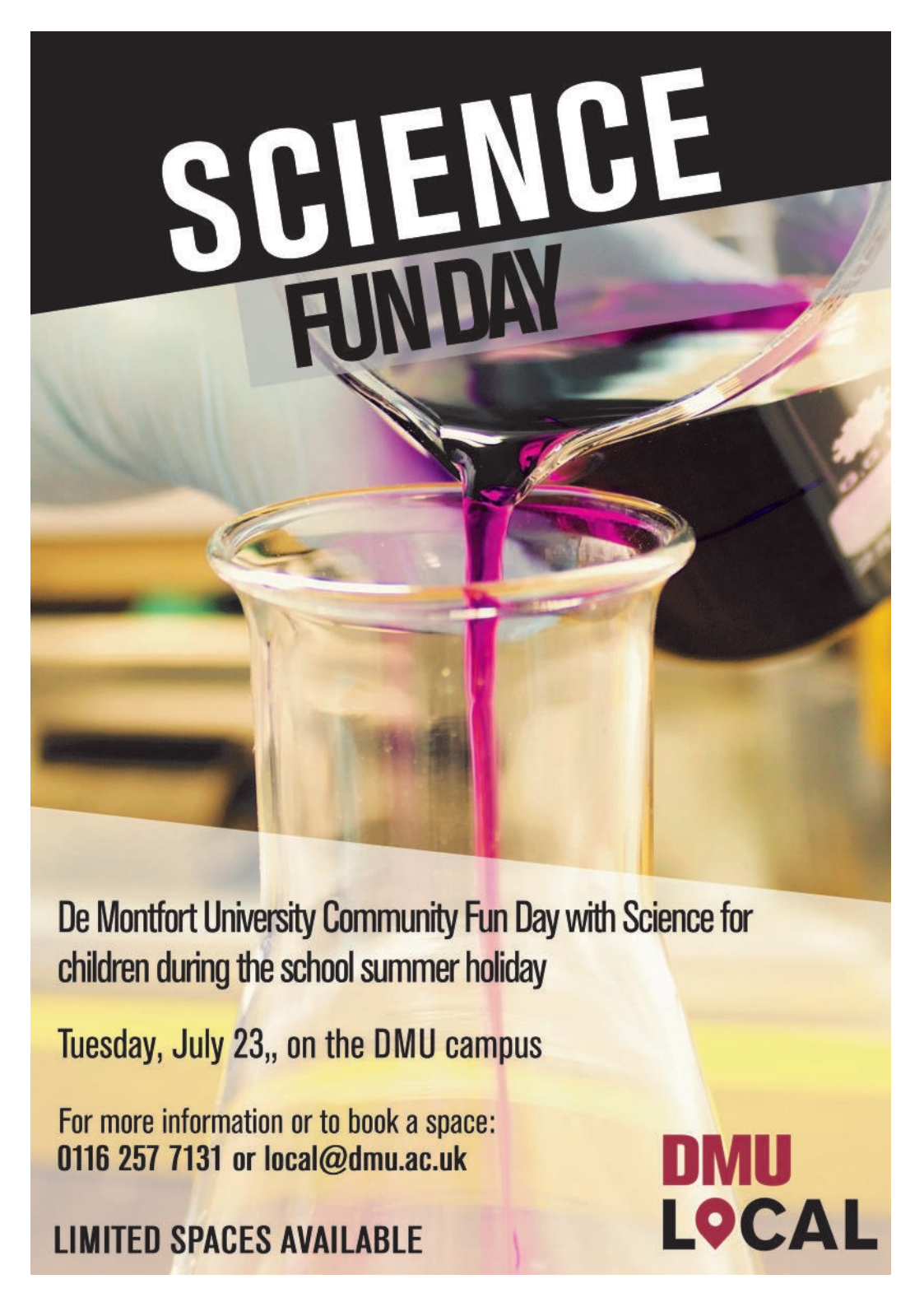
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## GIMSON ROAD STREET PARTY

Following the great success of last year's two Street and Christmas shindigs; the bunting returned as Gimson Road residents held our first annual street party.

The event was attended by a wide range of residents, their families, friends and local councillors Ted and Sue, along with Sally, our local Bobby.

It was supported by Leicester City Council Community Ward Grant and Mr and Mrs Percy without whom we wouldn't have been able to afford the wonderful catering provided by Perfectly Edible a local sustainable food charity, the soft play Playbus M88 and amazing raffle prizes.



As ever the neighbours threw themselves into making the event very personal and special. Bains and family made Fresh Aloo Tikki. Gazebos and umbrellas festooned the street; paddling pools, fairground games were all lent by residents (Thank you Angharad for the fairground games). PCSO Sally Morgan brought along a police car for the children, big and small, to sit in and turn the sirens on.

The day ended with a cricket match on the street and all the leftover food was donated to the homeless. A great day all round and we are already preparing for the Christmas Party!

**Margaret Brooks**

Visit The Gazette's Facebook page for the video

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## July Police Update

Your patrol priorities currently for the three wards in the area are:

**Western Ward/New Parks:** Aikman Avenue Shops, Rowanberry Avenue, Piper Close, Western Park;

**Westcotes Ward:** Bede Park, Andrews Estates and Tesco, New Park Street;

**Fosse Ward:** Tudor Road and Frederick Jackson House, Noble Street;

Your local teams will be conducting ongoing uniformed and plain clothes patrols in these areas throughout the summer months. We decide these priorities based on community feedback and incident reports, so please report crime and anti-social behaviour to us online at [www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk)

We have conducted six drugs warrants in the area in the past month at addresses on New Parks Boulevard, Aikman Avenue, Bateman Road, Piper Close, Tudor Road and Daneshill Road. Numerous arrests have been made with drugs and weapons taken off the streets! All our warrants are based on the community giving us information so please report via 0800 555 111.

Well done to PCSO Georgia Powell who is our 'Performer of the Month' at the station! Georgia has worked with partners and the local community to resolve an anti-social behavior issue coming from an address on Kirke Walk, New Parks. She has also led the team's efforts to engage with the New Parks community to educate them about the risks of knife crime. Well Done Georgia!

Finally want to say goodbye and thanks for all your work for two of our Sergeants who are moving to new roles in the force over this month – Sgt Simon Walters who has been our Fosse Ward and New Parks Sergeant and Spencer Dyer who has been our Westcotes Sergeant – Both have worked tirelessly for their communities here over many years so we wish them well in the future! By next month I hope to have news on their replacements so watch this space!

Have a great holiday if you are going away! Please consider your home security while you are away. Does your home look lived in? Can neighbours keep an eye on your property and close/open curtains to make your home look lived in? Do you have lights on a timer switch? I would recommend all of the above to make sure your holidays are as relaxing as they can be!

See you next month!

**Sgt Mark Brennan**



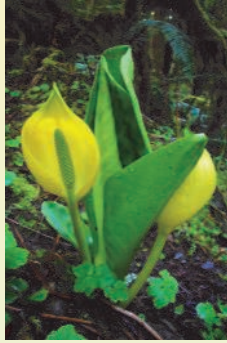
## Tony Huxley's Compost Corner



**There's something causing a stink in our countryside, and it's not just the muck spreading.**

Our desire to grow exotic plants in our ponds is responsible for many invasive species escaping into our fragile environment. The latest to make the news is *Lysichiton americanus*, or the American Skunk-cabbage. A charming name that's guaranteed to put you off eating your greens! It has another name... Swamp lantern!

Originally from the Pacific North West of America, it attracts its insect pollinators by its distinctly dead skunk aroma. Like a spinach plant on steroids it has pea green leaves that can reach a metre in height. Mature plants produce a large yellow spathe, a bit like the native cuckoo pint. Inside is the flower spike, which produces, along with a heck of a pong, several hundred seeds that can



stay viable for up to 8 years!

I was introduced to this imposing plant nearly twenty years ago when I first visited the Gardens of Heligan in Cornwall. There it looks very much at home in the faux prehistoric splendour of the Jungle Walk. It could have been growing there since it was introduced in 1901. Recently it's become a favourite among pond enthusiasts. Now it's jumped the garden fence and is establishing itself wherever it finds moist soil or a muddy waterway.

It's been banned from sale or cultivation in Britain and Europe since 2016, so don't taking any along to your local plant sale! Use a glyphosate weed killer if you want to rid yourself of it, but follow the instructions, especially around ponds and water courses, herbicides can easily harm aquatic environments. Skunk-cabbage can be dug out but remove all the rhizomatous roots. Check regularly to make sure there's been no regrowth. Disposing of the waste can be an issue. I would have no problem with putting the leaves in my compost bin but would prefer to burn off the roots and flower parts. I certainly wouldn't want to risk releasing any of the seeds into environment. And don't try it steamed with Sunday roast, unless you want to spend the evening in A+E as it's far more skunk than cabbage!

**Tony Huxley**

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# Martin Page

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# BRAIN TAZERS

1		2		3		4
5						
6				7		
8						

**1 Across:** First month **1 Down:** Trip **2:** New **3:** Basic unit of electrical current **4:** Swiss Singer **5:** Seized without authority **6:** Required **7:** Low lying cloud **8:** Not older © Paul Towers

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

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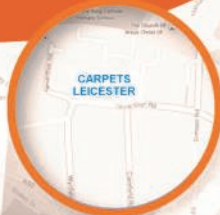


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