The Gazette

No.169 June 2024 westernparkgazette.co.uk
News & Views for Western Park & Surrounding Area







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Hello From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the June edition of the Western Park Gazette.

At the time of writing, it is chucking it down! This summer has been rubbish. 2024 has been chilly, wet and generally unpleasant so far. The sun peeked out from behind the clouds on Sunday 2nd June for the Riverside Festival, unfortunately we were there with the camera on Saturday... So Yay! #sarcasm. We got some nice photos and a Shaky-Cam video - some of which are on page 3 and the rest on Facebook.

Project Hive's efforts to renovate the Eco House on Western Park have hit a huge cost snag, we talk pest control with local gardening expert, Carey Tunstall, and the policing update focuses on the guilty verdicts following the murder of Junior Osbourne last year.

And if your flaccid little grey cells need to do mental push-ups, the Brain Tazers lurk on the inside back page. You'll find the answers on our website.

Please join us on Facebook or X (It's still Twitter to us) where we post photos, videos, notices, reviews and links which don't always get into print.

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Events Diary

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

Fosse Camera Club: For details visit Facebook page or fossecoopcameraclub.co.uk

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. Free drop-in Coffee Morns: Tues. 10-12 noon. St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Glenfield Rd East,

Newarke Houses: Popping To The Shops (About Narborough Rd) Until 1 Sept.

@ De Montfort Hall: Sound of the 60's: 27 June, 80's Show: 28 June. Ed Byrne: 3 July.

@ Curve: A Chorus Line: 29 June-13 July. 101 Dalmatians The Musical: 23-27 July.

@ Little Theatre: Darling Buds of May: 1-6 July. Dracula A Comedy of Terrors: 10-13 July.

@ Y Theatre: Spinners 28-29 June. Battered Chip on My Shoulder 16 July.

Free Bike Fest: 30 June. New College Leicester. Open Streets Pop-up Events: 30 June, 28 July, 1-4pm. Various locations. chosehowyoumove.co.uk Pre-loved Sale: 29 June. 10.30-12.30. Hall & St Annes Pop-up Pub: Last Friday Monthly. Hall @ St Anne's. Leics Beer Fest: 4-6 July. Abbey Pumping Station.

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- Toddler Time on Wednesdays, 10am-12pm
- Homework Club on Mondays. 3.30pm-6.00pm



FESTIVAL IS OAR-SOME

The 25th Leicester Riverside Festival, on June 1st and 2nd, proved once again to be the most popular event in the city.

Thousands thronged to Bede Park, Castle Gardens, DMU campus, canal side and boulevards to enjoy a dizzying array of entertainment, street food and non-stop fun on the water.

A very busy, but slightly overcast Saturday was followed by brilliant sunshine the following day which made the crowds even larger as the dragon boat races took to the canal.

You can see more of our photos and a shakycam video on Facebook @mygazette and at www.westernparkgazette.co.uk











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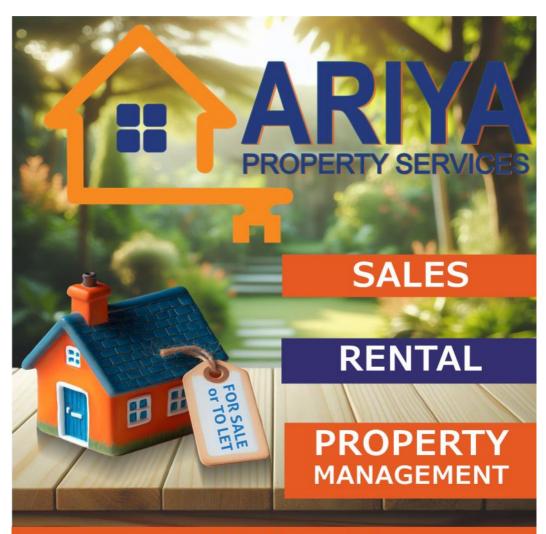


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STUDENTS PACK FOR GOOD

Students preparing to move out of their termtime homes for the summer are being given a helping hand to donate unwanted items and do their bit for charity.

Leicester City Council has teamed up with British Heart Foundation (BHF) to bring the charity's Pack for Good scheme to some of the city's most Dear Editor, I am a regular popular student areas. Twelve temporary donation banks have been installed in streets close to the city's two universities to encourage students to donate any items they no longer want and help the charity generate vital stock for their local retail shops and stores.

The BHF are always in need of clothing, shoes, accessories, vinyl, books, kitchenware and small electricals such as laptops, hairdryers and hairstraighteners.

Donation points for the BHF's Pack for Good scheme will be in place until early September. In West Leicester they are located at Westcotes Library,

Briton Street, Western and Eastern Boulevards in Westcotes. The Newarke and Bath Lane.

The council will also be supporting students by promoting the free bulky waste collection service

to have any large items and additional bags of waste removed.

Find out how to book a free bulky waste collection at: www.leicester.gov.uk/recycling

TER BOX

dog walker which means I have got to know the area very well over the years.

One of the things I have noticed much more is the increasing amount of litter and dross dumped across the West Leicester area.

It is marvellous to see the local litter wombles voluntarily clearing up other people's

mess and I'm sure the council's cleansing department do their bit too.

But. I have come to the conclusion that their efforts are fruitless as the number of discarded shopping trollies seems to be increasing. There may be a breeding population roaming free. The attached photo is proof that this particular trolly escaped from Lidl to the Asda garage on Hinckley Road - about a mile. On its own.

There should be a cull.

FM





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NEW COLLEGE SPORT-LISTED

New College Leicester is celebrating having been shortlisted for the Education Business Awards (EBA) in the highly competitive School Sports Category. This recognition highlights the college's exceptional commitment to promoting physical education and sporting excellence among its students.

The selection process is thorough and meticulous. Researchers from the EBA review a diverse range of sources to compile their shortlist. These include positive news reports, detailed case studies, Ofsted inspection results, and feedback from parents and local authorities. New College's inclusion in this esteemed list is a testament to its outstanding contributions to school sports and the holistic development of its students.

The Education Business Awards aim to celebrate and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of educational institutions across the UK. By spotlighting schools like New College Leicester, the awards provide a platform to showcase best practices and innovative approaches in education.

The awards ceremony in London, should be a memorable occasion, featuring the BBC's Ashley John-Baptiste as the host. His presence is expected to add a touch of prestige and excitement to the ceremony, making it an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

New College Leicester's nomination in the School Sports Category is a reflection of its commitment to fostering an environment where students can excel in sports. The college has consistently provided students with excellent facilities, professional coaching, and numerous opportunities to participate in a wide range of sports activities. These efforts not only enhance students' physical health but also instil values such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance.



Winning the award would be an honour for New College Leicester, further motivating the institution to continue its mission of nurturing talent and promoting a healthy, active lifestyle among its students. Regardless of the outcome, being shortlisted itself is a remarkable achievement and a clear indication that New College is making a substantial impact in the realm of school sports. (Sponsored article)

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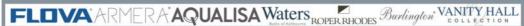
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hive Update

Over the last twelve months or so we have been focusing our efforts on exploring different approaches to getting the capital funding we need to make the changes necessary to open the former Eco House building on Western Park as a

community space.

Working from the current plans, several different quantity surveyors have all placed the redevelopment cost at around the £1million mark. This is more than double the cost of the initial quotation we had as we embarked on the project. This level of funding is not achievable at present. As a result, we have decided to "park" this part of

our work temporarily while we consider other ways to achieve our targets for the site. For now, we will focus on getting the community cafe operational.

This will be in one of the buildings on the former Open-Air School site with a new foot bridge providing access from the promenade. Work will be starting here this summer.

Having the café will allow us to start delivering on some of the activities that we plan to do from the Eco House site in the future, therefore allowing us to better demonstrate the need for it to prospective funders.

We assure you that we stay committed to the project at the Eco House site and to keep that space in community hands, but this may involve a rethink on how we deliver a useful facility.

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

WHO IS STANDING IN WEST LEICESTER

Aasiya Bora - Green Party
Max Chauhan - Conservative Party

Benjamin Feist - Liberal Democrats

lan Edward Hayes - Reform UK

Liz Kendall - Labour

Rahoul Naik - One Leicester

Steve Score - Trade Unionist & Socialist Coalition

The 2019 election saw voters move away from Labour by 11.1% with the Conservatives and Lib Dems picking up 9.3% between them. The Tory vote was degraded by the Brexit Party who managed 4.7%. This left labour with an overall swing against them of -8% on a turnout of 34,775. In 2017 the opposite happened with Labour picking up 14.3%, Conservatives 5.8% and the Lib Dems at 5.1%. The main loser was UKIP who lost 13.5% on a turnout of 37,512. The overall swing to Labour was 4.3%.







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June Police Update

A gang of teenagers described by the judge as "feral" have been sentenced to a total of nearly 50 years for their parts in the murder of 50-year -old Junior Osbourne on Narborough Road on September 27th last year.

Having been identified through extensive CCTV enquiries, they were all charged in connection with his death and convicted last month following a fiveweek trial at Leicester Crown Court.

On 11th June a 16-year-old boy, who can now be named after reporting restrictions were lifted, was jailed, having been found guilty of murdering Mr Osborne and possession of a bladed article. Nero McLean, of Upperton Road, was sentenced to life with a minimum of 17 years.

Four others, who were each found guilty of manslaughter and possession of a bladed article, were sentenced to eight years each. They are: Nevardo McLean, 16, of Upperton Road, Theobald Budzwa, 18, of Groby, Moises Steiner, 18 of Thurmaston and James Williams of Leicester.

A man who stole alcohol from an Upperton Road supermarket, in July 2019, and then ran over a member of staff in the carpark has been jailed after he was extradited from Rumania.

The victim of the hit and run, suffered serious head injuries with long-lasting effects.

The Toyota, driven by 33-year-old Radu Covaci, had cloned plates. It was established he had also stolen items from another supermarket while wearing the same clothes and driving the same car. When police visited his address, they were told he had fled to his native Romania.

Covaci was caught by Rumanian police following the successful outcome of a European arrest warrant process and was brought back to the UK to face charges last October.

On 6th June, he was sentenced to a total of 32 months imprisonment and was disqualified from driving for three years.

An investigation is ongoing following a two-car collision in Narborough Road at the junction of Winton Avenue on May 31st.

The vehicles involved were an unmarked police car and a Fiat 500. The police vehicle had been responding to a separate emergency incident at the time of the collision.

A woman in her 30s, who was driving the Fiat, was taken to hospital. Two officers who were travelling in the police vehicle were also hospitalised with minor injuries, but both have since been discharged.

In line with standard procedure, a mandatory referral has been made by the force to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

If you have any information regarding the incident, report online at www.leics.police.uk or by calling 101 quoting incident 99 of 31 May.

CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER

According to the Met Office, we've had the warmest spring on record, it doesn't seem like it at all, but they're predicting a gloriously warm summer too. Well, we'll see!

Nevertheless, June is a generally vibrant month for our gardens, with plants in full bloom and vegetables thriving, but it also brings with it an influx of pests that can threaten the health and beauty of your garden. Effective pest control is essential to

maintain flourishing greenery.
One of the most common June pests are aphids. These small sap-sucking monsters can cause enormous damage to plants. They often hide on the undersides of leaves, causing yellowing and stunted growth. To fight them off, consider encouraging beneficial insects like ladybirds, which

are natural predators. Alternatively, a mixture of water and a few drops of dish soap can be sprayed on affected plants to deter aphids.

Caterpillars, especially those of the cabbage white butterfly, can wreak havoc on your cabbage

and broccoli. Regularly inspecting plants and removing caterpillars by hand can help manage their population. Netting your plants can also prevent butterflies from laying eggs on them.

June also sees an increase in the population of white fly, tiny insects that feed on the underside of leaves. Yellow sticky traps can be used to capture adult white fly.

Slugs and snails are another major issue, particularly in damp conditions. Although they mostly prefer feasting on rotting material, they can still decimate young plants and seedlings overnight. To protect your garden, mythology says create barriers using crushed eggshells, coffee grounds, or wide copper tape around plants. There's very little data to show that these methods work, so handpicking slugs and snails during the evening

and early morning would be the best method. For a more sustainable approach, encourage biodiversity in your garden. Planting a variety of flowers can attract predatory insects and birds that naturally keep pest populations in check. Additionally, maintaining healthy soil through regular composting and mulching can strengthen plant resilience against pests.

Combining natural predators, physical barriers, and regular monitoring, is the best way to effectively manage pests and enjoy a healthy, thriving garden.

Carey Tunstall





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1 Across: Holiday 1 Down: Ornamental parks 2D: Chest of draws 3D: Blow though pursed lips 4D: Curdled milk foods 5A: Turning over & over 6A: To flow backwards 7A: Rocky hill 8A: Deviousness. © Paul Towers 2024

Answers at w:westernparkgazette.co.uk

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