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The Gazette
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LIGHTING UP THE SEASON



More on page 4



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Hello From The Editor

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

It's been a fairly quiet month so far, so we headed off into town to take a look at the new installation at the Cathedral called The Light of Stars. Well worth a trip if you're in the city and fancy a chillout.

As we crawl towards Christmas and the New Year there's a new holiday scheme available for local youngsters who receive targeted free school meals, and we have the chance for you to win a set of four tickets to see Beauty and the Beast at the De Montfort Hall in December.

In our regular features, as winter closes in and the frosts become more severe, our resident gardener, Carey Tunstall, has advice on prepping our plants for the cold and the local police gets us up-to-date with the new Respect Orders which target local anti social activities.

Brain feeling foggy? Keep the little grey cells busy with the Word Wanger and sudoku on the back page.

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Events Diary

Hall @ St Anne's, Letchworth Rd: **Knit & Natter:** 1.30pm, *4th Tues.* **Weds Club:** 2.30pm, *1st Weds.* **Pram Club:** *Weds 9.15-11.30am.* **Women's Taekwondo:** *Thurs 8-9pm.* **Fri Coffee:** *10am.* **Pop-up Pub** *Monthly last Fri from 6pm.*
Musical Memory Box: *1st & 3rd Tues 2pm.* The Grove, Braunstone.
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.
@ Grove Com Hub: **Walking Football** *£2 pp Thurs 11am -12* **Men's Dens** *Weds. 10am-12* **Keep Moving With Care** *£4 Tues 10-11.30am.*
@ Metal Monocle: **Casey Maunder Band, Burning Circus, Cherry B** *4 Dec.* **Midnight Angel** *5 Nov.*
@ The International: **Luma & Ainsley Lister Band** *6 Dec.* **Baskary** *4 Nov.* **James Oliver Band** *9 Dec.*
@ Curve: **Charlie & The Chocolate Factory** *Til 16 Jan.* **Daisy & Trouble With Xmas** *30th Nov-3 Jan .*
@ DeMont Hall: **Miss America (Taylor Swift Tribute)** *28 Nov.* **Beauty & The Beast** 12 Dec-3 Jan.
@ Little Theatre: **Mother Goose** *11 Dec-3 Jan.*
@ The Y Theatre: **Larry Dean** *29 Nov.* **Jim Smallman** *3 Dec.* **Santa's Xmas Show** *5 Dec.*
@Martyrs Ch: **Xmas Market** *Nov 4. 7.30-9.15pm.*
@ Guildhall: **Fleetwood Mac Trib** *4 Dec & 16 Jan. (Booking Visit Leicester)* **Krampas** *Sun 5 Dec.6pm.*
Glenfield Scouts Xmas Fair: *6 Dec* Stamford St. 2pm

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LIGHTING UP THE SEASON

The great scramble towards Christmas has begun in Leicester's city centre, as thousands battle the crowds to buy gifts and enjoy the sights, sounds and partying in a city full of seasonal fun.

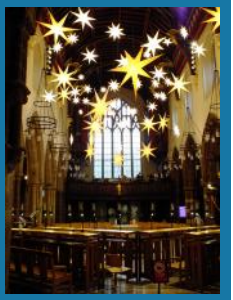
Sometimes it can all be too much and a quiet few minutes rest in Leicester Cathedral can recharge the batteries before heading back out into the Yuletide bunfight.



This Christmas, Leicester Cathedral begins its centenary celebrations with Paper Starlights, and an installation called Light of Stars - the first at an English Cathedral. It carries a simple sentiment: a light in the darkness and an invitation to pause amid the demands of everyday life.

For creators Paper Starlights, now celebrating their 30th anniversary, the installation has particular meaning as Leicester Cathedral starts its own centenary celebrations. The two milestones offer a moment to celebrate the people, traditions and communities behind both.

Since 1996, Paper Starlights has worked directly with a family business in India with skilled artisans, across different faiths and communities, using traditional screen-printing, folding and hand-finishing techniques to create the intricate individual paper lanterns. Behind every star is a story of people and craftsmanship.



Andy Jupp of Paper Starlights said: "We want people to look up and see something beautiful, but we also hope they feel welcome and find a little comfort beneath the stars. Light means different things to different people. It might bring back a memory, represent hope or simply make a place feel warmer. Our stars are for everyone, whatever their faith, belief or background. Seeing people come together beneath them at Leicester Cathedral is a lovely way to mark our 30th year."

From the communities in India who make them to the people gathering beneath them in Leicester, the stars can connect people across places, generations and beliefs.

Light of Stars at Leicester Cathedral until 5 January. No booking for daytime visits, Admission is by suggested donation of £6 per person.



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NEW EMERGENCY VEHICLE

East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme (EMICS) now have a critical care response vehicle based at Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service's Western Fire Station in New Parks, meaning the totally volunteer-led organisation is at the heart of the community in their busiest East Midlands patch.

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service is providing a home and supporting facilities for the fully equipped vehicle for a trial period ending in January, but all parties are eager to see funding secured so the collaboration can continue.

EMIC's network of highly trained volunteer clinicians respond directly to scenes of critical trauma and severe medical emergencies alongside the NHS ambulance service when every second counts.



COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Fosse Ward Cllrs Susan Waddington, Syed Zaman. T: 07875 546321 & 07742 766440.
Woodgate Community Centre 36 Woodgate, LE3 5GE. Monthly 1st Saturday 11.00am – 12 noon at Fosse Library, Mantle Rd. 3rd Saturday of each month 11.00am – 12 noon. Fosse Community Meeting, 13 Nov 6pm & Mantle Rd. No surgeries BH weekends, Easter or Xmas.

Western Ward: George Cole, Vi Dempster, Molly O'Neill. T: 07891 232 672, 07976 348 325 & 07742 766 462.
New Parks Library, 321 Aikman Ave, LE3 9PW First Saturday of each month 11.00am – 12 noon

Westcotes Ward: Cllrs Adam Clarke & Sarah Russell. T: 0116 454 0034 & 07814 532 928
Surgery: Westcotes Library, Narborough Road, LE3 0BQ, 2nd Saturday of each month, 11.00am – 12.00 noon.

Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields Ward: Cllrs Susan Barton, Elaine Halford, Kulwinder Singh Johal

Cllr Singh Johal Surgery: Contact by phone or email to make appointment. **T: 07736 194 824.**
Riverside Football Ground, Braunstone Lane East, LE3 2FD. Saturdays 9.00am to 10.00 am

Cllr Halford Surgery: B-inspired, 39 Gallard's Hill LE31QR. **T: 07736 194813.**
Monthly 1st Wednesday 11.00am – 12.00 noon.

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Xmas Holiday Scheme For Children

Children and young people in Leicester who receive 'targeted' free school meals can sign up now for free activities taking place during the Christmas holidays.

Starting on Saturday 19 December, the sessions include activities such as art, sport, outdoor fun, robotics, music and theatre – with each child taking part receiving a healthy meal each day.



Most sessions run for four days, but children on programmes offering fewer than four days of activities will be given a food hamper to take home.

Funding for the scheme has come from the government's Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF), which aims to help children from lower-income families stay active and eat well during the school holidays.

In Leicester, the activities, suitable for children aged from 5 to 16, are being organised by around 37 providers at sites around the city.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis to eligible families, with each child entitled to one programme only.

The expanded school free school meals scheme makes free meals available to all children in households on Universal Credit, it split benefits-related free school meals into 'targeted' free school meals and 'expanded' free school meals.

Children qualify for 'targeted' free school meals if their household receives Universal Credit and has net annual earnings of £7,400 or less.

Subject to availability, bookings can be made up until the day before the start of the programme, but early booking is advisable. Some bookings do close earlier so families are advised to check the closing dates.

Information about the two-week Holiday Activities & Food programme has been circulated to children through their schools.

Families with children who receive 'targeted' free school meals and live in Leicester, or who live outside the city but attend a city school, can register for a place on the Holiday Activities & Food programme at ***families.leicester.gov.uk/winter-haf***

Anyone who thinks their child should be receiving free school meals can find out more at ***freeschoolmeals.leicester.gov.uk***

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Beauty and the Beast Competition

This Christmas De Montfort Hall will be telling a tale as old as time with this year's Beauty and the Beast, and it's sure to enchant everyone!

Alongside TV quiz star, presenter and The Chase's general knowledge machine, (The Vixen) Jenny Ryan, the hilarious Jarred Christmas, and larger-than-life Dame, Jack Ballard - will be Great British Panto-mime Award-Nominated, Beth Lyons as Belle

Beauty and the Beast is the magical story beloved by generations young and old. With hilarious jokes, catchy songs, and panto joy aplenty, this charming production promises to be a festive treat for the whole family!



Advertorial Competition

When a prince is cursed to live as a beast, his only chance to break the spell is to find love before the last petal falls from an enchanted rose. Can the beautiful village girl, Belle, see beyond appearances and learn to love a beast?

Co-produced by the award-winning Imagine Theatre and De Montfort Hall team, this spectacular festive show promises laughter, music and magical moments for audiences of all ages.

Beauty and the Beast runs from Saturday 12 December 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027

Tickets from £14.50 for adults and £13.50 for children.

WIN A FAMILY SET OF TICKETS!

Here's your chance to win 4 tickets to Beauty & the Beast on Saturday 12th of December at 5pm. Email over the correct answer to this question **before Weds 9th of Dec** to get into the draw.

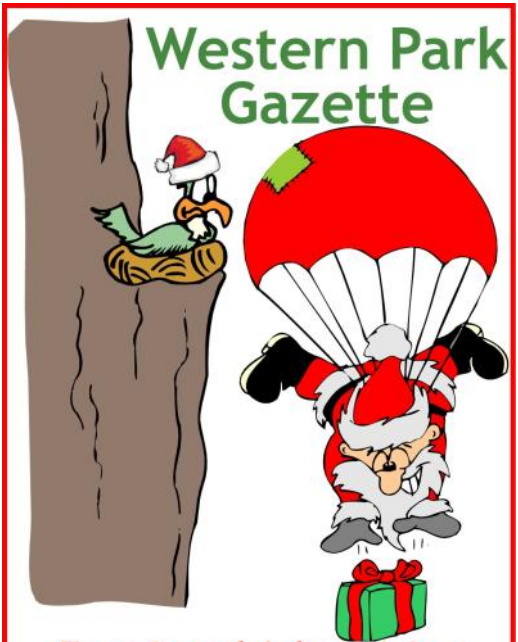
Who picks the rose from the Beast's garden?

1. Belle's Dad?
2. Belle's Sister?
3. The Dame?

Email answer: editor@westernparkgazette.co.uk

(Terms: one correct answer picked at random, Tickets valid for 12th Dec 5.00pm show only, include contact details, texts & DM's not accepted)

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CAREY'S COMPOST CORNER

November brings shorter days, chilly mornings and the first frosts, but there is still plenty to keep us busy in the garden! It is a month for tidying, protecting and preparing, making sure our precious plants are tucked up safely for winter while giving ourselves a head start for spring.



Protecting plants is top of the November to-do list. Keep an eye on the weather forecast and be ready for the hard frosts. We've already has a few – with more to come! Tender plants such as dahlias, begonias and cannas should be lifted, dried and stored somewhere frost-free. If you prefer to leave them in the ground, cover them with a generous layer of dry mulch, such as straw or compost, to help insulate them. Move pots containing tender plants into a greenhouse, shed or sheltered spot, and wrap vulnerable containers in bubble wrap or horticultural fleece to protect their roots from freezing.

For plants that need a little extra warmth, horticultural fleece is a gardener's best friend. Use it to cover vulnerable shrubs and evergreens when frost threatens, remembering to secure it properly against winter winds. Young trees and newly planted shrubs will also appreciate a protective mulch around their roots. Just keep mulch away from the stems and trunks to prevent rotting.

There are plenty of other jobs to enjoy, too. Plant tulip bulbs now for a spectacular splash of colour next spring, and take advantage of bare-root planting season to add roses, hedging and fruit trees to your garden. Keep lawns clear of fallen leaves, as a thick covering can smother the grass. Collect leaves for making lovely, free leaf mould – a wonderful soil improver for next year.

Continue to deadhead where necessary, remove diseased foliage and tidy away spent annuals. However, don't be too enthusiastic! Leave some seed heads and hollow stems standing to provide food and shelter for garden wildlife. A little untidiness can be a real lifesaver for insects over winter.

Finally, reduce watering as plants become dormant, but don't allow evergreen plants in pots to dry out completely. Raise containers onto pot feet to improve drainage and prevent waterlogging. A little care now will reward you with healthier plants and a beautiful garden when spring finally arrives, Happy gardening!

Carey Tunstall



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Nov Police Update

A man wanted for a serious sexual assault in Leicester has been jailed after he was arrested in Surrey for driving through a red light.

Pandeli Dervishi was jailed for 7 years and 6 months on 29 October after being found guilty following a trial at Leicester Crown Court earlier.

The 24-year-old spent two months on the run from Leicestershire Police before an officer from Surry Police spotted him driving through a red light in Guildford.

Dervishi, of no fixed address, was on bail following a serious incident in October 2025 inside the toilets of a pub in The Newarke.

As of 26 October, Leicestershire Police and partner agencies, including local authorities and housing providers, will be able to use Respect Orders; new civil powers aimed at tackling persistent antisocial behaviour.

Respect Orders can place restrictions on an adult's behaviour and may also include positive requirements – such as attendance at drug or alcohol treatment, anger-management sessions or another suitable programme aimed at changing the behaviour and reducing further antisocial behaviour. Any breach is then dealt with as a criminal offence.

Police are investigating reports of courier fraud across the county, including in West Leicester, Braunstone and Narborough.

Courier fraud occurs when a legitimate sounding cold caller contacts the victim claiming to be police or a staff member from their bank. They ask the victim to confirm their name and address and basic information. The caller then claims there's a problem with the victim's bank account and persuades them to withdraw large sums of money which is then collected from the victim's address. The caller could ask the victim to provide their bank card and PIN to a 'courier' sent to collect it. The card is then used to withdraw money from the victim's account.

Police or banks will not contact people in this way and if you get a call like that – hang up.

Earlier in November, a man was arrested on Fosse Rd North for drug offences, shortly afterwards a nearby property was searched which revealed a man looking after cash, drugs paraphernalia and a large lump of suspected crack cocaine. Two arrested and handed over to CID.

Two males have also been arrested in the Fosse, following a robbery of a bicycle and phone. One was carrying a blade - the investigation is ongoing.

In the first week of November the Braunstone & Rowley Fields team scored two successes over two days uncovering one cannabis grow on Raymond Road and another one on Wolverton Road.

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Can You Solve The Word Wang? Hidden in the above box are the following words:
Autumn, Coffee, Guy, Scarf, Wine, Berries, Fawkes, Mulled, Snowflake, Winter, Birds, fireworks, Owl, Wet.

Answers: westernparkgazette.co.uk © Paul Towers

5	4					9		8
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