



Sunny Days at GYS

ISSUE 64 - until 19 July 2024

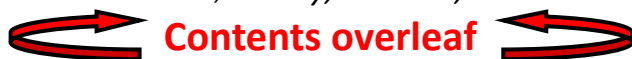


**Your Community Newsletter**

**Full Issue at** [www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press](http://www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press)



**Promo copies at** Morrisons, Pubs, Cafés, Bob Shop, Mason House Stores, Library, Dentists, Care Homes, Churches, Hairdressers, Shops & other Businesses



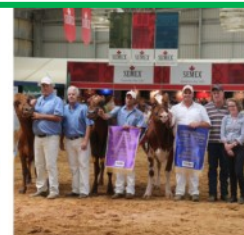
**Contents overleaf**

**It's Time for the**

**GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW**

**Tuesday 9 - Friday 12 July 2024**

*Wednesday Sold Out!*



**There's something for everyone. Included this year:**

TVs Helen Skelton, Adam Henson & Peter Wright  
Great Yorkshire Inn Quad Bike Stunt Show  
Classical Singers Forever Tenors  
Farm to Fashion Show with Olly Harrison (Tues)  
Daily Pie & Policy and Tea & Tech talks at Innovation Zone  
Photography Exhibition by Amy Bateman

### FUN FACTS

\*\* Cost to stage - £3.4M \*\*  
\*\* Trophies & Cups - 300 \*\*  
\*\* No of Animals - 8,500 \*\*  
\*\* Total Visitors in '23 - 140,000 \*\*



**Tickets:** Adult - £35 Child (age 5-18) - £13 Family (2 adults and up to 3 children) - £86

Visitor numbers are capped each day, so tickets are only available to purchase in advance and will NOT be available on the gate.

Tickets are non transferable, as they are day specific. They cannot be used or swapped for an alternative day.

Tickets are only available to purchase online at [www.greatyorkshireshow.co.uk/](http://www.greatyorkshireshow.co.uk/) or by calling 01423 541222 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm).

**ENJOY**

**It's a Great Day Out!**

## Free Press Promotes the Town



Posted on Social Media by the Editor, Promoting Town & River

Attracting visitors to our lovely town benefits everybody. More custom for our local businesses, shops, restaurants, pubs, cafes and takeaways is most welcome in these tough times ( Many of us are finding it tough these days eg the Editor can't afford Sky TV! ).

Added to that though, the more people in and around the town the better we all feel; it will be feel more like the 'thriving' town we want it to be.

So we need to make EVERY effort to promote our town and its greatest asset - the river. We have fierce competition from Knaresborough, Otley & Ilkley who promote it far better than we do, see last issue for examples.

The Editor put a post with the image, left, on social media groups in Roundhay, Seacroft, Harrogate and a general post on Nextdoor. Between them over 50,000 people could have seen them. It's simple and free. The post promoted the use of public transport to get here too.

This is something Cllr Buckle and his 'Welcome to Wetherby' committee should be doing. We have yet to see much from this committee - the town leaflet they produced was not inspiring and missed out the bus station on the map. We wouldn't need to keep mentioning ..... *cont'd overleaf*

Send your News & Views to: [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me) Twitter / X: [WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)



**Don't Miss Out - Join Our Mailing List by emailing** [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)

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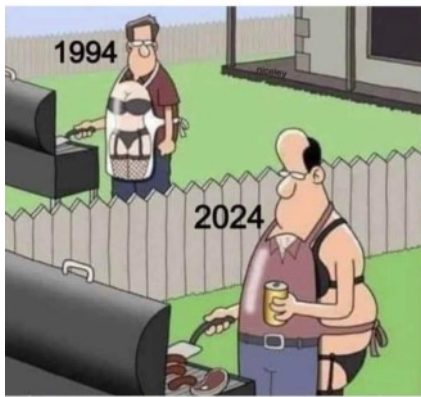
**Proof W'by Town Council is Political** Page 7

**Anniversary Concert. Hub by the Pub** Page 9

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**Plus How Other Towns Welcome Their Bus / Train Visitors on P11**

**Our Tribute to Rob Burrow on P12**



\* My wife is leaving me because of my horse-racing obsession and taking the kids with her. There at the gate now and off.

\* The only thing I take seriously in the newspapers nowadays is fish n chips. And even that I take with a pinch of salt.

\* Bacon and eggs walk into a pub. Landlady says

"Sorry, we don't serve breakfast here"

\* I never pick up hitchhikers - I just pretend they are complimenting my driving



\* Anyone who doesn't like Lord of the Rings doesn't know what they're Tolkien about

**Why don't ants get sick?**



**They have little anty bodies.**



**PRIVATE EYE**

£2.99 every 2 weeks  
Have a Laugh & Be Informed



England & Scotland footballers will not be voting in the upcoming election.

They couldn't find the box, let alone put a cross in it.



## It's Going to Happen Again, Bus Users!

After 2 years, cars are still blocking the bus station exit. And there is nothing to deter them.

The 2 orange cones opposite Mojis are next to useless. Our Councillors, Leeds City Council, Metro / WYCA and West Yorks Police have yet to do anything effective to stop this happening.



Cont'd on page 3

**Boston Spa Festival 2024**

**Festival Weekend**

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> & Sun 14<sup>th</sup> July**

**Scarecrow Trail**

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup> – Tues 16<sup>th</sup> July**

Logos: dcs, KIDDY, SALT, etc.

Timetable for the Festival on page 5

**Lucky Duck Duck Food**

from **CANCER RESEARCH UK** & **TREASURES Toys**

**OPEN SUNDAYS**

**£1.25 per bag**

**Bands Playing Every Sunday in July at 2.30**

Photo of a park with a pond.

## Elderly Caring & Domestic Help

15 years Experience



NVQ Level 2 Qualification

References available

**Call Kerry on 07876 525 589**

## Next Wetherby Town Council Mtg

Tues 9 July at 7pm, Town Hall

Agenda at [www.wetherby.co.uk](http://www.wetherby.co.uk)



**Join our Mailing List for New Issue Reminder - Email us at : [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)**

## East Keswick to Knaresborough takes 1 hr 45 mins. Buses Not Coordinated!

An East Keswick resident has informed us of just how uncoordinated our buses are.

If you live in East Keswick, Linton or top end of Collingham and want to get to Knaresborough, York or Tadcaster in the morning, these are the connections at Wetherby:

- X99 arrives in Wetherby at 8.15, 8.53, 9.58, 10.58 & 11.58
- 8 to Knaresborough leaves at 9.55 & 11.55 - nearly 1 hour wait
- 412 to York leaves at 8.50 & 10.30 - 35 min & nearly 1 hour wait
- 492 to Tadcaster leaves at 8.55 & 10.50 - 40 min & 50 min wait

**Four different operators run these services** - Transdev (Harrogate Bus Company), Connexions, 21 Transport & North Yorkshire County Council. Some of these services are subsidised by us, the taxpayer.

As you can see, the connections are poor. They should be about 10 minutes. For it to take an hour and three-quarters to get from East Keswick to Knaresborough is ridiculous. Or a trip to York to take a similar length of time.

So who is to blame for this state of affairs? Perhaps we all are, but some more to blame than others. In order, we think

- 1 **Metro / WYCA** for not coordinating the buses.
- 2 **Bus Companies** for not getting together to try and sort this out.
- 3 **Councillors & Passengers** for not complaining ( enough ) to Metro / WYCA & bus companies



We can't even coordinate buses!

## It's Going to Happen Again, Bus Users!

cont'd from page 2. The 2 cones are not even marked 'Police - No Parking'. Still no cameras, no signs on

street or in shops and no repainting of lines or road with 'Exit - Do Not Block'.

It is just a matter of time until 100s of bus passengers are going to be inconvenienced yet again.

Still no signs



It is quite unbelievable that this simple problem cannot be resolved. Telling the Police about it does not stop it happening - it only deters that one driver.

Cllr Lamb says: "Changes to the restrictions outside Costa and Moji's are being taken through by the council and will be added to the next traffic regulation order that is progressed in our Ward. We tried enforcement cameras as an interim measure but that made zero impact. The police are paying attention to the area in the meantime, it is really important that any incidents are reported to them. Even if they can't attend at that moment, the reports help to build the evidence base when resources are allocated."

Again, Cllr Lamb expects bus users and passers-by to report the offending vehicle. Realistic and worth all that hassle? We think not.

## Fancy a Day out at Brimham Rocks, Fountains Abbey, Masham or Richmond?

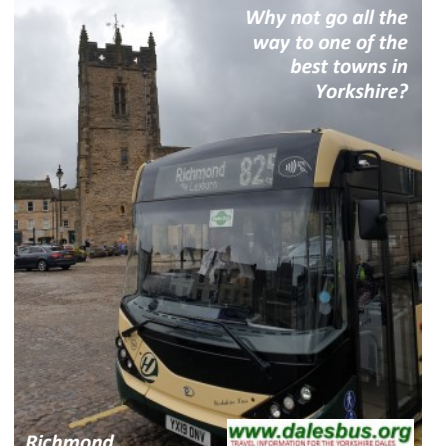
Sundays & Bank Hol	Bus No.	Departs	Return
Wetherby Bus Sta	7	9.41	6.36
Harrogate Bus Sta		10.05	6.10
Harrogate Bus Sta	825	10.15	5.25
Brimham Rocks		10.40	4.58
Fountains Abbey		11.00	4.43
Masham		11.35	4.10
Richmond		12.30	3.15pm

**£2 single**

Free for Elderly Pass Holders  
Dogs Welcome



Available at Library



If Transdev 'fail to please' on the 7 or X98/99, they will give you a free ticket for next time.  
Email them at [happytravels@harrogatebus.co.uk](mailto:happytravels@harrogatebus.co.uk)

## Only £2 single to Leeds, Harrogate, Otley, Wakefield & York

### Reminder of Bus Facts for our Councillors

- ◇ Transdev's route 7 to Harrogate & Leeds via B Spa was reduced to hourly from half-hourly in Nov '22
- ◇ The late night route 7 service from Harrogate at 11.30pm was cut in Nov '22. The last bus is now 10.20pm
- ◇ There is NO Saturday service to York (Connexion's route 412) or Otley (Connexion's route 923) since May 22
- ◇ The last bus from Wetherby to Collingham, East Keswick & Scarcroft is 22.08 since Transdev took over
- ◇ WYCA/Metro made a big mess of installing new bus stop flags in 2021. Half the stops are still the old type
- ◇ WYCA/Metro have stopped printing their 7 invaluable network maps



Nov 2022 - Late Bus Cut



## Promoting Our 'At Risk' Bus Services



to  
KNARESBOROUGH  
WETHERBY

21 TRANSPORT

It goes to Harrogate too!  
Now Available in Library

## Timetables in New Kirk Deighton Hub

In front of the Bay Horse pub there is a new 'Community Hub' in an old red phone box. It was promoted by the pub on social media so the Editor offered to put some timetables of their only bus service, route 8, inside it for residents.

The photo shows the timetables he left there.

Coincidentally, KD Events sent us some information about this great community effort - see page 9

We were pleased to see that 21 Transport Ltd have produced a printed timetable and put it on their buses. It is a simple format without the word 'bus' or an image of one, and without its final destination - Harrogate, on the front page! But at least it exists.

There are none in our library so the Editor wrote to 21 Transport based in Goole and offered to make sure a supply was always on display (like he does with DalesBus). He complimented them on the service as he travelled on it for a meeting in Knaresborough.

No response so he called them up and explained that he would like them to send him some timetables. After the call they found the email, misreading it and sending him a pdf of the timetable. So he took some from the bus having asked a very nice driver if he could.



A group of volunteers from the Kirk Deighton events team have refurbished the old 1953 telephone box outside the Bay Horse.

Visit the Beautiful Calder Valley for only £7.85 per adult

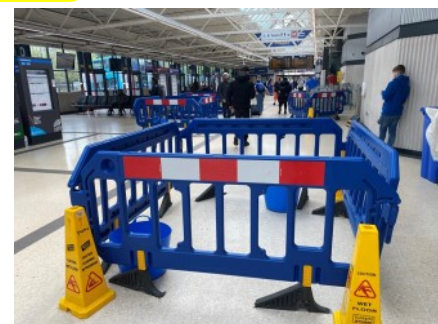


## Leeds Bus Sta Leaking Roof Costing Us a Fortune

As we reported recently, Bradford Bus Station will be closed until September at the earliest.

Meanwhile at Leeds Bus Station, Metro / West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) has allocated £375,000 for temporary repairs to the leaky roof. In the long term, the authority plans to completely replace the current 2,200m glass roof with a 'future-proofed design' expected to support "the installation of Solar PV arrays, battery storage, green roofing and improve biodiversity". The replacement is expected to cost £3.5M, and the full replacement work is not expected to begin for at least 12 months.

The £375k has been allocated to prevent water ingress until a full replacement can be carried out. A previous £6.1m refurbishment of the bus station, completed in September 2022, did not include a replacement roof. The roof has apparently been leaking since at least 2015, during wet and severe weather conditions. However, the complexity of the structure, which houses fire and safety systems, has made remedial work difficult.



## Tractors More Popular in Germany than Buses!

The Editor's Letter in July's 'Buses' Magazine

### Europe's lack of bus mags

As bus enthusiasts, we are used to playing second fiddle to the train. The railway will always be the UK's favourite form of public transport. TV travel programmes, like Michael Portillo's, rarely if ever acknowledge the bus, which does of course carry far more people than trains. There will always be more railway than bus magazines, and we accept that.

But it is surprising that the gap in popularity is even greater abroad. I look in vain on the newsagent / bookshop shelves for any magazine about buses whenever I visit Europe. Sadly, I have yet to find any. To add insult to injury, I find that fans of the most obscure of vehicles are catered for, often with more than one publication.

For example, on a recent trip to Berlin I found five magazines about tractors

and three magazines purely focussed on emergency fire vehicles. I find this astounding, particularly when there are many heritage buses still in use, like the 218 from S Messe Nord to Pfaueninsel along Berlin's Lake Wannsee.

Perhaps there's a gap in the European market, which Key Publishing can take advantage of?

Paul Kirby, Wetherby



How very odd for Germany to have 5, yes, 5 magazines about tractors. Many farmers in Deutschland may be very interested in the current developments and past history of these important agricultural vehicles but to have so many publications on them!

Millions use the well run bus services every day in Germany, Austria & Switzerland but there is not a single magazine about buses on general sale in book shops and newsagents.

It's a crazy world, folks.

## Cllr Stable's New York Service & Secure Cycling

Leeds City Cllr for Wetherby, Penny Stables, tells us:

"I am working with Transdev, WYCA and LCC to try to get a bus service from Wetherby, through Boston Spa to Tadcaster and on to York. This is a much needed service that currently doesn't exist. It would allow those signposted to York for Mental Health services to get to appointments, it would help encourage people out of their cars when travelling to York to the shops or leisure activities or to the train station, it would help young people get to York College and it would also help workers travelling from Tadcaster to Boston Spa and Wetherby.

Cllr Penny Stables

I am also looking at whether we can get some secure cycle parking in Wetherby near to the bus station, to encourage people to cycle and bus into Leeds and Harrogate.

In terms of bus fares not tempting drivers out of their cars, I don't think it's the cost that's the issue. The reason most people say that they don't use the bus is because the buses are not reliable, too infrequent or take too long to get to their destination."





# Successful Bike Recycling Programme Under Threat

The Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages **Big Bike Fix** is a successful bicycle recycling scheme run locally from Boston Spa, which has repaired and donated over 700 second hand adults and kids bikes in the last 3 years.

Bikes are donated freely to them by members of the public and also by two local bikes shops. They have a team of voluntary fixers who repair the bikes so they are road worthy. The bikes are donated on to families and individuals in need across Leeds.

They have links with a similar scheme run in South Leeds. They also donate any surplus bikes to *Upcycle* – another bike recycling scheme in Shipley which runs bike repair sessions in prisons. Their bikes are then donated onto families in need in the UK and also to developing countries.

The scheme has been run and coordinated on a voluntary basis, and demand for this service continues to grow.

**To continue to offer this service to local communities (and keep unnecessary waste from landfill), they are looking for additional volunteers to continue with the administrative, as well as the bike fixing elements of this initiative.**

In the future they are also looking to secure grant funding to develop a paid role (equivalent of 7-8 hours a week) to take over the co-ordination and continue to develop the scheme (this could be a job share, they are flexible).

They are looking for people who have an interest in bikes and cycling and have some skills in repairing bikes (not essential, they can offer further training if interested).

You would also need to have good communication and organisational skills and be able to work flexibly in the role.

Adrian Balcombe of the Group says "We've started something amazing, that truly benefits our local communities and puts to good use unused bikes. **We don't want to lose this valuable service. If you can make a difference (with admin, fixing, grant application etc), please contact me at [adrian.balcombe@bostongreengroup.co.uk](mailto:adrian.balcombe@bostongreengroup.co.uk) for a chat and further information.**"

If you know someone who might be interested, please share and find more details at:

[www.bostongreengroup.co.uk/cycling/big-bike-fix-weve-started-something-amazing/](http://www.bostongreengroup.co.uk/cycling/big-bike-fix-weve-started-something-amazing/)



## Free Press Promotes Riverside Wildlife

There are no displays from Leeds City Council / Wetherby Town Council / Wetherby Weir Preservation Trust / W'by Clean Rivers Group providing information about our well fed ducks, or any of our river wildlife. An opportunity not taken to educate residents and visitors. So we put an A3 poster up, see left. Hopefully this will inspire the organisations above to produce something, like the signs you can find in Leeds City Council parks and the riverside in Otley, see other images.



Boston Spa Festival			Boston Spa Festival		
10 - 16th July Scarecrow Trail Maps £2.50			10 - 16th July Scarecrow Trail Maps £2.50		
Available from: Yeadon's, Costcutter and Monroes			Available from: Yeadon's, Costcutter and Monroes		
Sat. 13th July	Event	Location	Sun. 14th July	Event	Location
1pm - 4pm	Wellness in the Spa Taster treatments & classes with local wellness professionals. Donations £5	Village Hall	10am - 12pm	St Mary's Festival Service "Mary saw it all"	St Mary's Church
2pm onwards	Big Screen showing Wimbledon Women's Singles Final	Stables Lane Park	10am - 4pm	Craft and Gift Fair	Village Hall
2pm - 4.30pm	Bowling Club Crown Green Bowls Match	Stables Lane	10am - 4pm	Plant Sale In aid of Royal National Lifeboat Institute	Outside the Village Hall
2pm - 5pm	Lawn tennis & Croquet	The Terrace Tennis & Croquet Club	10am - 4pm	Teas and Cakes courtesy of Boston Spa in Bloom - Cash only	Village Hall
3pm - 4pm	Big Red Curtain Theatre Works	Village Hall	10.30am - 2.30pm	Bowls Club Open Day	Stables Lane
3.45pm - 5pm	Classic Cars return to Stable Lane	Stables Lane Park	10.30am - 3.30pm	Wellton Art Group	Village Hall
6pm - 8pm	Big Screen Showing Mama Mia Here We Go Again	Stables Lane Park	10.30am - 3pm	Bake Off	Pudding Lab
7.30pm	Concert: Elysian Singers, 50th Anniversary	Methodist Church	11am - 4pm	Street Food	High Street
8pm - 10.30pm	Jazz in the Spa The Derrick Harris Festival Quartet with Vocalist Kate Peters	Village Hall	12pm - 1.45pm	Big Screen showing the kids film Enchanted	Stables Lane Park
			12pm - 5pm	Party in the Park Lots of events, food and drink	Stables Lane
			12pm - 4pm	Street Music & Poetry Poetry - Jackie Urley & Guests; Barn Owl Quartet & Back Chat New Orleans Band	Millennium Gardens
			12pm - 4pm	Open Gardens	Around the Village
			12.30pm - 3pm	"Harmony" Service: where deaf & hearing people gather to eat, pray and respond to God's word	St Mary's Church
			2pm onwards	Big Screen showing Wimbledon Men's Singles Final	Stables Lane Park
			8pm	Festival Choral Evening with The St Cecilia Consort	St Mary's Church

## (Non) Response from Town Council on Issues: Mafia, Buses, Riverside Signage, PR Money & Staff

After every issue, we send a link for every edition to our Town & City Councillors, MP & Town Clerk. We ask them specific questions. After Issue 63 this was the only response from the Town Council.

A **Wetherby Mafia (pages 1 & 11)**. Do you believe they exist? If so, do you condone or condemn their actions? Do you know who they are?

*Questions Ignored*

B **Buses** Those town councillors who are interested in buses, please condone or condemn the Town Clerk's actions of removing important, useful bus information from the Town Council website, see Page 7. Who made this decision? Were councillors consulted? If not, why not? The rewrite information is misleading. Will it be changed and have the same information as previously? *Questions Ignored*

Also, please inform me what action town cllrs have taken to improve the X98/99 bus situation eg emails, meetings. *Ignored*

Do you agree with Cllr Batty's words on page 3? *Question Ignored*

**Response: Any information reported by councillors on actions to improve buses will be found in the minutes of Town Council meetings which can be found online at: [https://www.wetherby.co.uk/Town\\_Council\\_Meetings\\_26482.aspx](https://www.wetherby.co.uk/Town_Council_Meetings_26482.aspx)**

*Nothing in the link answered any of our*

*questions*

C Page 9 **April Town Council meeting**. Town Clerk & Councillors, please comment on points raised and questions asked. *Ignored*

D Page 10 **Information Displays** Has the Town Council discussed improving the riverside signage? If not, will any cllr take this up? Will you reconsider taking up either of our suggestions? *Questions*

*Ignored*

E Page 9 **May Town Council Extraordinary meeting**.

**'Malicious & Vexatious' Correspondence**. The first agenda item related to correspondence the Council had received. They considered 'aspects' of the correspondence to be 'malicious, vexatious and condemned by the council'. No details were stated. We note that the Council have just introduced a vexatious policy and are using it within days. Is it a coincidence? *Question Ignored*

To deal with this matter, Councillors have decided to spend our money on

- \* legal services, estimated at between £900 & £1150.

- \* PR advice costing us £900

Total = £1800 minimum

That is a lot of money and the taxpaying public are not allowed to know a) what it is being spent on and b) whether it is reasonable expenditure.

The PR firm is Breakthrough Communications based in Littlehampton on the South Coast.

They say on their website: "We empower leaders and organisations to communicate effectively and compliantly". Why do they need a PR firm for this when they employed a 'Communications' Officer last year? Extraordinary but it is an 'Extraordinary Meeting'.

Please could the Town Clerk and Councillors address the issues, namely:

1 How can the public know whether this expenditure is justifiable with such few details? *Not answered*. When will more information be available so that the public can decide and the Council can be seen as open and accountable? *Not answered*.

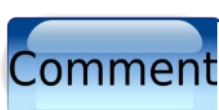
2 Why do you need to spend £900 on communications / PR advice when you have employed a Communications Officer? *Not answered*. What exactly is this money being spent on and why is it necessary? **The Council's Response: Wetherby Town Council has purchased a fixed, 5 hours support package from Breakthrough Communications in accordance with the attached quote.**

3 The downgrading of 2 important council roles (Deputy Clerk & Facilities Manager) means more responsibility and work for the Town Clerk. Who and where was this decided? Will it mean more pay for the Town Clerk? And corresponding less for the 2 post-holders?

**The Council's Response:**

**Information relating to the restructure of the Facilities Manager role can be found as item 7 in the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 16th February 2024: [https://www.wetherby.co.uk/\\_UserFiles/Files/\\_Minutes/180064-WTC\\_Staffing\\_Minutes\\_-\\_16th\\_February\\_2024.pdf](https://www.wetherby.co.uk/_UserFiles/Files/_Minutes/180064-WTC_Staffing_Minutes_-_16th_February_2024.pdf)**

**Information relating to the restructure of the Deputy Clerk role can be found as item 5.2 in the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 15th August 2023. [https://www.wetherby.co.uk/\\_UserFiles/Files/\\_Minutes/166638-WTC\\_Staffing\\_Minutes\\_-\\_15th\\_August\\_2023.pdf](https://www.wetherby.co.uk/_UserFiles/Files/_Minutes/166638-WTC_Staffing_Minutes_-_15th_August_2023.pdf)**



If the Police ask you reasonable and legitimate questions and you refuse to answer them, what are they going to think? That you have something to hide, of course. Why won't Wetherby Town Council answer very simple, reasonable questions any taxpayer is entitled to ask?

We have been very patient with this Council but this brick wall we are constantly facing is a disgrace in a free and open society. We give them every opportunity to provide simple information, but even getting an opinion from a councillor in writing is like getting blood from a stone. Why?

See pages 7 & 10 for more Town Council shortcomings.





## Wetherby Town Councillors - Most are Conservative



We thank the 15 Wetherby Town Councillors for being unpaid volunteers. Unlike other volunteers they have power and spend our money. Most are Conservative & raised our Council Tax precept by 80% in a cost-of-living crisis in 23/24, much of it to pay for new staff.

The Town Clerk is Iona Taylor. She is Manager to an Assistant Clerk (previously Deputy Clerk), a Communications & Events Officer (Helena Briden), a Burials Manager and a Facilities Officer (previously an experienced 'Manager').

Work is also contracted out. Employment costs are over £150,000 a year.

There are no images of Town Hall staff on their website [wetherby.co.uk](http://wetherby.co.uk), unlike Otley, and no easy-to-find diagram showing the line management structure.

### Opportunity for any of our Town Cllrs to Say Anything to Residents

Unedited, max 400 words

Nothing Sent Yet

## Undeniable Proof that Wetherby Town Council is Political thanks to .....

..... **the Conservatives.** When Cllr Chapman told us that Wetherby Town Council was not political we had very strong doubts that it was true. He has not withdrawn that statement and just recently a couple of councillors have told us that the Council is not political.

**The Town Council website still does not state the political affiliation of our Councillors.** How can they justify that when 2 tweets below show how much effort the majority party made to get their person elected? Are they ashamed of their party because of the national situation or don't they want residents to know that they are a very close knit group of like-minded people and it looks like they want to keep it that way? Or both?

**One tweet shown describes the 'snow and freezing temperatures' they were willing to endure to support their candidate.**



**The other shows that the position was important enough** to get MP Alec Shelbrooke involved. And the tweet shows how jubilant they were in winning and beating Labour. Just for a simple Town Councillor! Not a City Councillor which is a 100% political role and has a salary.

**Added to this is the fact that Cllr Norma Harrington** is a Town Councillor AND a City Councillor. Surely a conflict of interest if she is supposedly non-political when she attends to Town Council matters?

**For any of our Conservative Councillors** now to say that it is not a political council is absurd.

**Our Town Council is clearly political**, and that is why we believe so little / no progress has been made on the issues we raise.

**We see no evidence that Boston Spa, Kirk Deighton or East Keswick councils** are political so why is ours?

**The Otley Town Council website and most others clearly state the political allegiance** of their councillors. We ask again why are our

**Simple Question - Why put all this effort into electing a Conservative if the Council is non-political?**

councillors not open in this way? It's a very simple matter. And why does the Town Clerk not insist on putting this information on the Town Council website?

**And if they want us to believe that they make decisions independently of politics**, they will have to explain why every single one of the Conservatives voted against the only motion our sole Labour councillor, Alex Riddell, has put forward (on buses).

**This is a great shame because running a market, a few parks, a cemetery, a few buildings and deciding on litter bins, grants (£5K this year) and some planning issues should NOT be political.** Cliquishness is a serious possibility when like-minded people of the same party are in positions of authority.

cliquishness

### £7800 for Private Security at Local Elections

We thank Cllr Penny Stables for responding to our article on the front page of Issue 62. It questioned

the need for security at St James primary school for voting in the local elections. Leeds City Council said:

**"We always have polling stations with security**, and these vary each election. Some of them are schools who request it to enable them to keep the school site safe during poll hours. Others depend on the location and whether there has been any disruption etc. previously.

**We also work with WY Police to RAG rate** all our polling stations based on any intelligence they may have, and this can influence our decision to arrange security. For the elections on 2 May we provided security from within LCC and from a company called Showsec. The LCC provision will be an internal recharge. The Showsec invoice excluding VAT is for £6501.85."

*It would be interesting to know which polling stations needed security in Wetherby & Boston Spa area, and percentage figures for the area and compared to the rest of Leeds. It seems OTT and a waste of money to us, certainly at St James primary school. Let's see if it's the same on 4 July.*



# Wetherby Foodbank

## URGENT!

Donations are currently at the LOWEST we've seen for several years and we are close to running out of just about every item in our warehouse. We URGENTLY need donations so if you are able to donate even a single can, we would be ever so grateful.



## MORRISONS FOOD DRIVE

**1 - 7 JULY**

DONATE IN YOUR LOCAL  
MORRISONS STORE



## Wetherby News NEWSWATCH

We are recording the number of **general** news items about Wetherby / Boston Spa & villages. And the no. of letters/ emails from residents about the area in the published paper, costing £2.10.

We do this in the hope they will wake up and take up some of our stories. Not so far - they are ignoring many of the serious issues in our great town and do not deserve to have the word 'Wetherby' in their title.

It makes our role more important than ever.

### Issue of 13 June

**News Items - 1 Letters - 0**

Stockeld Park wins award

### Issue of 20 June

**News Items - 2 Letters - 0**

Charity Press Release & Farm Planning Refused

### Issue of 27 June

**News Items - 1 Letters - 0**

Boston Spa Bike Fix (We cover this story on Page 5)

In June 2024

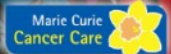
Total of

**5 Items of News  
& 0 Letters**

# Wetherby & Area Deserves Better

Wetherby Bandstand  
Saturday 6th July 2.30 - 4.30pm

Free concert in aid of



Presents

Music from the Movies, Stage &  
Popular Artists

Sponsor



## FESTIVAL TIME AGAIN! 4-12th OCTOBER!

And exciting news for the 46th Arts Festival !! They will have a Comedy Poetry Competition to be judged by none other than the Bard of Barnsley, Ian McMillan!



There are four prizes up for grabs:

- \* Funniest Poem in the World
- \* Funniest Poem in Yorkshire
- \* Funniest Poem, 12-16
- \* Funniest Poem, 11 & under

Send them a video or present your poem in an unexpected way.

To find out more and submit your

poem, visit

[wetherbyfestival.co.uk/festivalpoetry](http://wetherbyfestival.co.uk/festivalpoetry)

Two internationally famous writers for the Literary Lunch have also been confirmed for Fri 11 October.

Eat and meet Linda Green and Harry Whittaker (son of Lucinda Riley), who will be talking about their best sellers as well as signing books.



## Elysian Singers 50th Anniversary Concert

The Elysian Singers, based in Wetherby, celebrate their 50th anniversary this year, and are putting on a special concert in Boston Spa Methodist Church on Saturday 13 July at 7.30pm. Come and listen!

The choir, with 30 members, perform most of their music without any accompaniment. In the first half of this anniversary concert the choir will perform some of the members' favourite items, showing off the range of music that they perform. Items include 16th century sacred music, 19th and 20th century romantic and sacred songs, and

arrangements of folk songs and songs by Billy Joel and Kate Rusby. In the second half they will perform Vivaldi's 'Gloria', accompanied by a string quartet and church organ.

The concert also includes a piece written specially for the occasion by Huddersfield-based composer Paul Chamberlain. Called 'My Voice', it sets words reflecting choir members' love of singing.

The Musical Director is Jonathan Power, who has held this post for over 25 years. A native of London, he has lived in Yorkshire since coming here as a student. He taught for 31 years at a school in Huddersfield and is now a free-lance musician, composer, conductor and choral consultant.

The choir started in 1974 in Wetherby, with eight people singing 16th century madrigals. It soon grew to its present form. Members come from the Wetherby area and from further afield – Leeds, Harrogate, and nearly into York.

Tickets for the concert cost £12 each, with free entry for under 18s. Refreshments will be served in the interval.

Tickets from Janet Heath 07947 076979 or janetheath351@gmail.com or

Jo Vernon 01937 381006 or from choir members

The church is on Spa Lane, behind 203 High Street, Boston Spa, LS23 6AA



*Celebrating half a century of making music*

## Kirk Deighton 'Ring the Changes' with New Community Hub

Community volunteers in Kirk Deighton have adopted and transformed a piece of local history, thanks to hundreds of pounds in generous donations from supporters.

The K6 (short for Kiosk 6) phone box, which proudly sits outside Kirk Deighton's Bay Horse pub, was stripped back to the original metal frame, given a fresh pink undercoat, and a glossy red finish as well as brand new glass windows.

First installed after the coronation in 1953, when the St Edward's Crown was used, the kiosk was in use with the telephone number 01937 582723, until decommissioned and left to fall into disrepair.

It has now been restored to its former glory using BT approved materials. It has a custom KIRK DEIGHTON COMMUNITY HUB sign and is a focal point after dusk when it illuminates.

Work was carried out in May and June 2024 by local community group Kirk Deighton Events. Formed in the wake of the pandemic, the group has a sole aim of bringing people closer together. To date they have held successful summer galas and a Jubilee party. A time capsule has also been buried and the team produce a successful newsletter for villagers.

Chair of KD Events Guy Roberts said "Kirk Deighton is steeped in history and the phone box is an example of that. It's now a real conversation starter and people seem genuinely interested in it. The whole idea is about bringing people closer together in our small village, and with this, we've done the trick!"

The Community Hub, as it is known, is currently acting as a book exchange. A raise the glass and ribbon cutting ceremony has also taken place.

What a great community effort! We applaud the volunteers. The Editor visited the hub by the pub to leave some route 8 bus timetables. In it he found the Kirk Deighton community newsletter 'Kirk Deighton Matters' - a simple, impressive 2-sided sheet of A4. With news of CPR sessions, a litter pick, village planters, a cinema night and the new hub. Costing residents nothing. Nothing like this has been produced for many years to inform Wetherby residents. Wetherby Town Council's Communications Officer has been in post 6 months and nothing so far for those offline.



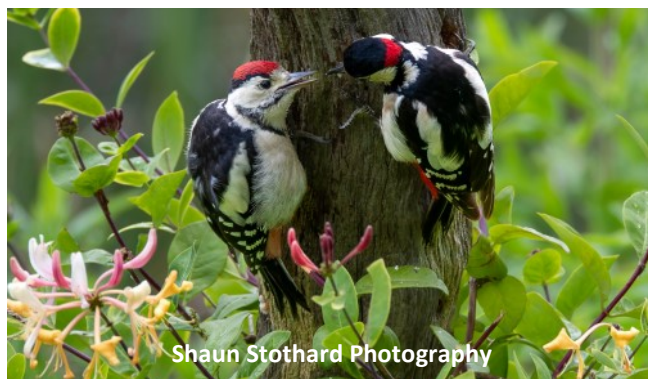
*Can you spot a couple of familiar faces from local TV?*

## Amazing Image from Goosemoor Nature Reserve

In our last issue we highlighted this hidden gem on our doorstep. We are very grateful to Shaun Stothard who has allowed us to enjoy his stunning shots of its wildlife.

Why not join the reserve's Facebook group and help them raise funds by buying great value bird seed. Details on page 6 of Issue 63.

The Great Spotted Woodpeckers pictured feed mostly on insects hidden under the bark in dead wood, but its diet also includes tree seeds and the eggs and young of other birds. Source BTO



Shaun Stothard Photography



# Wetherby Town Council Meeting - 14 May 2024

13 out of 15 Councillors attended. Clls Frame & Smith sent apologies. No members of the public attended. Leeds City Cllr Lamb attended. Usually the Leeds City Councillors present give an update. Nothing of what Cllr Lamb reported was minuted. *Why?*

The meeting lasted 2 hours.

**Training** - All Chairs of Committees have now completed the charring skills sessions. All councillors who have joined the council since the last annual meeting are still to attend the 'Off to a Flying Start' training. *That is a quarter of our councillors who have not been on this course. Why?*

**Less Consultation with Councillors not on Planning Cttee.** The terms of reference for the Planning Committee have been amended so as to show that it is used as the first resort for consideration of planning and development related items of business. Items may still be referred to, or called in by, Full Council but will usually now be considered by the Planning Committee. All councillors received the agenda for committee meetings and will therefore be kept informed as to the items being considered.

*No terms of reference for other committees are necessary so why was this one? No rationale is given. We note all members of the Planning Cttee are Conservatives.*

**Internal Auditor's Opinion - 'High Standard' Council.** The website of this auditor tells us they are business accountants. **Their expertise is therefore numbers and money, nothing else. They cannot comment on procedures, policies, competence, accountability ie on anything other than the financial accounts.**

*They clearly haven't looked at any of the issues we raise where we give specific examples of low standards or laziness or incompetence.*

**The Council are quoting this auditor's opinion and not informing people it refers to financial matters only. That is disingenuous and misleading. They have even quoted this 'high standard' phrase to the Editor in an email, when it was totally irrelevant to the issue he raised.**

*We note that the only quote this Council uses for self-aggrandisement is from a business that is paid by the Council and is asked to give an opinion before their contract is renewed every year.*

*We would love somebody totally 100% independent to review every aspect of this council (apart from accounting) and compare it to others. They should look into any criticism of the Council and **not** relying on those complaints made by people who bother to go through the official complaints procedure, as the Council can now dismiss any complaint they wish as 'vexatious' and it will be not be investigated.*

*We have no regular independent comprehensive monitoring of town councils (and charities for that matter). This means they can do what they want, decide on things behind closed doors and keep any details quiet. Unless some good person with a conscience blows the whistle, the public will stay ignorant. Just like with our filthy rivers, there is no proper monitoring of many public bodies. So please make your voice heard, folks!*

**Cllr Billie Ager-Mills leaves Markets Cttee.** No reason provided.

**Cllr Billie Ager-Mills leaves Welcome to Wetherby Cttee.** No reason provided.

**Representation on 8 Outside Organisations.** All are Conservatives, except Cllr Knight on Plastic Free Community Steering Group.

**New Website - £7500 Earmarked. Start Date 1 Oct.** It has taken years to replace the current totally inadequate one. Let's hope it promotes our town professionally and creatively without any missing information, unlike the town leaflet they produced.

**Asset Register** The value of the council's assets currently stands at £1,140,891.27. The value of Wetherby Town Hall is separately recorded at £2,026,000. It was estimated that a full roof repair could cost up to £270,000.

*The Town Hall costs us a fortune to maintain. Is it time to sell up and move staff to cheaper office accommodation?*

**Market Conflict** - Some local businesses indicates that they feel the market competes with their business, while public want more frequent and diverse market, particularly at times outside of regular working hours.

**Sandringham Park Playground.** Amendments to proposal have increased the total cost to install the Playground to £162,403. *That is a lot of money!*

**Correspondence** - As usual, this newsletter and our email to them after every issue was not mentioned. *Why?*

## Where are Cllr Attendance Figures for 2023?

**The figures for 2022 were produced in January 2023.** We noted 3 months ago in Issue 59 that the individual figures for 2023 were nowhere to be seen. We want to congratulate those of our councillors with the best attendance records, like we did last year. And see the difference between those and the poorest attenders.

**We wrote to the Town Clerk in March 2024:** "You produced cllr meeting attendance rates for the year in Dec 22 / Jan 23. The latest figures are already 2 - 3 months late. When will they be produced?"

**She responded:** "The councillor attendance rates are being compiled at the moment and will be tabled at the Annual Town Council Meeting in May. The information that will be contained in that document is already available to you through the minutes of meetings which are available online at: [https://www.wetherby.co.uk/Meetings\\_3761.aspx](https://www.wetherby.co.uk/Meetings_3761.aspx)"

**There was no explanation why the figures were produced later than last year. We checked minutes of meetings and cannot find any individual attendance figures, or any mention of attendance figures. The Annual Town Council report has only one figure - 75% attendance overall.**

*The 75% figure is useless unless compared to other town councils. Is it poor or good or average?*

**The Town Clerk is being less than helpful here.** It looks like she decided to interpret 'cllr meeting attendance rates' and 'latest figures' and 'they' as a singular overall figure, in spite of all those terms being in the plural. We clearly meant individual attendance rates.

**If she was being helpful and open, she would send us the figures and explain why they were late, instead of making us look through pages of minutes on their website. When they weren't there!**

*So, we will have to ask her again what the figures are and why she hasn't published them like last year.*

### Wetherby Town Council Meeting Attendance - 2022

Top & Bottom Cllrs	Attended	%
Paul Rowden	13 / 13	100
Dean Buckle	24 / 25	96
Sam Bennett	5 / 15	33
Jo Maltby	5 / 16	31



Cllr Rowden



Cllr Buckle



Cllr Maltby



Cllr Bennett

We are grateful to the Town Clerk for producing this table. It indicates a desire to be open and accountable.

And credit too to Councillors Rowden & Buckle for taking their duty to attend meetings seriously.

This table does not tell us how much work is carried out by councillors but it is an indication of their dedication to the role.

We have asked these councillors individually what sort of time and effort is involved in being a councillor but no written answers were provided.

Being a councillor is a voluntary, unpaid role. But it is a responsible post, overseeing the expenditure of many £10,000s of our money and making decisions about planning matters, parks, town events & contracts.

Normally we would write to Councillors Maltby and Bennett to ask them if there is a reason for their poor attendance. They have not responded to any of our emails previously so we will not waste our time. They have a right of reply and if they wish to use it, we will publish it in equal prominence on next issue's front page.

Note: The images on the left may be many years old; they were taken from the council's website.

#### Town Council Elections in Spring?

Town Council elections may take place in May this year. The vacancy left by Victor Hawkins should be filled then.

The Town Council website still does not clearly state the political party of our councillors so we must remind you all 14 of them are Conservative and claim to be a non-political council. If you want to put yourself forward as a councillor, we will have details in the next issue.

Contents overleaf

*In Jan 2023 we thanked the Town Clerk for publishing the figures. (The 2 poorest attenders resigned in 2023). No individual figures for 2023 yet.*



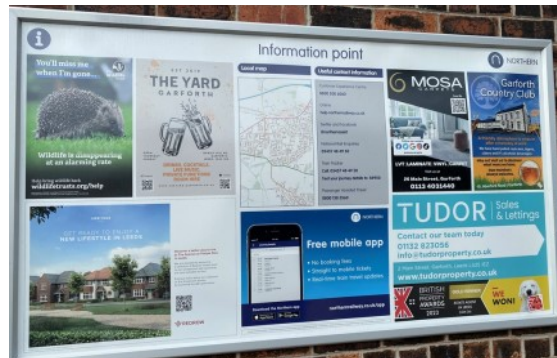
# How Other Towns Welcome their Visitors Arriving by Rail/Bus



Bit tatty but detailed map from 'Visit Otley'.

*Wetherby Bus Station has a much smaller map not highlighting many attractions. Wetherby Town Council's 'Welcome to Wetherby' have no input and leave it all to Metro / WYCA.*

## Garforth Rail Station



Map of town and other useful information with ads of local businesses. *Wetherby Bus Station has nothing like this. The ads would pay for it. Why hasn't 'Welcome to Wetherby' instigated anything like this?*



Map of all rail lines in area. *Wetherby Bus Station has no network map of buses, to promote public transport. Even though Metro / WYCA produce one for Wharfedale!*



## Hebden Bridge Rail Station



Map showing information and all major attractions in the area. *Wetherby Bus Station has nothing like this promoting the town or area.*

## Todmorden Rail Station



Amazing artistic talent, imagination & community spirit in the Calder valley. *Wetherby Bus Station has nothing large like this promoting the town, see below for an idea. Looking forward to Wetherby in Bloom's flowers to brighten it up soon.*

## Wetherby Bus Station



*There is plenty of space on back wall for more information displays. Let's make visitors (and bus users) feel valued and welcome.*

## Calling All Artists



*Surely we have the imagination and creativity to put something on this wall to admire and make us all smile. Nature, the river, a message of peace & love .....? Plse contact us and we'll try to make it happen. We'll discuss your idea with the Town Council's 'Welcome to Wetherby' Ctte chair. There are wonderful works of art in other towns, particularly in Europe - on walls, garages, street furniture, etc.*





## Rhinos Sack Coach



**Aussie Rohan Smith had been in the job for just over 2 years before this announcement.** It was no surprise. The Rhinos were languishing in mid-table mediocrity with little hope for improvement. There is never a good time for a sacking but it was soon after the death of Rhinos legend Rob Burrow.

Smith's main achievement was reaching the Super League Grand Final in 2022, which they lost 24 - 12. After the sacking, the Rhinos managed a victory against Leigh at Headingley, which put them in 7th place.

**Rhinos v London on Sat 6 July at 15.00**

**Warrington v Rhinos on Fri 12 July at 20.00**

**Rhinos v Hull KR on Sat 20 July at 15.00**

All games on **sky sports**

## Tribute to the One & Only Rob Burrow

### Rob Burrow



### Leeds Legend!



A Trial Poster (that has lasted 2 years)

Being a big Rob Burrow fan and a marketeer, the Editor wondered how he could raise money for MND charity and let everyone express their admiration for this incredible man. So he produced a poster for wheely bins. He needed funding for the initial outlay and approached a couple of large Wetherby businesses and the *Yorkshire Evening Post*. They weren't interested despite support for our idea from MND.

That's a shame. It would be a permanent reminder of the great man (& good publicity for the supporting businesses).

## Your Community Newsletter

Editor: Paul Kirby



Email: [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)

Tel: 07840 862861

Twitter/X: @wbyfreepress

Everyone mentioned in the WFP has a right to reply. The reply will be published unedited.

If facts are wrong, we will apologise publicly and correct the error.

We don't do interviews, as we are not professionals (but have high standards). We are not 'journalists' - we simply say what we see.

We encourage everyone to write to us with their views, whatever they are. People have died for our Freedom of Expression so never be afraid to use it. You can remain anonymous if you wish. We or you cannot be sued for libel/defamation as long as what is published is:

**True or Honest Opinion or in the Public Interest**

*Unjustifiable threats of legal action can be seen as harassment*

*The Editor has had 4 'Meet the Editor' events so far. None of our harshest online critics have turned up yet to have a civilised face-to-face debate.*

## Please donate online at

[www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press](http://www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press)

to cover printing costs

*Thank you*



### Most Recent Evidence for the Mafia's Existence

- \* Display WFP at Hallfield Lane Health Centre for months, no problem. State this on front page and they suddenly stop displaying. No full explanation.
- \* Front page advertiser suddenly stops after first issue. Calls me and admits he was contacted.
- \* Censorship by Wetherby Grumbler following pressure from anonymous complainants.
- \* Setting up Fake / Anonymous Profiles to harass and personally insult the Editor
- \* Setting up Fake / Anonymous Profiles to compliment the WFP on Wetherby Grumbler. To set Editor up for attacks and false claims that he set the profile up himself. Cowardly, sick person / people behind it.
- \* Setting up Fake / Anonymous Profiles attacking Councillors. To set Editor up and accuse him of being behind them. Again sick, if this is the case.

People who suddenly stop supporting us always refuse to say who has contacted them or the details of what they said to persuade them. No reasonable explanation is provided. Fear or self-interest must be behind their action.

We wonder who has the influence in this town to make somebody suddenly stop supporting us, as in the first 3 pieces of evidence above. They must surely use misinformation, bribery or threats.

We have many more examples of this behaviour since we began over 2 years ago. The person / people remain anonymous because they know they may be guilty of harassment, malicious communication and defamation.



News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

[www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press](http://www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press)



**"You're not a journalist"** Correct, there are no journalists in Wetherby. We strive for the highest standards and the Editor has the enquiring mind of an investigative journalist. The question is why critics would prefer no news publication in Wetherby, except the two items a week max in Wetherby News.

**"You're always criticising people but what do you do for the community?"** Yes, we criticise people in authority and who spend our money or represent the town, and we clearly state the facts our views are based upon. The fact there is much to criticise is not our fault. The question is why our critics think that such criticism should not be published (when they have the opportunity to write in and put a different view, but don't take it). WFP is full of other non-critical news and information but that is ignored by critics.

As for what the Editor does for the community, he:

- \* volunteers \* campaigns for better buses \* has raised £2500 for local charity so far \* edits this newsletter \* promotes the town to outsiders on Social Media \* picks litter up \* .....



**In 2023 we Supported**

**25**

**Local Charities & Organisations**

**Send us your**



to  
[WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)

**NEXT ISSUE Fri 19 July 2024**

*In April 2024 we had 1000 online readers in 2 days*