



ISSUE 49 until Fri 8 Sep '23

# Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

## YOUR Community Newsletter

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

### 'Totally Irresponsible' Article Claims Cllr Lamb



Cllr Lamb

In the last issue we highlighted the continuing problem of vehicles blocking buses leaving the bus station. It has been happening for over a year and nothing has been done about it. Cllr Lamb, Leader of the Conservative Group and Board Member of Metro/WYCA was upset with the article and wrote:

"Your reporting on the bus station is totally irresponsible. Second hand reports to the police via myself or anyone else are meaningless. The reason nothing has happened is because no one is reporting instances to the police. If I witness it with my own eyes, I can and will report it. I will challenge people as I did with a motorist parked on white zig zags last week. Your reporting is making it harder to get anything done. I hope you'll correct this next time." We refute this on Page 5.

Part of our Article



### No Wetherspools for Wetherby Drinkers are Desperately Disappointed

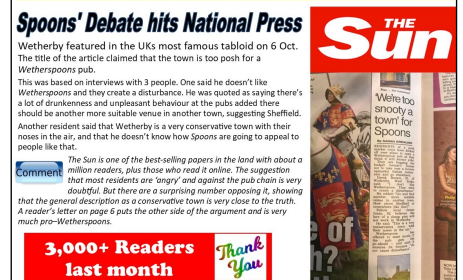
'Spoons statement is brief. They say: "Whilst we have only owned the property for a relatively short period of time, the landscape of the hospitality industry has changed significantly. After careful consideration we wanted to let you know that for commercial reasons which we do not intend to be drawn upon, we have chosen to sell the Saint Angelo property. Hopefully the new buyer will be able to bring forward a development & put the property back in to use."



This story has raised more interest than any other (including council tax increases and low standards of our public bodies). It attracted well over 300 comments on one social media platform. (Unhelpfully, there were 2 posts on the same topic). The vast majority were in favour of the pub chain coming to Wetherby. Cllr Lamb said he is 'very disappointed' as it would have been a 'welcome addition' to the town.



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



In Issue 30 we told you how the national press (The Sun & Metro) portrayed us as finger-pointers who were too push for a 'Spoons.

We agree with Cllr Lamb. It is

a great shame to lose the £2.25M investment and 50 - 60 proper jobs. One 'Grumbler' on social media says it's another nail in the coffin of the town. It is true that many businesses are selling up or moving due to high energy and rental costs or staff shortages. A few are starting up too, see Man Cave on page 3.

To get the cheapest drinks residents must continue to travel to nearby towns (like we do for petrol). York, Harrogate, Leeds, Otley & Knaresborough all have these great pubs, even Garforth has one. This is a massive setback to the town. A Wetherspools would attract visitors who would spend money in other shops and restaurants, especially motorists on the A1(M). JD Wetherspoons is a quality company with higher standards than most.

### Brass Band Concerts by River

2.30 - 4.30

- Sun 13 Aug Silkstone
- Sun 20 Aug Barnsley
- Sun 27 Aug Shepherd

Lucky Ducky Duck Food

from CANCER RESEARCH UK & TREASURES Toys

OPEN SUNDAYS

only £1

We Are Not-For-Profit - Donate to Help Us Keep Our High Profile



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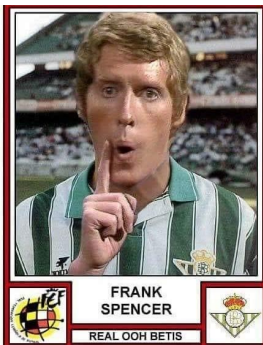


Doctor says I have to cut out drinking.



How many sociopaths does it take to change a light bulb? One. He holds the light bulb while the rest of the world revolves around him.

Our Boss at IKEA retired the other day. So we bought him a cake.



My nephew asked, "Can I have a bookmark?" 15 years old and he can't remember my name is Brian!

**Elderly Caring & Domestic Help**

15 years Experience  NVQ Level 2 Qualification  
References available

Call Kerry on 07876 525 589



**Wetherby Racecourse**  
Sundays open 7am

£1 entry for buyers over-16s



**Sellers: from 6am** No booking necessary  
£12 cars, £16 vans, +£3 trailers

**Notes on Wetherby Town Council Mtg - July**

All 15 Councillors Attended, plus 2 members of the public.  
£250 was awarded to the 2023 Wetherby Arts Festival event.  
Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd newsletter was acknowledged. *Wetherby Free Press, a newsletter for the whole community was not. They removed 'List of Correspondence' earlier this year. Wonder why!*  
Cllr Harpham has replaced Cllr Frame on the Welcome to Wetherby committee.  
Cllrs will hold surgeries EVERY THURSDAY between 11 & 1 at the Town Hall. *If you go, please tell us your experience.*  
All issues at Aldi roundabout have been resolved. *Have they?*  
June's crime figures showed 'slight increase' - 11 anti-social behaviour and 95 general. *Increase compared to what? The month before or last June? More info please.*  
The only correspondence mentioned was about a railway station for Wetherby. *Never going to happen, waste of effort. They ignore our reasonable and legitimate questions in our correspondence to them. Shameful behaviour.*  
£16,000 a month spent on Town Hall staff costs.  
No actions stated in June's Climate Emergency Ctte meeting for any of its 3 members.  
Looks like no cooperation from Wetherby Business Assoc'n with Welcome to Wetherby. *Why?* cont'd on page 8

**MEET THE EDITOR**

**Morrisons** Café, nr the entrance



**Thurs 19 Oct at 10.00 - 10.45**  
**Sun 22 Oct at 2.30 - 3.00**



Come and say 'Hello' and tell me your thoughts.  
It's YOUR community newsletter and I'd like to know what you want to see in it and what you think of the content.  
We have a few detractors who throw insults, like 'Marxist rag', and 'nit-picking idiot'. That's fine having an opinion but you must provide at least some evidence to back it up. The Editor would like to know why such people ignore all the positive articles we publish praising the good citizens of our area.  
I sincerely hope that constant online critics, like Steve Cooper & Ian Giddings, come and meet the Editor and have an adult conversation on where the town/WFP can improve.  
Councillors and Council staff are most welcome too, of course. Most continue to ignore us. Please come and tell me why.  
**The Wetherby News at £2 has all but given up on the town. Until there's an alternative, please help us help your community.**



## Unique New Business Opens in Horsefair



We hope this distinctive shop captures the imagination of Wetherby and that residents will support it. It should attract more visitors to the town and make it more of a shopping destination. We wish it great success.



Bee-Crafty Markets

**Boston Spa Summer Craft Market & Café**  
at  
**Boston Spa Village Hall**  
on  
**Saturday 12th August**  
10am-3pm

## Wetherby Foodbank Offers Support in these Tough Times

The Foodbank reminds us that “many people are struggling to afford the essentials at the moment. If this is you, please get in touch! We offer a non-judgemental listening ear and support. All of our foodbank users have access to a Money Buddies expert who is with us on Fridays”

### 6 Ways to GET HELP

- Phone the Helpline on 08082 082138
- Phone us direct on 07840 455725
- Call in at the One Stop at Wetherby Library
- Send us a DM on Facebook or Instagram
- Talk to a Referral Agent (list on our website)
- Call in & see us! Tues, Fri & Sat 10am – 11:30am at Barleyfields Community Centre, Barleyfields Road, Wetherby

**August 2023 Foodbank Wish List**

- Tinned meat meals e.g. stew, mince, chilli
- Tinned cold meats e.g. ham, corned beef
- Tinned hot dogs / meatballs
- Tinned soup
- Spaghetti hoops
- Tinned fruit - all types
- Tinned veg - all types
- Tinned rice pudding
- Puddings - long life please
- Custard - tinned/instant
- Chocolate & sweet snacks
- Deodorant
- Toilet cleaner

Thank you!

## A 'What's On' not approved on Facebook Group Wetherby Grumbler!

27,500 members of the group were denied access to a simple image, right, showing a few community events on that weekend. What possible reason could there be for that?



We asked Admin Vicky and she replied that business advertising is on Tuesday's only. So a What's On is seen purely as a business ad and nothing else. The many not-for-profit community organisations suffer because of this ridiculously harsh interpretation of the rules. This Facebook group is the largest by far in Wetherby and should encourage community spirit.

The organisations that lost out are: Wetherby Food Festival, Wetherby Bandstand and their sponsors, a local craft fair organiser, Wetherby Musical Theatre, Wetherby car boot sale, and a Cancer charity that benefits from duck food sales.

As we reported in the last issue, Admin have censored WFP previously because they had a few complaints (no figure given) from anonymous critics who hate free speech. We still have no clue of the details of these complaints. No redress, no appeal. It's simply an unfair process with autocratic and inconsistent decision-making.

A useful What's On guide like this benefits everyone. Only in Wetherby would it be censored.

**WHAT'S ON**

**COFFEE MORNING**  
Hosted by: Wetherby  
Saturday 6 August 2023  
9am-2:30pm  
Wetherby Town Hall

**Brass Band Concerts by River**  
Sun 6 Aug  
Knottingley Silver Band

**Lucky Duck Food Festival**  
Every Day  
10am-6pm Mon-Sat

**Boston Spa Summer Craft Market & Café**  
at Boston Spa Village Hall  
on Saturday 12th August  
10am-3pm

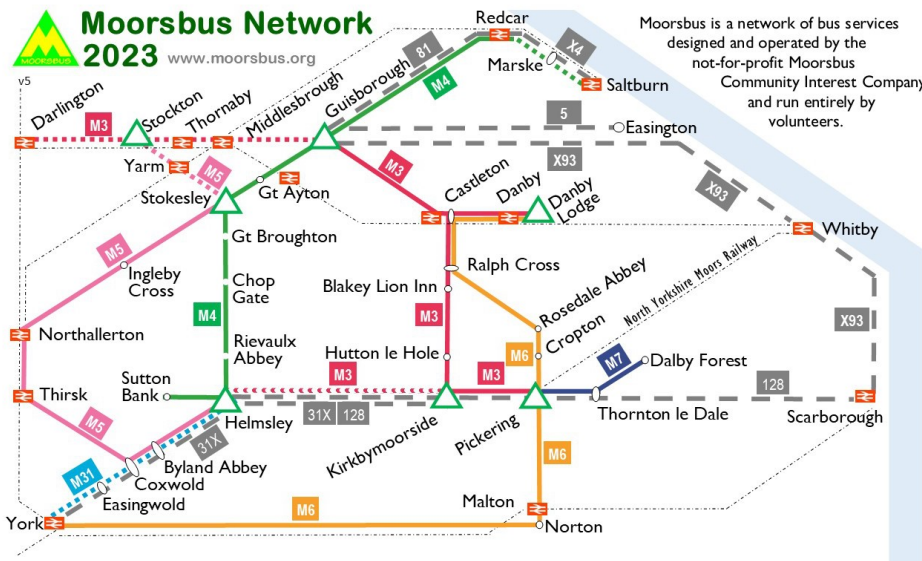
**Wetherby Resources**  
Sundays open 7am-10am  
£1 entry for buyers over-16s

Boston Spa Grumbler & Nextdoor had no problem with this




# TRANSPORT NEWS

## Only 3 More Saturdays / Sundays to Enjoy Moorsbus



**Cost of Unleaded** Correct on Thurs 10 Aug to nearest p  
 Shell £1.56 Morrisons £1.53 up 6p & 5p resp from 4 wks ago  
 H'gate S'burys £1.47  
 Diff b/w Shell & H'gate to fill av tank is £5



We are lucky to be so close to the North Yorks Moors and the Yorkshire Dales, and to have volunteers who run 2 not-for-profit Community Interest Companies to provide bus services so that all in society have the chance to visit our National Parks. With Moorsbus you can ride on Saturdays and Sundays if you can get to York. £2 singles available. Moorsbus ends after 27 August.

Details at www.moorsbus.org

## Easy to Access Information with DalesBus & Transdev

Short-sighted bus companies and transport authorities like Metro/WYCA see little value in printed timetables/maps and have used new technology as an excuse to stop printing them. Senior bureaucrats and marketing people do not use buses so do not realise how invaluable they are to the 1000s who do not use smartphones, PCs etc. It is far easier to look at a network map (A4 size and bigger) on paper than a tiny smartphone screen, especially when you are out and about.



Companies like Transdev (X98/99, 7 and 8 routes) know this and invest in high quality literature - see right. They sensibly use it as a highly visible marketing tool.



Leaflet by Transdev with ALL their bus timetables for Wetherby services. Available from Library & Harrogate Bus Station



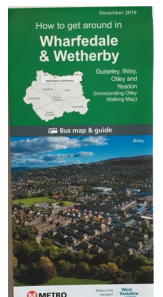
**Single Bus Fares £2 until 31 Oct**

### Reminder of Important Bus Facts (to inform our councillors)

- ◇ Transdev's route 7 to 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 (Connexions' route 412) or Otley (Connexions route 923)
- ◇ There are no evening services to York
- ◇ There is not a single bus shelter on the Aire Road/Ainsty Road estate
- ◇ Wetherby has old and new bus stop flags, and dirty cases with minimal information.
- ◇ WYCA/Metro have stopped printing their 7 invaluable network maps, see right

Metro stopped printing maps in 2019





*Shooting the messenger is something we are used to. But to say our reporting of a problem makes it harder to 'get anything done' takes it to a new level.*

This is what we said in the last issue to provoke such a reaction:

**"We also asked him (Cllr Lamb) if he was seriously suggesting that passengers should call the Police on 101?** Would the Police really want their phone lines clogged up with this? Why don't the bus drivers or companies report it on our behalf? Cllr Harrington could raise it with the Police & Transdev in her meetings with both organisations."

*We still think it is totally unreasonable and unrealistic to expect the public/passengers to call the Police when this happens. The offending vehicle could be moved after a few seconds or 10 minutes, nobody knows. Most, if not all, passengers would expect the bus driver to report this to his bosses / the Police.*

*It is still not clear who is ultimately responsible for resolving this situation but from Cllr Lamb's writings it looks like the Police. He says there is no point in telling your councillor about this problem, as it is 'meaningless'. (So does want to know about other constituent problems that he is not directly responsible for? It is unclear.) Cllr Lamb does not quote anything we said as being untrue, so what exactly he wants us to 'correct' is a mystery.*

**The Years' Old Problem in Pictures**



*Our questions in the article were not answered but since then we have received another email from Cllr Lamb, which gives us hope. He says:*

*"I discussed the issues of parked cars blocking the buses at the bus station with Transdev, Highways Officers and The Police. We are working on a plan to tackle the issue. I appreciate the issues with the police but in this instance I would urge you to report any instances of cars parked on the double yellows to the police and to encourage others to do the same. Every report strengthens my hand in arguing for more resources to patrol the area and for the Highways officers to introduce new traffic regulations and management."*

**There is HOPE** Issue Raised at Meeting

**Wetherby in Bloom Event**

**Tea and Cake**



**Bath House, Jubilee Garden – Westgate**

**Tues 15 Aug at 2-4 pm**

Join the gardening volunteers for refreshments and a chat. Donations only requested towards the Martin House Flower fund which provides a weekly flower arrangement.

*The Group are very grateful to Lavinia Graham who raised nearly £300 during celebrations for her 90th birthday with friends and family.*



**Wildlife of Wetherby**

**Oystercatcher**



*Paul Kirby*

This was taken in the Dales but you can see and hear them in our area.

Most UK birds spend the winter on the coast where they are joined on the east coast by birds from Norway.

They eat cockles & mussels on the coast, and mainly worms inland. They are very protective of their nest and will make a racket to distract you from its location.

There are 12 species of oystercatcher in the world, all of which look very similar.

Good news - a downward trend in UK population is beginning to reverse.



# CLRs Quit Directorships of Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd

**Cllr Lamb explains why on social media, adding he was 'happy to answer any questions'. (Turns out he wasn't)**

The main points of Cllr Lamb's post was:

*"Norma and I have stepped down as Directors for 2 reasons.*

- 1. A change in the members code of conduct.*
- 2. Better Wetherby is now a mature and well established organisation with a strong and growing membership. They have some great people who can deal with all the responsibilities that come with being directors which frees both of us up to focus on other things.*

*We'll still be supporting the work of the group.*

*We helped to set the group up as a large number of organisations in the town we're working independently on very similar issues so we encouraged them to work more formally together.*

*The groups include; Wetherby Town Council, Wetherby Civic Society, Churches Together Wetherby and Kirk Deighton Countryside Partnership. Schools and medical practices.*

*I applaud anyone and everyone who gives up their time to try and make the place they live in better for everyone. You Amy or may not agree with any or all of the work but at least they're trying.*

*We're lucky in Wetherby that the quiet majority of people roll up their sleeves and get stuck in to try and improve things and provide some wonderful things for the town. There'll always be detractors but thankfully they're a minority. For them, we have Wetherby Grumbler.*

*Hope that helps but happy to answer any questions."*

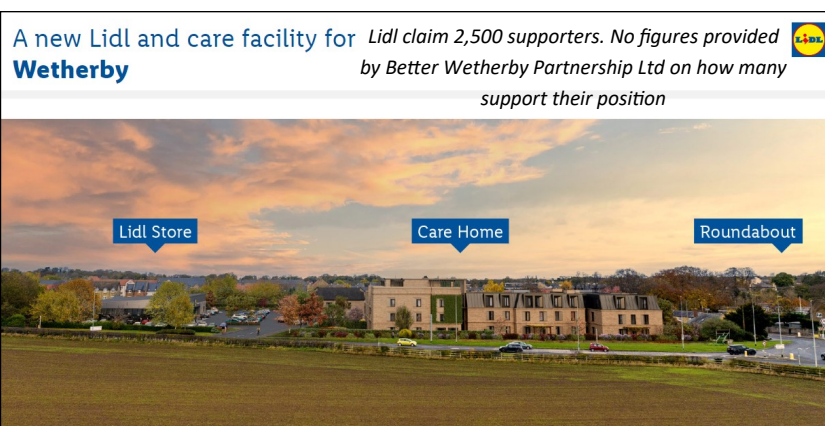


Cllrs Lamb & Harrington



Taking him at his word, we asked these simple, reasonable questions:

- 1 Why is 'Better Wetherby' a Limited Company? **No Answer & No Explanation on Website**
- 2 Why is this fact not highlighted prominently on BWPL's website, press releases and literature? **No Answer**
- 3 Isn't it true that BWPL represent nobody but their Directors, members and the leaders of those organisations you mention? **No Answer**
- 4 How many individuals with no group alliances are members of this Partnership? (Plse do not include those who receive the newsletter, like me in those figures.) **No Answer or Info on Website. 700 receive their newsletter, like me, but are NOT necessarily supporters.**
- 5 Which are the schools and medical practices you mention exactly and why have you not stated them? **No Answer or Info on Website. In fact there are NO 'medical practices' mentioned at all on their website.**
- 6 You imply that anyone who disagrees with you are detractors and just moaners who do nothing and are 'thankfully a minority'. 'For them, we have Wetherby Grumbler', you say. I get a lot of stick on here and am not an elected representative. Should you not have a thicker skin? **No Answer**
- 7 BWPL is a mainly Conservative organisation, isn't it? If not, which Conservative councillors disagree with its aims and want no association with it? **No Answer, despite claiming to be non-political**
- 8 BWPL is an unelected limited company that purports to represent Wetherby, isn't it? Why does Wetherby Town Council not do that? Have they privatised this function to BWPL? **No Answer**
- 9 Is any public ie taxpayers money given to this Limited Company via the Town Council or anywhere else? **No Answer or Info on Website**
- 10 Lidl say that 2500 residents support the Lidl store. How many supporters against this plan does BWPL claim to have? **No Answer or Info on Website**



Cllr Lamb started his post with *'I'm sorry to disappoint but there's not much to see here!'* Whenever we hear that, it arouses our suspicions.

Even more so, when he refuses to answer questions, after he says he is 'happy to answer any questions'. Extraordinary!

He & BWPL simply told us to look at their website and Feb's newsletter where we will find 'most' of the answers. Very unhelpful, showing they do not want to be accountable and open in that public forum.

And the statement was simply untrue - 'most' of the answers could not be found, as the bold text above shows.

Cllr Lamb takes a swipe at his 'detractors'. Like him, we have 'a minority' of detractors but we don't complain about them. We ignore the illogical / stupid / insulting and address the points of the other detractors, usually showing them to be biased or foolish, or both. We should appreciate the fact we have Freedom of Expression.

This article is yet another example of why we need a proper local paper with serious journalists who ask questions. There is no publication but WFP to make our town's organisations accountable.



# Local Democracy Page - Our MP Alec Shelbrooke

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for 13 years since May 2010.

In 2019 he won 58% of our vote beating Labour by over 17,000 votes. He was a Remainer.

**UPDATE** - From Dec '19 to 21 June 2023 he has voted 640 times out of 817 (78%)

In that time he has rebelled twice against the party whip. *Source - www.publicwhip.org.uk/*

He refused to inform his constituents whether or not he supported Boris Johnson in the party's No-Confidence Vote.

Alec was a strong supporter of Liz Truss in the Leadership Battle.

As PM Liz Truss promoted him to an MoD Ministerial post in Sep '22, which he then quit / was sacked after 49 days, the same length of time his boss lasted in post.

In June 2023 Alec voted for the Privileges Committee report which stated that Boris Johnson repeatedly misled parliament ie knowingly lied about parties in Downing Street whilst the rest of us had to follow the rules.

*Source - www.theyworkforyou.com/*



Very Old Photo  
Alec still uses on  
Facebook



No Tweets in June.  
Just the one in July for his 17,000+ followers.  
It was a retweet of a Liz Truss Tweet:



## Space for Alec to Say Anything to Constituents

(Unedited, max 400 words)

Nothing received  
since we began in Sep 21

[alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk)

## New Councillor Alex Riddell Introduces Himself on Social Media

*Not everyone is on social media. And not everyone who is on social media will see every post, unless they are addicted to it. To ensure your message is seen by the widest audience, we recommend sending it to a community newsletter too, one like WFP.*

For those who missed it, here's what Alex told the Wetherby Grumbler Facebook Group.

"I'm husband to Jane, a lawyer for an electric vehicle charging company and chair of the Labour's Wetherby & Harewood branch (Harewood Wetherby BLP). I've joined the Council to represent all residents and workers in Wetherby, to help protect vulnerable people in our community and to improve that community for everyone.

I'm an average amateur footballer and former below-average amateur cricketer. At weekends you'll find me gardening, in a pub beer garden or walking with Jane & our Labrador Nahla in the Yorkshire countryside!

Please reach out if you need any help or have any issues that you'd like the Town Council to consider. Although we may not be able to solve them directly, I'll always try to point you to someone who can."

*We thanked Alex and wished him well. We also asked him to "read past issues of the Wetherby Free Press for the many serious issues that our (Conservative) councillors have ignored, let alone done anything about. We don't expect you or the other new councillors, Kazia Knight, Jane Lovocah & Barbara Harpham to turn this massive oil tanker around immediately but updates in the week before publication would be appreciated."*



A Simile - A Tanker & W'by Town Council

*We have high hopes of Alex because he is an active member of one of the major parties and should know how things work. Hopefully, he (and our other new Councillors) will:*

- \* take an interest in at least one of our important public services like police and crime, buses, library, Leisure centre, promoting Wetherby to residents and visitors
- \* check that our massive 80% increase in Council Tax precept is being spent properly.
- \* ensure that Council decisions are clearly explained to improve openness and accountability.
- \* compare our Council with that of Otley (a town that is streets ahead of us in many areas).



## New MP for Wetherby ..... if Tories Lose Like in Tadcaster

The ONLY item of Wetherby news in the so-called 'Wetherby News' paper (£2) of 29 July was about ..... Tadcaster. They reported that the Conservatives lost a 20,000 majority in the Tadcaster (Selby & Ainsty) by-election.

If the same trend happens in Wetherby (with Alec Shelbrooke's 17,300 majority) in the election next year, we will have an MP from a different party.

A simple fact, not an opinion (some confuse the two).



Taddy Bridge Repairs in 2016

**WFP favours no political party - we aim to make 7 those in authority accountable whoever they are**



## A Lesson in Life

In Oct 2022, the Wetherby Free Press designed and inserted 4 ads (pictured) on the front page of our newsletter for Kirk Deighton businessman, David Birks of Eternal Peace Funeral Plans. Nearly 2000 of our newsletters with these 1/4 page ads were printed. 3000 readers saw them online. The advert is for his wife's business which is an ongoing concern.

### Wetherby Wills and Estate Planning

\*\* HALF PRICE WILLS with a free Estate Planning Review \*\*

- Free consultation on:
- Lasting Power of Attorney
  - Property Protection Trust
  - Family Asset Protection Trust
  - Equity Release
  - Pensions
  - Life Insurance



Call Catherine on  
07484 693 285  
to book an appointment

*Payment for this ad was promised but not received*

We requested payment of the £220 invoice on 29 Nov 2022. No response so we sent 2 reminders. In Jan 23 Mr Birks said 'I will sort it on my return'. Ten days later we asked for a date to expect payment. He says he gets back on 28th Jan and apologises for the delay and thanks us for our patience. No date is given. On 1 Feb we ask for a date again. He replies 'within 2 weeks'.

Payment was not made within 2 weeks and no contact made from him. Eight days after the last payment date, we express our disappointment in his behaviour and hope he 'will pay the money eventually and if not, then

that will be on your conscience'.

He responds without any clear information about why he is unable to pay and ends with the (poorly typed) sentence "I shukd be able to make payment within 40 days when they release ny funds."

No date is given and we let 4 months pass before contacting him again in June 23. We simply ask 'any news?' He does not respond.

A month later at the end of July we see a car in Wetherby promoting his wife's business in the advert. We write again to him and his wife and suggest that they make a repayment plan, at the very least, for the ads that promoted his wife's business.

They ignore the compromise and give us no hope of payment. Catherine Thomas said 'it's nothing to do with me' as she did not take any contract out with me. That is true, there was no contract with her. He said his company (Eternal Peace Funeral Plans) is 'dormant' and that it 'doesn't exist'. Companies House records say that the company changed its name to Dakota Legal Services Ltd in April 2023. He did not inform us of this name change. In a final message on 31 July he asked how much he owed and said that he will pay us by Friday. We sent our bank details to him again but again no payment.

**COMPANY  
NAME CHANGE**  
to Dakota Legal Services Ltd

### Comment

*In all aspects of life, people should treat others how they would like to be treated themselves. Had he been open and honest with us about his financial difficulties from the start and explained them, we would have sympathised, accepted the situation and moved on.*

*Instead, with the false hope we were given, we wasted time on continuing to communicate with him. We were patient and polite throughout, making clear our wishes and the consequences of non-payment towards the end. He did not inform us that he changed his company's name but said that the old company is 'dormant', which therefore cannot be true. His wife is correct legally that there was no contract with her but to say it is 'nothing to do with me' is stretching it, when all 4 front page adverts promoted her current business and she is married to him. The attitude and false promises from him were disappointing and frustrating. He neither suggested or agreed to a payment plan. £5 a month would have been / be acceptable. It is a shame because the money could have printed 100s of Wetherby Free Press issues for many months to come. So it is our readers who suffer in the end.*

*Perhaps the lesson we have learnt is to be less trusting and patient, and not waste our time on giving uncommunicative late payers chance after chance. We hope other local businesses will learn from our experience.*

***If you have a similar story, we'll publish it. It must be true, honest opinion or in the public interest.***



## Notes on Wetherby Town Council Mtg - July

cont'd from Page 2

The Welcome to Wetherby committee has 7 members - the Climate Emergency Ctte has just 3. *What does that say about priorities?* The June WtW meeting last less than an hour!

**Cllr Billie Ager-Mills suggested a WETHERBY PRIDE event.** There was no mention of any consultation with residents on this proposal. *As we keep saying it's free on social media. They have never consulted the public on major events like the abysmal Kings Coronation. Why don't they consider asking the people whose money they are spending for our views?*

It was implied that the lack of involvement from the Wetherby Business Association (WBA) contributed to a lack of knowledge about the Drover's Day event. *We are not surprised.*

**The Town maps have finally been printed so the WtW minutes say. But weeks later and they are not in the library or town hall. It's already taken a year for them to improve the low quality of visitor literature (compare with Otleys) and summer is soon over. Pathetic!**

*There's more to say about other committees but no time and space. Would you like to report on the interesting bits of the monthly town council meeting minutes? Plse get in touch.*

Send Your News, Views & Events to:



WetherbyFreePress@PM.me





# Wetherby Festival Update



Our 45<sup>th</sup> Wetherby Festival starts on **Friday 29th September** and runs until **8<sup>th</sup> October**. We are sure that there will be something for everyone this year with a varied menu of events.

What can you enjoy this year? Well, we have two (yes, TWO!) BBC comedians, popular music and dance from The Swing Commanders, Wine Tasting in the ever popular Call My Wine Bluff, a Silent Film afternoon with Laurel & Hardy and Buster Keaton with piano accompaniment, a Mountain Climbing Film to scare the pants off you, classical music, folk music, walks and talks, photography, an art exhibition by local artists, a returning floral workshop with Nicolla Florist plus a literary lunch where you can meet author Matson Taylor (The Miseducation of Evie Epworth) and award winning writer Joanne Harris OBE (Chocolat) as well as enjoying an excellent lunch at The Bridge... phew!



And that's just a taster of a full programme of events.

The full event schedule, together with the usual ticket-buying facility, is available at

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

and we will be opening the Box Office at the Town Hall in September for those of you who prefer physical tickets.

**The Festival started in 1977 and is still going strong! Please support it!**

## No Constitution for Wetherby & Villages Clean River Group (& still no apology)



In the last issue we reported that when Linda Richards was a Leeds City Councillor she set up **Wetherby and Villages Clean River Group (WAVCRG)** and used the Group's Twitter account to promote the Conservative Party in 2 tweets. Neither of these tweets had anything to do with the pollution of our river with raw sewage.

Not a single member of the Group or Conservative colleague of Mrs Richards noticed these political Tweets at the time in 2022.

We asked for a public apology from Mrs Richards. She has yet to express any regret.

Nor has group member Boston Spa Parish Council whose Chairman, Keith Blake, said incorrectly that the Group 'has issued an apology'. No apology for that either.



*No apology, B Spa speaks for them*

The other group member Thorp Arch Parish Council responded to an email. Nicola Midgley, Chair, said that they are non-political and that Boston Spa Parish Council spoke on their behalf.

We responded that if they were truly non-political they would apologise to us and not condone this poor behaviour by their silence. No response.

An assurance this would not happen again would be nice but was not provided by anyone in the Group. In other words no action has been taken by the Group apart from taking the offending tweets down nearly a year after they were posted.

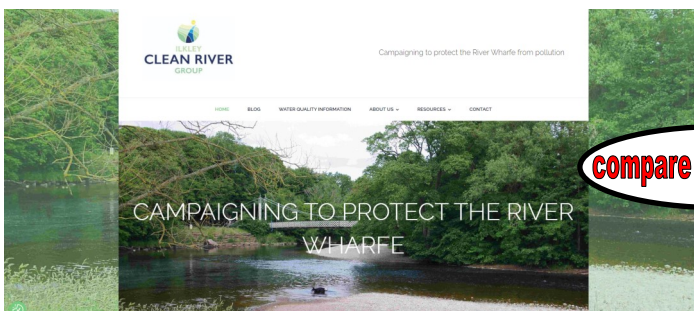


We wrote to a professional Clean Rivers Group in Ilkley who have gained much well-deserved national publicity for their hard work in exposing the scandal of filthy discharges into the Wharfe.

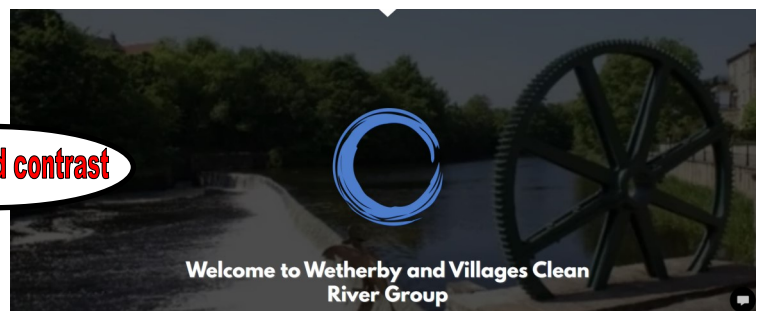
Prof Becky Malby of Ilkley Clean Rivers Group told us that Wetherby has applied for bathing status at 3 sites in Wetherby and all were rejected. She pointed out that Ilkley have a constitution. There is no constitution for Wetherby's group as a quick look on their website showed. Ilkley have a professional, informative and user-friendly website. Compared to Ilkley's, the Wetherby one is basic and amateurish, see below.

We asked former Cllr Richards to send us their constitution if they have one and about the failed bathing status applications. No response.

**At the end of the day, it's ACTION that matters. If WAVCRG want to tell us real progress they've made on reducing sewage discharges, we'll gladly publish it.**



[www.ilkleycleanriver.uk/](http://www.ilkleycleanriver.uk/)



[www.wetherbyandvillagescleanrivergroup.com/](http://www.wetherbyandvillagescleanrivergroup.com/)

**compare and contrast**



# Window Blessed at St John's Catholic Specialist School

A Commemorative stained glass window marking 150 years of education at a West Yorkshire specialist school was blessed during a recent ceremony.

The window, at St John's Catholic Specialist School in Boston Spa was blessed by Father Sean Molloy at a special event which saw current and past pupils join with staff from the school, families and loved ones to gather for a grand unveiling and blessing.

St John's (formerly St John's Catholic School for the Deaf) supports children and young people who are hearing impaired, on the autistic spectrum or have complex sensory or communication challenges.

The school had been due to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. However, as a result of Covid many of its plans, including the creation of the window, had to be postponed.

The window was created by Yorkshire glass artist Zoe Eady who worked in close collaboration with the school's pupils and staff, including Art Teacher, Emma Fowler, for over a year to ensure their ideas were included in its final design. As well as in-school workshops, children from St John's visited Zoe's studio, the Glass Garden in Leeds, for sessions there.

Head Teacher at St John's, Ann Bradbury, said: "The window is a true reflection of St John's and represents how we have evolved over the last 150+ years as a school and what we are; a place where every voice is heard and every voice is celebrated. That is absolutely represented in the stunning final window. The children expressed their views about what is important to them about St John's, and Zoe has taken that input to create a window which perfectly represents those thoughts. The window is an important part of St John's history."

She concluded "It has been a fantastic experience and we're incredibly proud of our window."



Art Teacher Emma Fowler Zoe Eady

Head Teacher Ann Bradbury Fr Sean Molloy

## Blast from the Past



New railway line path by the A1 towards the racecourse

## Wetherby News

### NEWSWATCH



In a free democratic society, a questioning independent press is vital for accountability. We have not had that in Wetherby for many years. You are lucky to get a single story about Wetherby these days for your £2 Wetherby News.

There are so many important issues they could cover in this town but do not even attend council meetings now.

Wetherby Library no longer keeping a copy says it all.

We will keep a tab on the number of **general** news items about Wetherby and letters from residents in the paper.

We do this in the hope they will wake up and take some of our stories up.

Do you still read it? If so, please send us your views.

**Issue of 10 Aug '23: News Items - 1 Letters - 0**

### PUB FOR SALE

The Fox & Hounds at Walton is being offered for £495,000. Chef and owner Alan Lamb had to close it Monday to Saturday due to staff shortages. His other pub, the Bay Horse at Kirk Deighton is still open every day.



It is always sad when a community asset is put up for sale. It amazes us that East Keswick can support 2 pubs - the Duke of Wellington & the Old Star.



All 15 of our Wetherby Town Councillors.

(Still no photos of any of our Town Hall Staff on the Council website. Otley's public servants are happy to be seen. Why aren't ours?)





Big day for W Yorks police on Sunday - Pride march, Rhinos at Headingley & Cardiff fans at Elland Road. Poor defending led to Cardiff's first and their second in the first half sent gloom around the ground. But Cooper's header restored fans faith after 5 mins of the second half. United pressure eventually paid off but they left it late in added time to send the fans home fairly happy with a 2 - 2 draw.

Legend Eddie Gray (who lives in Kirkby Overblow) saw his great nephew Archie make his Leeds debut at just 17 years old! Great to see Gkonto still at the club but mistake-prone Meslier?



The Rhinos efforts to get in the Top 6 play-off places ended when they lost to Hull KR by a single point at Headingley in mid-July.

Since then they played well at St Helens, going ahead at one point and only losing by 1 try in the end. It was a tight game against Leigh, Leeds leading by 2 points at half time.



But no Rhinos score in the second gave 3rd place Leigh a 6 - 13 victory. Leeds are 4th from bottom.

- Birmingham City v **Utd** on Sat 12 Aug at 15.00
- Utd** v West Brom on Fri 18 Aug at 20.00 **sky sports**
- Ipswich Town v **Utd** on Sat 26 Aug at 15.00
- Sheffield Wed v **Utd** on Sat 2 Sep at 15.00

- Rhinos** v Warrington Wolves on Sun 20 Aug July at 15.00
- Huddersfield Giants v **Rhinos** on Sun 27 Aug at 15.00
- Hull FC v **Rhinos** on Sat 2 Sep at 15.00
- Rhinos** v Wigan Warriors on Fri 8 Sep at 20.00

**Your Community Newsletter** Editor: Paul Kirby at [www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press](http://www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press)

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Tel: 07840 862861 Twitter: @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 quote directly to avoid any misunderstandings. We don't do interviews.

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*

**Please donate online at**

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

to cover printing costs *Thank You*

**The British Library at Boston Spa keep copies in their catalogue. The WFP lives forever!**

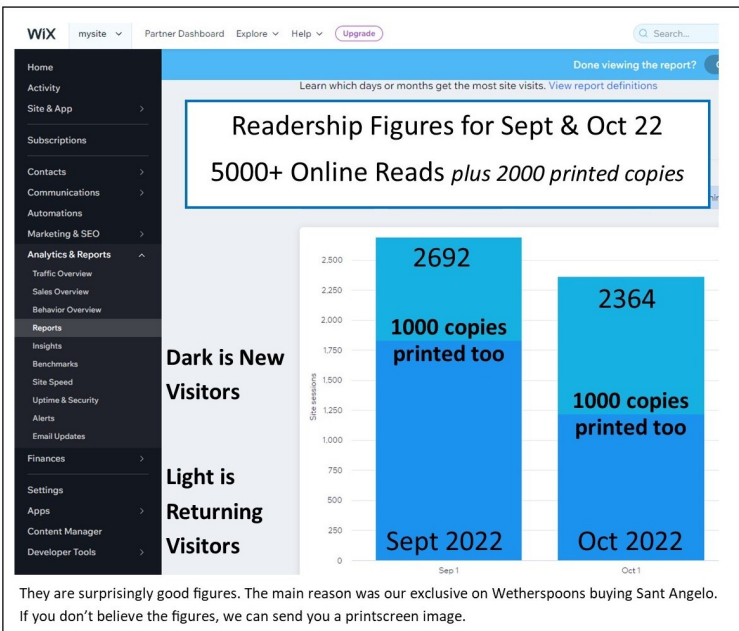
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Next Issue 50 - Fri 8 Sep '23

**In 2022 we Supported 25 Local Organisations & Charities**

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



**Let's Make Wetherby Better Together in 2023**