



Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

ISSUE 33 until Fri 9 Dec '22

YOUR Community Newsletter - Twice a Month

Online at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press
plus 1000 copies at Castlegate Stationers * Gourmet Café *
Bob Shop Mason House Stores * Library * Town Hall * Churches
Pubs * Morrisons Entrance & Café * & many other places

1000s of Readers
every month

Thank You

Lucky Ducky Best Fed in World!



New Campaign Launched

Wetherby is a fine town in many ways, thanks to a few organisations whose unpaid volunteers make it an attractive and interesting place to live. But nobody can deny there is room for improvement.

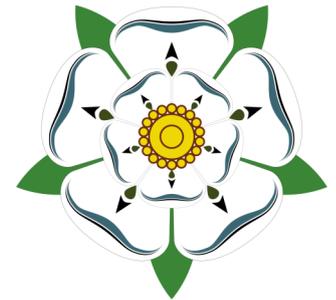
The pages of this esteemed organ have highlighted the problems and compared it to other towns of a similar size. Sadly, this seems to have had little impact on many of the people who have influence in this town. Things have stayed pretty much the same. They prefer to ignore low standards and pretend everything is just fine. Like it always has been. That is why we need a campaign with a simple message:

WETHERBY DESERVES BETTER
Yes, it deserves a better newsletter, too 😊

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

Special Thanks
to the
Wetherby
Christmas
Lights Team -
Fab Job
Every Year



Next Issue on Fri 9 Dec is ONLINE ONLY at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



Contact us at WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter: @WbyFreePress

TRANSPORT NEWS

Cost of Unleaded Correct on Thurs 24 Nov to nearest penny

Shell £1.64 Morrisons £1.62 Tesco Seacroft £1.58
 Difference b/w Shell & Tesco to fill av tank of 55 litres
 is **£3.30**
 One Year ago in Nov 2021 it was about £1.50 per litre



Enjoy the Autumn Colours at Roundhay Park

Why not leave the car at home and travel in luxury on the X98/99 to the best park in Leeds - only 25 minutes away. It's only £2 there and £2 back. And free for the elderly and other pass holders.

Have a coffee at the café, try to spot a woodpecker on a walk round the lake, feed the ducks and swans (healthily) and explore two adventure trails for children. If you fancy a drink, there's the Roundhay Fox pub.



To catch the frequent service into Leeds as well, buy the £4.50 day ticket, valid on all buses in West Yorkshire.

Another great day out from Wetherby is on the 923 to Harewood House or Otley. Same prices and double-deckers too seen recently.

Transdev & Connexions aren't interested in promoting their bus services in this newsletter so we'll do it for them.

Cllr(s) meet with Metro / WYCA

Metro / WYCA is the Transport Authority that we pay for in our taxes. They look after bus infrastructure and subsidise some bus services. They are supposed to be accountable to councillors (and us).

They are also the people who deal with the bus companies and work with them in the West Yorkshire Bus Alliance. There is nobody in this Alliance to represent local passengers, unless you count the Mayor, Tracy Brabin (we don't).

Metro / WYCA is the only organisation our Wetherby councillors can hope to influence.

Bus companies are private businesses and can do exactly what they want at the end of the day to maximise profit.

Cllr(s) ?????? say they have met with Metro / WYCA but have not informed us in

any detail what was discussed or agreed. *Wetherby Deserves Better.*



X98/99 No Longer Limited Stop & Too Push for Paper?

A reader (LR) asked Transdev whether the X98/99 is still a Limited Stop service in Leeds. He says they didn't reply so he asked the Transport Authority and they responded:

"I can confirm that what you have observed is correct - they are now registered to pick up and set down at **every stop on the route**".

They say the X98/99 operate commercially without funding from them, except for a few very early morning and late evening journeys. Our reader rightly asks "why they are X services - shouldn't they now be the 98 and 99?". He adds "No wonder they are late with all the extra picking up and setting down".

We agree. Hopefully, the new timetable from 20 Nov will be more reliable than the old.

Transdev did not inform passengers of this major change of cancelling its limited stop status. The Editor implored First Leeds to make it limited stop for many years until they finally saw sense. It added many minutes to a 45 min journey and it will do again. This is a retrograde step in our view. Once passengers in Harehills realise they can catch it, those already on the bus could have an uncomfortable final few minutes of their journey on a crowded bus.

Like the accident in July 2021, Transdev keep schtum about anything negative. We hope they learn sooner rather than later this is a foolish course of action. Total honesty is always the best policy.

Do you miss the Metro newspaper on the X98/99? Transdev say we don't!



We think it is a good read and want it back. If you agree, tweet @harrogatebus or email happytravels@harrogatebus.co.uk

and pls copy the Wetherby Free Press & Cllrs Lamb, Richards & Harrington in.

Visit the Dales direct from Wetherby this winter

874 to Bolton Abbey - Grassington - Buckden

SUNDAYS

Wetherby Bus Sta 8.35
 All stops to Leeds on A58



Timetables in Library

@DalesBus

www.dalesbus.org
 TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR THE YORKSHIRE DALES

£10 Rover Ticket
£18 Family
 Buy on Bus
 FREE trip out for Elderly & other Passholders

Strikes & Last Posting Dates



Workers plan to walk out again on Wed 30 Nov, Thurs 1 Dec & Fri 2 Dec. These strikes are likely to affect deliveries of goods ordered on Cyber Monday 28 Nov - one of the the year's most popular shopping periods for online retailers.



The train drivers' union ASLEF has announced further strikes with action taking place throughout the country on Saturday 26 November. Services on late on Friday and Sunday morning will also be affected.

The RMT have announced strikes on **Tues 13 Dec** **Wed 14 Dec** **Fri 16 Dec** **Sat 17 Dec**
Tues 3 Jan **Wed 4 Jan** **Fri 6 Jan** **Sat 7 Jan**

Nurses walk out on Thurs 15 Dec & Tues 20 Dec. Civil servants of the PCS Union take action mid-December and continue for a month, affecting passport control at airports, driving tests, issuing of driving licences and Border Force work. 70,000 members of the University and College Union are in dispute too, striking on Wed 30 Nov.

Last UK posting dates			
These are the latest recommended dates you should post by to ensure your cards and gifts arrive within the UK in time for Christmas.			
Monday 19 December	Wednesday 21 December	Thursday 22 December	Friday 23 December
2nd Class	1st Class	Next day guaranteed	
Royal Mail 2nd Class Royal Mail Signed For 2nd Class	Royal Mail 1st Class Royal Mail Signed For 1st Class Plus Parcelforce Worldwide express48*	Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed by 1pm* Parcelforce Worldwide expressAM and express24*	Royal Mail Special Delivery by 1pm with Saturday Guarantee*

Second Class 68p First is 95p
 Large (A4) Second is £1.05 First £1.45

Charity Fundraiser Asks for Support

Hello, my name is Claire. I am disabled fundraiser from Boston Spa. Last year I made 250 care packages for NHS front-line staff. And last Christmas I made 180 care packages for those in need around York, Harrogate and Leeds.

This Christmas I am working with the homeless project in Harrogate and St George's Crypt in Leeds. I am also producing these care packages for a place in York.

In these hard times I want to show my support and help those less fortunate. If you can help, we need the following:

- Gift Tags ** Christmas Cards ** Vouchers for Primark, Costa Coffee, Greggs, Asda, Boots etc ** Adult Colouring Books & Coloured Pencils ** Socks ** Mens & Ladies Underwear ** Thermal Socks & Gloves ** Thermal Vests & Long Johns ** Hand Warmers ** Mini-Diaries ** Thermal Flasks ** Thermal Mugs * Toiletries (No Razors) ** Sanitary Products ** Chocolates ** Sweets ** Crisps ** Soft Drinks ** Water ** Little Gifts ** T-shirts ** Jumpers

I will also be collecting clothes. Drop off is in Boston Spa and we can collect goods where possible. These items will be delivered personally nearer Christmas.

If you can help, please let me know. Thank you for your support. My email is clairescharitywork@gmail.com Tel 0751 098 6590



CLRs Vote Against Motion on River Pollution

CLRs Richards & Harrington have become vocal campaigners in recent times to clean up the River Wharfe. They are keenly involved with achieving Bathing Water status for our river. It cannot be ignored that the Conservatives have been in power for 12 years and allows water companies to discharge sewage into our rivers with little deterrent.

Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 16th November 2022

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP3	7/11/22	8/11/22

Submitted by: Councillor Peter Carfill
 Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel: Executive Board
 Executive Member/Chair: Executive Member (Environment and Housing)
 Relevant Director: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

This Council is very concerned the Government continues to allow raw sewage to be dumped into rivers flowing through Leeds.

Council is shocked Environment Agency figures show raw sewage has been pumped into Yorkshire's natural environment once every 18.75 minutes since 2016 and the number of spills has increased by over 100,000% in that time.

Council notes that the Government's failure to implement effective regulation, as well as Government cuts to the Environment Agency budget since 2010 have reduced the amount of surveillance of water companies aimed at stopping pollution in rivers and caused an increase in raw sewage dumping.

Council calls on the Government to end this disgraceful practice by allowing unlimited fines, holding water company bosses legally and financially accountable for their negligence, and by toughening up regulations that currently allow the system to be abused.

We were surprised and confused when we found that both CLRs had voted against a motion forwarded by Leeds City Council. The CLRs tweeted it was because getting bathing water status is achieved by 'getting the data' and highlighting

the issue. We asked Mark Barrow, underwater cameraman and campaigner, for comment; he said he does not get involved in politics. A few days later yet another video of raw sewage going into the Wharfe after recent heavy rain was posted online.



Christmas Humour from 1905

Cabby: I had a beard like yours once, but when I found what it looked like, I got it cut off.

Bus Driver: I had a face like yours once and when I found I couldn't get it cut off, I grew a beard.



What do you get if you make a snowman & dress it up as a vampire? Frostbite

What do you call an elf that runs away from Santa's workshop?

A rebel without a Claus!



We would love to print every issue 3 in full. Plse help if you can

Local Democracy Page - Our MP & Councillors

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for 12 years since May 2010. His basic salary is £84K (£2K rise in Apr '22). In the last election in 2019 he won 58% of our vote beating Labour by over 17,000 votes. He was a Remainer. From Dec '19 to May '22 he has voted 467 times out of 560 (83%) and has rebelled once against the party whip (Mar '22). He refused to inform his constituents whether or not he supported Boris Johnson in the No-Confidence Vote. He was a strong supporter of Liz Truss in the Leadership Battle. She promoted him to an MoD Ministerial post in Sep '22, which he then quit / was sacked within 2 months.

Space for Alec. Unedited (max 400 words)
Wetherby Issues? Cost of Living Crisis? New PM?
Bus Cuts? Matt Hancock? COP 27? World Cup?
'Spoons?'

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk

Nothing received



Alec's Main Photo on Facebook
How old is it? 5 yrs? 10 yrs?

In the last 2 weeks Alec has spent 3 days in Madrid, Spain doing his NATO work.



Alec has 17,000+ Twitter followers. Since Rishi Sunak became PM a month ago (24 Oct), he has tweeted twice about Wetherby:

12 Nov - 'It's been another busy morning hosting my regular market surgery, popping along to coffee mornings in #Bardsey and #Wetherby and catching up with local volunteers from the @PoppyLegion'

13 Nov - 'This Remembrance Sunday I'm joining residents in Wetherby as we lay wreaths of remembrance to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. At the going down of the sun and in the morning,



Cllr Linda Richards

Cllr Alan Lamb

Cllr Norma Harrington

linda.richards@leeds.gov.uk

alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk

norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk

Space for Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington (& other Cllrs or their Supporters)

Unedited (max 400 words)

'Spoons? Bus Cuts? River Pollution?

Mercure Hotel for Immigrants? A1 Sign Campaign?

Nothing received



The Twitter account for Wetherby Ward Councillors is @WetherbyCllrs.

There is nothing posted about any of the issues above. This is another example of poor communication with residents.

The last tweet was over 2 months ago in September about Boston Spa Academy. *Wetherby Deserves Better*



Cllrs Continue to Ignore Us / You

"Please could you clarify the issues on page 2 re your mtg with Alex Hornby and provide your views on the last bus from Harrogate and longer journey times for X98/99 bus. And buses are still being blocked when exiting the bus station. Why has nothing been done?"

We also politely asked for an explanation of why the Burials Manager post was only available internally.

And for their views on the paucity of news in the 'Wetherby' News and the portrayal of Wetherby as a NIMBY town nationally.

Not a single one of them responded. They continue to ignore us and you, our thousands of readers. *Wetherby Deserves Better*

Silence on Social Media too

We have noticed our Town Councillors are very quiet on social media about issues in the town eg Aldi roundabout. A large number of residents are members of groups like 'Wetherby Grumbler'.

We find their lack of any opinions quite strange. Why the reluctance to tell us what they think?

They say they are not a political council, yet individually do not feel the need to express any (independent) opinion whatsoever.

If you see a written opinion by any of them, plse tell us.

They may as well be robots, it seems to us.



General Town Council meetings are monthly (2nd Tues) at the Town Hall usually starting at 7pm with a 15 minute public question and comment session. See www.wetherby.co.uk

The last meeting was on 8 Nov (though the website says 9th)
The minutes have yet to be published and will be summarised in Issue 34.

Nobody has monitored or reported on Town Hall meetings for many years. No wonder they are not used to their actions and inaction being questioned by us. Why doesn't the 'professional' media, like the Harrogate (Wetherby) News attend or report on how our Council Tax is being spent?

Reasons for Empty Shops in Wetherby

There is an organisation that has been willing to shed some light on the issue of empty shops in Wetherby. We are very grateful to Simon Williams, Director of Wetherby Property Management (WPM) for providing some insightful information.

Simon told us that TUI (formerly Thomson's) is still on lease and the decision to re-let the property currently rests with TUI.

The two empty shops we mentioned in Issue 24 are now let to a hearing specialist and Dominos Pizza.

Barclays is under offer and due to reopen in the first quarter of 2023.

The Crown Hotel and the two shops on Cross Street (opposite William Hill) are owned by Sam Smiths. The property is listed and there are no empty rates to pay.

The property next to Moji Pizza is owned by Moji Pizza. There are no empty rates to pay.

As to the reason why Wetherby does not have any discount stores (like B & M and Yorkshire Trading Company), it is because they need larger units, typically 5,000 to 20,000 sq ft. Should they have a requirement for Wetherby, there are very few large shop units.

WPM always welcome ideas for new retailers and the idea of a refill shop is a good example of this.



Why has nothing been done to make this highly visible shop front more attractive?



We say: If money is the issue, there are cheaper ways than vinyls to make a shop window look good:

Why not ask the owner for permission to put promotional posters up for community events?
Or artwork from a local school?

Or a map / other useful info for visitors - to make them feel welcome?



Come on Wetherby Town Council / Welcome to Wetherby, Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd & Wetherby Business Association, let's see some Action and Imagination!

WETHERBY DESERVES A BETTER TOWN CENTRE

Duck Food Sales Record - 2000+ Bags

Our Mallard Ducks (and Gulls, Swans & Pigeons) by the river must be the best fed in Yorkshire, if not the World!

Last year's record sales figure of 2290 bags has already been smashed 5 months before the end of the financial year.

Local entrepreneur Paul Kirby started the enterprise in February 2020 after seeing people feed the ducks with whole loaves of sliced bread. He says "That's okay if there's a shortage of food but I thought they deserved a more nutritious diet."



He researched the subject and put together a mixture of oats, rice, peas, bird seed and floating pellets. "It was a winning formula as it turned out - I could sell it for £1 and manage to give the shops selling it a reasonable amount, and leave myself a little too".

One beneficiary is Cancer Research who received more than £500 from sales last year. This year's profit will be more than that.

Paul adds "It's great that a charity can benefit from the venture and, of course, that our birds on the Wharfe are much healthier than before. If anyone can prove ours aren't the best fed in Yorkshire / the world, please keep it to yourself!"



from the venture and, of course, that our birds on the Wharfe are much healthier than before. If anyone can prove ours aren't the best fed in Yorkshire / the world, please keep it to yourself!"

Possible Defamation - Advice please

We have suspected for some time that somebody has gone well beyond the acceptable boundary of criticism. We may have an example of that, which has affected a company's dealings with us. That is a serious matter.

An email has been sent to a resident by an organisation which stated that the Wetherby Free Press has 'published an article slandering one of the local charities'. The email says it twice, claiming WFP is a 'slandering publication'.

This is not true and no action for defamation (slander and libel) has ever been taken out against the Wetherby Free Press, or anyone associated with it. The business that wrote the email previously supported the WFP and then stopped doing so.

Common sense says the WFP has a strong case of possible defamation against the business and whoever told them we had slandered a local charity.

Please help us by recommending a (retired) solicitor/ lawyer with experience in defamation who may be able to help. Any advice gratefully received.



Please email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me



Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

Adverts 50% of *On Your Doorstep* rates:

1/8 page (size A) - £25 or £80 for 4 issues

1/4 page (size B/C) - £40 or £130 for 4 issues

1/2 page (size D) - £60 or £200 for 4

Sponsorship on front page - £25

We can design your ad FOR FREE
Just send us the details & images



Issue 34 - Fri 9 Dec

Issue 35 - Fri 30 Dec, PRINTED too

Issue 36 - Fri 13 Jan



Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Twitter: @WbyFreePress

Tel: 07840 862861

Collingham Christmas Craft Market
Collingham Memorial Hall
Sunday 18th December
10am-4pm
Free Entry

Local LANDMARKS
ART EXHIBITION
SAT 3RD DEC
10AM-5PM
The Deighton Room
Wetherby Town Hall

(poor poster - wording not clear)



Armageddon Time Rating: 15

Length: 1hr 54mins

Mrs Harris Goes To Paris

Rating: PG Length: 1hr 55mins

www.wetherbycinema.com

WETHERBY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON
Thursday 1st December from 6pm to 9pm at Wetherby Market Place
* A WIDE RANGE OF MARKET STALLS WITH HOT FOOD & DRINKS *
* LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT *
* FUN FAIR RIDES *
* LATE-NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING *

The grand switch-on at 7.30pm by Simon Weaver - Harrogate Town AFC Manager. Compete for the night. *Bryn Law*

Bach
Christmas Oratorio
Saturday December 17 7.30pm
St James Church, Wetherby, LS22 6LP
Tickets: £18 (under-18s: free) from:
• Nicola Florist, 1 Bank Street, Wetherby (01937 585233)
• Ticket Manager: 07443 466254
• E-mail: tickets@wetherbychoral.org.uk or on the door:
wetherbychoral.org.uk

BOSTON SPA VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS FAIR
FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 4-8PM
FREE ENTRY
COME AND MEET SANTA & HIS ELVES - FREE
OVER 30 STALLS

WETHERBY DISTRICT LIONS CLUB SANTA SLEIGH ROUTES

2nd – 21st December 2022

Day & Date	Time	Location
Friday, 2 nd December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Aire Road, all streets off
Tuesday, 6 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Badgerwood Glade Estate
Wednesday, 7 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Heuthwaite Avenue, Walton Road, First Avenue
Thursday, 8 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Hall Orchards Avenue, Audby Lane, Sandbeck Way, Noble Close
Friday, 9 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	North Grove Avenue, Barleyfields Road
Sunday, 11 th December	9.00 am – 3.00 pm	Dickensian Christmas Artisan Market and Craft Fayre – Wetherby Market Place
Monday, 12 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Wentworth Gate, Grasmere Drive etc
Tuesday, 13 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Ainsty Road, all streets off
Wednesday, 14 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Chestnut Avenue, Glebe Field Drive, Bloom Drive
Thursday, 15 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Northfield Place, Sandringham Road, etc
Friday, 16 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Oak Ridge, Shaw Barn Croft, Fledborough Road, Nichols Way
Saturday, 17 th December	10.00 am – 2.00 pm	Morrisons Supermarket, Wetherby
Monday, 19 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Spofforth Park Estate
Tuesday, 20 th December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Templars Chase, Sandbeck Lane, Park View, Cavendish Close
Wednesday, 21 st December	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Linton Village – Linton Lane to Windmill Inn

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

It's YOUR Newsletter - Plse send us your news, views & articles

Local Lady Announces Intention to Run in Next Election

We are delighted to inform our readers about anybody who wishes to represent local people. Jane wrote to us:

My name is Jane Lavocah and I intend to run as Independent MP for Elmet and Rothwell in the next General Election. My first goal and top priority is to educate people and simplify politics so that the politically uninspired can make an informed and impartial vote in the next election. I believe that the majority of the public, especially the younger generation feel blindsided by the terms of politics thrown around in the media and parliament. They therefore neither act nor care about politics, as they just don't fully understand the subject matter.

Secondly, if elected I would aim to develop an online platform to deliver direct democracy in this constituency by using official daily polls influenced by residents to govern my actions and decisions using majority lead statistics. We find it very easy to spend the day liking or grumbling. It's about time we put our opinions to good use and speak up for what we believe in as a collective and turn our views into action.

Thirdly, I wish to see honest, credible and sincere people in parliament who can prioritise local goals and are free from the constraints and coercion of party affiliation - people who understand the importance of debate followed by compromise. I believe I can be that person for this constituency and I'm willing and able to respect and value your range of direct opinions. I aspire to grow and adapt my knowledge and experience in your best interests.

I am stepping out of my comfort zone of a working class existence, and even with the odds against me I am committed and passionate to get involved by any means necessary. I am here for the greater good of our community, our country, and to be a trustworthy candidate for the people.

I am a grassroots candidate with zero financial backing. Any support, whether it be funding, advice or help with getting the message out, would be greatly appreciated. Contact details are below.

Instagram & Twitter: @VoteJaneforMP

Email: VoteJaneforMP@gmail.com

Website: www.VoteJaneforMP.co.uk

Here you can read my growing manifesto and subscribe to my blog. You can also donate towards my application fee, if you wish.

I welcome any feedback and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

**vote
jane lavocah**



**independent
mp for
elmet and
rothwell**

Jane's Ambition is Clear



CM Writes: "A great deal has been said over recent weeks regarding changes to Wetherby Bus Services. The main changes that have taken place, or are scheduled to, are:

- X98/X99 (Wetherby – Leeds) taken over from First Leeds by Coastliner/Harrogate Bus Company (part of Transdev). This has resulted in the provision of excellent buses, but a totally unreliable service.
- 7 (Harrogate – Wetherby – Leeds) reduced to hourly from half hourly during periods of the day. Transdev also withdrew from Follifoot altogether some time ago. One of the contributors to these changes is probably the unnecessary competition from Connexions X70 that has been operating for several years.
- 412 (Wetherby – York) due for imminent withdrawal.



The common denominator for all these issues is that not enough passengers are using these services, which has been the case for a number of years. There are a number of reasons e.g. inconvenience, cost, infrequency and unreliability.

Wetherby is situated on the borders of North and West Yorkshire (including the Leeds City area), and effective common travel provision is required within and across these borders. Unfortunately the authorities concerned appear unable or unwilling to adequately recognise this need. There are many examples of different approaches (fares being a major issue) being adopted by different areas. The suggested change to public ownership or franchised West Yorkshire bus operations will not resolve the cross border difficulty.

It is important that these factors are urgently addressed, to encourage and influence greater use, improve the travel experience and hopefully reduce road congestion. This requires urgent "joined up" thinking (including between authorities), to agree on provision of services, that will influence the public to use buses as a realistic first choice by being convenient, reliable and above all cost-effective.

The funding to do this can only come from direct fares, public subsidy or a mixture of both, as in London, where services are generally good and well patronised. However, the Transport for London organisation has had to seek a number of financial "bailouts" with conditions, from central government to maintain operations. This highlights the costs associated with provision of a good public service. Also the importance of the "use it or lose it" theme.

It is also worth noting that some form of operational "profit" is necessary for ongoing investment. The possibly contentious element of profit is that paid to shareholders of companies providing what is in effect a public service. This similarly applies to other services such as energy, water etc. The downside of "profit" or "surplus" in public ownership is that amounts can tend to get siphoned off to meet political objectives.

In summary, time is overdue for the relevant North and West Yorkshire (including Leeds City) authorities, and of course Wetherby Town Council, to confirm and actively pursue the basic public transport needs for our area to ensure that the steady decline in services is reversed."

Issues 28 & 29 in Sept 22 had over 7 3,000 visitors online, + 1000 printed



Another 4 - 3! But this time it went the wrong way. Leeds were involved in another 7-goal thriller, this time

at Spurs in the last game before the World Cup. Leeds were ahead 3 times and with 10 minutes to go. Utd's six-week break ends on 28 Dec at home to Man City.



Leeds in black and orange failed to keep this Spurs shot out

If you're missing live football, why not pop down to Wetherby Road. Harrogate Town are in the bottom 5 of League Two and need your support. There should be goals: 22 in the last 6 League games, that's 3.6 per game.

Hartlepool v **Town** on Sat 26 Nov at 15.00 *FA Cup*

Rochdale v **Town** on Sat 3 Dec at 15.00



Massive disappointment when England failed to reach the final. They had thrashed Samoa earlier in the tournament but a very different story in



Royalty at Rugby - Clare Balding & Kate



RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP ENGLAND 2021

the semi-final. An extra-time drop goal won it for the underdogs in a thrilling climax. Questions must be asked by Clare Balding President of the RFL, right, whether it was a good idea to hold the game at Arsenal, which was half empty.

Community Champion Kazia Knight

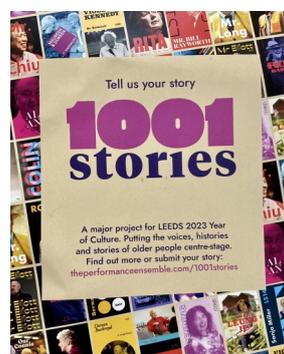
says she is 'completely overwhelmed' at being awarded the Green Flag Volunteer of the Year. There were some great views of Sandringham Park and mentions of Wetherby in the ceremony, available to watch on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/2n4aJeyWuLE>

Kazia is also the Wetherby Ward host for Leeds 2023 and my Leeds 23. There are 33 wards and a ward host for each one.



She says: "Community is such an important aspect of life. It's what connects us in ways we don't expect. We find it through the people around us in our neighbourhoods, whether that be through our ethnicity, gender, age group or shared interests.

Leeds is full of communities with rich culture and creativity. My Leeds 2023 is about putting a spotlight on each ward and celebrating the communities within them." More details at



www.leeds2023.co.uk/news/meet-the-neighbourhood-hosts Kazia would like to hear from anyone over 60 who wishes to be involved in '1001 stories'

<https://theperformanceensemble.com/1001stories/>

For inquiries she can be reached at wetherbyhost@leeds2023.co.uk or Facebook www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086725825287 or Twitter @Wetherbyhost23



Free Press
Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

Editor: Paul Kirby

Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

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 spoken interviews – summarising what people say is a difficult skill and the interviewee will often not be happy with the result.

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