



Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

ISSUE 4 Fri 8 Oct 21 Every 2 Weeks

#Big Thank You



Available at Reading Roots Bookshop, Bob Shop Mason House Stores, Costello's, Coop, Ainsty Rd & MIND shop



YORK PLACE

DENTAL PRACTICE

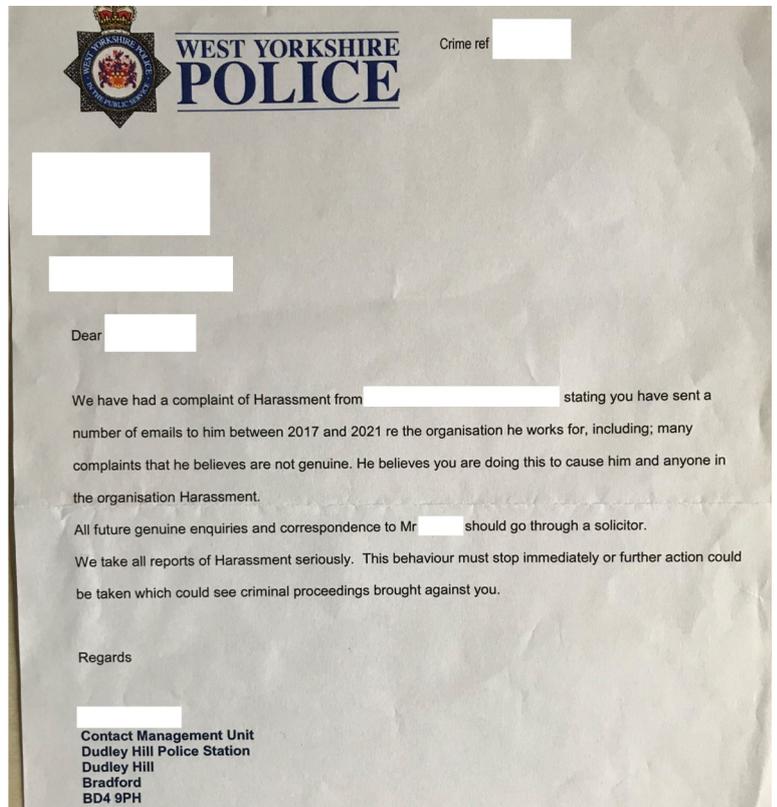
Law & Order Issue

W Yorks Police Farce!

A Warning to All – This could happen to you. “Told I’m innocent but treated as guilty”, says Wetherby man.

This is an incredible story that seems hard to believe. Judge for yourselves whether West Yorks Police have overstepped the mark in this case. There seems to be serious implications for freedom of expression and civil liberties.

“Big Shock” - Earlier this year, we’ll call him Resident A (ResA), received this letter out of the blue. “It was a big shock”, he said, “as I had no idea the management of a publicly-funded organisation felt ‘harassed’ by me. They never told me or even asked me to stop contacting them. Utterly bizarre as before my latest email I had not contacted them for many months. My last email asked them a reasonable question and indeed, the organisation wrote back with no indication of being harassed”.



Unexpected letter containing no email, direct phone number or signature - many thought it was a prank letter.
Lack of detail - how many emails? What does ‘not genuine’ mean?

Was it a joke? some thought - ResA was very upset at the tone of the letter as WY Police seem to be judge and jury before investigating it. He wondered what others thought and posted the redacted letter on a couple of Facebook groups anonymously. Many could not believe it was real, thinking it was a joke because it was so poorly written and unsigned. Others thought it was concerning and advised taking legal advice.

Interview Under Caution - Being a law-abiding citizen, ResA was perfectly willing to cooperate with the Police and explain the context of the whole situation. He was so confident he had not harassed anyone that he accepted an invitation to Wetherby Police Station to be interviewed ...

Inside

Solar Panels

Ladies Forum

W'by Civic Society

Spotlight on Town Cllrs

Friends of S'ham Park

W'by in Bloom



Our First 8-Page Issue! Read it online at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press

Editor *Paul Kirby* WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter: @WbyFreePress

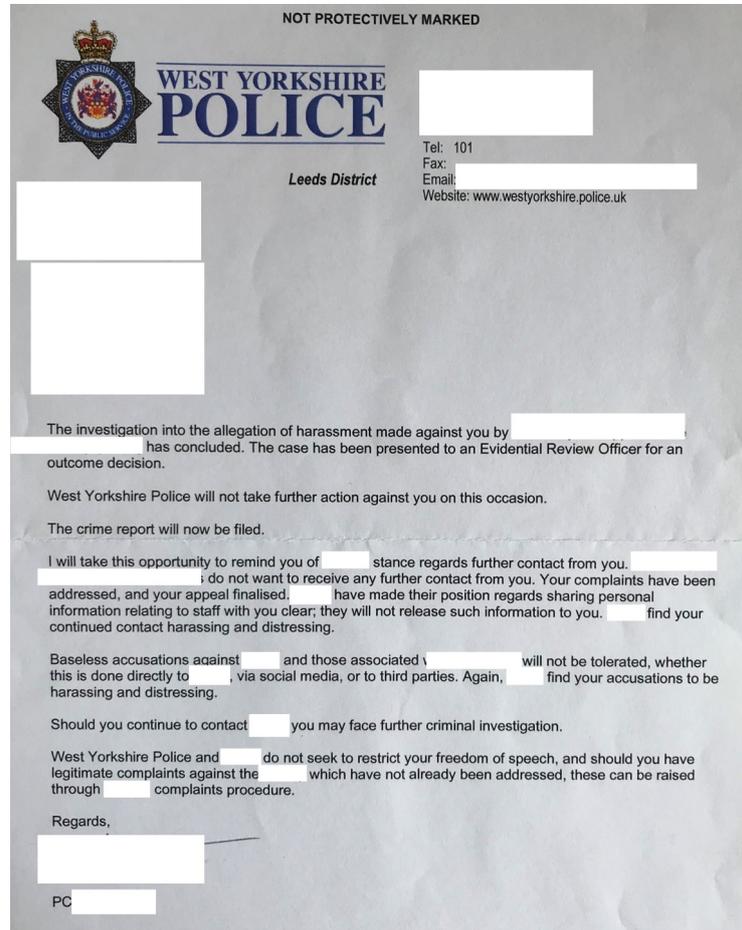
under caution. "That was a big mistake", he says "as it resulted in a wasted 2 hours and a great deal of stress thereafter. I was questioned by a young nervous police officer who seemed to be under the guidance of another officer. Of course, all the questions were based on the accuser's statement (which I had not seen) and I had to put all my answers in context - it was quite tiring. I was questioned as if a taxpayer had no right to ask a publicly-funded body how they spent our money. It was frustrating and demoralising".

Recommend Not to Cooperate with Police - For these reasons ResA would recommend not cooperating with Police in cases like this. He would suggest writing your own statement and giving that to the Police. Even though ResA was confident he had not harassed anyone, he could not be sure of the outcome after that interview. "Crazy things can happen in this world, like Trump becoming President, so who knows! This case should have been dismissed immediately".

Outcome: No Further Action - ResA had to wait 25 days for the result of "No Further Action". He received a letter, right, as confirmation. But he was again not happy as it seemed to restrict his civil liberties, especially the 'third parties' bit.

ResA later found out that the organisation had refused mediation (no reason provided). "It's all so absurd. If they had told me 'you are harassing us and we will call the police if you write to us again', I would have stopped, and this waste of police time could have been avoided. I think the Police have acted as if they are the organisation's solicitors, especially as they provided no examples of anything that could be seen as 'harassment'".

Police Refusal to Clarify - After many emails from ResA to the Officer, the Officer's superior, Chief Constable John Robins and Professional Standards of WYP requesting clarification of this contradictory letter, he got no satisfaction. WY Police refused to:



Second and final letter with outcome

- * Clarify the vague statements in their letters
- * Provide examples of any comments that were unreasonable or harassing or any 'baseless accusations'
- * State which 'third parties' he is not allowed to contact

"Low Standards" - ResA concluded "I feel I have been dealt with very poorly here. WY Police are incapable of answering simple questions. They seem to accept low standards of communication as the norm (email addresses that bounce, ridiculously vague statements, letter not signed) since their Standards department told me they can learn nothing from this case. That is very worrying. I informed my MP Alec Shelbrooke about all this but he has done nothing. The *Wetherby News* and *Yorkshire Post* papers ignored the story. I will try to meet our new PCC/ Mayor, Tracy Brabin about this case but after that I give up."



Chief Const John Robins

Free Press Comment: This is very disturbing. If this case had gone ahead, the implications for all journalists & campaigners would be profound. It is clear the law can easily be used to deter anyone from asking questions about a publicly-funded organisation. The final letter seems to inhibit freedom of expression with its 'third parties' statement despite what they say below that. A young, inexperienced PC is no excuse for low standards. Let's hope Chief Constable John Robins will respond to this story and clarify exactly what those letters mean. Or withdraw them.

It's important you tell us and them what you think about this; nothing improves unless people make their feelings known. And tell us your experiences of West Yorks police – they are not above criticism - we live in a free country?

TRANSPORT NEWS

Day Rover Tickets on Local Buses

First Buses X98/99 *FirstDay Leeds* £4.70 On App £4.60

Valid on all First buses in Leeds City Council area
eg Garforth, Morley, Otley, Headingley, Pudsey

FirstDay Weekend Group £6 on App only
for up to 5 people on all First buses in West
Yorkshire on Sat, Sun & Bank Hols

All Buses in West Yorkshire *MetroDay* £5.50 from 11 Oct
or £5 on App / Metro mCard, if buy 10 for £50

Metro Weekender £8
Valid from 6pm Friday to Midnight Sunday

Connexions - £7.50 (serves Otley, York & Harrogate)
£4 Valid on X70 to Harrogate & district

Harrogate Bus Company - *Harrogate 1* £4.70
Valid on 7 to Harrogate, 8 to Knaresborough &
all HBC buses in Harrogate area

Daytripper Plus £17.50 includes Cityzap & C'liner

There is no Day Rover ticket for all buses in North Yorks

Fuel prices for Unleaded: Correct on Thurs 7 Oct to nearest penny

Morrisons £1.37 Shell £1.42 Both up 2p in 2 wks

They seem to keep a 5p difference between them



Wetherby in the Media



THE YORKSHIRE VET **5**

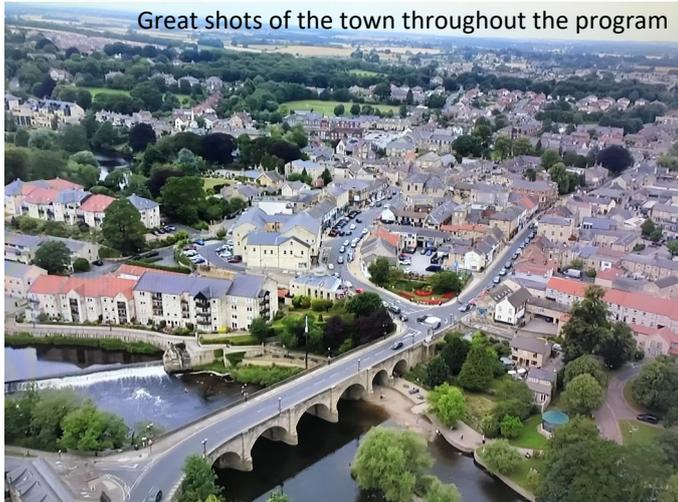
8pm Tuesdays Catch up on **my5**

In Episode 4 (28 Sept) we saw Julian Norton perform a tricky operation on a pigeons' leg and castrate a boar. On 5 October we witnessed some llama drama as he treated a fractured jaw successfully in Nidderdale.



Well done to Phill for getting his photo on Calendar

Great shots of the town throughout the program



discount FEEDS

Reptile live and frozen foods available

NEW

Weekly free local delivery on a Tuesday for the over 60's, just phone through your order

- Dog and Cat Feed, including a large range of beds, leads etc
- Wild Bird Feed, including a range of accessories
- Horse Feed, Supplements and accessories
- Poultry and Small holding feed and equipment

Off street parking - Trained staff to answer any questions - Special orders welcomed
9AM-6PM MONDAY - SATURDAY

www.discountfeeds.co.uk | Tel: 01937 580797 | [f /discountfeeds.uk/](https://www.facebook.com/discountfeeds.uk/)

Bloomin' Marvellous!

For over 30 years **Wetherby in Bloom** have been working to improve the town with permanent planting areas and the wonderful display of planters and hanging baskets each Summer.

It is a Registered Charity (1094260) and a committee of 11 people coordinate the work of all the volunteers. There are an amazing number of volunteers - around 100 - who give up their spare time to make the town look so lovely. There are the regular weekly gardeners who maintain the banks of the Wilderness Car Park Banking and Jubilee Garden too. We've all seen the teams on the trusty milk float and tractor who water the plants EVERY night through summer. Now that is dedication!



www.wetherbyinbloom.co.uk
Facebook: @wetherbyinbloom



In addition there are monthly Project Mornings to ensure regular maintenance of all planted areas.

A volunteer looks after each of the 5 *Welcome to Wetherby* signs. The plants for all the displays are ordered from Riverside Nursery and The Arium (Leeds City Council Nursery/Garden Centre) and delivered to, and looked after, by Chairman Margaret Dabell until they are ready to plant out when they will be watered and fed regularly. As you can imagine, it is a mammoth task ordering them, keeping them watered and getting them planted into the right containers. They have a private contractor who makes up all the hanging baskets (around 160) and they have to be hung up, watered and taken down. The baskets were left up so the displays were still there for the Eco Fair on 2nd October, where Wetherby in Bloom had a stand.

Funding for the plants, equipment and vehicle maintenance comes from *Friends of Wetherby in Bloom* and sponsorship from businesses. Local traders can sponsor a hanging basket in Summer. They have produced a leaflet for a Floral Walk around Wetherby, available from the library.

Not surprisingly, the town receives many compliments for the joyous colour these plants bring. I'm sure we speak for all residents when we give a "Big Thank You" to these modest and selfless volunteers. They tell us that planning is already in hand for Winter and another colourful 2022!

Leeds North East - West Yorkshire Police

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/leeds/leeds-north-east>

Twitter: @WYP_LeedsNE Email: nel.npt@westyorkshire.police.uk

Despite our main story and recent national publicity, we know the vast majority of Police Officers are great professionals who do a very difficult job. We see it in TV programs like Traffic Cops, Police Interceptors & 24 Hours in Police Custody.

The Free Press asked for details from the latest Police and Community Together (PACT) meeting that took place on Tues 5 Oct but received none

Wetherby Priorities according to their website - 8 Sept 2021

Public Priority - Anti-social behaviour - During lockdown this has reduced somewhat but is starting to emerge again. Historically there is youth ASB associated with the weir in Wetherby and at Boston Spa high street. The police will deploy highly visible patrols at key times to engage with the public and to be a visible deterrent.

Police Priority - Residential Burglary - In the residential communities in Wetherby itself and the villages of Boston Spa, Clifford and Bramham. Day time offences of opportunity, e.g sneak in burglaries. We will tackle this through crime prevention to target harden and intelligence led patrols at the key times to disrupt and deter offences.

We asked our community policing team for any updates on the stories we have covered but none were provided. We also asked about a disturbing case of a woman's drink being spiked in a Wetherby pub and how common this sort of thing is - again no reply.



Wetherby Ladies Forum

Meeting 2nd Tuesday of each month

New Members Welcome

Next Meeting: Tuesday 12 October at 2pm at Church Rooms, Church St

43 members attended for an afternoon tea and chat with friends at the last meeting on Tues 14 Sept. Speakers have not yet been organised but there will be one at the November meeting.

The October meeting will hold a 'mini-AGM'. Due to the spacing risk assessments for lockdowns, it has taken a long time to obtain the room again. With the Forum's year going from July to July it will give committee members time to stand down, elect others and decide on any change of roles. It was thought too long to wait until next July. Having not been together for so long, members are invited to ask questions, put ideas forward for future meetings and generally air their views.

Lavinia Graham, Chairman



The Forum raises money for good causes



Image by P Kirby nr W'by Racecourse

Wetherby's Eco Fair / Green Weekend

was a great success by all accounts. It attracted a large number of visitors keen to see how they could help in the global effort to reduce their carbon footprint and combat climate change.

30 displays in the Wetherby Methodist Church and Town Hall provided information on a wide range of topics. The Fair also included craft activities with demonstrations showing how to use recycled materials to make eco-bricks, purses, rag rugs, corsages, bird boxes and bug hotels.

In a thought provoking presentation, underwater film maker, Mark Barrow, who earlier this year featured in a BBC Panorama special report on the state of British rivers, warned how littering and pollution is affecting the River Wharfe. And Adrian Balcombe outlined some practical and easy changes that can be made to reduce the family household carbon footprint.

Organiser Sandra Ellen said "With COP 26 a few weeks away, we wanted to do our bit at a local level. Now we need the politicians and world leaders to show commitment followed by real action."

Justice American Style

Name & Shame ON ARREST!

These people in Richmond, Virginia may be entirely innocent of any crime but the local paper publishes their name and address purely because they have been arrested.

It's quite shocking. Added to that they have a bail system where your freedom can cost a fortune. And you can be on remand for years



before your case is heard. Does any of this deter crime?

We seem to be the other extreme, where we do not even publish images of those who have been convicted of some crimes eg most magistrates court cases like drink/drug drivers, assaults, theft etc. Would you want us to print photos of local convicted criminals?



Rugby Legend visits Wetherby High - On Wed 6 Oct TV pundit and former Rhinos star Jamie Jones-Buchanan gave an inspiring assembly on teamwork & resilience, followed by a training session with Y9 PE Students and a meet & greet. JJB is a *Learning in Leeds* ambassador. Headteacher Samantha Jefferson said it was "Lovely to see such huge smiles on the students faces, what an experience for them".

Last 2 Sundays to Escape to the Dales by Bus - 10th & 17th Oct

874 to Bolton Abbey - Grassington - Kettlewell - Buckden
7 to Higate, 24 to Pateley Bridge connecting with 822 double-decker to Grassington

Sundays & Bank Hols 'til 17 Oct '21
 874 Wetherby Bus Sta dep 8.35
 7 Wetherby Bus Sta dep 9.39

Rover Ticket **£10**
 Family 2 + 3 kids **£18**

www.dalesbus.org @DalesBus

Bosun's 'Pop Up' Tap Room Opening Party!

When - 1200 Onwards Saturday 9th Oct

Where - Bosun's Brewing Co, Unit 15 Sandbeck Park, Sandbeck Lane, Wetherby LS22 7TW

Who - Everyone is welcome

More info:
www.Bosunsbrewery.com
 Facebook - Bosunsbrewery



Wetherby U3A Wasting Paper - A reader told us that they were in the library and disappointed to see the monthly U3A newsletter printed single sided. 9 pages could have been 5. The Free Press asked John Pentith, Chairman for reassurance that future issues would be double-sided but none was given. 😞

SUCCESSFUL HERITAGE OPEN DAY

The Open Day arranged by Wetherby Civic Society was a great success. Despite forecasts of rain, the day was lovely and sunny and a record 35 people met at the

Bandstand for Wetherby Civic Society's guided town walk. Divided into three groups, the visitors were walked through Wetherby's history; from the construction of the castle in 1145, through the building of its bridge, the great fire of 1723, the town's sale in 1824 up until the installation of the Leaping Salmon in 2000.

Highlights of the walk included a visit into the Georgian Bath House where Town Cllr. Harry Chapman explained why it was constructed and why it was used and a visit to the former Wetherby and District Rural Council office to see the Art Deco staircase and the unspoilt former Council Chamber.

Visitors enjoyed the tour of the town, including one local who had lived and worked in the area for many years and had not realised that the Bath House and Jubilee Gardens existed.

Following on from this success, the Civic Society held a similar FREE guided tour, as part of the "Going Green Weekend" on Sunday, 3 October.

For more information about WCS contact Peter Catton 01937 585293 or email p.g.catton@gmail.com.





Town Hall

Democracy in Action - Spotlight on Our Town Councillors

We have 14 town councillors in Wetherby representing us and making decisions on our behalf. It is a job where they are paid expenses and should be accountable to the residents of our town.

We would like to know a little bit more about our representatives, especially as there is very little information to be found about most of them. In alphabetical order we are going to ask the following questions to all our councillors.

- 1 Your party (it is not stated on Town Council website):
- 2 How long have you been a Councillor?

3 On average how many phone calls or emails from constituents do you receive or send every month?

4 Roughly how many visits to constituents do you make or receive every month?

5 On average how many hours do you spend on council duties per month?

6 Areas of specific interest:

7 Achievements / Difficult Case where you helped resident:

8 Frustrations and Joys of being a Town Councillor:

9 What role does party politics play in this town council? ie why is it relevant what party you belong to?

10 Any specific plans for improving Wetherby before the next council elections:

11 Your preferred methods of contact by constituents (email, phone, social media etc):

Thank you.

As you can see the questions give them the chance to tell us about their achievements and plans. It is an opportunity for our councillors to promote themselves and tell us what their work entails.

Cllr Sam Bennett is the first on the alphabetical list and we emailed her on 3 Sept. She declined to answer any of the questions and gave no reason for not answering them.

Do you, our readers, think the questions above are unreasonable? They should not be difficult to answer. If you have any experience of Cllr Bennett's work as a councillor, good or bad, please share it with us.

If you Google "Cllr Sam Bennett Wetherby" there are no results. This is what we found about her on the Wetherby Town Council website:

"Sam has a keen interest in helping families in the area, and has helped to set up a baby and toddler group offering support for parents. Sam has a keen interest in local education and community initiatives."

Her Register of Interests declare that she is secretary to Alec Shelbrooke, MP. Her email address is sam.bennett@wetherby.co.uk

Next issue we (hope to) introduce you to Cllr Paul Bradley.



Cllr Sam Bennett

Messages received from 7 Wetherby Town Councillors about our publication

Cllr Galan Moss - *All the best and good luck* Cllr Alan Lamb - *Hope it's a great success* Cllr Connor Mulhall - *Wish you luck in the new venture* Cllr Harry Chapman - *Wish you all the best* Cllr Dawn Payne - *Wish you good luck* Cllr David Frame - *I await your first issue with interest and in doing so trust your venture will meet with success* Cllr Sam Bennett - *Wish you luck*



Social Media Joke of the Week

A lorry load of Red Bull was stolen from Wetherby Services overnight. The angry driver said "I don't know how these people can sleep at night"

My mate fancied being an acrobat but it was too much for him. He said they made you jump through hoops



Source: Private Eye



RAF were running short too!

Holidays are coming....



2019



2020



2021

The Friends of Sandringham Park have been credited with 2 certificates from Britain in Bloom and the Royal Society for Horticulture. The first is for *Excellence in the Community* because of their work carried out in the wider community during Covid. The second is an *Achievement* award for work within the park over the last 12 months.

The assessor was impressed by the drive and determination of the group over the last 15 months. They also highlighted the bio-diversity of the park, which will further improve when the neighbouring drainage issue is resolved and a new habitat created in a previously unusable corner.

Kazia Knight and her trusty band of volunteers are no strangers to awards. Friends of Sandringham Park have also won 9 Green Flag Community Awards which recognise quality sites managed by voluntary and community groups.

They are waiting to hear if they have won one this year. A *Bees Needs* award was given for the work the Friends do for bees, namely making changes to improve their habitat and improving their food sources.

If you would like to be involved with the Friends, email kazia.knight@btinternet.com



What's On

Wetherby Film Theatre Fri 08th - Thu 21th October

No Time To Die (Action/Adventure) A

No Time To Die is the 25th spy film in the James Bond series

1st week: FRI 15:30 + 19:30 | SAT 15:30 + 19:30 | SUN 15:30 + 19:30 | MON 12:00 + 15:45 + 19:30 | TUE 15:30 + 19:30 | WED 15:30 + 19:30 | THU 15:30 + 19:30

2nd week: FRI 15:30 + 19:30 | SAT 19:30 | SUN 19:30 | MON 11:20 + 15:30 + 19:30 | TUE 15:30 + 19:30 | WED 15:30 + 19:30 | THU 15:30 + 19:30



More films and information at wetherbyfilmtheatre.com

Engine Shed

Rule the World - Wetherby Festival are bringing the Number 1 Take That tribute act to The Engine Shed!
THU 14th October - Doors at 19:30

Wetherby Vintage Fair - Alfie Robot Retro presents over 25 stalls of vintage homeware and fashion from the 20s to the 80s plus a vintage tearoom.
SAT 16th October - Doors at 10:00 - 16:00 - Entry £1

Motown Disco - Love Motown music? This will be the event for you with our DJ playing all the BEST Motown hits! Entry £5 on the door - Free entry 19:30-20:30
SAT 16th October - Doors at 19:30

More information at engineshedwetherby.co.uk

Wetherby Markets and Fairs

Market Place

Weekly Market: Every Thursday
Artisan Market: SUN 10th Oct, 10:00 - 15:00

Racecourse

Car Boot Sales: Every SUN + TUE 6:00 - 13:00,
Weather dependent

All information is subject to change.

Volunteering

If you can spare a few hours a week and would



like to help people with physical disabilities, Wharfedale House would love to hear from you.

Duties range from supporting activities like baking & cooking and gardening to escorting residents on trips out. Make new friends and make a difference.

For more details, call Helen on 07562 157889 or email helen.whitelam@leonardcheshire.org

Your Notice Your Ad Your Message to Wetherby

£35 or £120 for 4

HALF the cost of Ad mags

Please help us keep going

There are many people who would like to see us disappear

Many of the stories and articles in this newsletter you will never read anywhere else

Thank you

This issue and previous ones have shown that some people in authority are not willing to be accountable for, or even explain, their actions.

We think the problem is that many have never been questioned before in a straightforward, upfront way. They are not used to it. Or they may think they are above the ordinary people who have the audacity to question them. Who knows?

This newsletter is your chance to know about these matters and to air your grievances, within the law, of course. Maybe not now but at some point you may suffer an injustice and feel that no one cares or listens. You may have no public outlet for your feelings and no opportunity to warn others. Yes, there are Facebook groups and Nextdoor but their administrators tend to steer clear of controversial and legal issues, understandably. Posts can be get little attention depending on the time you post and if a bigger issue comes along. Publications like ours have more influence and authority than social media - it is harder to ignore the printed media, it is more permanent.

But we cannot subsidise this newsletter ourselves for much longer - we would simply like to cover our major costs. We will be upfront with you and detail them in the next issue.

Some of you have already been very generous and we are very grateful. Thank you.

If you can afford to, please donate in our collection boxes in Coop, Ainsty Road, Costellos and the Bob Shop, Mason House stores.

If you would like to make a contribution by direct payment or cheque, please email us for details.



Email WetherbyFreePress@PM.me
Twitter [@WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)
Fridays Every 2 Weeks - Online & Print



Why aren't Solar Panels on all New Build Houses? Chartered Building Surveyor & Engineer Pete Flint-Murray explains:

Solar panels can help reduce your electricity bills and a household's impact on the environment. They have been getting cheaper, with the payback period getting shorter than it was ten years ago. So why aren't we putting them on new-build houses?

New homes must meet certain efficiency standards depending on when the build was approved. The property is assessed holistically. To meet these standards, the developer may choose several ways to comply. This might be using more efficient boilers, increasing insulation levels or even installing solar panels. In the commercial world we live in, this will boil down to the cheapest way to meet the requirements at the time.



The good news is that the government has set out a plan to require that all homes from 2025 produce 75-80% less carbon than under the current requirements as part of the Future Homes Standards. An interim uplift in these standards comes into force in 2022. To meet these efficiency standards installing solar panels will make more sense to developers. It will help them achieve these higher requirements without substantially changing the designs they are working with. Other measures that help towards these requirements include air-source heat pumps, which set up correctly, can drastically reduce the energy used to heat a property. There is pressure from some in the industry to require the building regulations to prescribe solar panels, but the nature of the regulations has always been guidance on how to achieve an outcome. There are prescriptive elements of the approved documents that come with the regulations, but these are more of a guide to meeting the standards. If the carbon target is to be achieved then it will continue to be up to the developers on how they plan to meet those targets.

The same new standards will also increase the requirements for existing homes where building work is undertaken. For example, replacement heating, windows, and building services will require more energy-efficient versions.

Thank you to Pete who is qualified with BSc (Hons) MRICS C.Build E MCABE MCM1 MRPSA and has 15 years experience in property

Ads Pay what you can afford or 50% of *On Your Doorstep* rates:



£20 or £70 for 4 issues

Size A - 100mm (w) x 69mm (h)

Size B/C - double size A £35 or £120 for 4

We can design your ad for free - just send us info & logo/image



Last Friday (1 Oct) **Leeds Rhino's** season ended with a 36 - 8 defeat at St Helens. Pre-match hopes were pinned on a performance like that against Wigan the week before. But it never looked likely. Sts and Catalan are by far the strongest sides this season and play in the Grand Final on Sat 9 Oct at 18.00

Leeds United finally got their first win in the Premier League this season against Watford last Saturday (2 Oct). It lifted them out of the bottom three. With international matches this weekend, their next match is

Southampton v Utd on Sat 16 Oct at 15.00

Harrogate Town FC are flying high in League 2.

Town v Scunthorpe on Sat 9 Oct at 15.00

Adult prices are £17 for seated and £18 for standing - £2 cheaper if bought in advance. The week after they play at Colchester.

York City FC are mid-table in National League North

City v Southport on Sat 9 Oct at 15.00



Ice hockey is an exciting sport. New team **Leeds Knights** play Peterborough on Sun 10 Oct at 17.15. Adult tickets from £13 to £16. Planet Ice Leeds arena is next to Elland Rd Football Ground

Wetherby Races



Wed 13 Oct - first race at 13.55