



ISSUE 2
Fri 17 Sep 21

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

#Big Thank You

for making this edition possible

- WEEKLY Fridays. Copies at
- ⇒ Bob Shop Mason House Stores
 - ⇒ Reading Roots Bookshop
 - ⇒ MIND shop
 - ⇒ Coop, Ainsty Rd
 - ⇒ Costello's



Plse donate to make us bigger & better

Bond is Back! This much-awaited film is finally here and screens at Wetherby Film Theatre from 30 Sep. Filming finally began in April 2019 after Danny Boyle left as director. Soon after Daniel Craig injured his ankle and production was further interrupted when a crew member sustained minor injuries after a controlled explosion at Pinewood studios. Norway's Atlantic Ocean Road features as the backdrop for a scene with his Aston Martin Vantage V8. Other filming locations include Jamaica, London, Aviemore and the banks of Loch Laggan. Billie Eilish is the youngest singer of a Bond theme tune at 18 and won a Grammy for it earlier this year.



Wetherby Bus Stops – An Embarrassment for Metro Transport Authority

OK, we know bus stops are not the most interesting of things to most people. But they are a useful part of basic bus infrastructure for passengers. And council-tax payers should be interested in how simple tasks cannot be completed properly by a bureaucratic transport authority that we pay for.

Bus stops and shelters are the responsibility of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) better known as Metro. In their wisdom they took a vital piece of information off bus stops in 2003 – the route numbers. Eighteen years later they have thankfully reversed that decision and are putting them back on with a newly designed bus stop flag.

Earlier this year, the editor noticed an obvious error at one of the new bus stops. He then checked all those on the X98/99 route from Wetherby bus station to the Aire Road/Ainsty Road estate. He found the majority of them had errors. Bizarrely, these errors seemed totally random - wrong route numbers, wrong destinations, missing numbers and destinations and one even had the wrong stop location. And some had not been replaced at all, again seemingly at random.



1 - No Route Numbers



2 - Wrong Info Twice



3 - Final Effort Better Than 1?

Corrections wrong too! cont'd

READ ONLINE - www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press
Stories, Issues, Views, Ads, Info, Offers of Help? Editor *Paul Kirby*
WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter: @WbyFreePress

Inside: [What's On](#)

Mistake after Mistake. Having pointed this out to Metro/ WYCA, their Director of Transport & Property Services was grateful for my email but no apology was given. They quickly replaced the incorrect flags but sadly, that is not the end of the matter. The replacements also had incorrect information on! The Quality Assurance procedures at Metro/WYCA are clearly not working. On their website you can discover that they have 7 'Quality Compliance Officers' in the 'Bus Services' department. You may wonder what they do. Further investigation revealed that the new bus stops are sub-contracted to a bus company. You wonder why they need to do this when Metro/WYCA are supposed to be infrastructure experts – they have been doing it for over 30 years. It is clear that whoever carried out this work has little knowledge of Wetherby bus services and that Metro's monitoring procedure of contractors needs to improve.



Cllr Kim Groves, Chair of Metro/WYCA Transport Ctte



Ben Still, Managing Director of Metro/WYCA

Worse than what we had before? Adding insult to injury, Metro/WYCA have not kept their word about the format of the new bus stop flags. Following their consultation on the new Leeds core network they claimed they had listened to people. In their report 'You Said, We Did -Leeds Core Bus Network engagement' of Dec 2020, they stated:

* We have included large service numbers on bus stop flags * We have included large Stop Name and Destination information on bus stop flags * We are using a combination of colours and words to ensure the accessibility of the information reaches a wide audience

Look what we in Wetherby have ended up with! The lettering looks smaller, not larger to us and the colouring (we had briefly) has disappeared. Meanwhile Boston Spa has new digital displays telling you when the next buses should arrive. When asked what the criteria was for installing these, Metro/WYCA said: "These displays are for locations where there is no shelter and/or electricity supply. The stops were selected based on boarding analysis on a service-by-service basis back in 2019. We sought to have a good spread of locations urban and rural".



New Digital Displays in Boston Spa

None in Wetherby

Is anybody interested? The Editor informed the *Wetherby News*, *Yorkshire Post & Evening Post* about this situation but they decided not to pass anything on to their readers. The minutes of a Wetherby Town Council meeting showed that councillors wrote to WYCA/Metro asking for an explanation but no opinion on this fiasco was given. They wanted no reassurances about the transport authority's monitoring and quality assurance procedures that clearly failed in this case. Nor did they ask how much this low standard of work has cost the council-tax payer.

Being Accountable and Taking Responsibility The people ultimately responsible for this poor service and incompetence (no other word for it) is Ben Still, Managing Director of Metro/WYCA (Salary £170,000+) and Cllr Kim Groves, Chair of Metro/WYCA Transport Committee. They have both been in post many years.

Please feel free to give them your opinion on this and copy us in too: kim.groves@westyorks-ca.gov.uk & ben.still@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

More Control? West Yorks Mayor Tracy Brabin wants Metro/WYCA to be in control of actual bus services too.

Would that be wise when they cannot manage a basic infrastructure job, like the above? Tell us what you think.

Update on last weeks Front Page Story - No info on Bus Crash



We gave Alex Hornby and Harrogate Bus Co a right to reply but they ignored our email and tweet.

Wetherby in the Media

THE YORKSHIRE VET 5

8pm Tuesdays for 10 more weeks

Features Julian Norton in his practice on the Sandbeck estate. In this episode (14 Sept) he operates on Coco the Cat's infected uterus full of 'horrible, stinky pus'.

Not for the squeamish! He also tries Alpaca Yoga. Fantastic drone shots of the town.



Resident David Hopps was on BBC Look North on 10 Sep commenting on the cricket racism story at Yorkshire CC. He is a writer for ESPNcricinfo.com. He tweets at @DavidKHopps

discount FEEDS

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/

Review of a New Business - Baanrai Thai Café

This new restaurant has opened on Church Street/Bank Street, replacing Yum Yum Thai. The menu has fewer options which should mean higher quality, authentic Thai food. The interior is simple in its furnishings but the chairs and atmosphere are comfortable with appropriate soft background music.



The lady owner was raised in Thailand and her family help with the serving. She has another restaurant in Norwich. Please be patient with the young ones as their English is not perfect. Their desire to please was clear to see though and customer service was excellent.

I had the Oyster Sauce Stir-fry with chicken. The chicken was much tastier than the average Asian fare, as were the vegetables. The bowl of handcut chips were delicious. My partner ordered the Cashew Nuts Stir-fry and asked for crispy duck instead of normal duck, which

they were pleased to accommodate. Like myself, she was very satisfied with quantity and quality. With two large glasses of wine and tip it came to about £40 for the two of us.

In summary, we would highly recommend a meal here and wish them all the best for the future. We could hear the table next to us lavish praise on the quality of food to the owner too.

The reviewers have no connection or vested interest in this business. All products were fully paid for by the reviewers. Reviews are simply opinions on what was experienced on that occasion.



Would you like to review a business in Wetherby? Plse get in touch

TRANSPORT NEWS

Fuel prices* for Unleaded:

Morrisons £1.34 Shell £1.39

No change - same as last week

* Correct on Thurs before publishing date. To nearest penny

There is a car share app and website - liftshare.com

Last Buses

From Leeds Rte X98/99 - 22.03 Mon to Fri & Sun
23.03 Sat

Rte 7 via B Spa - 22.50 Mon to Sat
22.55 Sun

From Harrogate Rte 7 - 23.30 Mon to Sat
22.30 Sun

From York Rte 413 - 17.30 Mon to Sat



Library News

Also temp. home to Leeds City Council's One Stop Shop

Open Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 9-5 Tues: 10-5 Sat: 10-4

No newspapers available to read



Social Media Joke of the Week

Last week's scarecrow joke was so popular here's another

A Wetherby scarecrow won an award last week - he was outstanding in his field



A penny for your thoughts on this!



Thanks to the reader who sent this in

What's On

Wetherby Film Theatre Fri 17th - Thu 23th September

Respect (Biography/Drama/Musical) A
Remarkable true story of Aretha Franklin's career
FRI 16:00 | SAT 16:00 | SUN 16:00 | MON 12:30
WED 16:00 | THU 16:00

The Nest (Drama/Thriller) B
Life for an entrepreneur and his American family begin to take a twisted turn after moving into an English country manor. FRI 19:30 | SAT 19:30 | SUN 19:30 | MON 16:30 + 19:30 | TUE 16:30 | WED 19:30



More films and information at wetherbyfilmtheatre.com

Engine Shed

The Perfect Show - A fantastic Robbie Williams tribute and an authentic Peter Kay performed by Simon Mark.
FRI 17th September - Doors at 19:00

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

Other Events

The Greatest Showman Sing-a-long

Bring a blanket or camping chair and sing along with The Greatest Showman on a giant cinema screen under the stars! Racecourse FRI 17th Sept, 20:00

More information at www.adventurecinema.co.uk/venues/wetherby-racecourse

All information is subject to change.



Free Press
Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

Email WetherbyFreePress@PM.me
Twitter [@WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)

Out Every Friday - Available Online & In Print

We had some great feedback for our first issue - Thank You. One negative comment that it was amateurish but we are grateful for all opinions.

We are fully aware that we may become unpopular in certain quarters for giving residents facts that some would rather keep quiet. We believe there is a 'chumocracy' in Wetherby, which is defined by us as ignoring issues or not probing enough because of self-interest / laziness / lack of imagination, or simply

because they're too matey with the people involved. Decide for yourselves in the coming issues.

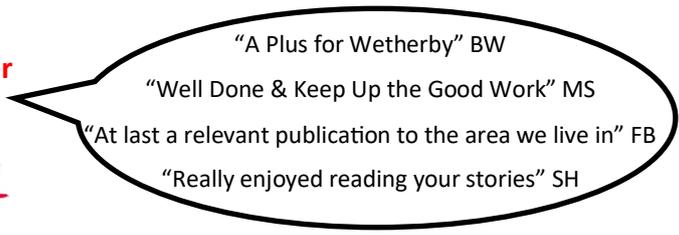
FAIR & INDEPENDENT - We are apolitical and aim to make representatives of all parties, and publicly-paid officials, accountable for what they do and say. Our policy is to let all those we write about have a right to reply. There is little space for waffle though. Apologies and corrections will be made when we get things wrong.

YOUR STORIES / NEWS - One thing we know is that if this newsletter is not interesting or relevant, people will not read it. So if you have a story, please contact us. All information will be kept in total confidence.

CAN'T ACCESS A COPY? NEED BULK COPIES? - If you cannot access a copy for whatever reason then Paul will ride round on his bike and deliver it personally! Wetherby only, I'm afraid. Bulk deliveries for care homes and similar can be made too.

GET INVOLVED - It's your newsletter so please get involved. The Free Press will improve in content and size as more helpers and advertisers come on board. **Donations** are also vital so please give what you can in collection boxes next to most holders.

Comments from
**Wetherby Grumbler
Facebook Group
& Nextdoor**
Thank you!



Issue 1 had nearly 900 readers online and 1000 copies were printed and delivered all over Wetherby



Paintings, prints and cards by Doreen Greenshields of Collingham for sale at Town Hall - Fri 17 & Sat 18 Sept

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



Newcastle v **Utd** - Fri 17 Sep 20.00

EFL Cup Fulham v **Utd** - Tue 21 Sep 19.45

Rhinos v Hull KR - Fri 17 Sep 19.45
last game before play-offs

Leeds United are still looking for their first Premier League win of the season after losing 3-0 to Liverpool last Sunday

Always a shame when the Leeds rugby league and football teams clash on TV. Which to watch?

Let's hope **Leeds Rhinos** can bounce back after last week's heavy defeat to St Helens and win a Super League play-off place tonight

In League 2 **Harrogate Town FC** play at Port Vale - Sat 18 Sep 15.00 and again away at Crawley - Tues 21 Sept 19.45

York City FC play in FA Cup Qualifying match at home v Hebburn Town - Sat 18 Sep 15.00

Motor Racing - BTTC **Touring Cars** at Croft, Darlington - Sun 19 Sep



Social Media Snippets

from Wetherby Grumbler Facebook Group (21,000 members)

Daniel Jowett had £600 worth of Indian Stone stolen from his address near Sandbeck estate on Fri 10 Sep. Anyone that has any information leading to the whereabouts of this stone and or who took it will receive £100 from him.



This **graffiti** scrawl started appearing all over town in a post on Wed 15 Sep. We reported one near us on the Leeds City Council website. You can do it anonymously and it is reasonably easy to do. Those not online can ring General Enquiries on 0113 222 4444.

One person was unhappy at the repeatedly poor service he had received from the **Day Lewis pharmacy** in Crossley Street Surgery. Over 100 comments on this and another related post showed that many had sympathy with the complainant and others told of excellent service they had received. This post shows that :

* Grumblers should not post in anger. Leave it a while and make sure any blame is clearly apportioned to a system or management, not individuals (unless it is just one person)

* Respondents should remember it is called Wetherby Grumbler and everyone is entitled to share their experience and has a right to have an opinion about it



Leeds City Council & the Environment Agency are doing a study to update our understanding of flood risk in the

middle Wharfe catchment area from Collingham to Thorp Arch.

Meet the project team and find out more at:

Wetherby Town Hall, Mon 20 Sept at 3 – 7pm

There is also a "Virtual Drop in" on Tues 21 Sept at 1 - 3pm where members of the team will be on hand to discuss the project and answer any queries you may have.

More details at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLEEDS/bulletins/2f11e03>