



ISSUE 38 until Fri 24 Feb '23

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL

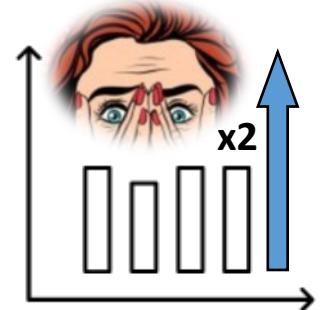
TIME TO WAKE UP WETHERBY!



All Issues at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press

Why the Massive Increase of 43% in Town Part of Council Tax?

- ◆ They want to spend almost double on staff, to cost £300,000+
- ◆ including 2 New Posts -
 Communications Manager & Operations Manager
 Otley need neither of these posts *see Page 5*



This Town Needs Town Councillors who:

- * Turn up to most Council meetings (not 1/3 of them)
- * Are open & accountable to **all** residents
- * Don't ignore serious issues like those raised in this newsletter
- * Are computer literate and respond to social media
- * Seek to be the best and learn from other towns that do things well, like Otley
- * Are not afraid to speak out when they see low standards or dubious practice
- * Have basic knowledge about general issues, like how buses are run and basic parking regulations

Wetherby Deserves the BEST!

Being a Councillor is unpaid but there are benefits. You have some power and can do as much or as little as you like. We hope you will do much!

The Elections are in May. If you have the necessary qualities, why not put yourself forward.

If you can't afford to be a unpaid town councillor but want to serve the community, there is a vacancy for a Leeds City Councillor with an allowance of £16,000+. See Page 7.



If you show normal human traits of decency, honesty and endeavour, the Wetherby Free Press will give you 100% support in your efforts to make this town reach its potential.

Join our Mailing List for New Issue Reminder Send Your Email Address to: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Contents

If You Can't Handle Facts & Opinions, This Newsletter is Not for You

MP, Council Staff & Councillors

Page 7

Poster for Irresponsible Dog Owners

Page 3

New Feature

TRANSPORT NEWS

Page 3

Wildlife of Wetherby

Page 4

Wetherby on Telly

Page 6

Progress Report

Empty Shops

Page 4



Marsch sacked! Battle of Utds - Round 1

Page 8

Comment

What do you think the 1st priority of a new Town Council 'Communications Manager' will be? We think their main job will be to produce a totally pro-council publication which ignores inconvenient facts, low standards, laziness & incompetence in this town, which the Wetherby Free Press has highlighted in its 17-month history.

You pay nothing for this newsletter; you will be paying for the staff, design, printing and distribution of an 'isn't everything perfect and aren't we great' Council one.

If it does print critical letters and articles, our job is done and we'll say ta-ra. Somehow we doubt it will.

Make your views known at next Town Council meeting - Tues 14 Feb at 7pm in Town Hall

3 Weeks and No Mention of our Council Tax Increase in the so-called Wetherby News - Pathetic!

Read At www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



To Online Readers with Printers:

Please Print a Copy (or 3) for our Many Fellow Residents who have No Access to the Internet.



thanks



Place them in our Displays in Morrisons Café & Main Entrance.



What is the difference between the River Wharfe and Wetherby Town Council?

Both carry a lot of dead wood.

Thanks to a reader for that one

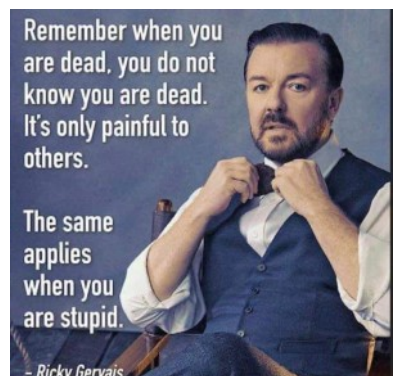


Very Silly Jokes

What do dentists call their x-rays? Tooth pics!

Why did the bullet end up losing his job? He was careless & got fired

What clothes do dark clouds wear? Thunderpants



Thousands of Readers, Some From Abroad (ex-pats) - Thank You

Cost of Unleaded Correct on Thurs 9 Feb to nearest penny

Shell £1.56 Morrisons £1.51 Asda H'gate £1.47
 Difference b/w Shell & Morrisons to fill av tank of
 55 litres is £2.75



Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd - No Response

In Issue 37 we gave a critique of this company's views on Metro / WYCA's transport report. We actually agreed with some of what they said.

Two of the 4 directors of this company are Councillors Lamb & Harrington.

They have not defended any of their statements which we questioned. Their reluctance to enter into any form of reasonable discussion speaks volumes.

Thankfully, this limited company only has a few hundred pounds in their last published accounts so we can be pretty sure that they have been given no taxpayers' money to further their own agenda.

If you know different, please inform us.



Single Bus Fares



£2



until 31 March



Still No Councillor Bus Meetings

with publicly-funded Transport Authority Metro / WYCA or the Mayor of West Yorkshire. They are the ones that Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington can influence, certainly more than bus companies whose primary focus is to make a profit.

Trip to Grassington or Buckden?

Sundays
 8.35
 W'by Bus
 Station



£2
 single
 fare

Free
 for
 Pass-
 holders

Leaflets from Library & Town Hall

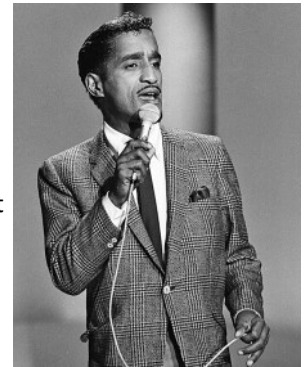
SERENADE RADIO

THE BEST IN EASY LISTENING

No ads, it's
 run by
 volunteers

Radio Like It Used To Be

Serenade Radio is the brainchild of Andy Marriott, who has worked in broadcasting, both radio and TV since 1981. Over the years he found it increasingly difficult to find something to listen to on the radio. All the stations that pledged to serve the older age group were apparently turning their backs on that audience and focusing on youth. So, in February 2015, Serenade Radio was born, an oasis of calm in a frantic world.



Sammy Davis Jr

Council Not Interested in Dog Safety Poster for Harland Way



The Editor shared a poster, right, on social media that he saw on an Otley facebook group because there have been many worrying incidents on our footpaths and bridleways aired recently.

The posts on Grumbler have been about irresponsible dog owners not in control of their dogs. Many of us have witnessed it.

If nothing else, such a poster would remind owners that the Council takes safety issues like this seriously.

We wondered if perhaps just one of our 14 Wetherby Town Councillors would like to take this issue up and put A4 laminates all along the Harland Way, to begin with. It would be a simple thing to do, and take half a day max, and cost no more than £20.

There was no response from any of our Conservative councillors.

The WFP would do it ourselves but, no doubt, a councillor would complain about unofficial notices (and people who dislike free speech and community newsletters would take the posters with our logo down).

Next time there is an incident, we shall remind everyone that our Town Council knew about the problem and did nothing about it.

Use your phone's video, if you have one, to use as evidence in a dog attack.

DO NOT ALLOW OFF LEADS TO APPROACH ON LEADS!

IF YOU SEE THIS
 Dogs might be on lead because they don't like dogs, are in heat, are recovering from surgery or are under training.

AND YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE
 Off lead dogs should have a great recall and come back to you. It is important for the safety of your dog and other dogs that you do not let them run up to on lead dogs.

YOU MIGHT CAUSE THIS
 Fearful Response or potentially exacerbate existing pain in the dog, causing the dog to become worried by other dogs in the future.

OR THIS!
 Not all dogs like other dogs and you risk causing a fight and serious injury to your dog and the other dog as well as extreme distress for the owners.

BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

Progress Report

Let's Get Things Moving



Topic	Important	What is Needed	People Responsible
<p>Make Empty Shops Look Better (and occupied ones too!)</p> <p>Date first raised: Issue 24 July 2022</p> <p>Eq Tui, right, empty for years in prime location</p>	<p>To improve the town's image with so many empty shops (and a poor market).</p> <p>No Progress</p>	<p>Attractive Posters, Images, Wraps, Vinyls promoting the town or providing information to residents & visitors</p> 	<p>Shop Owners Shop Leasers</p> <p><i>Property Agents, Wetherby Town Council, Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd & Wetherby Business Association should all take some responsibility too.</i></p>

Topic	People Responsible		Progress
<p>Sign on the A1(M) to Attract Customers to our Businesses</p> <p>Date first raised: Apr 2022</p>	<p>Town Councillors & Leeds City Councillors</p> <p>(Cllr Lamb called it a 'good idea, well worth pursuing')</p>		<p>NONE reported</p>
<p>Constant Blocking of Wetherby Bus Station Exit by Vehicles</p> <p>Date first raised: Nov 2021</p>	<p>Leeds City Council Highways Dept</p> <p>3 Wetherby Ward Leeds City Councillors</p>		<p>NONE</p>
<p>User-unfriendly, unattractive, incomplete, out-of-date website of Wetherby Town Council / Welcome to Wetherby www.wetherby.co.uk</p>	<p>Wetherby Town Clerk</p> <p>15 Conservative Wetherby Town Councillors</p>		<p>NONE</p> <p>Except one new group photo, which was low quality and excluded a quarter of the Town Council</p>

Wildlife of Wetherby



The Irrepressible Robin

Who doesn't love the Robin? Always a joy to see. The friendliest and least timid of our garden birds. But the Robin has a darker side. They are very territorial and will fight other Robins to keep their bit of your garden. They live for 2 years. Good news! Their numbers are on the rise.

Thanks to
Phill Andrews



Real or Not? Answer in future issue

Why Wetherby Town Council Want 43% More of our £



The answer is mostly STAFF. They will cost us £300,000 a year!

They want an extra £145,000 on personnel alone. The council commissioned a report from 'Local Council Consultancy', a private ltd company, costing £2,000+. It starts by describing the history of Wetherby, which is irrelevant.

It recommends restructuring and 'several new posts', the main ones being:

- ◆ a new full time 'Operations Manager', costing nearly £30,000
- ◆ a new full time Communications & Events Manager, costing over £25,000

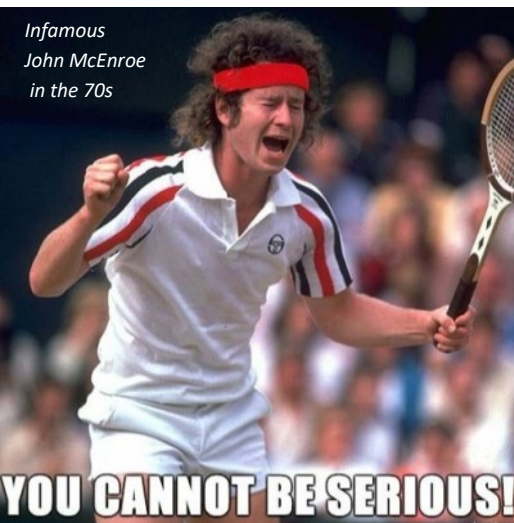
They already have a Facilities Manager and Burials Manager.



**Fascinating Facts - Otley does NOT need a Communications Manager (their admin staff / cllrs can cope)
Otley does NOT need an Operations Manager (their Clerk & Deputy can manage)**

A full-time Wetherby Town Clerk would be paid £41,600 & her full-time Deputy nearly £30,000!

The Wetherby Free Press knew this was coming. The Councillors are clearly fed up of the WFP telling everyone the truth and giving residents the facts, with a dose of common sense opinion. They would prefer to pay a 'Communications Manager' to promote the councillors and their work. **Just like many other public organisations, including the Mayor of West Yorkshire & local charity WISE, they prefer to spend our public money on PR than actual services.**



A Communications person for a local council should be independent of mind and non-political but does anyone seriously think they will be?

In a list of local media this report mentions the (one item of news a week max) so-called Wetherby News but not the Wetherby Free Press. This report did not make any comparisons with other similarly-sized councils, like Otley. Could that be because they outperform Wetherby in so many areas?

These facts alone prove that this report is not comprehensive or to be taken seriously in important areas of performance, accountability and openness.

Stress is Up - Staff are 'Firefighting'

The report contains the usual waffle but there is an interesting hint that all is not well in the Town Hall. Staff say that "stress levels are increasing with more time taken up 'firefighting'".



Why is that? We think it is because the Council has made such little progress in recent years, as highlighted in the WFP, that it's no wonder they can't cope with all the issues we raise with them.

Will the recruitment process be open? We remind you that a 'retiring' staff member wasn't retiring at all last year, as she jumped straight into another job at the Town Hall! This post was advertised INTERNALLY only! Is that fair? No reassurance was given that everything was above board when we queried this. We do not trust this town council. Why the silence?

It is incredible that between 15 Town Councillors and several admin staff they are incapable of sending tweets, composing Facebook posts and writing simple press releases. It is not rocket science. If they could manage that between them, it would save £25,000 of our money - plus £1000s of other expenses for the job, like computer equipment.

Otley do not need a 'Communications Manager', and nor do we. We believe this PR person will produce a newsletter to tell you only positive stuff to try and counteract our factual, questioning coverage. That's fine, but don't use public money for it; they should get friends in their party or local businesses to pay for all of it.

We think this massive increase of 43% for mostly staff to cost £300,000 in a cost of living crisis is outrageous

If you agree with us, it is time to act.

- Question the Town Clerk, your 14 Conservative councillors and contact BBC Look North & Calendar, as well as the national media, with your views
- Start a campaign and we will back you.
- Make your views known at Town Council meetings:

**** Tues 14 Feb at 7pm in Town Hall ****

Tues 14 Mar at 7pm in Town Hall

Tues 11 Apr at 7pm in Town Hall



If anyone thinks the Council's plans are perfectly reasonable, please contact us and we will print your views.

Read Report at: www.wetherby.co.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Town%20Council/Staffing/LCC%20Wetherby%20Final%20Report.pdf

Next Issue - What Council Staff Will Do For £300,000 5 Worth of Salary ie their responsibilities

Wetherby on Telly - Twice on Local News

The report was about the Afghan refugees not wanting to come up to the Mercure hotel when they have jobs and are settled in London. The hotel was supposed to be occupied from mid-January.



Lady in Wetherby interviewed on Look North

Gaff-prone Amy Garcia (eg "Jessie" Marsch in an intro) asked Phil Bodmer what the political reaction was locally. He replied "We approached a number of people and nobody wanted to talk on camera".

Why didn't Cllrs Lamb, Harrington & Richards want to be interviewed when this issue has caused so much comment on social media? Or the other 12 Wetherby Town Councillors? Or Alec Shelbrooke, MP?

All of them missed the opportunity to say what a welcoming & open-hearted place



Wetherby is, and thereby boosting the town's image.

Phil went to ask people on the street instead. One lady, left, gave a good impression of the people in this town, describing the benefits of refugees moving here. She said it would be 'good for trade' and that it would be nice to have a 'more multi-cultural mix in the town'.



Organisers Kazia Knight & Penny Stables

ENERGY FAIR Jan '23

This year and last has proved very worrying for many people in our community, with soaring food and energy prices.

The Community Green Group decided to focus time and attention on helping people to reduce their energy use and their bills. Following on from one in September last year, they held a similar event in the Town Hall but making it more informal and interactive this time.

Over 250 people came through the doors, including a steady stream of families with young children, who were entertained free of charge with activities.

All those attended were able to listen to short talks by the experts in the rooms, on renewable technologies such as Solar PV, heat pumps, batteries and MVHR; as well as retrofitting advice on insulating your home and grants currently available to help reduce bills.

The feedback on the event was positive and encouraging.

If you missed the event but would like to know more take a look at their website:

www.bostongreengroup.co.uk or contact Penny at **penny.stables@bostongreengroup.co.uk**

An item on BBC Look North's Wed 1 Feb programme was about keeping children fit and entertained on the Ings while they were off school due to the teachers' strike. Parents gave their opinions on the strike and its effects.

Callout for Community Grants from Kazia

Community Champion Kazia Knight, pictured above, is asking folk to take part in Drivers' Day on 1 July. The application deadline for a grant is Mon 6 March so get your skates on.

Kazia says that this is "Wetherby's moment to blow our own trumpet and celebrate our past, present and exciting future together"

The event has a Facebook page at

<https://m.facebook.com/100086725825287/>

for the latest news about the day.

'Wetherby Drivers Day' is currently a working title. It is on Saturday 1 July with expected timings of 11 – 9:00

There is a drop Drop-In 'Info Session' at Wetherby Town Hall on Tues 14 Feb from 1 - 3 and Wed 20 Feb from 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Kazia says "If you have something creative or cultural to share with your ward, head to our website"

www.leeds2023.co.uk/take-part/community-grants



The Organisers
Leeds City Of Culture 2023

2023 is a special year for Leeds. There are major cultural events throughout the year including activities in all 33 wards of the City. This event is Wetherby's contribution towards MyLeeds 2023.

The host for Leeds 2023 is Kazia Knight who has championed and organised much of the activities in Wetherby. Kazia has worked with key partners across the City and especially in Wetherby.



Draft leaflet (part of) - Yet to be finalised

Those who deceive to hide their 6 weaknesses will always be found out

Local Democracy Pages - 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.



Very Old Photo Alec still uses

Space for Alec

Unedited (max 400 words)

Eg Achievements of Rishi Sunak in his first 100 days as PM.

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk

Nothing received



Cllr Linda Richards

Cllr Alan Lamb

Cllr Norma Harrington

Space for Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington & other Conservative Wetherby Town Cllrs

Unedited (max 400 words)

Nothing received

Email them at [linda.richards](mailto:linda.richards@leeds.gov.uk) [alan.lamb](mailto:alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk) [norma.harrington](mailto:norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk) @leeds.gov.uk

Elections This May - Put Yourself Forward as City (paid) or Town (unpaid) Councillor

These elections take place on Thurs 4 May

Conservative Cllr Linda Richards' 4-year term of office as a Leeds City Councillor is due to end.

This responsible post comes with an allowance of £16,300 in 21/22. Expenses are paid, as well as extra payments for extra committee responsibilities.

For the Town council it is an 'all-out election' where anybody can stand.

If you want to stand as a councillor, contact your preferred party, ask the Town / City Council staff for information or visit

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england

Potential candidates can learn more about the process in a briefing session looking specifically at the candidate nomination process. It will take place on

Wed 1 March, 5.30pm – 6.30pm on Microsoft Teams

You do not need to book a space on the briefing, and can access it by clicking on a link, which Susanna Benton of Leeds City Council can send you. She can be contacted at 0113 378 4771 or susanna.benton@leeds.gov.uk

Otley's Website Much Better than Wetherby's - Another Example

Executive Officer's Team

Contact Details

Dr Jason Knowles
Executive & Responsible Finance Officer
wk 1 Monday to Friday
wk 2 Monday to Thursday
01943 466335
eo@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Nicola Woodward
Deputy Clerk
01943 466335
deputyclerk@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Barbara Evans
Finance Officer
Tuesday or Thursday
01943 466335
finance@otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Office Team
Monday office closed but open for emails and telephone calls between 10am to 4pm.

Handy Links

- Your Councillor
- What We Do
- Committee Meeting Schedule
- Committee Papers
- Otley Matters
- Leeds City Council Service Links
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Litter Pick Dates
- Location & Transport
- Otley Town Council - Vacancies
- Otley Safe Cycling Route Guide

Recent News

Press Release: Doing a lot with a little is the aim of this year's OTC budget
January 10, 2023

Town Council statement in support of GALBA
January 10, 2023

Otley Town Hall staff are clearly identifiable on their website, left.

Ours prefer to stay anonymous.

There are no photographs of our public servants on the Wetherby website. Why? The Editor would not recognise them if he passed them in the street.

See other differences for yourself at wetherby.co.uk & otleytowncouncil.gov.uk

See Crafty Markets

Collingham Craft Market
at
Collingham Memorial Hall
Sunday 12th February
10am-3pm
Over 20 stalls
&
Pop-Up Café

See Crafty Markets

No Agenda Available for Next Town Council Mtg (or mins 7 of last mtg) - 5 Days Before It Happens!



The visit to Nottingham Forest was a must win game for Leeds but ended in failure. The next day the American manager, Jessie Marsch, was given the (football) boot. Forest were dreadful and Leeds should have

taken them to the cleaners. Notts took their only chance in the first half and United squandered all theirs. Gnonto stood out for Leeds with his undoubted skill and energy, the only positive for angry and disillusioned fans.

Fans' favourite Marcelo Bielsa has been in the country and decided not to take the Everton job. Comeback to his beloved Wetherby perhaps? Doubtful.



Sacked after only 4 league wins this season

Round 1 against the Old Enemy, Man United: 2 - 2

Not on telly which was a great shame! Gnonto scored for Leeds after only 55 seconds at Old Trafford; a dream start for managerless Leeds.

Fans listening on the radio were delirious as United doubled their lead within minutes of starting the second half (an own-goal). 2 - 0 and they dared to dream for all 3 desperately-needed points. Leeds hit the post but the Red Devils fought back and it ended a draw.



Summerville's shot for 2nd goal

Utd v Man Utd on Sun 12 Feb at 14.00

Everton v Utd on Sat 18 Feb at 15.00

Rhinos 4-Day Multi-Sports Camp at Wetherby High 4 Days for £15

For children aged 7-14, who must live in an LS22 postcode, or live in the areas of Wetherby, Boston Spa, Clifford, Bramham, Thorpe Arch or Walton.

Mon 13 Feb – Thurs 16 Feb 10am – 3pm



To book, visit tickets.therhinos.co.uk or call the Leeds Rhinos Ticket Line on 0371 423 1315 (£1.50 booking fee)

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

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Next Issue 39 - Fri 24 Feb



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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. You, nor ourselves, can be sued for libel as long as what is published is:

True or Honest Opinion or in the Public Interest

Unjustifiable threats of legal action is bullying behaviour and will not be tolerated.

Please donate

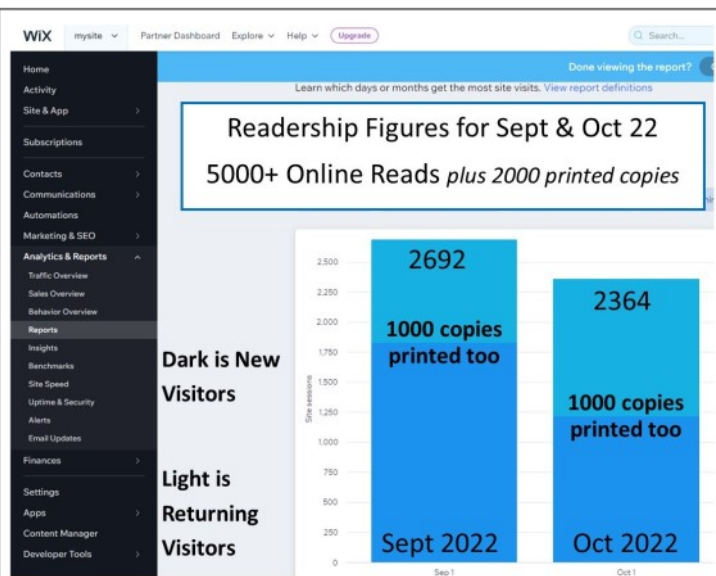
direct to PK Marketing

Acct No 46368560

Sort Code 090127

Thank You

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



They are surprisingly good figures. The main reason was our exclusive on Wetherspoons buying Sant Angelo. If you don't believe the figures, we can send you a printscreen image.

In 2022 we Supported

25

Local Organisations & Charities

Send us your

to WetherbyFreePress@PM.me



Let's Make Wetherby Better Together in 2023