



Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

ISSUE 15 until Fri 1 April '22

Online at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press **plus 1000 copies at**

Castlegate Stationers * Pubs * Costello's * Gourmet Café * Bob Shop Mason House Stores *
* C'est Chocolat * Takeaways * Vets * Library * Town Hall & many other places

#Big Thank You

This issue sponsored by



MANGO RESTAURANT

ESTABLISHED WETHERBY 2008

A family-run, award-winning
Vegetarian Indian Restaurant
SPECIALISING IN VEGAN AND GLUTEN-FREE DISHES.

01937 585755 www.mangovegetarian.co.uk

Inside

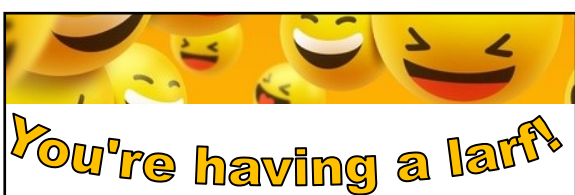
TRANSPORT NEWS



A Fishy Tale in the Wharfe



Local Hero wins another award



The Alec Shelbrooke Page

Tweets & Expenses



Consumer Corner

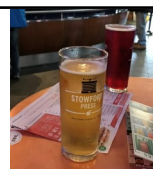


Libel & Slander



Pub News

As Cheap as 'Spoons!'



plus

Sport



More Weather Differences



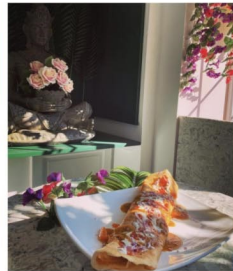
Last Issue Attracted DOUBLE the Online Readers as Previous One. Thank You

Editor *Paul Kirby* WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter: [@WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)



A family-run, award-winning Vegetarian Indian Restaurant

SPECIALISING IN VEGAN AND GLUTEN-FREE DISHES.



NOW ACCEPTING OUTSIDE CATERING ORDERS FOR EVENTS UP TO 200 PEOPLE

Read our reviews on TripAdvisor and follow us on Instagram and Facebook: @mangowetherby



INTERESTED IN INDIAN COOKING?

Join one of our Masterclasses this year, taught by Chef Rekha. We have a range of classes available from Beginners, Advanced to Dosa, Diwali and Christmas Specials.

Opening times: Wednesday to Saturday. Lunchtime Service: 12pm - 3pm.
Evening Service: 5pm till late (last booking at 8:30pm).



MANGO RESTAURANT

ESTABLISHED WETHERBY 2008

12-14 Bank Street,
Wetherby LS22 6NQ

01937 585755

www.mangovegetarian.co.uk

REELLY Important Animals in our River Wharfe

Our well-known resident expert Diver and Cameraman, Mark Barrow, describes what a vital role this slippery customer plays in our waterways.

"There has never been a more important time than now for rivers. Freshwater is a valuable aspect of nature that is essential to life on earth. Sadly, since 1970 there has been an 84% deterioration in the populations of freshwater species globally. It is an environment that is often overlooked and neglected but these stunning habitats hold some of the richest biodiversity in the world and our rivers are a vital and vibrant ecosystem for many species.

Our rivers ultimately have a significant impact on the seas and oceans too, and it is imperative that we try to restore the diversity of these habitats back to how nature originally intended before it is too late. With this in mind one species of fish that lives within the river Wharfe at Wetherby is part of one of nature's greatest migrations. Welcome to the critically endangered European Eel.

We think that the eels in Europe are born in the Sargasso Sea in the middle of the Atlantic but it has never been witnessed. Eel larvae are transparent and leaf-shaped. They can't really swim; they mostly float on ocean currents, eventually catching a ride on the Gulf Stream and make their way towards land. This means an incredible 3000 mile plus journey which can take 3 years.

By the time they reach land they look less leaf-shaped and more like eels. At this stage in their lives they're transparent and called glass eels. They then fill with colour, get darker and bigger, and are called Elvers. When the water starts to get warmer they make their way upstream and once an eel finds a comfortable place it will live there for 10 to 20 years, sometimes longer. At this stage they are called yellow eels developing a brown and yellow colouring. They also remain juvenile for most of that time and their sexual organs remain undeveloped.



An Eel in the Wharfe

Got something to say? 2 Write to us and we'll print it

Pub News

As cheap as Wetherspoons!

The Swan & Talbot have a range of very reasonably priced drinks but the cheapest must be for a pint of Strongbow - just £2.20. Prices vary in Wetherspoons for a pint of cider but it's about that price, and some brands a lot more. You can enjoy live sport in the Swan & Talbot too.



We want to know where the cheapest pints in Wetherby pubs are - for lager, cider, Guinness & real ale.

Local businesses that provide great value for money will be promoted in the

WFP, especially our town pubs, who have had it extremely tough in recent years.

News on a possible Wetherspoons in Wetherby is expected in the next couple of weeks. The one in Otley has re-opened this week after a £1.5 million refurb and extension.

Email WetherbyFreePress@PM.me with best prices & reviews

The Wetherby Light Music Singers (WLMS) are looking for singers to join them, particularly men. Chairman Philip Baker-Sinclair says "However,



everyone who enjoys singing is welcome, whether they're experienced singers, have not sung in a choir before or just think they sound decent in the shower. WLMS are a four part mixed voice choir. We

sing a variety of popular music both old and new with something for everyone. We enjoy performing concerts and raising money for local charities." Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at St James' Church Centre. If you are interested, contact Philip on 07831 879405 or via their website at www.wlms-choir.co.uk

Dear Editor,

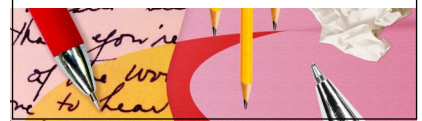
I was pleased to see that Councillor Alan Lamb has engaged with Wetherby Free Press (Issue 13) but disappointed to see that you had declined his meeting suggestion when you have criticised some councillors for not engaging.

However, upon reflection I understand your reasons because, according to Google, a person can speak 1500 words in ten minutes and this would cover 3 pages of A4 paper at 500 words a page.

If you were to meet him then his responses could be published over many issues but, I am sure your Readers would agree, we want to hear what the other Councillors have to say too.

K Taylor

Reader's Letter



Eels cont'd

Eventually an eel will decide to migrate back to the sea where it was born to mate and then die. Unfortunately, this has never been witnessed but they have been seen and found in this area. At this point further development takes place and their colour changes again, becoming darker to blend into waters of the ocean; they are now called Silver Eels.

Once at sea they pause and their bodies morph one more time. Their eyes adjust to work in the dark depths and they become better at handling greater water pressure. Their digestive system basically dissolves into their reproductive system.



Eels have poor eyesight but have an amazing sense of smell from their 4 nostrils. We also believe they can absorb oxygen through their skin as well as gills, and their pectoral fin is there for balance.

Eels have tiny scales embedded in their skin and have a mucous coat that covers the skin and protects the eel from disease and allows them to squeeze into tight places, protecting them from predators. The dorsal, anal and tail fin is a continuous one, while the lateral line helps the eel to sense movement and pressure changes in the surrounding water.

Eels are the only fish that can swim backwards!

Anglers are doing their bit to encourage them and always put them back, if caught. Sadly, Wetherby weir is a barrier that potentially stops them from migrating. The fish pass is so out-dated.

There is a large market for glass eels in Asia and this is part of the reason they are endangered. Eels themselves eat other small fish and invertebrates.

They truly are an amazing fish and it is quite remarkable we have them in our river.

After spending over 30 years filming underwater in UK rivers, it is a delight to be able to share some of the life I have seen within the river Wharfe at Wetherby."

Keep up-to-date with Mark's clean rivers campaign and his amazing

images by following him on Twitter at [@UnderwaterMedia](https://twitter.com/UnderwaterMedia). Mark can be contacted at britishwaters@gmail.com



The Alec Shelbrooke Page

Alec Shelbrooke is 45 and been our Conservative MP for 11 years. In the last election he got 58% of our vote beating Labour by over 17,000 votes. He campaigned to remain in Europe. His basic salary is £82K. Alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk is his email. From Dec '19 to Nov '21 he has voted 357 times (out of 392) and has never rebelled against his party whip.

Space in this box for Alec to inform us of anything he wants, unedited. Nothing sent.

He does use the Wetherby News though (£1.90). In the 10 March issue he was given free space without any questioning or comment.

'Get a Grip'

Alec has suddenly become very media-friendly recently. He has made appearances on GB News (again) and Radio 5 Live. It's a shame he does not inform us beforehand so that we can listen in. He was given a slot in PMQs on 9 March where he told his own government to 'get a grip' on the Ukraine visa situation. We think this is the first time Alec has openly criticised his own government on a big issue.

Alec's Recent Tweets. He has 16,000 followers



5 Mar - Informs us he is holding a Supermarket Surgery with Cllr Norma Harrington that morning with a photo of them both smiling.

12 Mar - Informs us he is 'back out on the doorsteps' of his constituency that morning 'listening to residents and picking up issues'. Accompanied by an image of him knocking at a nice house that looks like the Badger Wood Glade estate but it could be anywhere in Garforth, Kippax, Rothwell or Wetherby.

Alec Retweets from various sources, including media outlets and his supporters. We do not have the space or inclination to include them unless they are about Wetherby.

Send us your views if you spoke to Alec on your doorstep or in Morrisons.



Alec likes to Retweet from #WorkingClassTories

MPs will receive a £2,200 pay rise from 1 April

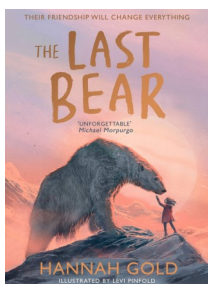


Owner Keira Andrews,
recently featured in The Sunday Times

A Book Club with the Author!

Reading Roots Bookshop runs a monthly book club (in-person & online) where the author joins the conversation too!

Next meeting: Thurs 24th March, 7pm



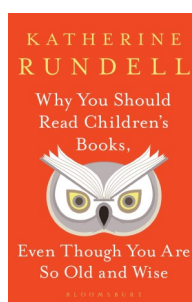
The Last Bear by Hannah Gold

Why You Should Read Children's Books (Even though you are so old and wise) by Katherine Rundell

Simply buy the books from the bookshop (with a 15% discount) and get added to the list!

Market Place, Wetherby

01937 918140 www.readingroots.co.uk



Alec's

expenses

The latest figures available are for the 12 Months
1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021

Staff Costs are about £152,000

Travel Claims are nearly £4,500

Accommodation Costs are about £20,500

Number of Claims under £1 - 3

Number of Claims over £1,000 - 17

Total Expenses about £195,000

Comparison with Richard Burgon, Labour MP for Leeds East

Staff Costs are about £182,500

Travel Claims are £0 !?

Accommodation Costs are about £22,500

Number of Claims under £1 - 4

Number of Claims over £1,000 - 15

Total Expenses about £235,000

Source: www.MPsExpenses.info

Caution must be used with any comparison. There are many factors involved, particularly their roles which may involve a lot of travel. We asked Richard Burgon why he does not appear to have claimed any travel expenses for this period. He did not respond. It is surprising anyone bothers to claim for an item worth less than a pound.

We would welcome Alec's comment on these figures.

What's On

Engine Shed: www.engineshedwetherby.co.uk

Wetherby Film Theatre

www.wetherbyfilmtheatre.com

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPEN



Rating: 12A

Duration:

1hr 40mins

The remarkable true story of Maurice Flitcroft, a crane operator and optimistic dreamer who, with the support of his family and friends, gains entry to the 1976 British Open qualifying, despite never having played golf!

JAGUAR FAIRS ANTIQUE & VINTAGE EVENTS

Next Event: WETHERBY
RACECOURSE
26 & 27 MARCH



Risk Assessment Workshop - 6 April

Details at www.sheqworx.co.uk/



The Leeds Compassionate City Awards celebrate the positive work that individuals, community groups and organisations do every day to make their local communities and the city a great place to live, work, and visit.



Well-known resident Kazia Knight was nominated in the 'Covid Volunteer of the Year' category for 2021.

She attended the awards ceremony at Leeds Civic Hall last week. She said "There are so many outstanding individuals and community groups doing amazing work out there and I was absolutely thrilled and very emotional to hear them announce I was the winner!" She continued "My contribution has been a mixture of supporting the vaccination role out across Leeds, being an NHS volunteer responder which supports those needing support emotionally or physically

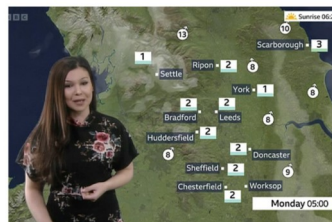
with getting prescriptions or food."

Kazia was successful in obtaining grants to help children in food poverty, as well as joining up with a local supermarket and distributing to local families and single people struggling. On top of that she and another lady started a Facebook page to take in donations during lockdown and distributed them to those needing items.

A well-deserved award. Congratulations Kazia!

Another Eg of Large Difference in Local TV Forecasts

Sunday 13 March 2022



BBC said 'widespread frost'



ITV said 'isolated spots of frost'

There was a frost in Wetherby

We put the above image on the Nextdoor community group and carried out a poll. Not statistically significant but still interesting results: 25% had more confidence in BBC's forecast, nobody had more confidence in ITV's, 44% had NO confidence in either and 6% did not know. A quarter of respondents didn't care or weren't interested.

Trust Your Instincts

Alexa and other digital assistants are full of interesting facts. In her morning greeting a couple of weeks ago she told us that it was the anniversary of the Forth Rail Bridge and that it was two and a quarter miles long. That seemed too long to us, having seen it last year, so we asked her 'how long is the Forth Rail bridge?' She replied that it is one and a half miles (the true length confirmed by www.theforthbridges.org).



The moral of the story is to follow your instincts. When you're told something, even in these pages, don't just accept it. Does it feel right? What does your gut tell you?

Always question what you're told. Sadly, there are politicians and others who lie and think they can get away with it.



News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability



Please Donate in the Collection
Boxes at Costello's, Bob Shop
(Mason House Store) & Film Theatre

It's YOUR Newsletter

5

Got A Story? Please Tell Us

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 16 - 1 Apr

Issue 17 - 15 Apr Full 1000 Print

Issue 18 - 29 Apr



Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Twitter: @WbyFreePress

Tel: 07840 862861

Book you're Crafty Cut today!

Via **booksy**

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

Why not have your hair cut in the heart of your own home?

No more waiting in a busy barbers shop.

Crafty Cutz is a mobile barbers, with over 6 years of experience in the industry.

We keep on top of the latest trends and styles, whilst also catering for older gents hair styles. Ensuring we always leave our clients with a smile from any age group

Book your Crafty cut today via Booksy or call us on **07523474882**

MOBILE BARBER IN YOUR AREA



Happy Birthday Tom!



from the team
at Bakeri

"Have a
good one"



Consumer Corner

Our first topic is Defamation. Defamation is a statement that tends to lower the claimant in the estimation of right-thinking members of society generally. It has caused or is likely to cause serious harm to the claimant's reputation. Defamation is a civil matter so the police are not involved.

There are two types:

Libel has an element of permanence eg in a newspaper or on TV.

Slander is less permanent, like the spoken word between two people, or even a physical gesture.



Legal entities such as companies or LLPs can sue for libel but serious financial loss needs to be shown. An action for defamation cannot be brought by a Local Authority nor by any other public authority.

The Four Defences are:

1 The Truth OR 2 Honest Opinion OR 3 Public Interest

4 Privileged communications eg in Houses of Commons

Before resorting to expensive legal action, it is common sense to ask the alleged defamer to withdraw the offending statements and ask them to apologise, giving detailed reasons why they should.

If you're upset with the WFP, it's common sense to use the 'Right to Reply' in the first instance. We have been threatened with legal action in this area. We recommend people think very carefully about 1 - 3 above before sending unjustifiable threats. Trying to intimidate us without justification is bullying behaviour and will not be tolerated. Unjustifiable threats of legal action that are made more than once could be used in a criminal case of harassment.

Never be afraid to use your Freedom of Expression - it's a Human Right that people have died for. As long as it's true or honest opinion or in the public interest, we will publish what you send us.

Next Issue - Your Shopping Rights

Any law firm want to write and sponsor this item?

TRANSPORT NEWS

Fuel prices for Unleaded: Correct on 16 Mar to nearest penny

Morrisons £1.67 Shell £1.68

Only 1p difference!

W'by Services £1.87

Difference b/w Morrisons & Services to fill av. tank is £11



Strike action by TransPennine Express staff took place on Sundays throughout February. It is continuing in March so always check www.tpexpress.co.uk/travel-updates/strike



Can we Trust our Transport Authority, Metro (WYCA) to be in Charge of Buses with their Performance on Infrastructure?

Local Transport Authorities, like Metro are required to produce a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and have an Enhanced Partnership **OR** commence the process of franchising to get a slice of Boris's promised £3billion for buses. Franchising is a statutory framework whereby the bus network is controlled, designed and ALL services in the area are contracted by Metro. To access funding from April 2022 there is a requirement to be in an Enhanced Partnership by the end of March 2022. We asked Metro boss Ben Still, Mayor of West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin & Cllr Kim Groves for the current position. None replied but we were sent a link to a Metro document which was not easy to understand. But it mentions needing more bureaucrats to put any system in place. More money spent not on buses but WYCA/Metro staff!

In Issue 2 we highlighted the poor performance of Metro in their current role, that of maintaining infrastructure. In Wetherby last year they installed new bus stop flags in Wetherby. They got them wrong not once but twice and the final flags are as dull as ditchwater and hardly an improvement on ones 10+ years older. No apology from those responsible or any response from our local representatives on the specific mistakes. Do our Labour and Conservative councillors care?

Meanwhile Metro/the taxpayer will be giving £25m to consultancy firms to work on plans for Leeds mass transit system.

Here are examples of Metro's work, good and bad. Next issue will have Metro and cllrs comments on them (if they respond!)



1 - No Route Numbers

2 - Wrong Info Twice

3 - Final Effort Better Than 1?

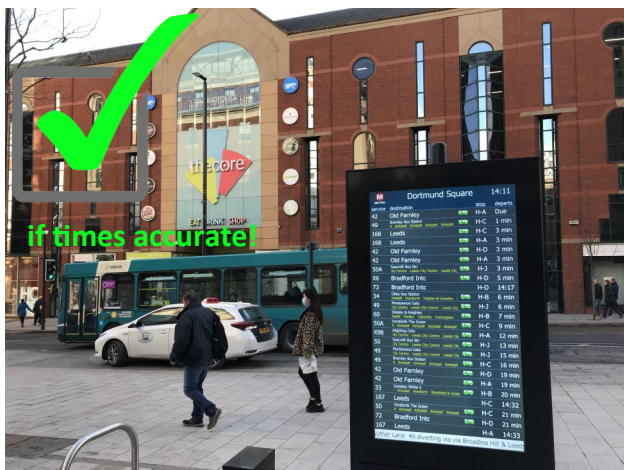
Embarrassingly obvious mistakes on most of Wetherby's bus stops



Real time bus stop in Boston Spa. Says bus I'm on is due in 2 mins. Real time has never worked properly, £millions spent on it.



Subsidises many routes like the 923 Wetherby to Otley. And some evening & Sunday services.



Prominent Displays around Leeds City Centre showing Bus Times



Seven Invaluable Bus Maps



New stop and shelter installed in Garforth this year. One spelling of Micklefield right, one wrong!



Fares on Harrogate Bus Co still only



after 7pm until 31 Mar



Sport



New Boss Jesse Marsch, got his first win against bottom team Norwich City on 13 March. 36,000 fans were mighty relieved when the final whistle went at Elland Road to win 2 - 1 in a game of many missed opportunities.

Jesse is the complete opposite of

Marcelo Bielsa in terms of communicating in English. The American has plenty to say in post-match interviews. Let's hope he engenders the same respect Leeds fans had for the Argentinian.



United are 4 points above the relegation zone with 9 games to go. Only one game before 2 April.

Wolves v **Utd** on Fri 18 March at 20.00



Harrogate need to find some form before the end of the season, having lost their last 3 matches and not scored in the last two. They look like they will be staying in League 2 this season.

Town v Walsall on Sat 19 Mar at 15.00

Town v Leyton Orient on Tues 22 Mar at 19.45

Scunthorpe v **Town** on Sat 26 Mar at 15.00



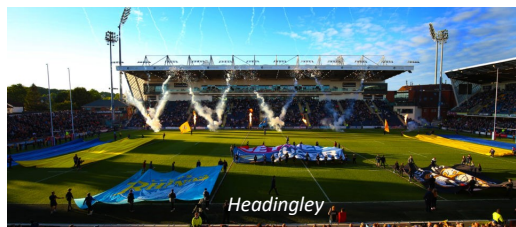
After a 0 - 0 draw on 15 March, **York City** are 7th in National League North and in the play-off places. All to play for.

Southport v **City** on Sat 19 Mar at 15.00

City v Boston United on Tues 22 Mar at 19.45

City v Leamington on Sat 26 Mar at 15.00

It's annoying when both Leeds Utd and Leeds Rhino matches take place at the same time and are both televised. It rarely used to happen. It happened on 12 Feb and now again on Fri 18 March. Let's hope it brings better performance from both teams this time as they both lost previously.



the Challenge Cup. Sky's favourite, more Rhinos' games on TV.

The Rhinos have only beaten Wakefield in their 5 games so far. They face Castleford in the sixth round of

Salford v **Rhinos** on Fri 18 March at 20.00

Rhinos v Castleford Tigers on Sat 26 Mar at 16.30

Rhinos v St Helens on Fri 1 Apr at 20.00

Wetherby Races

Tues 22 Mar First Race 14.00

Sat 31 Mar First Race 14.15

www.wetherbyracing.co.uk



You're having a larf!



I've got a new girlfriend - she's a refuse collector. Trouble is I always forget whether it's Monday or Tuesday I have to take her out

Why did the chicken cross the playground?
To get to the other slide



I was recommended a great book the other day, called 'WD-40 and other oils'. Not easy to locate in the library but there it was - under non-friction

Not easy to get a job at Citroen these days, they require 2 CVs



the truth will win



Free Press
Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

Email WetherbyFreePress@PM.me
Twitter @WbyFreePress
Fridays Every 2 Weeks - Online & Print

All people mentioned in the WFP have a right to reply. The reply will be published, usually unedited unless it is too long.

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.

We encourage everyone to write to us with their views, whatever they are. We will print criticism of ourselves, even if it's unjustified.

Useful Contact Info

W'by Town Council: 583584 www.wetherby.co.uk admin@wetherby.co.uk

Facebook: [wetherbycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/wetherbycouncil) Twitter: [wetherbytc](https://twitter.com/wetherbytc)

Leeds City Council: 0113 222 4444 www.leeds.gov.uk

Facebook: [LeedsCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/LeedsCouncil) Twitter: [LeedsCC_Help](https://twitter.com/LeedsCC_Help)

W'by Library: 583144 libraryenquiries@leeds.gov.uk

W'by Tourist Info: inside library 582151

W'by Leisure Centre: 0113 378 1265 wetherby.lc@leeds.gov.uk

W'by Health Centres: Hallfield Lane 585669

Crossley St 543200

Buses: Connexions: 01423 339600 www.connexionsbuses.com

First Leeds: 0345 646 0707 www.firstbus.co.uk/leeds

Harrogate Bus Co: 01423 56 60 61 www.transdevbus.co.uk/harrogate/

Metro: For all West Yorkshire bus times & all issues with bus stops, shelters and stations 0113 245 7676 www.wymetro.com

W'by Social Media: Facebook: Wetherby Grumbler 22,400 members

W'by Foodbank: info@wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Twitter: [WBYFoodbank](https://twitter.com/WBYFoodbank)

If anyone asks you not to deal with us, pls ask them why and tell us