

WETHERBY

Flotsam & Jetsam in the recent snow



Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

Town Council Extra

Tory Win for 'Non-Political' Town Council

The Conservatives won this vote in the West Ward of Wetherby by 114 votes. It cost the Town Council nearly £11,000. It was brought about after a Tory Councillor quit, no reason given.

The Greens were the second place party and said "although disappointed that our hard working Green local campaigner was not elected to Wetherby Town Council, her very strong second place is a great foundation to getting a second Green candidate elected to Leeds City Council in May." A total of 1,155 residents voted and Cllr Alan Lamb says the turnout was 30%. That means there were 3850 people who could have voted and 2695 of them stayed home. There was no Labour candidate.

The Conservatives put in a lot of effort in canvassing the ward. In November 2021 Cllr Chapman told us that the Town Council is 'non-political'. At that time the whole Town Council was Conservative. Cllr Chapman is still a Wetherby Town Councillor. We have mentioned his 'non-political' comment in the Free Press since and nobody has told us his view has changed. The Town Council website still does not state the party they represent, see left.

Harry Chapman

North Ward

E: harry.chapman@wetherby.co.uk



Just email address on first page. Click on picture and no party mentioned either.

Comment

We pointed out in Issue 7 how we thought this 'non political' comment was untrue at the time and it is clearly untrue now. If Cllr Chapman has changed his view and wishes to tell us, we can inform our readers and not mention it again.

The Town Council website still does not display the party of the Councillors by their profile pictures, see left. We have no idea what party Cllrs Kazia Knight, Billie Ager-Mills and Jane Lavocah align with, though we noted at least 2 of them voted against a Labour proposal recently. They were all co-opted onto the Council (no election) by the Conservatives. The lack of this basic information on the website is a disgrace to democracy. Of course, Otley Council's website clearly displays the councillors' party.

So, why no Labour candidate in this election? Was it tactical so that more would vote for the Greens? It is strange that Labour could not find a single candidate to join the only known Labour Councillor, Alex Riddell.

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of votes
JACOBS, Anna Carol	Green Party	417
MCINTEE, Lesley Ann	Liberal Democrats	186
OAKES, Nigel Philip		21
SMITH, Elaine	Conservative Party Candidate	531

Wetherby Town Council Meeting - Jan 24

Published at 21.30 on Night Before Issue 58 & most of the info missing!

Fancy That!

11 Cllrs attended out of 14. Three residents also attended. The meeting lasted only 47 minutes.

The residents raised "Concerns about the air quality in Wetherby, caused by smoke from real fires and idling vehicles. • Funding for Grange Park Sports Club. • The Council's use and allocation of CIL funding."

Draft budget to be proposed at 13 Feb meeting.

Meetings of Markets committee in Nov & Dec 23 were inquorate ie not enough people attended to decide on anything.

The Welcome to Wetherby meeting in December was also inquorate. *This is not good enough - why aren't councillors attending these mtgs?*

The Council continue to ignore the Free Press and the legitimate issues it raises. They have given no reason.

The minutes of all the other committees that this meeting approved were not added. They have been in all previous minutes. So these minutes are incomplete.

Please inform us the reason for this, Iona Taylor, Town Clerk. It is a serious matter of accountability. The list of monthly payments is a very important document. How can we have any confidence in this Council when it does not disclose such info in a timely manner?



MAFIA



Be Aware - Fake Facebook Accts. Big Boost in WFP Readership



These fake people continue to write nonsense, mainly on Wetherby Grumbler (where the Editor is barred for no good reason). He will **not** respond to those behind 'Eve Jackson', 'Jimmy James', 'Richard Tingle' etc. Everything the Editor can say is in this issue and Issues 54 & 55.

SADLY, YOU CAN ONLY BELIEVE POSTS FROM PEOPLE YOU KNOW ARE REAL

There has been a big increase in readership for Issue 58, possibly because the attention these people are drawing to the WFP. So we thank them for that. 🙄

They also try to get our posts on social media platforms censored for absurd reasons. One was on grounds of 'discrimination', a simple post accepted by many other groups. They are desperate to stop free speech. Please continue to tell us about the ones you think are fake.

Even if they were to succeed with their bullying campaign on social media, we have a massive mailing list. And it's getting bigger all the time.

Send your News & Views to: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter / X: [WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)

WETHERBY

A Lot of
Wetherby
Dead
Wood!



Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

ISSUE 58 - until Early March 2024

YOUR Community Newsletter

Full Issue at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press  

Promo copies at *Morrisons, Pubs, Cafés, Bob Shop, Mason House Stores, Library, Dentists, Care Homes, Shops, Churches, Hairdressers & Barbers*

 **Contents overleaf** 

New Walking Group for Singles, aged 40+

Social media has its ugly side but this is one of its amazing benefits - helping people to get together.

We noticed a well-written and attractive post by Jane Illman, pictured, on the Nextdoor community group. She is setting up a "chilled group of single people, who want to walk, talk, grab a coffee or something stronger. Priority is to laugh, be you, connect in whatever way you're comfortable with and leave feeling lighter and brighter!"

It has the amusing name of *Your Pace or Mine*.



Jane, Group Founder

We are not aware of anything similar in Wetherby. Jane is based in Harrogate but assures us that anyone in the area is welcome to join. Indeed, they already have members in Wetherby and someone from Boston Spa showed great interest under Jane's post. Car shares are possible so if you fancy it, don't let anything put you off. If nothing else, you will meet some nice people and make new friends. As Jane says "The main objective of the group is connection and for everyone to leave the walk feeling healthier and happy."

The Editor recently got married so he's not eligible but knows how difficult it is for some people to join groups. Jane is fully aware of this and says "If you're worried about attending one of the walks on your own, please feel free to message me and we can buddy up for the first walk. Sometimes we can feel daunted by a group activity, but we want you to overcome that and we are here to help you."

For more details, join the *Your Pace or Mine* Facebook Group

We are sure this Group will be a great success and wish it all the best.

** Another Club You May Like To Join Overleaf **

Health Centre Stops Displaying WFP but Allows Other 'Non-NHS' Literature

We have been leaving our display copies at the Hallfield Road Health Centre for months. With no problems. Until we state on the front page the places where we leave them, including the Health Centre.

The Wetherby Mafia leap into action and persuade them to stop displaying it. We know this must be the case from the reaction of the Health Centre.



Double standards & Anonymity at Hallfield Lane

MAFIA



Strike Again!

Their email to us has NO signature or person identified on it, see page 5. Has a robot written it or have they been told misinformation about the Editor that has frightened them so much they won't put a name on it? They say says the WFP is not an NHS production so can't display it.

We visit the Centre and find 3 lots of 'non-NHS' literature displayed - two charities and a private company's leaflet!

We email them and ask whether there was a complaint about the newsletter and say we are disappointed that they will not support a community asset that promotes many activities, groups and events that benefit the town's health. **We receive no response to a perfectly polite, reasonable email.** See page 5 to read both emails.

As for the Mafia, they will continue to frighten people with misinformation. People will choose to believe their nonsense, instead of checking it out with us or actually reading the WFP and decide for themselves. They give in to the Mafia for an easy life. Maybe not surprising if individuals or businesses, but not acceptable from publicly-funded bodies. We are considering making a complaint to the NHS Trust CEO about the Centre's actions.

The good people of Wetherby realise the behaviour of the Mafia is unacceptable & our donations and donators have increased. Thank You. 

Send your News & Views to: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter / X: [WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)


B Spa Man Saving Us Money Page 7

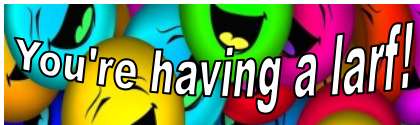
Nonsense & Fake Profiles on Social Media Page 8

 **Wildlife of Wetherby** Page 5

TRANSPORT NEWS Page 3
X98/99 Bus Blocking DalesBus

W'by Pubs in Good Beer Guide Page 4

 **The Poor State of Football in Yorkshire** Page 10



* How does a vampire start a letter?
"Tomb it may concern..."

* Why did the student eat his homework? Because the teacher told him it was a piece of cake.

The Standard

Red Bull thieves steal £850,000 worth of energy drink in staggering heist



"How do these people sleep at night!"

* What did the limestone say to the geologist?

Don't take me for granite!

* What do you do if someone rolls their eyes at you?
Roll them right back.

* What building in New York has the most stories?
The public library.

* Why are jokes about lifts the funniest?

Because they work on so many levels.



PRIVATE EYE £1.73 subscription



Don't think so!

Wetherby Town Council Meeting - Jan 24

The Minutes were not available online 4 weeks after the meeting took place.

Even the draft minutes are usually published within 3 weeks of the meeting.

Would it have anything to do with the publication date of the WFP? Surely not.

We will carefully scrutinise the minutes and report in next issue.



Every Thursday 11 - 1 at Town Hall

A chance to ask your Cllr about the issues we raise.

Please report back, if you do go.



Council Tax Precept Will Be Set Soon (up 80% last year)



Next Meeting is Tues 13 Feb at 7pm

Lucky Duck Food

from  **CANCER RESEARCH UK** &  **TOYS** **OPEN SUNDAYS**



Boston Spa Book Club looking for New Members

If one of your New Year Resolutions was to get out and meet more people, here is another opportunity to achieve it. Lisa Powell of the Boston Spa Book Club is looking for new members.

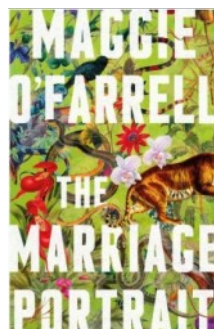
She explains on social media (Boston Spa Grumbler) "We are a friendly bunch who meet in Boston Spa every 6 - 8 weeks to drink wine and discuss our latest read!! You don't need a degree in English to join".

To contact Lisa, you can message her on **Facebook (using Messenger)**

The Group's next meet-up is on

Wed 13th March to discuss

'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell.



Elderly Caring & Domestic Help

15 years Experience



NVQ Level 2 Qualification

References available

Call Kerry on 07876 525 589

As well as the excellent *Wetherby Free Press* Facebook page there is the *Wetherby Deserves Better* page too.

Both are run separately from the newsletter.

Follow & Don't get FOMO





Single Bus Fares £2 until 2025



Tracy Brabin, pictured, Mayor of West Yorkshire, has announced the maximum single fare will be £2 until March 2025.

She claims to have introduced the £2 fare although I think the Conservative

government could make the same claim. Whoever it was, this is Good News for many. Quite how Metro (West Yorkshire Combined Authority) / Government compensates the private bus operators for this, we haven't a clue. Even a 3/4 full bus from Leeds to Scarborough would not pay for the journey, especially if it is full of free pass-holders.

There are very few bus fares less than £2 now so if you're just going a few stops this fare doesn't help. But it's fantastic for longer trips. We recently had a trip to Scarborough & Filey on reliable double-deckers and friendly drivers, after parking up at Malton. Great value and views on the Coastliner 843 & Coaster 12 for a day of Coffee, Cake and Cliff-top Capers.



Filey Brigg

Nothing Yet Done to Stop Bus Blocking

It will happen again - causing more misery.

No re-painting of double yellow lines, or painting Zig Zag lines or 'BUS EXIT - Do Not Block'

No signs in Mojis or on street

No cones put out.

Nothing.

Two years and counting.

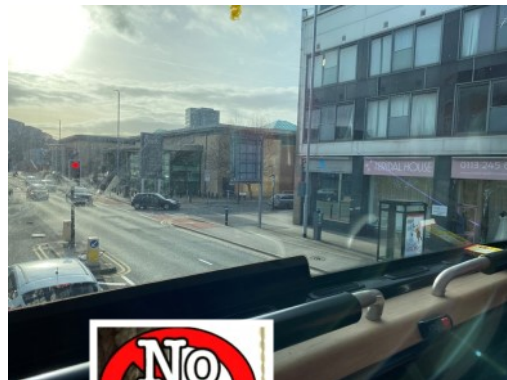


We can put a man on the moon but can't do anything about this simple problem.

X98/99 to Leeds Service



Not a problem I've seen before on Harrogate Bus Company. Very dusty. Less cleaning or lack of cleaners? Tweeted them about it (with praise for friendly driver too).



Approaching Leeds city centre, bus always used to turn right onto Byron Street, quickest way by far. Now it carries on to bottom of Eastgate adding 3 - 10 mins to journey. Emailed them.



from Harrogate Bus Company. Poor Customer Service.

Bus to the Dales Every Sunday from Wetherby

Yes, the 874 leaves Wetherby Bus Station at 8.35 for Upper Wharfedale - Grassington & Buckden.

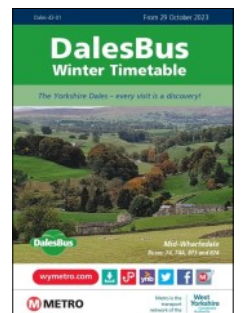


Barden Tower

It goes down the A58 to Leeds, serving all (X98) stops in Collingham, Bardsey & Scarcroft.



Free for Elderly Pass Holders. Dogs Welcome.



Available at Library

MP Alec Shelbrooke - Joins Liz Truss's Right Wing Group

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for 13.5 years since May 2010.

In 2019 he won 58% of our vote beating Labour by over 17,000 votes. He was a Remainer.

From Dec '19 to 21 June 2023 he has voted 640 times out of 817 (78%) In that time he has rebelled twice against the party whip. Source - www.publicwhip.org.uk/

He refused to inform his constituents whether or not he supported Boris Johnson in the No-Confidence Vote.

Alec was a strong supporter of Liz Truss in the Leadership Battle. Prime Minister Truss promoted him to a ministerial MoD post in Sep '22, which he then quit / was sacked after 49 days, the same length of time his boss lasted in post.

In June 2023 Alec voted for the Privileges Committee report which stated that Boris Johnson repeatedly misled parliament ie knowingly lied about parties in Downing Street whilst the rest of us had to follow the rules. Source - www.theyworkforyou.com/

It was announced in Dec '23 that Alec was awarded the one of the highest knighthood honours; the Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE), which entitles him to be addressed as "Sir". It was given to him by Liz Truss. He has not mentioned his honour at all on his social media but has changed official images to say 'Sir Alec ...' We do not call him "Sir" as he has shown a resident no respect by ignoring him for 2 years.



Very Old Photo
Alec still uses

Space for Alec to Say Anything to Constituents

(Unedited, max 400 words)

Nothing received
since we began 2+ years ago

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk



Pop Con Alec

Alec attended the inaugural meeting of Liz Truss's new movement dubbed Popular Conservatives, or Pop Cons, to rally right-wing Tory MPs ahead of a general election.

Also there to support the former PM were Jacob Rees-Mogg, Lee Anderson, Priti Patel & Nigel Farage. Ms Truss said "I believe the fundamental issue is that for year and years and years ... Conservatives have not taken on the left-wing extremists".

It was reported that she hit out at her Government for allowing people to choose their gender and for "pandering to the anti-capitalists".



Cllr Alan Lamb on TV again



'No' answers Cllr Lamb to PFIs in Leeds

Cllr Lamb, Conservative, has been putting himself in front of the cameras a lot recently. He was on *ITV Calendar* about the parking charges issue. In the past week or two he has again

been on *Calendar* on a short item about green issues at Crossley Street Primary School. We didn't catch exactly what it was about so asked the school for more details. They did not respond and there was nothing about it on their website or Facebook account (or Cllr Lamb's Twitter/X account).

The image on the left shows Cllr Lamb on the *BBC Politics North* program on a Sunday morning. He said we are paying a high price for PFI contracts.

Wikipedia tells us that PFI was implemented for the first time in the UK in 1992 by the Conservative Government led by John Major.

So PFI contracts were first brought in by the Tories as a short-term fix for paying for major public investment projects, and were always going to be poor value for

money in the long run. Cllr Lamb is welcome to write a piece about this for us and we'll publish it.

No Wetherby Pubs in Good Beer Guide (again)

That is a sad fact. There were none in the 2023 guide either.

It doesn't exactly shout out to beer drinkers "Come to Wetherby" does it?

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is the UK's best-selling beer and pub guide, costing £16.99 at Waterstones.

Local branch members choose the pubs following regular visits to check on the quality of the real ales on offer.

They also take into account customer service, décor and overall atmosphere.

Just a few miles away, other towns are in the Guide:

Knarborough - 3 Pubs

Blind Jacks, Cross Keys & Half Moon

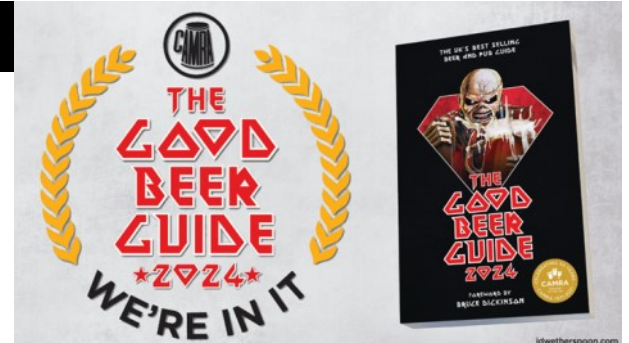
Otley - 3 Pubs

Black Horse, Junction Inn & Old Cock

Why doesn't a single pub of ours feature in this guide?

We can't recall the last time we saw the local CAMRA magazine on display in any.

Let's hope we can promote at least one of our pubs next year.



Wetherspoons proudly boast of their 236 pubs in this Guide



A Great Opportunity
Lost to Bring More
People & Jobs into
Town.

18 months since Sant
Angelo closed and 6
months since Spoons
decided to
cancel and
sell up.



Good morning

Thank you for supplying Wetherby Health Centre with copies of Wetherby Free Press. Unfortunately, as they are not NHS material we are unable to take these from you anymore.

Kind regards

Wetherby Health Centre
Hallfield Lane
Wetherby
LS22 5EB

Tel : 01937 522777

email : reception.wetherby@nhs.net

Their Email to Us - Nobody Wrote It!

Good Morning,

Thank you for your email.

It is a shame that you do not wish your patients to read our community newsletter. We have many physical and mental health related articles, where groups and organisations have contacted us for publicity: Wetherby Foodbank, Bridge Club, Mens Forum, Community Green Group, Theatre groups, Wetherby Festival, Wetherby Wheelers Cycling Club, charity events, Dalesbus trips from Wetherby (free for pass-holders), a mental health walking group etc etc.

Was there a complaint about us?

We would be grateful if you would reconsider your position.

We will, of course, publicise any news you have for the residents of Wetherby and area, if you wish to send us it.

Many Thanks.

Our Email to Them



Again, we ask the Mafia to stop being so cowardly and identify yourselves. Tell us in detail what you don't like about the Editor / Newsletter, have a civilised dialogue and help us improve. Why won't you write articles yourselves, instead of trying to silence us and deny people a good read?

It is obvious they would prefer no news source in Wetherby. They do not want anyone to have access to an influential newsletter where people can write anything they want, as long as it's true, honest opinion or in the public interest. Their desperate efforts prove to us they hate free speech and are afraid of what may be said or uncovered - behaviour like this is usually rooted in fear.

The Mafia bring the whole town down by their actions, yet those who supposedly care about this town do nothing to stop it. They don't condemn it when they see it on social media or published in here. They make no comment.

It is inevitable the identity of this person / these people will be discovered. We must pity these folk with so much hate in their hearts for the Editor and Free Speech. As we say, The Truth Always Comes Out in the End. Think we're paranoid?

Proof the Wetherby Mafia Exists (all described in past Issues of WFP)

- ◆ Contacted our biggest supporter to try & dissuade him from helping us
- ◆ Approached a charity that displayed our first WFPs & upset the manager, persuading her to stop displaying it
- ◆ Told the Coop that we had libelled a local charity. We hadn't.
- ◆ Complained to Wetherby Grumbler about us and persuaded them to stop us from promoting WFP just once every 2 or 3 weeks
- ◆ Rang up a large advertiser after their first advert and persuaded them to stop
- ◆ Frightened the head of a Wetherby organisation so much that he wrote to us asking that we don't mention him or **his family!** An absurd request because, of course, we wouldn't publish anything about people not involved.

There is a high likelihood that they have

- * influenced nearly all the current and all the former Town Councillors who refuse to engage with us
- * persuaded other charities and businesses in the town not to engage with us
- * had something to do with the popular 'Wetherby Means Business' Facebook group we used suddenly disappearing without explanation



The Red Kite

We are so lucky to look up most days and see at least one red kite hovering in the skies above us, sometimes being mobbed by crows. A sight the Editor & his wife never tires of and is all down to the re-introduction of many pairs at Harewood House 25 years ago.

Along with buzzards they bring such joy and hope in these days when much of the natural world is under threat.

Sadly, on our visits to the Yorkshire Dales & North York Moors, we see few birds of prey. The latest issue of the *Friends of the Dales* newsletter tells us why. Nearly 20% of persecution incidents are in North Yorkshire, says the RSPB *Birdcrime* report of 2022. It identified that more than 64% of incidents occurred on land managed for gamebird shooting.

Shooting and rat poison are usually the method to kill our great raptors. Disgusting behaviour. For more info, visit www.raptorpersecutionuk.org.

There are thought to be about 4,600 pairs of Red Kites in the UK. They eat mainly carrion (dead animals) and worms, but will occasionally take small mammals. They usually lay one clutch of 1 to 3 eggs a year. They can live until their twenties.

You can watch up to a dozen of them swoop down in Harewood village for food.



If you love the Dales, please consider joining the *Yorkshire Dales Society*, or perhaps give as a gift to someone. You receive 4 excellent newsletters every year and details of talks, walks & events. You can become a member of the *Friends of the Dales* for: £30 Single and £40 Joint

For more details visit www.friendsofthedales.org.uk

Thanks to
Whitfield
Benson



For more stunning images like this one, visit
[@whitfieldbenson](https://twitter.com/whitfieldbenson) on X / Twitter or
www.whitfieldbensonphotography.co.uk/

Response from Homeless Project Manager who Criticised Editor

In the last issue we reported on a Facebook message from Nik Noble of the Boston Spa Community & Homeless Project (BSCHP) about the Editor. The Editor was unable to respond to the post so did so in the last issue.

Following publication Mrs Noble put a statement on a Facebook Group. We asked her twice if this was her Right to Reply response, which we would publish here unedited. She did not give a clear answer so we haven't published it. It gave details about her project and did not address any of our comments about her derogatory post, nor was there any hint of regret for it. Neither did the statement address some of the issues we raised underneath her post.

Mrs Noble / BSCHP sent me an email. It said:

"As you say you are a journalist, you have not contacted us for clarification how our project runs before posting your article. Nor have you asked us to provide this information. You have not contacted us to ask how we are funded, nor asked for a discussion and have based your article purely on a comment on one of your social media posts by our leader Nik Noble several weeks ago and made many derogatory and slanderous comments about her."

My response: *It clearly said on the back of the last Issue I am **not** a journalist.*

There are very few proper journalists around now. I am just an ordinary person with the skills and qualities every journalist should have: independent, fair-minded, common sense, know the difference between right and wrong with all the computing and writing skills to produce and edit a simple community newsletter. People send us stuff and we put it in. Why should I spend time on asking you questions when that info should be on your website and when you insult me out of the blue online? Everybody mentioned in these pages has a Right to Reply and put their side in the next issue, as stated on every back page.

*You are using the wrong term; you mean 'libellous', not 'slanderous'. **Libel is the written word.** You are not alone in your ignorance - the Coop once said that too and we called them out for telling a lie. Your accusation is, of course, nonsense. When you write derogatory comments yourself, you should expect the subject of your abuse to defend themselves.*



No Support for Boston Spa Community & Homeless Project from 2 Councils



On Wetherby's largest social media group with 25,000+ members, a spokesperson said:
"We find it disappointing that Wetherby Town Council, nor Boston Spa Parish Council, will support our project, which provides for struggling families putting food on the table who are living hand to mouth month in month out, providing emergency funds for heating, funds for petrol so they can get to work waiting for pay day and helping the homeless in our community (yes, we have homeless in our area and domestic violence fleeing for a safe place).
We are very grateful that several local businesses have supported us and many many people in the community constantly support us with donations all year round, yet the council funding pot refuses our applications. Maybe if we joined a PTA, baked cakes, served tea in china cups, started Maypole dancing riding on a tandem bike together and bought a trombone to play at the bandstand we may get some funding? Food for thought...." Indeed it is. Different point of view? We'll print it.

Item in Issue 37 of WFP on Page 7

have to 'join a PTA, baked cakes, served tea in china cups'. A strange way to make friends and influence people. But we admire your honesty.

Mrs Noble / BSCHP continues: "To note: You have posted our project in a previous issue of yours so you are confused, you say in your article that you are unaware of our project or the work we do when clearly you were."

Indeed, this is true, I was flicking through old issues and saw that we had PROMOTED the view of her Project - see left. Had you thanked me or made any contact, I may have remembered you.

We note your spokesperson says that to get Council funding from Boston Spa & Wetherby, you think you

Report on Decline of Local Papers - Less Monitoring of Corruption

This article in The Guardian came as no surprise to us!

It reports that the number of local papers continues to decline. 320 of them closed between 2009 & 2019 as advertising revenues fell by 70%. We know that some of those that remain are a skeleton of their former selves. In the last 12 months alone one national publisher has slashed 800 jobs.

The Director of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism says about the impact on local democracy: "There is every reason to be deeply concerned." He adds that local papers:

"help keep local officials honest. It reduces the risk of mismanagement and increases the chance that local officials vote in line with what their constituents want".

In 2015, one fifth of UK adults said they had got news from a local or regional newspaper in the past week. By 2023, the figure had dropped to 12%. In a 2020 survey, only a quarter said they would "miss it a lot", if their paper disappeared.

Only those who do not want any monitoring of our local councils would be against this Community Newsletter – the Wetherby Free Press. It is the ONLY publication that reports on many important local issues.

We encourage everybody to write in and their view/article will be included – we publish without fear or favour. Please use your Freedom of Speech & support us.



For more info on this topic, read the Guardian article at:

www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/feb/02/collapse-of-local-media-leaves-us-all-in-the-dark

Wetherby News NEWSWATCH

We are recording the number of **general** news items about Wetherby / Boston Spa & villages. And the no. of letters/emails from residents about the area in the published paper, now £2.10.

We do this in the hope they will wake up and take up some of our stories. Nothing so far. They are ignoring the serious issues in our great town and do not deserve to have 'Wetherby' in their title.

Issue of 25 Jan '24

News Items - 1 Letters - 0

Press Release from a charity.

Issue of 1 Feb '24

News Items - 1 Letters - 0

The Town Council Election on 8 Feb. First reporting of any Town Council matter for many months.

Issue of 8 Feb '24

News Items - 1 Letters - 0

Press release from a new gym

*They have had **one story maximum** per issue about Wetherby & area for the last few months!*

Wetherby Deserves Better

Wetherby Town Council - Minutes of Jan Mtg in Next Issue



The 15 Wetherby Town Councillors are unpaid volunteers. Most are Conservative & raised our Council Tax precept by 80% in a cost-of-living crisis in 23/24, much of it to pay for new staff.

The Town Clerk is Iona Taylor. She is manager to an Assistant Clerk, a Communications & Events Officer Helena Briden, a Burials Manager and a Facilities Manager (vacant). An Operations Manager was mooted but no idea what's happened to that post. Work is also contracted out.

Employment costs are well over £150,000 a year.

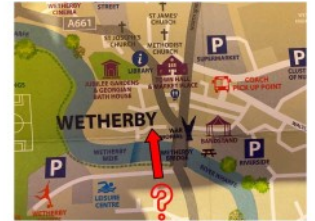
There is still no up-to-date details of Town Hall staff on their website wetherby.co.uk; no images of staff (unlike Otley) and no easy-to-find diagram showing the line management structure.

This Council produced a much-needed leaflet to promote the town in Autumn 2023 (too late for Summer visitors). It took years to produce and failed in its main objective of showing Wetherby at its best and full of friendly people. It contained small poor images without a single smiling face. And the map missed out the bus station!

There is to be no re-print and nobody apologised for it. For a fuller critique see Issue 54. Copies of the old leaflet were still in one estate agent in January. They cannot produce an adequate leaflet nor distribute it properly.

This is just one example of why we believe this Town Council is satisfied with low standards. Another is their unattractive, uninformative, user-unfriendly website which anybody can see is vastly inferior to Otley's. It's not been changed for years.

If you think any of our criticisms are unreasonable, write to us and put forward your argument. We can then have a mature debate. The fact that Town Councillors or Staff rarely defend themselves or answer our simple questions speaks volumes. We would love to publish some positive news about this Council where they have done a really good job, exceeded expectations and used creativity & imagination. But there is none that anybody is willing to tell us about.



Bus Station Left Off!

Opportunity for any of our Town Cllrs to say Anything to Residents - Unedited, max 400 words. Nothing Sent

Money-Saving Idea Hits BBC Headlines - Boston Spa Man Involved

An excited reader told us about this: "This is a fantastic piece of news for everyone in the Wetherby area. It will save everybody money on their electricity bill".

To put it in simple terms, the British public have been sold too many unnecessary volts for decades. Keith Jackson from Boston Spa pointed this out to the distributor and our reader says "Now they've turned the voltage down, it will reduce CO2 emissions and save us all some much needed dosh."

The BBC report states that a trial could save Boston Spa & Wetherby residents an average of £28 on their annual energy bills. It uses smart meter data in order to adjust energy supply levels and allow devices to work at their most efficient. More details at:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-68217821 or

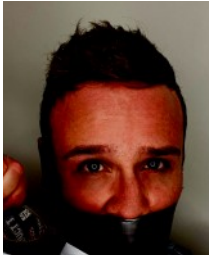
www.northernpowergrid.com/innovation/news/BEET-yorkshire-village-at-the-heart-of-smart-meter-trial

Most Welcome News and 'Thank You' Keith for Your Excellent Work



Simple - You Write it, we Publish 7 it. It's Your Newsletter

Online Misinformation



The Editor would like to correct the misinformation on social media about a court hearing in January he was involved in, but is

not able to because of the restrictions placed upon him.

His right to freedom of speech has been withdrawn in this case.

Please refer to Issue 54 & 55 on pages 2 & 5 for some of the facts.

People will believe what they want to believe but if they want to know both sides, please get in touch, contact details on last page.

Critics often ask about the case but did not take the chance to meet

up at either of the two 'Meet the Editors' in November. The Editor is willing to meet anyone to discuss this or anything else. The Truth will Always Win, Folks.



Don't Be Fooled - Fake Facebook Accounts Make a Mockery of W'by Grumbler

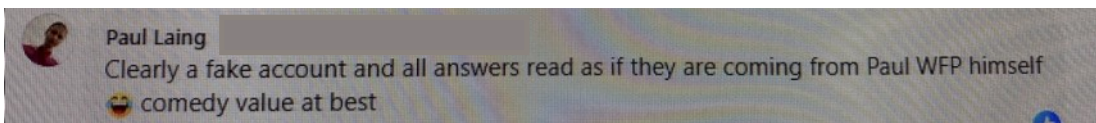
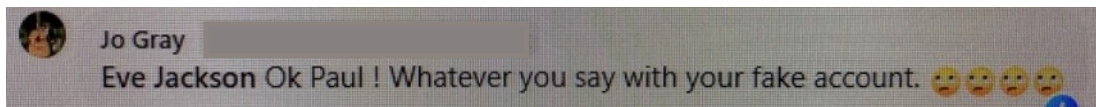
The Editor was barred from Wetherby Grumbler Facebook Group because of pressure from the Wetherby Mafia. No great loss. **But the Editor needs to know if any defamatory or harassing statements** are made about him so his supporters inform him when he is mentioned.

A strange post was put up recently by an 'Eve Jackson', a person with no details on her profile, set up in Nov 23. It simply said "I would like to recommend Wetherby Free Press". Nothing else, just that statement.

That's nice, you may think. But it was like a red rag to a bull for our critics who soon filled the post with nonsense & insults.

The less intelligent will believe nonsense without questioning it but they should notice that the insults are always general - not one has any detail where they quote the Editor/WFP and then say exactly what they think is wrong with what's written.

'Eve' says twice that the Editor puts videos on YouTube about buses. Not true, he's never put any videos about anything on YouTube or anywhere else. This is false and designed to make him look a bit sad, we guess. He is interested in public transport (obviously, see Transport News) and take photos of buses etc for WFP and national articles he writes.



Jo Gray, Kayleigh Kavanagh & Paul Laing thought the account was fake, but set up by us. Why would we set up ourselves for a load of abuse? On a Tuesday when the group is flooded with adverts? And without promoting the WFP website address?

We will never stoop to the depths of the Wetherby Mafia and set up fake accounts, see below. How sad is that? Facebook is a SOCIAL media, all personal profiles should show a face and some other evidence they are who they say they are.

'Eve Jackson's profile has NO details about herself to verify, just one picture. So we messaged 'Eve' to verify her identity: "Hi Eve, please could you send me something that proves you're a genuine supporter of myself and WFP, and that you are Eve Jackson eg letters with your name on (address not necessary of course). And tell me what you like about it so much. Thanks."

If she was such a fan, she would have responded. All the evidence points to a fake profile. Wetherby Mafia again?

We Say: All Faceless (Fake) Personal Facebook Accounts should be Removed by Group Admin

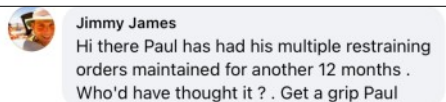
Case 2 - Jimmy James

There is NO doubt

the account of 'Jimmy James' is fake and set up by the Wetherby Mafia purely to harass the Editor. The character has posted many times on the Editor's posts with insults and immature wind-ups. Whoever is behind it needs to seek help. It is not normal behaviour to go to such extreme lengths. We must try to pity such people.

We strongly suspect that Richard Tingler is also a fake profile.

We'll run groups, like Boston Spa Grumbler, removed both 'Jimmy' and 'Richard Tingler' from their group, for which we thank them.



One of 'Jimmy's' less offensive comments but factually incorrect on two counts

The efforts of 'Jimmy James' and his ilk, have resulted in increased donations to the Free Press, from those who already donate and new donators have come forward. We are very grateful. It shows the good people of the Wetherby area know instinctively when something is wrong - everybody should have the right to defend their reputation.



We See It - We Say It! Let's Make Our Town Look Better



Attracting Flyposters



NatWest closed for One Year Now



Empty for Many Years in Market Place

Cross Street has had empty shops for a long time, looking unloved. It gives a poor impression of the town.

Harrogate Have Motivation & Imagination - Why Don't We?



We've raised this before and nothing's been done. What are Wetherby Town Council, Wetherby Business Association, landlords, owners & property management Companies doing to make our empty premises look more attractive? Why don't they ask local artists, advertising agencies or schools to help?

Well Done, Boston Spa!



Make It Look Dynamic!



Leeds

We don't want to turn into Tad!



Property on Kirkgate in Tadcaster

Fancy That!

POST OFFICE THE GENEROUS FUJITSU BOSS & THE TORIES

Every picture tells a story...

EVIDENCE obtained by the Eye of cosiness at the top of the Post Office, its IT supplier Fujitsu and the governing Tory party at the height of the cover-up of Britain's largest miscarriage of justice poses serious questions about collusion, the suitability of the current postal services minister to handle the fall-out, and even a new cover-up within the cover-up.

In autumn 2014, the Post Office was trying to keep a...

TABLE TALK: At the 2014 Carlton dinner were (front) Lucy Frazer, Liz Truss MP, Andrea Jenkyns and Paula Vennells; and (back) best Simon Blagden, Kevin Hollinrake, AN Other and then-MP Sir Jim Paice

Ever wonder why the Politicians weren't keen to involve themselves with the largest ever miscarriage of justice this country has ever seen?

The truth will out and you can only find it in publications like *Private Eye*. Donations, massive government contracts and cosy relationships may give you a clue. Read the latest issue for more, see left.

Any why weren't the BBC enthusiastic about publicising this scandal? Reasons are in *Media News* on Page 19.

You are naïve if you think this sort of cosiness does not go on in towns and cities too. It's an even smaller world so it's easier for those in authority to stick together and threaten, influence, bribe or ignore the people who may expose it. They think they are untouchable.

But the Truth Always Comes Out in the end though, usually when somebody with a conscience does the right thing or a mistake is made.



£2.99 off the shelf, £1.73 with subs

Thank You for Supporting 9 Truth & Free Speech

State of Professional Football in Yorkshire

Watching Aston Villa put four goals past Sheffield United in the first 30 mins of a recent game, the question rose in my mind (again) 'Why is Yorkshire so poor at football?'. The Blades were at home and playing for pride as their relegation from the Premiership at the end of the season is a certainty. It ended 5 - 0 and as the joke goes, they were lucky to get 0.

I take an interest in all Yorkshire teams, except those in the East - Hull etc.

Let's look at Leeds United first. It has massive support, as it should do - most other big cities have 2 teams to share the fans, like Manchester, Liverpool and Sheffield. So why can't Leeds be like Everton, with a permanent place in the Premier League? Is the character of the city itself to blame with its lack of ambition? We don't even have a tram! We don't excel in very much so why should we in football? When we do reach the dizzy heights of the Premiership, it's not long before we're down again. The days of winning the First Division in 1992 are a distant memory of over 30 years ago now.



Beer, Not Champagne (for 30+ Yrs)

WHY?

is great rival Lancashire so successful with City, United & Liverpool?

Like Leeds, Sheffield United have great support who deserve more than a flirting relationship with the top league. It's a club with a magnificent history too, as has city rivals Wednesday. The Owls look like being relegated to the third tier this season. The drop is a dead cert for neighbours Rotherham who are rock bottom. The oddly named New York Stadium is a fine theatre for the Beautiful Game so why no success?

Barnsley are in the third tier and the final South Yorkshire team, Doncaster, has no airport now and probably no League football next season.

Bradford City were in the Prem in living memory but now in Lge 2, old Div 4.

Do you have a theory why success has eluded our Yorkshire teams? Share it with us. I know it's only a game and 'it really don't mean a hill of beans' (as the Beverley Hillbillies would say) but it greatly affects Leeds stature as a leading European city.

FIXTURES

Utd v Rotherham on Sat 10 Feb at 15.00

Swansea v Utd on Tue 13 Feb at 19.45

Plymouth v Utd on Sat 17 Feb at 12.30

Your Community Newsletter

Editor: Paul Kirby



Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me
Tel: 07840 862861 Twitter/X: @wbyfreepress

Everyone mentioned in the WFP has a right to reply. The reply will be published unedited.

If facts are wrong, we will apologise publicly and correct the error.

We don't do interviews, as we are part-timers and aren't trained in short-hand. We are not 'journalists' - we say what we see. Simples.

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. We or you cannot be sued for libel/defamation as long as what is published is:

True or Honest Opinion or in the Public Interest

Unjustifiable threats of legal action can be seen as harassment

The Editor has had 4 'Meet the Editor' events so far. None of our harshest critics have ever turned up to have a civilised debate.

Please donate online at

www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press

to cover printing costs

Thank you

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



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1/4 A4 page (size B/C) - £40 or £130 for 4 issues

1/2 A4 page (size D) - £60 or £200 for 4

Sponsorship on front page - £25

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NEXT ISSUE Early March 2024



News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press

In response to the same old stuff our critics love to trot out, here are some facts for them.

"You're not a journalist" Correct, I'm not, there are none in Wetherby. I do have high standards and the qualities and skills of a professional journalist, though.



"What do you do for the community?" Not that it's any of your business how I spend my spare time, but I:

- ⇒ volunteer for a Community Interest Company
- ⇒ campaign on transport issues (got buses on Boxing Day)
- ⇒ have raised over £1500 for Cancer Research in last 3 years (and put nearly £1500 into the coffers of a local independent business in the town).

Oh, and I edit a community newsletter promoting many good people, events and organisations, and Free Speech.

(And pick up litter near my house, and glass bottles

everywhere)

I don't need or expect any recognition for my good deeds. I state them here because critics keep on asking. I will leave them here until they stop asking.

In 2023 we Supported **25** Local Charities & Organisations

Send us your

to WetherbyFreePress@PM.me



In Sept 2022 we had over 2500 online readers