



ISSUE 9  
until  
Thurs  
6 Jan 22

# Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

online at [www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press](http://www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press)

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#Big  
Thank  
You



Wetherby Ladies  
Forum



To All Our Supporters this Year \* *Castlegate Stationers* \* *Pubs* \* *Costello's Gourmet Café* \* *Bob Shop* *Mason House Stores* \* *C'est Chocolat* \* & many others \*

To



You

1500+ online  
visitors last  
month  
A 20%  
increase from  
Sept

## World-Leading Covid Testing Company here in Wetherby

**Avacta is a multi-million pound scientific company** spun-out from the University of Leeds, with its Diagnostics division based at Thorp Arch. Whilst developing its own pipeline of high-performing diagnostics in-house, the company also working with partners world-wide to maximise the licensing potential of its novel technology platforms and improve the clinical use of disease testing solutions.

Our Correspondent writes: **Tests, Jabs, more Tests, more Jabs .... and so it goes on!**

Here we are nearly two years into the COVID-19 pandemic and this company has developed possibly the best lateral flow test (LFT) in the world. But unfortunately for the UK they can only sell it to EU countries because they don't have the regulatory approval here currently.

The Cochrane review of Covid tests found an overall success rate of 72% in people with symptoms and the UK government has spent £billions importing millions of tests for which they granted Emergency Use Orders. The Avacta test demonstrates 98% sensitivity and 99% specificity, including detecting new variants of the virus, and only has to be inserted 1 to 2cm into the nose, instead of the deeper Chinese brain-ticklers we all know and (not) love!



Better testing and vaccines can help to make supermarket queuing unnecessary in 2022

If 28 cases per 100 are not being picked up by LFTs (as opposed to 1 - 2 per hundred for the Avacta test) there is little benefit in the use of tests as I see it, but I defer to others more scientifically orientated than myself!

For those that want an accurate test though - why not let them buy a test on the free market and protect themselves? And support local business as well? Speaking generally, I wonder what incentive do businesses have to invest in new products if the government has such a seemingly dysfunctional regulatory process.

### BREAKING NEWS

Dr Alastair Smith, CEO of Avacta says "We are delighted to confirm that the AffiDX® SARS-CoV-2 antigen lateral flow test detects the **Omicron variant**. As this variant is more infectious, it is important that it can be detected in individuals with higher viral loads using lateral flow tests so that its spread can be slowed down.

We are progressing with our application in order to put the AffiDX® product on the market in the UK, as well as continuing to pursue commercial opportunities in Europe and further afield for the professional-use test. We also continue to work with our partners to obtain the CE mark for consumer self-testing for the product which is a critical next step in the commercialisation of the product."

**We Wish Them Well**

**Wishing All Our Readers a Wonderful Christmas!**

### Inside

What's On

Bus Services over  
Festive Period

Alec Shelbrooke

Has Bielsa's  
Bubble Burst?

New £25m  
High School

Fatal Crash  
near YO1

Drink Driving  
Campaign Stats

You're Having  
a Larf!

# The Alec Shelbrooke (Half) 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.

His email is [alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk).

From Dec '19 to Nov '21 he has voted 357 times (out of 392) and has never rebelled against his party whip - source [www.publicwhip.org.uk](http://www.publicwhip.org.uk)

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

A rare appearance in the national media



Alec in town

Below are Tweets from Alec from 4 Dec to 22 Dec, related to Wetherby area or general matters, excluding Retweets. He has 15,800 followers.

12 Dec - Alec tells us to "Get Boosted" with an NHS ad attached

14 Dec - 99 Conservatives vote against COVID-19 passes. Alec was not one of them. No Tweet

16 Dec - Safe Tory seat won by Lib-dems in by-election. No Tweet.

20 & 21 Dec - 2 Booster tweets. 1m jobs 'amazing achievement'

**A COMMONS** heckle from Tory Alec Shelbrooke earned a threat from speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle that if he didn't behave himself he could find himself kicked off the parliamentary Nato delegation. Hoyle is unlikely to follow through on that, but his remark shone rare light on one of Westminster's jammiest freebies. There are 18 MPs and peers on the delegation and they have a high time legging it to Nato conferences: last month Barcelona, before that Belgrade, Vilnius, Ankara, Brussels and so forth. Shelbrooke, a forthright trencherman but with little obvious expertise in defence matters, chairs the UK delegation. Others on this top-slicing body include Tory former transport minister Nusrat Ghani, Labour's corporate emoluments queen Lady Kingsmill and ex-Bexley councillor Abena Oppong-Asare, and coming-men Lords (Ming) Campbell and (Archie) Hamilton, who with a combined age of 159 are just the pair to take on the military might of Moscow and Beijing.

...aid she was "doing an excellent job standing in  
**PRIVATE EYE** 10 Dec 21

It is a sad state of affairs when the WFP gets more response from Otley's MP than our own.

We wish Alec and his family all the best for the festive period and hope he decides to be more open and accountable with his electorate in the New Year. We would like to know what he thinks about issues and be provided with explanations for his actions, particularly on controversial votes. If not directly to us, then on his Twitter feed or any other social media, and we will report that.

Is it too much to expect that our representatives have opinions? From Boris's Behaviour to Bus Stops?

Otherwise we may as well vote for robots to represent us.

Opinion Please



Old New  
Visual Improvement?

Be Wise & Check before Going!

## WHAT'S ON THIS CHRISTMAS 2021

The Engine Shed  
Wetherby  
WEDDINGS • PARTIES • EVENTS

Fri 31 Dec That's What We Call NYE! £15  
Fancy Dress encouraged. Hot snack included.  
7.30pm - 2am  
Contact [clare@engineshedwetherby.co.uk](mailto:clare@engineshedwetherby.co.uk)

Wetherby Film Theatre

[www.wetherbyfilmtheatre.com](http://www.wetherbyfilmtheatre.com)  
Main Features are:



**Encanto**

Rating: PG Duration: 1 hr 40mins

Walt Disney's "Encanto" tells the tale of an extraordinary family, the Madrigals, who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia, in a magical house, in a vibrant town, in a wondrous, charmed place called an Encanto. The magic of the Encanto has blessed every child in the family with a unique gift from super strength to the power to heal - every child except one, Mirabel. But when she discovers that the magic surrounding the Encanto is in danger, Mirabel decides that she, the only ordinary Madrigal, might just be her exceptional family's last hope.



**West Side Story**

Rating: 12A Duration: 2 hrs 36mins  
Directed by Steven Spielberg, it tells the classic tale of fierce rivalries and young love...



**Spider-Man: No Way Home**

Rating: 12A Duration: 2 hrs 30mins  
With his identity now revealed, Peter asks Doctor Strange for help. When a spell goes wrong, dangerous foes from other worlds start to appear, forcing Peter to discover what it truly means to be Spider-Man.

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# Readership Growing

The figures below are for online readers.

We also print 1000 copies of each issue. Distributed to care homes, vets, dentists, surgeries, pubs, cafes, building societies, churches, hairdressers & many other places in town where people wait and meet.

## Your November Analytics Highlights WIX

### Your Key Stats

See how your site performed compared to last month

SITE SESSIONS

**1,582** +20%



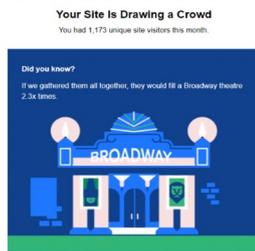
### Visitors and Traffic Sources

NEW VISITORS

**73%** +29%

RETURNING VISITORS

**27%** +17%



**Wetherby Businesses - Ask your advertiser to PROVE their readership**

# ← Advertisers - Please Note

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Future Issues:

Issue 9 on Thurs 23 Dec - online only

Issue 10 on Thurs 6 Jan - online only

Issue 11 on Fri 21 Jan

**Please Donate to Keep Us Going. Even a fiver would help. Thank You**

# TRANSPORT NEWS

## Christmas Eve Last Buses

### 7 to Harrogate & Leeds

6.20pm Harrogate to Leeds

7.20pm Harrogate to finish at Wetherby at 7.40pm

7.20pm Leeds to Harrogate

### X98 to Leeds

18.34 (X98) from D Bar & 18.03 (X99) from Wby B Sta to Leeds

17.33 (X98) & 18.03 (X99) from Leeds to Wetherby



**Bank Hol Mon & Tues - Sunday service**

**Wed 29 & 30 Dec - Saturday service**

**N Years Eve - Saturday service until evening, same last times as Christmas Eve**

Be Wise & Check on Bus Checker App, Twitter, Metro website etc



## Boxing Day X98 to Leeds



All single fares only £1 and under 19s can travel free with adults. All MCards, concessionary fares and operator season tickets valid.

Wetherby - Leeds

| Days                       | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Service No                 | X98   |
| <b>Trip Note Code</b>      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Wetherby Bus Station       | 09:05 | 10:05 | 11:05 | 12:05 | 13:05 | 14:05 | 15:05 | 16:05 | 17:05 |
| Collingham Old Star Garage | 09:10 | 10:10 | 11:10 | 12:10 | 13:10 | 14:10 | 15:10 | 16:10 | 17:10 |
| Red Hall Lane              | 09:24 | 10:24 | 11:24 | 12:24 | 13:24 | 14:24 | 15:24 | 16:24 | 17:24 |
| Leeds Boar Lane            | 09:55 | 10:55 | 11:55 | 12:55 | 13:55 | 14:55 | 15:55 | 16:55 | 17:55 |

Leeds - Wetherby

| Days                       | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    | \$    |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Service No                 | X98   |
| <b>Trip Note Code</b>      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Leeds Boar Lane            | 09:05 | 10:05 | 11:05 | 12:05 | 13:05 | 14:05 | 15:05 | 16:05 | 17:05 |
| Roundhay Road Gledhow Wood | 09:25 | 10:25 | 11:25 | 12:25 | 13:25 | 14:25 | 15:25 | 16:25 | 17:25 |
| Red Hall Lane              | 09:37 | 10:37 | 11:37 | 12:37 | 13:37 | 14:37 | 15:37 | 16:37 | 17:37 |
| Collingham Old Star Garage | 09:50 | 10:50 | 11:50 | 12:50 | 13:50 | 14:50 | 15:50 | 16:50 | 17:50 |
| Wetherby Bus Station       | 09:56 | 10:56 | 11:56 | 12:56 | 13:56 | 14:56 | 15:56 | 16:56 | 17:56 |

MetroLine 0113 245 7676 Open Christmas Eve 7am - 6pm. Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day. Open 27 Dec to 31 Dec 8am to 6pm. New Year's Day closed. Open 2 & 3 Jan 8am to 6pm.

Visit [wymetro.com](http://wymetro.com) for timetables or your next bus information.

Or keep up to date at [@MetroTravelNews](https://twitter.com/MetroTravelNews) or [westyorkshiremetro](https://www.facebook.com/westyorkshiremetro)



**Fares still only after 7pm until 31 December**



Facebook & Twitter Messages relating to Wetherby

8 Dec - 23 Dec

17 Dec - Appeal for Info on Fatal Accident below

21 Dec - Drink Driving Campaign for all West Yorkshire. Arrests:

Drink Driving 147 Drug Driving 73

Failing to Provide a Sample 14

**Total of 234 Arrests in 21 Days (11 per day)**

*No figures for Leeds North East Division*

*No Report on Wetherby PACT meeting of 7 Dec.*



On their website: Neighbourhood Priorities for Wetherby (current 17 Dec)

Public Priority - Anti-social Behaviour

Police Priority - Residential Burglary

*Priorities and text are exactly the same as those on 8 Sept which we reported in Issue 4.*

Stuck in a queue?



Check Out @YappAppLtd on Twitter  
It's a Superb Source of Police Incidents

Follow the herds of happy customers to  
**Fox Saddlers**  
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**BRR... Winter is here at Fox Saddlers, Northgates and we are stocked and ready!**

Top brands to suit every budget from HKM - Barbour, Ariat - Hogg's of Fife and many more!

Waterproof footwear for adults and children from just £39.99  
Dubarry, Le Chemeau, Barbour, Tredstep and Ariat footwear to name a few available in womens and mens with something to suit all calf sizes.

Hats, headbands, gloves, scarves, umbrellas, even country coffee cups for those chilly morning brews!

\*\*\* Free car park opposite the store - suitable for all size vehicles inc lorries & trailers \*\*\*

Shop online at: [www.foxsaddlers.co.uk](http://www.foxsaddlers.co.uk)  
Tel: 01937 586070 Email: [admin@foxsaddlers.co.uk](mailto:admin@foxsaddlers.co.uk)  
Find us on Facebook, Instagram & Tik Tok to keep up to date!

**BOSTON SPA VILLAGE HALL**  
**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2022**

Good idea for a Christmas Present!

**WB WILD BOYS**

**THE ULTIMATE LIVE 80S BAND!**

COVERING ALL THE GREAT ARTISTS FROM THE BEST DECADE IN MUSIC, THE 80S!

Doors 7:30pm on stage 8:30pm Bring your own drinks & glasses

Tickets £25 - all proceeds to Boston Spa Village Hall funds  
Available from Douglas Yeardon Hardware Store, High Street, Boston Spa LS23 6BH (cash only)  
Further details from Heather on 07593 555113

[www.wildboysband.co.uk](http://www.wildboysband.co.uk)

Tragic Accident near YO1 on York Rd

A motorcyclist died last week on the B1224 by the racecourse. Two vehicles travelling in opposite directions collided with each other. The 53 year-old man was riding a blue Yamaha motorbike, which was hit by a silver Mercedes on Thursday 16 December at about 4.30pm. Police are appealing for information and asking anyone who witnessed the collision or saw



the movements of the vehicles before the collision, is asked to contact 101, quoting reference 13210649909. Anyone with Dashcam footage is also asked to contact 101 or alternatively you can contact them via the website

[www.westyorkshire.police.uk/101livechat](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/101livechat)

You're having a larf!

What did one Christmas tree say to another? *Lighten up!*

What nationality is Santa Claus? *North Polish*

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?

*He got 25 days.*

What did the third wise man say after his friends had already presented gold and frankincense?

*"But wait, there's myrrh!"*

What is a parent's favorite Christmas carol? *Silent Night*

What do you call a child who doesn't believe in Santa? *Rebel without a Claus*

How do you know when Santa's around? *You can always sense his presents*

Why does Santa hate going down the chimney? *Because he's Claus-trophobic*

Why are Christmas trees bad at sewing? *They have a habit of dropping their needles*

Do not forget to get enough food for 27 days as the shops will be shut for 12 hours over Xmas.

First images emerge of the vaccine passport accepted by nightclub bouncers...



Thanks to Rob Theweneti for these two above

Benefits of serving Green Tea to guests:

1. You look rich
2. Save money on milk
3. You don't need to serve biscuits
4. They won't ask for more.
5. They won't come again



## New High School for £25m in 3 years time

The rebuild scheme could be financed by selling off some of the school's land for housing, reducing the total size of the playing field area by nearly a half (18.3 acres to 10.5).

The school is in an 'extremely poor' condition, according to Leeds City Council, and has needed £2.5m for maintenance work in the last 5 years. Fears were raised that it would have to close due to health and safety concerns if nothing is done.

Cllr Alan Lamb (Conservative) said that he supports the 'ambitious, complicated and complex scheme'. He praised Leeds City Cllr Jonathan Pryor (Labour), Executive Member for Education, who 'has been willing to work and engage with us'.



Image courtesy of Wikiwand

Not included in the rebuild is a new sixth form, which stopped taking on new pupils in 2019. Council officers reported accommodating 16 to 18 year-olds would still not be "financially sustainable".

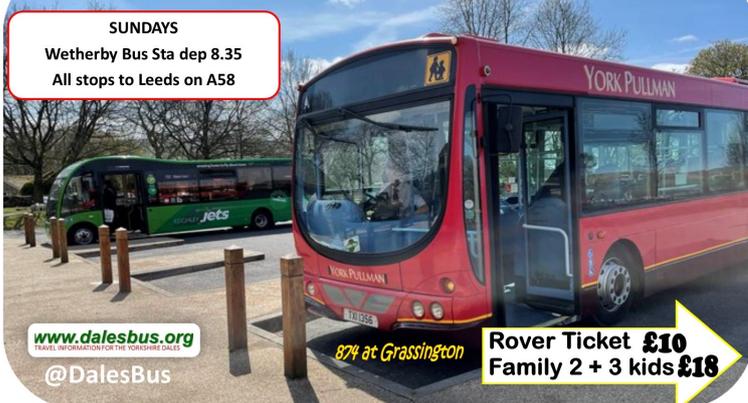
The plans with an expected completion date of September 2024 were met with scepticism by some Wetherby residents. One said on social media that we've been here before, when their son was at school 14 years ago. Others pointed out that more houses meant more traffic in the area and more community facilities would be needed, especially doctors and dentists.

## Visit the Dales throughout Winter

874 to Bolton Abbey - Grassington - Kettlewell - Buckden

SUNDAYS

Wetherby Bus Sta dep 8.35  
All stops to Leeds on A58



www.dalesbus.org

@DalesBus

874 at Grassington

Rover Ticket £10  
Family 2 + 3 kids £18

Timetables at Library



FREE trip out for the elderly and other ENCTS Passholders

Runs on Bank Hols:

Mon 27 Dec

Tues 28 Dec

Sun 2 Jan

Mon 3 Jan

Be Wise & Check on Twitter & Website for Cancellations, Delays etc

Sport



It's been a rough run-up to Christmas for Yorkshire's only Premier League team. United had a humiliating 7 - 0 defeat at Manchester City then lost 4 - 1 at home to Arsenal in the only top flight game on 18 Dec which wasn't postponed due to Covid.

No let up in the schedule - the red side of Scouseland is next, on Boxing Day.

Christmas Joke for Marcelo, to cheer him up a little:

What are the best Christmas sweaters made from? Fleece Navidad



Troubling Times at Elland Road

Paul Kirby

- Liverpool v Utd on Sun 26 Dec at 12.30 live on **BT SPORT**
- Utd v Aston Villa on Tue 28 Dec at 17.30 live on **prime video**
- Utd v Burnley on Sun 2 Jan at 14.00



Harrogate Town FC suffered their 3rd defeat in a row on 18 Dec, losing 1 - 0 at Sutton. They are 10th in League 2. There's a Yorkshire derby against Bradford on Boxing Day.

- Bradford City v **Town** on Sun 26 Dec at 15.00
- Town** v Mansfield on Wed 29 Dec at 19.45
- Town** v Port Vale on Sat 1 Jan at 15.00



Coincidentally there is another Yorkshire derby against a Bradford team on Boxing Day, and again on 2 Jan!! Like Harrogate, they are 10th in their league, National League North.

- Bradford Park Ave v **City** on Sun 26 Dec at 15.00
- City** v Alfreton on Tue 28 Dec at 15.00
- City** v Bradford Park Ave on Sun 2 Jan at 15.00



Wetherby Races BOXING DAY Sun 26 & Mon 27 Dec First Race about midday

Shuttle Bus from Bus Station



v



Sun 26 Dec KO 11.30  
Headingley Stadium  
Adult £20 - 25

Wetherby Whaler Festive Challenge

Be Wise & Check your Event is Still On Before Going!

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## THE SIMPLE FACTS - 8 Newsletters

### Costs (minimum)

Printing (1000 copies each issue) - £1790

### Income

Donations £610

Advertising £685

Total Income - £1295

**Loss of £495**

It would be a great shame if we had to go online only.

Please donate or advertise if you want us to continue as a proper newsletter in print. If just 500 readers donated £5 each, we could keep going for 6 more months.

Account Name: Paul Kirby  
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