



ISSUE 8
until
Thurs
23 Dec

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

online at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press

Editor *Paul Kirby* WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter: @WbyFreePress

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You

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Reader Stats - see Page 4

To



You

1500+ online
visitors last
month

A 20%
increase from
Sept

Wetherby - A Town of Contrasts

Walk around Wetherby town centre and you would recognise the image of a wealthy town in the 'Golden Triangle' of Harrogate, York & Leeds. More Range Rovers than you can shake a stick at, and plenty of Bentleys, Ferraris and the odd Lamborghini/Maserati too. Estate agents will never go out of business when house prices are at the eye-watering levels they are currently, for even the most basic of accommodation. There is a lot of money around here, in assets at least, and it's not just Premier League footballers.

Then there is the other, mostly unseen, side of our town. Many people are trying to survive on low incomes and benefits, and who need the safety net of a foodbank. Some of our residents may not even be aware of the existence of the Wetherby Foodbank.

Foodbanks are grassroots, community organisations aimed at supporting people who cannot afford the essentials in life. These are the facts from the charity Trussell Trust which supports a nationwide network of foodbanks and campaigns for change to end the need for them in the UK. Between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021, foodbanks in the Trussell Trust's UK wide network distributed 5100 emergency food parcels a day to people in crisis. This is an increase of 11% compared to the same period in 2019.



Nice motors by the Town Hall

Alarmingly, families with children have been hit the hardest, with food parcels for children increasing at double the rate for adults. Between 1 April to 30 September 2021, almost 2,000 parcels were provided for children every day, compared to almost 1,700 in 2019.

Not surprisingly, Kazia Knight, a Community Hero, is involved in the Wetherby Foodbank. She says "As the first Co-ordinator of the Foodbank back in 2014, I can say that our mission has always been the same, that is:

- ** To work alongside other Foodbank's, agents, charities and organisations to distribute any surplus food items and essentials to where they are needed
- ** To avoid waste and to honour our donors by ensuring all donations reach people experiencing hardship and need



Starting anything from scratch, like the Foodbank, meant we had to be resourceful and creative in getting premises, shelving and setting up the referral systems. Many agencies were involved, as well as organising volunteers in the warehouses and pick-up drivers. The need for the Foodbank has risen since the pandemic and anyone can access it. There are many, many reasons people need the support of Foodbanks and the support is there for all."

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Forum

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Jailed

Wetherby Foodbank cont'd

Bryony Hudson is the new Project Coordinator of Wetherby & District Foodbank, Charity No. 1157629, based at Thorp Arch. She tells us:

"At a local level, the last three months have seen the usual seasonal rise in foodbank activity. We weighed-in a total of 6761Kg during this period, with 1569Kg of donations in August, rising to 2166Kg in September. The impact of generous Harvest Festival donations can be seen in October with donations rising to 3026kg. We make sure donations reach the people who need them and not just those who can visit Barleyfields Distribution Centre. A total of 8264Kg was distributed in the last three months, including food parcels from Barleyfields; donations to food poverty charities within our district; and also donations to other Trussell Trust foodbanks within our wider region who are experiencing shortfalls."



RING 08082 082138 FOR
ADVICE AND A VOUCHER.

DROP IN 10-11
TUESDAY & FRIDAY



Wetherby & District Foodbank has a new fundraising page on CAF Donate, which you can access at

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18960>

You can make a one-off donation, or set up a regular donation of an amount and frequency of your choosing.

They are very grateful for all gifts, big or small and emphasise that your donations do transform people's lives. They hope you will continue to support them through these difficult times.

More details can be found at www.wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk and @WBYFoodbank on Twitter

The Wetherby Free Press believes this is a local charity worth supporting. If you can afford to, please contribute to its funding or buy some food in Morrisons, Sainsburys & Coop and place it in the Foodbank cages. If you would like to become a volunteer, contact Bryony on bryony@wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk or call 07840 455725

BOSTON SPA VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 22nd JANUARY 2022

Good idea for a Christmas Present!

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Further details from Heather on 07593 555113

www.wildboysband.co.uk

Wetherby on Telly



If you thought Julian Norton & co had disappeared from our screens for 2021, you'd be mistaken.

There's a *Christmas Special*, details above, based on the 1946 Christmas classic 'It's A Wonderful Life' and stars 'All Creatures Great & Small' legend Peter Davison.

In the original film, a guardian angel called Clarence shows James Stewart's character how many lives he's touched. In this version, 'It's A Wonderful Vet's Life', an angelic Peter Davison reminds Peter Wright just how important a role he and his fellow vets play in our lives, through some wonderful stories featuring Julian.



For more vet drama, watch James Herriot on C5's 'All Creatures Great & Small' *Christmas Special* on Christmas Eve at 9pm.



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TRANSPORT NEWS

Vehicle Blocking Bus Station Exit Again!



It seems common sense to have double red lines and/or large lettering of "BUS EXIT" next to Moji's and opposite Moji's with zig zag lines for good measure. But the Editor is no expert on these complicated issues!

Fuel prices for Unleaded: Correct on Wed 8 Dec to nearest penny

Morrisons £1.47 Shell £1.52

Back to 5p difference. £2.75 difference to fill av. tank



Just a week after the Editor witnessed a vehicle holding a bus up, it happened again. This time the bus driver got out, took a photo and exchanged a few words with the van driver.

The Editor wrote to the same people as last time (bus co's, a cllr, Metro/ WYCA informing them of these facts with the photo and gave his opinion that this is clearly a common occurrence.

Cllr Lamb replied saying that it should be reported to the Police. He has asked Leeds City Council officers to review the situation but said it "will take a while if they decide to change anything".

The Editor felt it unnecessary to report it to the Police as the driver was obviously going to report it to his managers at Harrogate Bus Company and presumably they would do so. The Editor thought it more effective to inform those who could deal with the cause not the effect.

New Bus Tickets & Fares for First Buses

Route X98/99 to Leeds

From Mon 13 Dec there are changes to First Bus Tickets & Prices. They have done away with boundaries and therefore the FirstDay (DayRider) Leeds ticket will be valid throughout West Yorkshire ie on their buses in Bradford, Halifax & Huddersfield. They are introducing a Tap On Tap Off (TOTO) system, only to be used if you think the trips you take will be less than £5.20, the cost of their day ticket valid on their buses only.

If you use other company's buses, there is Metro's MetroDay on their pink Mcard, which can cost as low as £5 per day. Valid throughout West Yorkshire. The First Bus new maximum single is £2.90, though their simple £2 flat fare mTicket is still available on the First Bus App.

You can now ask for a Return Ticket for the first time.

As a regular bus user, the Editor wonders whether people will bother to Tap On & Off to save not a lot of money when a return ticket is available and a day ticket is £5.20. A lot of expensive tech for little return? What do you think?

X98 heading over the bridge to Leeds 11 months ago



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.

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

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



So here's a summary of what we found on Alec's Twitter account from 24 Nov, related to Wetherby area or general matters, excluding Retweets. He has 15,800 followers.

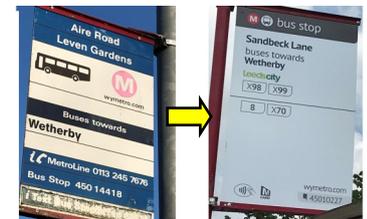
24 Nov - "The U.K. delegation to @natopapress continues dialogue on NATO's Northern Flank today, discussing evolving security challenges, particularly in the High North, and rising tensions between allies and Russia"

3 Dec - He congratulated the new Kent Conservative MP elected day before

Alec appeared on ITV's Calendar on 1 Dec, supporting council tenants to be evicted in Oulton. He blamed the Labour-run Leeds City Council for their predicament. Nothing on his Twitter feed about his appearance.

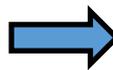
We have previously asked Alec what he thinks of the new bus stop flags in Wetherby, compared to the old. And Metro/WYCA's poor abysmal performance in putting them up - See Issue 2 for details. No response from him.

Otley's MP Alex Sobel (Labour) takes an interest in bus matters. He says on the Otley Facebook group "I met with First Bus on Friday, following a deluge of complaints from constituents about the service and unreliability of the X84 following Covid. I have also had my own problems with this service. I understand that there have been huge staffing challenges for First and that congestion and the pandemic play their part in unreliable services. But it feels like for 10 years I have been meeting with First about their service and we have not seen any significant improvement in that time. London also has congestion problems and driver issues, but their service is much better than ours. I am pleased that we will see improved real time information and integrated ticketing, but we must see improvement in basic service. Please keep writing to me and I will continue to put pressure on the company to deal with these issues."



Old
New
Visual Improvement?

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The figures below are for online readers. Add to that our 1000 printed copies, assume 2 people read each one, and each issue has well over 2,500 readers.

Your November Analytics Highlights Wix

Your Key Stats

See how your site performed compared to last month

SITE SESSIONS

1,582 +20%

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This month, you increased traffic to your site by 20%. Nice work.

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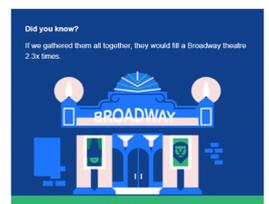
RETURNING VISITORS

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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

Wetherby Businesses - Ask your advertiser to PROVE their readership

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Got an Opinion? Please Tell Us

You're having a larf!

I was taking the pos out of a bloke wearing a ridiculous wig today. He had the last laugh though. Sentenced me to three years. 😞😞

Sitting on a Fortune, ITV
Gary Lineker asks "The Bermuda Triangle is where - Dead Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean or Loch Ness?"
Contestant "Loch Ness"
Source: Private Eye No 1561



Excessive Packaging or what! Big box with bubble wrap for the cardboard (displays) on the left



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Facebook & Twitter Messages relating to Wetherby

25 Nov - 8 Dec

25 Nov - "We conducted an operation over 3 days in Wetherby and Harewood with Environmental Health looking at fly tipping, speeding and other issues". Total of 23 actions:

Tickets for Speeding x 8	for Traffic Offences x 3
Reports for Summons x 1	Vehicle Seizure x 1
Drugs Offence x 1	Council Offences x 10

6 Dec - "next Wetherby PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 7 December at 6.30pm at the Methodist Church, Bank Street, Wetherby."



Anyone know where this location is in Wetherby & Harewood Area? We asked but no response.



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Superb Source of News



It's YOUR Newsletter

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Please Donate & Keep Us Going

Democracy in Action - Spotlight on Our Town Councillors

We contacted **Cllr David Frame** with our usual questions. He responded:



"I have been a resident of Wetherby since 1997 and was elected a Councillor for the West Ward of Wetherby Town Council in May 2015. I am a former Student Director and Governor of Wetherby High School and keep a keen interest in developments of all education matters in the town, although as you may be aware this is not a function of the Town Council.

I don't intend to answer the questions you have posed as the information you are looking for is available on the Town Council website. Additionally there is an open forum at the start of every Town Council meeting where members of the public, such as yourself, can come and ask questions of the Council."

Like Cllrs Bennett, Bradley, Buckle and Chapman before him, Cllr Frame does not wish to provide the following information about himself:

1 His party (it is STILL not stated on Town Council website) 2 How many phone calls or emails from constituents he receives or sends every month on average. 3 How many visits to constituents he makes or receives every month. 4 How many hours on

average he spends on council duties per month. 5 Achievements / Difficult Case where he helped a resident. 6 His Frustrations and Joys of being a Town Councillor. 7 What role he thinks party politics play in this town council.

We received no response from any of our councillors about the comment that the all-Conservative **Wetherby Town Council is "non political"**, made by Cllr Harry Chapman as reported in the last issue. Somewhat disturbing is the fact that the Town Clerk has not provided us with a reason for the political allegiance of the councillor not being stated anywhere on the Town Council website.

ON THE BUSES

Craig's Tales

craig@connexionsbuses.com

ON THE BUSES

Alex Hornby of Harrogate Bus Company is a columnist for the Wetherby News. He promotes his services and bus travel in general. Nothing wrong with that at all. In the interest of fairness, we offered his competitor on the Wetherby - Harrogate route, Connexions the same opportunity.

"Welcome to my first column on bus matters. I hope you find it interesting and informative.

I am **Craig Temple, Managing Director of Connexions buses**, a local company owned by myself and my wife. We are based in Tockwith and operate school services as well as routes, like the X70 to Harrogate & 923 to Otley from Wetherby.

It's been very challenging for all bus companies through the pandemic, as the government messages for a long time were to avoid public transport, although we knew it was safe to carry on using it. We've battled through and customers are coming back slowly, but industry thinking is that, at best, we will return to only 80% of customers based on numbers from before Covid.

It was great to get back to what we specialise in - carrying pupils to schools in Harrogate, Knaresborough, Wetherby and Otley and for the most of it, everything ran very smoothly - we all thought life was returning to normal.

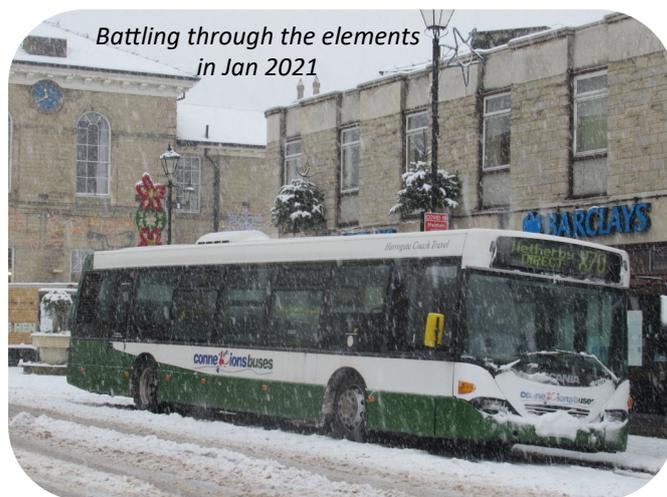
Customers began returning to buses slowly, and once the requirement to wear masks was removed, more customer confidence returned and customer numbers started increasing again. It was lovely to see and speak to our customers who had effectively been housebound for over 12 months.

Unfortunately, normality has been hampered by the traffic levels being worse than pre-covid with those who feel unsafe to use public transport, using cars causing worsening congestion and pollution. Buses and bus priorities are needed in order to keep town centres alive and in turn keep local shops viable from the customers that we bring. We had to retime a number of our services including the X70 buses to try and help their timekeeping because of the extra traffic

The other unexpected problem that bus operators have found since covid, is a major staffing shortage - I won't go into the reasons but needless to say, we are all trying our best and it has meant some changes to services, in order that we can provide all we intend to (congestion permitting).

We were hoping that things were improving, but as I write this, the PM has insisted that masks are once again worn on public transport. It is imperative that our customers - old, current and future, are aware that this does not mean that buses are unsafe.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a pleasant Christmas and hopefully a more normal New Year!"



Want to Write A Column?

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Get In Touch



The Starting Point Centre Child Contact Centre

Parent or Grandparent struggling to make contact with a child after a separation or divorce?

The Starting Point Centre is a child contact centre based in Chapel Allerton, Leeds. We help children meet up with their non-resident parents & other members of the family that they wouldn't normally get to see.

Call us today on:
0113 246 4940

referrals@thestartingpointcentre.co.uk
www.thestartingpointcentre.co.uk
201a Harrogate Road, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, LS7 3PT



Speakers at Wetherby Men's Forum

All on Wednesdays:

- 15 Dec Forum Christmas Lunch, Bridge Inn, Walshford
- 5 Jan Victor Hawkins - Wetherby Through Time
- 12 Jan David Sibbald - The Great British Songbook
- 19 Jan Chris Tapster - 45 Commando Royal Marines in The Falklands War
- 2 Feb Duncan Verity - Fun and Laughter
- 9 Feb Brian Hull - Parlington Hall
- 16 Feb Gillian Waters - English Civil War in Yorkshire



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WHAT'S ON THIS CHRISTMAS 2021



The Engine Shed
Wetherby
WEDDINGS • PARTIES • EVENTS

- Sat 11 Dec Christmas Party £30
 - Fri 17 Dec Christmas Bierkeller £18
 - Sat 18 Dec Christmas Disco £5
- Contact clare@engineshedwetherby.co.uk

Wetherby Film Theatre

www.wetherbyfilmtheatre.com
Main Features are:



House of Gucci

Rating: 15
Duration: 2 hrs 37mins

When Patrizia Reggiani, an outsider from humble beginnings, marries into the Gucci family, her unbridled ambition begins to unravel the family legacy and triggers a reckless spiral of betrayal, decadence, revenge and ultimately murder.

Director: Ridley Scott Stars: Lady Gaga, Adam Driver and Al Pacino



West Side Story

Rating: 12A
Duration: 2 hrs 36mins

Directed by Academy Award® winner Steven Spielberg, from a screenplay by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award® winner Tony Kushner, "West Side Story" tells the classic tale of fierce rivalries and young love...

- Sun 12 Dec **Dickensian Christmas Market & Craft Fayre** from 9 - 15.00
- Mon 13 Dec **Charity Carol Service** St James' Church at 19.30, £5
- Sat 18 Dec **The Messiah** St James' Church at 19.30, £18

Total of 24 Year Sentence for Wetherby Men

The two men were jailed after a vicious attack on a man following an earlier fight in a Wetherby pub. The fight occurred in the Black Bull in August 2019. Mark Sanderson and Louis Harrison later attacked the victim in his home with a hammer after breaking down his front door.

The victim suffered many wounds to his head, back and arms and left him with psychological scars. He suffers from epilepsy which has deteriorated as a result.

To find the victim's address the pair first went to another man's home. That man's property was threatened if he did not give them the information.

Sanderson of Croft Drive and Harrison of Hallfield Crescent both had previous convictions for violence. The defence lawyer for Sanderson said that he recognises that it was wrong and that he will be punished for it. Recorder Watson at Leeds Crown Court said: "You decided together that you would exact revenge on (the victim) and that is exactly what this was - an act of revenge."



Mark Sanderson

Louis Harrison

A Reader Writes:

“Dear Wetherby Free Press, Finally a newspaper that gets to the real issues in Wetherby!

After reading your excellent newspaper earlier this evening in a restaurant I felt compelled to write to you on account of the portion of chips. Last week my wife and I comfortably shared one portion. This week I estimate that we were between 15 to 20 chips short. For balance I should state that on one occasion we had excess chips as no less than 134 were left uneaten.

What are other peoples lived experiences on this matter? Is there an absolute number that people should get? Could we get a comment? Alongside your highly informative petrol prices it may be useful to also track chip numbers. As we know the Yorkshire Post wouldn't touch a story like this - to the detriment of us all.”

We welcome all letters, whatever their content, but see no reason why the author would not wish us to publish his name in this case; nothing controversial in it. Naturally, we respect anonymity for obvious reasons, like whistle-blowing, disputes & sensitive topics.



Sport



Leeds United scored a penalty in the last 5 mins against Palace at then end of Nov. The 1 - 0 win at Elland Road was a big relief. Marcelo was seen at his favourite café the next day.

In their next match at home against Brentford, Bamford scored in the last minute late but this time it was to equalise in a 2 - 2 draw with Brentford. Some mega-tough matches next:

Chelsea v **Utd** on Sat 11 Dec at 15.00

Man City v **Utd** v on Tue 14 Dec at 20.00 live on **BT SPORT 2**

Utd v Arsenal on Sat 18 Dec at 17.30 live on **sky sports**

Leeds have drawn high-flying West Ham in the FA Cup



Email WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

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Fridays Every 2 Weeks - Online & Print

Confirmation - There are no 'journalists' at WFP

The Editor is quite happy for people to inform him that he is not a 'journalist', usually meant as a jibe. He knows it and has never claimed to be one. 'Investigative journalist' is a role to be respected but they are a rare breed indeed nowadays - selling ads and producing online click-bait is the name of the game for newspapers today - many publications are in survival mode.

The Editor is quite happy being called an 'Editor' as he edits pieces that others write. He is also quite happy to be known as a 'writer' - he has written articles for national publications and the local press. 'Coordinator' and 'Publisher' would be accurate terms of description too. Ideally all the articles in this newsletter would be written by you, Wetherby area residents and he just coordinates and publishes it.

Labels are not important anyway. What matters is the quality of content of this newsletter and that it remains independent of all influences in a largely *chumocratical* (made-up word) town. We want to produce a free newsletter where people can enjoy freedom of expression, without fear (within the law).

We've also been asked: 'Where's your Code of Conduct?'

Organisations that spend taxpayers money do not have to have one. We don't spend taxpayers money but we actually do have a code. It has one sentence in it. Treat others as you would wish to be treated, always do the right thing and use **common sense**.

As you know everyone mentioned in this publication has a right to reply. We will publish it unedited. If we publish something that is not true, we will apologise and give it the same prominence as it was first published. Common sense.

If any of our critics would like to write a Code of Conduct for us, or amend one already written so that it is appropriate for a town's newsletter, please do so.

The Reason Coop Stopped Displaying WFP

Tom Cooledge, Corporate Comms Manager, wrote: "Thank you for your email. Just a brief line to confirm that the local team made the decision to withdraw the newsletter. Have a good afternoon."

No reason provided or who 'local team' was. So we wrote again to Coop CEO, Steve Murrells for an explanation and again Mr Cooledge responded. Again he gave us no reason for their sudden lack of support or what level of staff made the decision. We'll try once more.



Young fans at a German Bundesliga match enjoying a drink! No, it wasn't Hannover. Source: Soccer AM, Sky Showcase

Harrogate Town FC had a fantastic 2 - 1 victory in the FA Cup 2nd round against Portsmouth, who are a league above them. They play at Championship team Luton in the next round, possibly on TV. Big pay day if so.

Town v Northampton on Sat 11 Dec at 15.00

Sutton Utd v **Town** on Sat 18 Dec at 15.00

York City are at home to Chorley on Sat 11 Dec



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



Shuttle Bus from Bus Station

Always Check for Cancellations & Changes Before

8

Going to any Event Mentioned in this Newsletter