



ISSUE 36 until Fri 27 Jan '23



YOUR Community Newsletter

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



To Online Readers with Printers:

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

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



Wetherby Town Council Meeting Attendance - 2022

Top & Bottom Cllrs	Attended	%
Paul Rowden	13 / 13	100
Dean Buckle	24 / 25	96
Sam Bennett	5 / 15	33
Jo Maltby	5 / 16	31

We are grateful to the Town Clerk for producing this table. It indicates a desire to be open and accountable.

And credit too to Councillors Rowden & Buckle for taking their duty to attend meetings seriously.

This table does not tell us how much work is carried out by councillors but it is an indication of their dedication to the role.

We have asked these councillors individually what sort of time and effort is involved in being a councillor but no written answers were provided.

Being a councillor is a voluntary, unpaid role. But it is a responsible post, overseeing the expenditure of many £10,000s of our money and making decisions about planning matters, parks, town events & contracts.

Normally we would write to Councillors Maltby and Bennett to ask them if there is a reason for their poor attendance. They have not responded to any of our emails previously so we will not waste our time. They have a right of reply and if they wish to use it, we will publish it in equal prominence on next issue's front page.

Note: The images on the left may be many years old; they were taken from the council's website.



Cllr Rowden



Cllr Buckle



Cllr Maltby



Cllr Bennett

Best Attenders

Absent for over half the meetings

Town Council Elections in Spring?

Town Council elections may take place in May this year.

The vacancy left by Victor Hawkins should be filled then.

The Town Council website still does not clearly state the political party of our councillors so we must remind you all 14 of them are Conservative and claim to be a non-political council. If you want to put yourself forward as a councillor, we will have details in the next Issue.



Contents overleaf



Next Issue is out on Fri 27 Jan www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



Contact us at

WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Twitter: @WbyFreePress

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Best place for mathematicians to celebrate New Years Eve isTimes Square!

The queue for a Harry's book signing waiting patiently outside Waterstones



Man stole a calendar from WH Smiths at services. At mags court he got 12 months!

I told my wife she was drawing her eyebrows on too high. She looked surprised!

My Grandad has the heart of a lion. And a lifetime ban at the zoo!



PRIVATE EYE

Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages
Community Green Group

Information Event - Energy Workshop

Saturday 28th January

10 - 2

at Wetherby Town Hall

Following the success of the Wetherby Eco Energy Fair in Sept '22, the *Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages Community Green Group* are holding another event.

There will be short talks about

- ⇒ renewable energy technology
- ⇒ ways to save money on your energy bills

with an open discussion too.

You can book appointments for individual consultations with the experts too.

It's free, so please come along and you may learn something new as well as gain tips to save money.

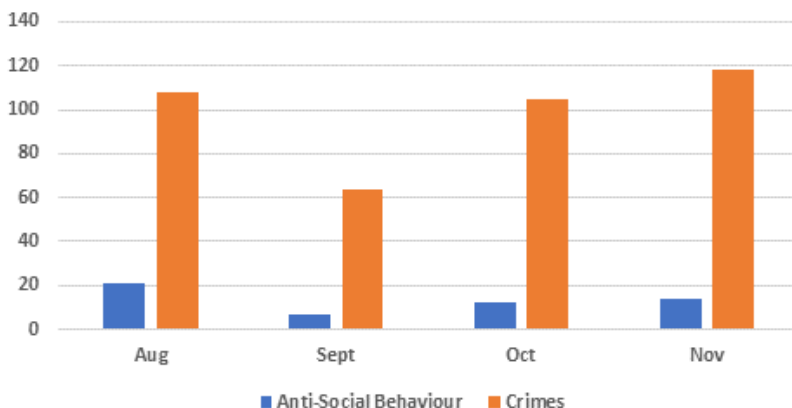
To find out more contact Penny Stables at

penny.stables@bostongreengroup.co.uk
or visit **www.bostongreengroup.co.uk**

Leeds North East - West Yorkshire Police

Email: nel.npt@westyorkshire.police.uk

Wetherby Crime Figures 2022



These numbers are from Wetherby Town Council (WTC) meeting minutes. Nobody produces simple graphs like this to show trends.

Residents need to know is crime getting better, worse or staying the same. And how it compares to previous years.

Councillors or police are not reporting their discussions on this basic analysis, assuming they are discussing it.

Criticism from a Councillor!

We were astounded to find a hint of criticism in WTC meeting minutes. This has never happened before to our knowledge. In



November's meeting Cllr Chapman 'lamented a lack of specific detail given on reported crimes' at Police & Communities Together (PACT) meetings.

Wetherby Musical Theatre Group
Registered Charity No. 700570

Supported by:
jordan's solicitors

CALENDAR GIRLS

A play by Tim Firth

14 — 17 February 2023
Wetherby High School
All performances start at 7:30pm

Tickets are £10 each

B We will be collecting for Blood Cancer UK at each show

Ticket available now from:

- Group members
- Wetherby Library (LS22 6LL)
- Emailing us at wetherbymtg@yahoo.co.uk
- Visiting www.wetherbymusicaltheatregroup.org.uk

Bee-Crafty Markets

Wetherby, HAPPY NEW YEAR Craft Market!

Wetherby Town Hall
Saturday 14th January
10am-4pm
Over 20 Craft Stalls
Free Entry

Bee-Crafty Markets

TRANSPORT NEWS

Cost of Unleaded

Correct on Thurs 12 Jan to nearest penny

Shell £1.55

Morrisons £1.53

Asda H'gate £1.46

Difference b/w Shell & Asda to fill av tank of 55 litres is £5



A Year ago it was about the same price £1.50

North Yorkshire Bus Cuts on Look North

Following our report in the last issue, BBC Look North broadcast an item by Spencer Stokes on the bus situation in North Yorkshire (we send Spencer, Look North & Calendar our newsletter in the hope they will take up stories, like this).

The 840 York to Whitby was featured and locals were interviewed saying how vital the service is. As we stated, the bus is not just for tourists, it is a lifeline for many residents.

Over 80 important routes are at risk in the county when funding ends in March.

The online petition was also mentioned and has now reached over 3000 signatures. It's at <https://t.co/3N62L4T1Lq>

Let's hope the government and councils can find a way to continue supporting these services. We're still not sure where the £3Bn Boris promised for buses went.

And let's hope more people use these services. The national £2 single fare can get you from York to Whitby on the most scenic bus ride in Britain! This fare ends on 1 April.



Alex Hornby, interviewed, runs the 840, X98 & 7

No report yet from Cllrs Richards, Lamb or Harrington on any meetings with Transport Authority Metro / WYCA, who are the public organisation they can influence, as they provide subsidies for unprofitable routes.

Update on Claire's Christmas Care Package Campaign

"Hi there, a quick update for you. I delivered over 170 Care packages to St George's Crypt the week before Christmas. I delivered a further 170+ to the Harrogate Homeless Project on Thursday 22nd December as arranged.

I would like to thank two Paul's for their very kind donations: firstly Paul Swales and his team at Smurfit Kappa of Sandbeck Wetherby and secondly Paul Dayson at Spa Travel, Boston Spa.

I am also very grateful to everyone who has supported me during the month of December. People donated books, toys, clothes, food, drinks, gifts, gift bags, wrapping paper and boxes. Thank you

to everyone who got involved - my partner, parents, family & friends, and members of the community too.

This was my last care package drive due to my health getting worse, but I made well over 300 Christmas care packages and I am so happy with that. With the cost of living and prices so high, I just wanted to pay it forward and if that gift made one person smile in the holidays then it was worth it.

This year will see me continuing my charity work and volunteering but also taking important time for my body to rest and heal between operations and procedures coming up.

So Thank You all once more for your support." *Claire*



Me, Lisa & Gareth at St George's Crypt



The wonderful people at Display UK

Progress Report

Let's Get Things Moving



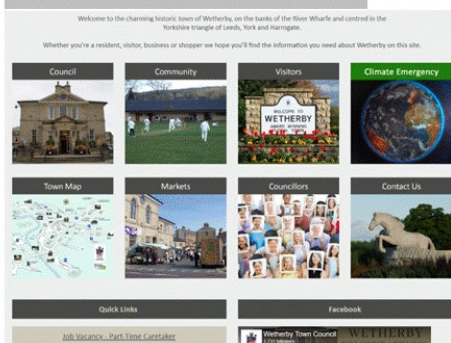
Topic	Important	Improvements Needed & Examples	People Responsible
WEBSITE of Wetherby Town Council / Welcome to Wetherby www.wetherby.co.uk Date first raised: May 2022 in Issue 20 Page 3 see below	1 To Inform Residents & Attract Visitors & New Businesses 2 For Accountability 3 For Having Confidence in Town Council to do Basic Tasks	Keep it up-to-date eg What's On, important council news, max of 2 year old Cllr photos Make it user-friendly eg like Otleys Make it more attractive, it is literally grey Make it secure (a trust issue) Focus on attracting motorists off the A1(M) for rest & refreshment	Wetherby Town Clerk 15 Conservative Wetherby Town Councillors <i>One Councillor with motivation and expertise should be responsible for it. Surely we have one!</i>

Comparisons with Otley Part 2 - Council Websites



Which is more dynamic, user-friendly, and has a better format and more useful information?
 Judge for yourselves.

Wetherby's is Literally Grey



see page 3

Progress: None

Except one new group photo - it was low quality and excluded a quarter of the Town Council, including Cllrs Bennett & Maltby

Make Your Voice Heard - Email clerk@wetherby.co.uk

A Reader Writes

*"Hi, I noticed you have a problem with the Wetherby council website, well so do I. It's s***e to use one term for it.*



I am not a web designer but a retired Business Analyst who has worked in corporate business for 40 years. I would like to pressure whoever to get this scrapped and brought up to date.

Check Otley council it's really good. We need 3 entry points: Residents, Visitors & Business. From there they dive into the "relevant" information, not the crap we have now.

So question is how, who, when etc, I want to help you or help someone get this sorted."

Topic	Important because:	Improvements Needed	People Responsible
Constant Blocking of Wetherby Bus Station Exit by Vehicles Date first raised: Nov 2021 in Issue 7 page 3 & Issues 8, 13 & 32 example below	1 Passengers suffer frustration and inconvenience 2 Need to keep bus services reliable	Paint Double Yellow Lines (or even better red) by Moji's pizza place, preferably with zig zag lines and large writing "Bus Exit" Cllrs to be fully aware of basic parking laws	Leeds City Council Highways Dept 3 Wetherby Ward Leeds City Councillors <i>Metro / WYCA, Town Cllrs & Bus Companies should also have input</i>

Vehicle Blocking Bus Station Exit Again!



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.

Progress: None

Lines were painted a few metres away in the wrong place at junction with main road

Make Your Voice Heard - Email Ward Cllrs, see page 6 for addresses

A 'Market' Town on Market Day!

Total of 4 Stalls
on Thurs 5 Jan
at 10.30



Wetherby Deserves Better

This image was put on social media along with this post:

Brown signs on A1 will soon just be saying 'town' instead of 'market town'

Only 4 Stalls turning up is simply an embarrassment. Regular customers who turn up must be very disappointed and go elsewhere next time.

The Wetherby Free Press highlighted the lack of stalls just a couple of weeks before Christmas.

It was not discussed at the last Town Council general meeting or any Welcome to Wetherby meeting. Worse still, it's not on the agendas of their January meetings.

What are they doing to stop this sad decline in our 'thriving, vibrant' town? Something must be done and quickly.

This drew a large reaction of more than 100 comments on Wetherby Grumbler. One resident confirmed our fears with this post: "When we were shopping in town yesterday, we were talking to a group of people that had specifically travelled in for the market. Needless to say, they were very disappointed."

But some say 'Problem, what problem?'

For example, it was claimed **this was normal for January**. So we asked the folk of Otley on social media how busy their market was on that day, a Friday.

An Otley stallholder told us: "There were 12 stalls today on Otley market, only 3 stalls missing which were plants, shoes and fish. We were busy for January and fully stocked up."

An Otley resident told us: "Friday is always a much quieter market day in Otley - nothing like a Saturday. But we were there today and there were a good few stalls despite the month and weather. Lots of people bustling about too."

Another said: "Market was busy on Tuesday when I was down there."

So it appears that it is not normal to be virtually deserted in January. And don't forget Otley can manage 3 markets a week (Tues, Fri & Sat). Why do they do so much better than us (in this and many other ways)?

Some said it was the weather. The weather was not that bad. How come 4 stalls took the 'risk', if indeed there was a risk with wind? The weather was very good on the 2 Thursdays before Christmas when many stalls were missing, see image below.

Other helpful and informed comments from Wetherby & area residents were:

"I've managed a stall as a volunteer for Yorkshire Air Ambulance. I have to say the equipment provided is very old and essential equipment in short supply. Large clips for holding the tarps in place. Stall holders bring their own. Sadly, the shabby look of the councils stalls are not very appealing. Some businesses have to bring their own. Come on Wetherby, support your market better and promote its value to the community."

"The stall rental in Wetherby is renowned for overcharging. So stallholders have told me and it's that that makes it not worthwhile."

"Parking can be an issue in Wetherby. The Riverside car park is full all day with cars that people have parked there and then gone to get the bus to work, probably Leeds. I have always thought that that car park should have a time limit on it."

"We travel from Boston Spa to buy from the twins (at Knaresborough market) who have the fruit and veg stall. Their quality is very good and prices fair."

Others suggested the market should be on a weekend and that young people are not interested resulting in a continual decline.



*We did not notice any comments from any of our councillors. **We have to ask ourselves whether they care.** We can only hope that they take note of people's comments and discuss it at Council meetings as a **standing agenda item.** We asked @WetherbyMarkets on Twitter for comment - No Response.*

What effective measures are being taken by the Town Council / Welcome to Wetherby and any other relevant business / town organisation to attract both stallholders and shoppers?



Debbie's Tandem Skydive





"I am fundraising for Bipolar UK to help eliminate stigma about Bipolar. I hope that the money raised will help Bipolar UK continue to give support to people in need and their friends and families. No one should have to cope alone. Bipolar UK is an amazing charity that needs donations to help people. Together we are strong."

Scan this QR code to donate to my JustGiving page

Bipolar UK is the only national charity dedicated to empowering individuals and families affected by bipolar

Tragically, someone living with bipolar is 20 times more likely to take their own life than someone without the condition, with at least 1/20 of all people who take their own life in the UK having a diagnosis of bipolar.

With your support, Bipolar UK will be able to:

- Expand their peer support group provision
- Grow their e-community which provides 24/7 support
- Support more people through our Peer Support Line and email service
- Amplify the voice of people living with bipolar through campaigns, research, and collaborations

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

Ad Next Issue 37 - Fri 27 Jan Ad

Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me
 Twitter: @WbyFreePress
 Tel: 07840 862861

New Year Dip in the Wharfe

We noticed that Otley received a lot of publicity for the town with their New Year's Dip. Looking at the photos on their Facebook Group, *see right*, a lot of people took part and a great time was had by all (and charity money raised). The Editor & partner had a walk by the Wharfe here on 1 Jan and it was quiet with a couple of coffee shops open. The Wetherby Free Press raised this a year ago in Jan 2022, *see right*. There are many benefits: showing community spirit, benefit refreshment businesses, possible coverage on Look North & Calendar, especially if it was linked to the campaign to stop sewage discharges.



Big Dip 2024? It seems to us that we don't do enough to celebrate our greatest natural asset, the River Wharfe. So we asked on social media what people thought of a Wetherby Big Dip.

There will always be reasons/excuses not to do something and the main one is the pollution in the river; it's not healthy. Our response would be that it's the same river as Otley and just as polluted; we're all adults and can decide for ourselves whether it is worth the risk. We asked the town's organisations what they thought and were pleasantly surprised that we received a response from most of them. The Lions say they "do not have the Health & Safety expertise in the Club to manage such an event safely given the potential hazards" and are busy with other events at this time of year. The Wetherby Business Association will discuss it. Sadly, the main body who should have the know-how and wherewithall to coordinate such an event has declined to take it forward. Wetherby Town Council / Welcome to Wetherby say it is "due to the natural hazards of open water swimming and the unpredictable nature of the river in winter". We say it is the same in Otley. It is a shame an opportunity may be lost to raise the profile of Wetherby, show its community spirit, raise money for charity, publicise poor water quality and most importantly, have some fun! Cllr Dean Buckle is Chair of Welcome to Wetherby for the time being, since Victor Hawkins resigned from the council. The other members are:

'Welcome to Wetherby' Councillors

Images are from their profiles on Wetherby Town Council website ie many years out-of-date



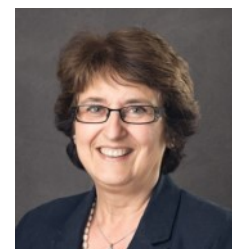
Chair - Cllr Buckle



Cllr Moss



Cllr Frame



A VERY old photo of Cllr Harrington on her profile

It's YOUR Newsletter - Plse send us your news, views & articles

Local Democracy Pages - Our MP & Councillors

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for 12 years since May 2010. His basic salary is £84K (£2K rise in Apr '22). In the last election in 2019 he won 58% of our vote beating Labour by over 17,000 votes. He was a Remainer. From Dec '19 to May '22 he has voted 467 times out of 560 (83%) and has rebelled once against the party whip (Mar '22). He refused to inform his constituents whether or not he supported Boris Johnson in the No-Confidence Vote. He was a strong supporter of Liz Truss in the Leadership Battle. She promoted him to an MoD Ministerial post in Sep '22, which he then quit / was sacked within 2 months.

Space for Alec

Unedited (max 400 words)

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk

Nothing received



Alec often seen on a minority news channel

Donations & Secondary Earnings/Gifts Sky News has compiled a list of MPs declarations for donations and income. His basic salary is £84,000.

Since the beginning of the current parliament in late 2019, Alec has declared:

Bayford & Co £4,000 - donations* to local conservative party

Big Change Foundation £2,000 - donations*

News UK £3,200 - earnings

Silverstone Circuits £2,500 - gifts or benefits

Ipsos MORI £1,800 - earnings

Betting & Gaming Council £500 - gifts or benefits



news.sky.com/
[westminsteraccounts](https://www.westminsteraccounts.com/)

* donations are not personal income



Cllr Linda Richards

Cllr Alan Lamb

Cllr Norma Harrington

linda.richards@leeds.gov.uk

alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk

norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk

Space for Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington & 12 Wetherby Town Cllrs

Unedited (max 400 words)

Nothing received

'Plse see attached': Title of All General Emails from Town Council

If you received an email entitled 'For info. Plse see attached' would you open it? You would be suspicious, even if you knew the sender. Providing a title gives you more confidence it isn't a scam email from someone who's infiltrated the sender's address book. You cannot be too careful these days. Computer viruses are a complete nightmare if you get one.

Wetherby Town Council send general emails out to their distribution list in this manner.

It's poor etiquette (and lazy) if they cannot spend a few seconds putting a title in. They should inform the many recipients of the main subject - that is what the title box is for. Then if the topic does not interest us, we don't waste our time opening it.

We asked them to change this poor practice. Their next email was titled "For your information, see attached". No 'plse' even.

Stephen Cohen has started his appointment as the Council's new Facilities Manager after just 2 candidates applied for the role.

A decision to support a Plastic Free Community Initiative was deferred until May 2023 'to allow the Climate Emergency Committee to concentrate on the previously agreed action plan'. *Not sure what this means or why their 'action plan' would be affected.*





After a creditable 0 - 0 draw at high-flying Newcastle, Leeds needed their first win of the year at West Ham. Elland Road celebrated Leeds taking the lead but goals for the opposition just before and after half-time saw them chasing the game. Rodrigo got the equaliser on the 70th

minute and could have scored the winner but for a magnificent one-handed save by the West Ham keeper. 2 - 2 it ended.

There was all the drama of the FA Cup in a thrilling second half at Championship side Cardiff City. Utd were dreadful in the first half and deserved to be 2 - 0 down. But a header by Rodrigo gave Utd some hope and with 10 minutes to go they secured a penalty. Despair and frustration for fans as it was well saved. Utd dominated and got their reward in added time. Another 2 - 2 draw.



Cardiff City 2 - 2 Leeds United
FA Cup Third Round
Rodrigo's headed goal - Replay live on telly too

- Aston Villa v Utd on Fri 13 Jan at 20.00
- Utd v Cardiff on Wed 18 Jan at 19.45 FA Cup replay
- Utd v Brentford on Sun 22 Jan at 14.00



It was reported in December that a new PCSO is to start work in the Wetherby Ward, filling a previous vacancy. *No word since whether they have started or any other details.*



Let's hope they have a visible presence and deter mindless vandalism, like the following.

The Reading Roots Bookshop had one of its windows smashed with a glass bottle in the new year.

Owner Keira said it was 'not what any small business needs at the moment!'

She requested any information which might help the police. Residents on social media were sympathetic and wondered if CCTV could help.

This year's firework display provided by Pyro 2000 Ltd cost £5,000.

The monthly payment in December for the rebuilding of the wall at the Church on the Corner on Hallfield Lane was just under £18,000.



Radio Like It Used To Be



Since 2015, this station has played the best music without any commercial content, an oasis of calm in a frantic world. This means no money coming in to pay presenters. So they found professionals who do it for the love of it! Its quality and sense of warmth and old-fashioned values shine through.

TRY IT

It's run by volunteers and funded by donations.



Editor: **Paul Kirby** Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me
Twitter: [@wbyfreepress](https://twitter.com/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 quote directly to avoid any misunderstandings. We don't do interviews.

We encourage everyone to write to us with their views, whatever they are. People have died for our Freedom of Expression so never be afraid to use it. You can remain anonymous if you wish. You, nor ourselves, can be sued for libel as long as what is published is:

True or Honest Opinion or in the Public Interest

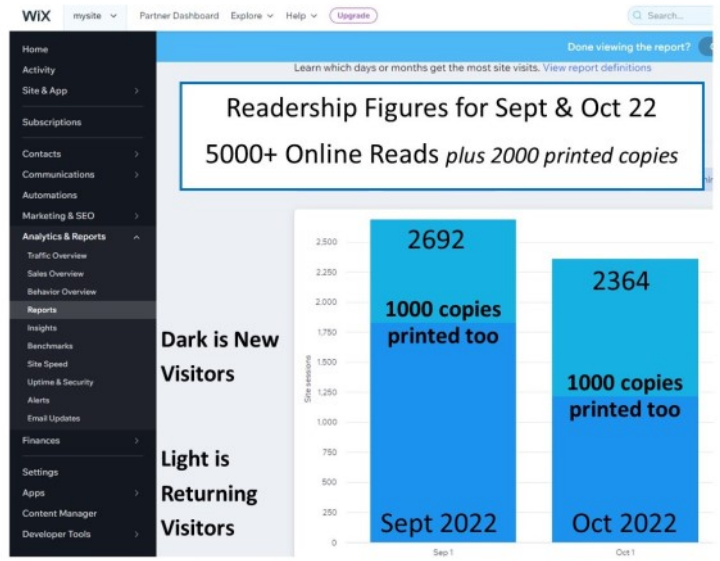
Unjustifiable threats of legal action is bullying behaviour and will not be tolerated.

Please donate

direct to PK Marketing
Acct No 46368560
Sort Code 090127

Thank You

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



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

In 2022 we Supported



Local Organisations & Charities

Send us your



to WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Let's Make Wetherby Better Together in 2023