



ISSUE 7
until
Fri 10
Dec

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

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

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

#Big
Thank
You

1000 Printed Newsletters will be Available on Thursday next week

There were over 1000 visits to the online version of Issue 5



YORK
PLACE

DENTAL
PRACTICE

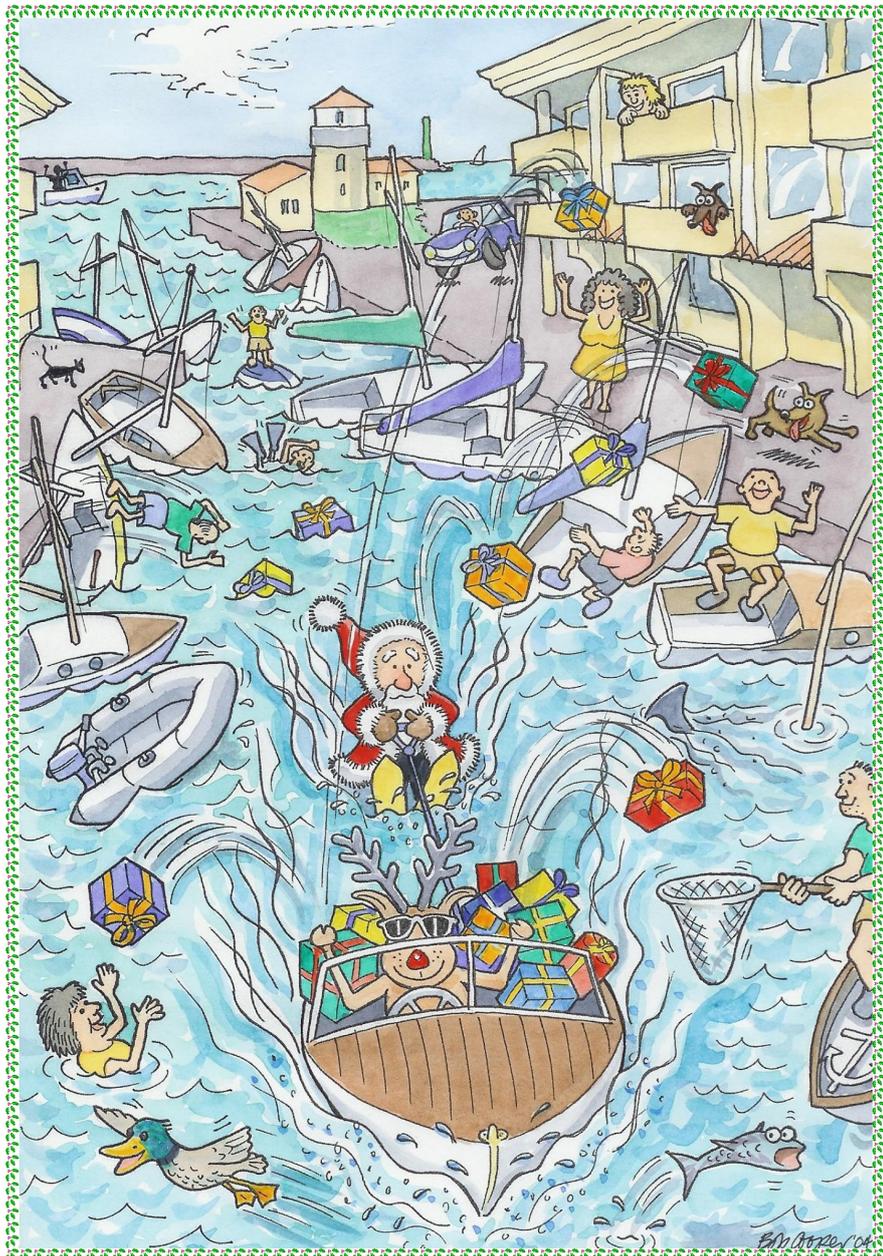
for
sponsoring
this issue

LOCAL
talent

Bob Cooper - Wetherby Cartoonist



Marcelo



Marcelo



Inside

Yorkshire Vet

Cllr Harry
Chapman

Barclays Bank
Closing

What's On

Vehicles blocking
buses

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Virgin Media
down after crash

Alec Shelbrooke

Police Matters

100% Tory Town Council is "non political" says Cllr - See Page 6

Bob Cooper cont'd

Bob Cooper, artist, framer and cartoonist, is now 'mostly retired' but has had an interesting career path. For 30 years, Bob was a director of Buxton Wall McPeake, a design

consultancy based in Manchester, where he designed almost everything manufacturable, 'from trains to toys' as he once put it.

In the Spring of 2004, Bob and wife Liz set off in their Warrior 35 yacht, 'Yanina of Bosham' to see how far round the world they could get without sinking, starving or pushing each other overboard.

They ended up exploring the world on the high seas for 6 years in total. They discovered the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Caribbean enjoying many experiences along the way. When they reached Almerimar in Southern Spain they stopped for the winter, and Bob thought he'd try watercolour painting. Before he could start, they had to organise one of the quiz nights and he drew a 'spot the difference' cartoon of the marina crammed with boats at all angles. This went down so well that several people wanted copies, then someone suggested Christmas cards. And as Liz says, 'it's never stopped since'.



"Blonde Ambition"



Note there are still quite a few premises unchanged from 2012 eg Kathleen Hair, Azuzu, Pizza Bella, Ace Cards, West Row, Renton & Parr & Johnsons

After their trip of a lifetime, Bob & Liz settled in Wetherby and set up Art & Frames, a picture framing business on Church Street. Three years later they passed it on to a clockmaker and it is still going strong today. They loved Wetherby immediately. The friendliness, the colour of the stone buildings with red tile roofs and the surrounding countryside were all reasons why they decided to settle here. "It's like being in the Dordogne" on a good summer's day, says Bob.

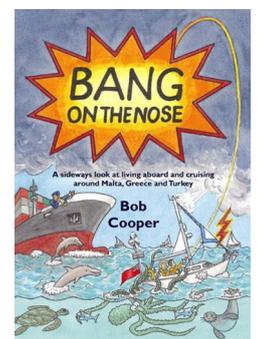
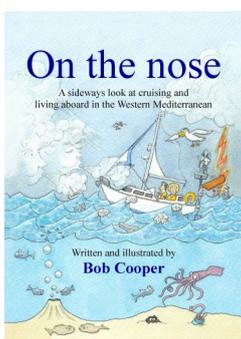
Bob started drawing cartoons during the long sailing trips on their five-year adventure. There was plenty of material to publish two illustrated books of their travels - 'On the Nose' containing 140 cartoons and illustrations, and 'Bang on the Nose' continuing the sideways look at living aboard and cruising around Malta, Greece and Turkey.

Why 'On the nose'? Well, that's because if you ask any Mediterranean yachtsman where the wind was blowing on his last trip, that's what he'll tell you!

Copies of the books are available from Castlegate Stationery, 27a Market Place

More info can be found about Bob's work on Facebook [bobcooper.illustrator](https://www.facebook.com/bobcooper.illustrator)

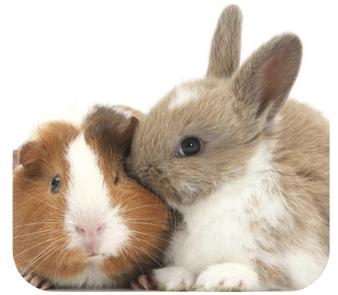
We want to Promote Local Talent - Tell us Yours





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TRANSPORT NEWS

Vehicles Blocking Bus Station Exit



Cllr Lamb also said that he did not understand what point we were making. The image and title speaks for itself and the first email clearly stated "The road markings need to clearly state that NO parking is allowed here, like double red lines in London." He finally said that he 'will look into the issue' as well as accusing us of an 'aggressive attitude and unprofessional manner'.

Paul Matthews of First Bus said delivery vehicles could cause an obstruction too. Better enforcement and a loading ban would help, he added. Metro/WYCA (responsible for the bus station) made no comment.

Fuel prices for Unleaded: Correct on Thurs 25 Nov to nearest penny

Morrisons £1.48 Shell £1.52

Increased by 14p & 13p in 2 months resp.



A recent Grumbler Facebook post bemoaned the fact that vehicles parked on the double yellow lines caused many minutes delay to his bus and those behind it. The Editor has experienced delays himself, particularly in the evening when the takeaway is open. The pictured incident happened on 15 Nov when the X99 was blocked at the start of its journey to Leeds.

We sent the image to Cllr Alan Lamb and asked for his thoughts on the matter. He asked for the vehicle's number plate. We refused as the man was on scene and apologetic. We said it was legal anyway as the man may have been a blue badge holder. Cllr Lamb replied "You're not correct I'm afraid. Disabled badge holders can't park on double yellow lines".

We checked and Leeds City Council website says Blue Badge holders can "park on single or double yellow lines for up to 3 hours". It is surprising that a councillor and Chair of Wetherby Transport Group was unaware of this important part of the Highway Code. There was no apology for misinforming us.



Royal Mail Latest Christmas Posting Dates

UK Inland Services*	
Date	Service
Friday 17 December	Royal Mail Bulk Mail Economy
Saturday 18 December	2nd Class, 2nd Class Signed For, Royal Mail 48®
Tuesday 21 December	1st Class, 1st Class Signed For, Royal Mail 24®, Royal Mail Tracked 48®**
Wednesday 22 December	Royal Mail Tracked 24®***
Thursday 23 December	Special Delivery Guaranteed®
International Economy*	
Date	Destinations
Friday 26 November	Cyprus, Eastern Europe, Greece, Iceland, Malta, Turkey
Monday 29 November	Western Europe

International Standard and International Tracking and Signature Services*

Date	Destinations
Wednesday 1 December	Caribbean
Monday 6 December	Australia, Greece, Italy, New Zealand and Portugal
Wednesday 8 December	Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Far and Middle East
Friday 10 December	Cyprus, Malta and Sweden
Saturday 11 December	Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia), Turkey
Monday 13 December	Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Poland and USA
Thursday 16 December	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland

Check royalmail.com/christmas for all details & latest info

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. He campaigned to remain in Europe. His basic salary is £82K.

His email is alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk.

Since Dec 2019 Alec has voted 357 times (out of 392) and he 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 12 - 23 Nov, excluding Retweets.

11 & 14 Nov - He attended Garforth & Rothwell Remembrance Services

18 Nov - HS2 to Leeds axed. No Tweet

22 Nov - Vote on Social Care. He abstained. No Tweet about it

22 Nov - "This week I'm leading the U.K. delegation of @natopapress to #Norway for meetings on defence, security, science and technology."

Alec has not appeared on any TV or national radio programs in the last 3 months, as far as we know.

We have previously asked Alec

A1 what he thinks of the new bus stop flags in Wetherby, compared to the old. And Metro/WYCA's performance in putting them up - See Issue 2 for details

A2 if he thinks he keeps a low profile in the media, and whether he will inform us when he will be on TV or national radio so we can inform residents on our Twitter acct

A3 how he chooses which resident issues to follow up A4 whether he is in favour of HS2 and reasons

A5 whether he is in favour of a Wetherspoons coming to Wetherby

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2021 Remaining Issues:

Issue 8 on Fri 10 Dec

Issue 9 on Mon 20 Dec - online only

Issue 10 on Fri 7 Jan - online only

Wetherby on Telly

THE YORKSHIRE VET



Julian Norton and his staff on the Sandbeck estate have entertained us grandly in this series and the last 2 programs were no exception. In the first one the vet was kicked by a feisty sheep whilst helping his colleague extract a ewe's swollen eye.

In the final show, Julian takes on the job of a dentist, removing 2 teeth and roots from his own pet dog, pictured.

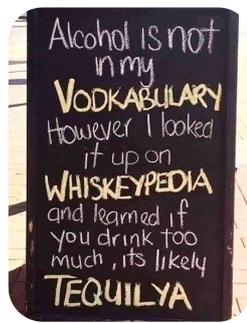
We see him and his wife setting up a new sister practice in Thirsk and the series climax takes place at Ilkley Moor. All six vets meet up for a ramble at the Cow & Calf and share a ('cold 'orrible') flask of tea.

Let's hope it's not too long before the next series is upon us with more great shots of our town.

The ewe made a full recovery



Pub News



Went in a pub last week called the "Football Cheater" It was a dive!

Courtesy of Sky's Soccer am

You'll get a warm welcome from the staff at the recently re-opened **Red Lion**. The popular pub will continue showing live sports on their TV screens, including Rugby League & Horse Racing of course.



They serve fresh home cooked meals from 12.00 every day.

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Director: Andrew R Ward

Leeds North East - West Yorkshire Police

Email: nel.npt@westyorkshire.police.uk



Facebook & Twitter Messages relating to Wetherby 12 Nov - 24 Nov

18 Nov - Speed checks on Linton Road, Deighton Road, Westgate, Crossley Street & Westwood Way.

"We are pleased to say that the majority of motorists were complying with the speed limit although there were parking issues near one of the schools."

Other locations were suggested on Wetherby Grumbler - Spofforth Hill, Linton Lane / Road & Hallfield Lane.

There are no speed cameras in Wetherby's residential areas. Do you want them?

Democracy in Action - Spotlight on Our Town Councillors

It continues to be difficult to get opinions and facts from our councillors.



We contacted Cllr Harry Chapman with our usual questions. He said that all the information was on the Town Council website. We pointed out that simply is not true. He then provided some details about himself:

Lived in Wetherby over 30 years. Been a Councillor for around 19.

Been on and chaired most of the various committees. Currently on Property, Footpaths (chair), Climate Emergency & CIL committees. Recently involved in the Bonfire and discussions on changes with the Aldi roundabout and putting up of Speed Indication signs.

Attends meetings such as PACT and Outer North East Forum on behalf of the Council. Been a Mayor of Wetherby.

Plays golf, walks, garden, DIY and rides bike. Involved in Neighbourhood Watch. Been a member of the Conservative Party most of his life "but this has no affect on the Council which is non political."

Wetherby Town Council is "non political"!

On the voting slip, it clearly says 'Conservative' next to Cllr Chapman's name and every single other Councillor who won at the last election. Does Cllr Chapman seriously think that people ignore that when they vote? There were many Independents who stood at the last election but not one succeeded. Why would Cllr Chapman want to distance himself from the party he represents in Wetherby? His 3 Conservative Leeds City Councillor colleagues are prominent members of the town council and they are political. Cllrs Lamb & Harrington respond to comments on social media and are clearly against many things that the Labour-run Leeds City Council do on political grounds. They even retweet Tweets from the strongly anti-Labour Independent Cllr for Garforth and vice-versa. Elmet Tories RT the town councillors' tweets.

This statement would explain why the Wetherby Town Council website does not state the Councillors' political party next to their picture and details. The Town Clerk should ensure this information is clearly stated - we await the reason why it isn't. On Otley council website, their councillors' parties are clearly stated. Same with Ilkley & Knaresborough. Check links below.

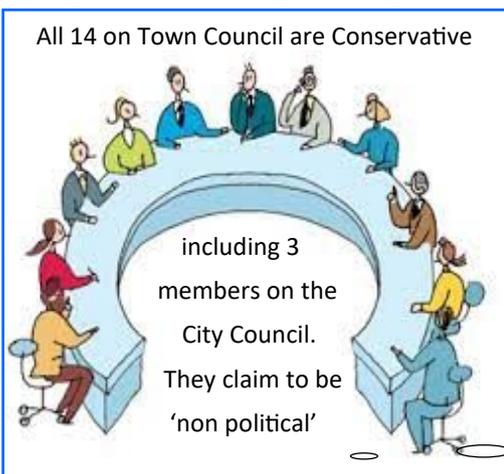
Otley council: <https://www.otleytowncouncil.gov.uk/council/ward-councillors/>
Ilkley: <https://towncouncil.ilkley.org/your-councillors/>
Knaresborough: http://www.knaresboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/Councillors_21479.aspx

If you are a member of a party, you should be proud of it. It is disingenuous to be elected as Conservatives and then downplay it when you win you're in power. To be truly non-political you must surely be an Independent. So can we look forward to seeing Cllr Chapman and all his colleagues (including MP Alec Shelbrooke's secretary, Cllr Sam Bennett) putting themselves forward as Independents at the next election in May 2023?

A 'chumocracy' can easily happen when all those in the same party close ranks and act as one, and show no sign of independent thought. You have to be a strong character to disagree with your colleagues on a big issue in those

circumstances. An example of a robotic joint response is when the Editor received exactly the same response from each councillor when he emailed them individually about an important issue. And they all refused to discuss that issue at a town council meeting.

We agree that our town council should be non political. Voters should decide who to vote for on the person's personality, character traits and achievements. This includes their work-rate, intelligence and common sense. Which is why we ask them the questions in Issues 4, 5 & 6. Which so far they all refuse to answer.



Petitions
UK Government and Parliament

This petition was submitted during the 2017-2019 Conservative government
[View other petitions from this government](#)

Rejected petition

Local Councils and Councillors should NOT be affiliated to any political party.

Councillors should be representatives of their wards and areas, and not bound to any political party. They need to carry out budgets and responsibilities as laid down by a central government, but act in the best interest of the people they represent, their wards, their town/area, their county.

[More details](#)

This petition was rejected

Why was this petition rejected?
It's about something that the UK Government or Parliament is not directly responsible for.
The decision on whether to represent a political party or not is one for individual councillors and not the UK Government or Parliament.
You could start a new petition calling for a change in the law to prevent people standing for office as a local councillor from describing themselves

A petition that failed 3 years ago

What Do You Think?



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



What's On

Wetherby Film Theatre Showing in November and December



No Time To Die
(Action/Adventure) 12A
No Time To Die is the 25th spy film in the James Bond series



Ghostbusters: Afterlife
(Fantasy/Comedy) 12A
When a single mother and her two children move to a new town, they soon discover that they have a connection to the original Ghostbusters.



Anything Goes
(Musical) PG
A heart-warming romance with good old-fashioned farcical fun, spectacular dance routines and some of theatre's most memorable songs.

Times, tickets and more at wetherbyfilmtheatre.com

Engine Shed

Step into Strictly for YBTC - 27th Nov - 18:30 - £15
Festive Christmas Lunches - 10th-17th Dec - 12-3pm
Peter Kay Tribute - 10th Dec - Doors at 19:30 - £15/£18

More events and info at engineshedwetherby.co.uk

More local events

Christmas Fair Saturday
SAT 4th Dec, 9:30-13:00 - St James' Parish Church, W'by
Handel's Messiah (Wetherby Choral Society)
SAT 18th Dec, 19:30 - St James' Parish Church, W'by
Tickets £18.00 Tel. 07860 454894

Wetherby Markets and Fairs

Weekly Market: Every Thursday, Market Place
Artisan Market: SUN 12th Dec, 10:00-15:00, Market Pl

All information is subject to change.

St James Christmas Fair

Sat 4 Dec 9.30 - 1.00 They say they will have some great stalls. *Have a go on the Tombola, play some children's games, have a cuppa and a cake, or maybe buy a cake to take home. There will be plenty of gift stalls for last minute Christmas presents, and a Raffle. Please Come Along and Support Us.*

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- Wild Bird Feed, including a range of accessories
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Two cars were involved in an accident at the York Road / Hallfield Lane crossroads on Sat 20 Nov. One car demolished the Virgin Media cable cabinet and many homes in the area were without TV, internet and landline. Engineers replaced the cabinet within 24 hours and as promised, TV & Wifi were working again on Sunday evening. The Editor assumed the landline would follow suit but after chatting with an engineer several days later, he was told he must report it as they fix it individually.



The closest branch is at James Street, Harrogate. This caused a large reaction on Wetherby Grumbler Facebook group. One of the 200+ comments was from a businessman with 7 accounts who will be moving his account as soon as he can. It was said that Knaresborough has lost all its banks so you have to wonder if NatWest, HSBC, Lloyds & Halifax will be the next to go.



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Fridays Every 2 Weeks - Online & Print

Sorry to Coop readers - No WFP any more

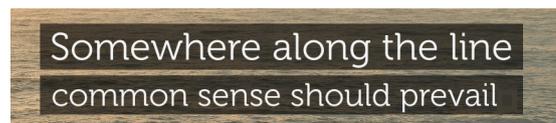
We have already told you how one of the charity shops that displays our newsletter received unpleasant anonymous phone calls from a WISE supporter, telling them they should not be supporting us. The manager said they were 'quite aggressive' and she made the decision to stop displaying the WFP.

The main story in Issue 5 was about Mark Dobson and the Trustees' behaviour at charity WISE. After that issue Mr Dobson rang a different shop that displays our newsletter. He told the staff member there may be 'comeback' if they continue to support us. What does he mean? The shop continues to support us.

Sadly, they have succeeded in stopping our newsletter being displayed in the Coop on Ainsty Road. This has nothing to do with the friendly, supportive staff there - it was an order from above. We have written to the Chief Executive of the Coop to explain their decision.

It seems WISE and their supporters are trying to restrict freedom of expression and deny you an entertaining and informative read. We are looking to see whether their actions are unlawful. We do not know (and are not allowed to find out) what WISE Trustees Mark Storey, Norma Harrington, John Wardle, Caren Rowe & Michelle Atkinson think about this behaviour.

There is no Freedom of Information Act for charities. The public cannot find out anything about a secretive charity. We have no right to know anything about their Trustees - their experience, skills or even how they were appointed.



WISE have a right to reply like everyone else mentioned in this newsletter. Their Communications Officer has never contacted us about anything, despite our record of publicising charity events and community organisations.

We have not received any complaints from the public about the article in Issue 5.

Don't expect BBC Look North to mention Leeds Utd, the only Premier League team in Yorkshire, if they lose. On Monday's weekend sports summary Tanya Arnold ignored them completely. Poor coverage. Calendar had all the action.

Great news for Super League fans next season. Channel 4 are screening live matches. First one is 12 Feb - Rhinos v Warrington

Leeds United were ahead against Spurs in the TV game on Sun 21 Nov after the first half but Spurs came back with 2 goals in the second. Utd are 17th
Brighton v Utd on Sat 27 Nov at 17.30 sky sports
Utd v Crystal Palace on Tue 30 Nov at 20.15 prime video
Utd v Brentford on Sun 5 Dec at 14.00

Harrogate Town FC had lost 3 times in the last 5 games before losing 0 - 2 to Salford City on 20 Nov. Three days later they beat Carlisle 2 - 0 and are still in the play-off zone.

Swindon Town v Town on Sat 27 Nov at 15.00
Town v Forest Green Rovers on Tues 7 Dec at 19.45

York City lost at home 1-2 to Kettering Town on Sat 20 Nov.
Guiseley v City on Sat 4 Dec at 15.00

Wetherby Races
Sat 4 Dec at 11.52
Sun 26 & Mon 27 Dec at 11.52

