



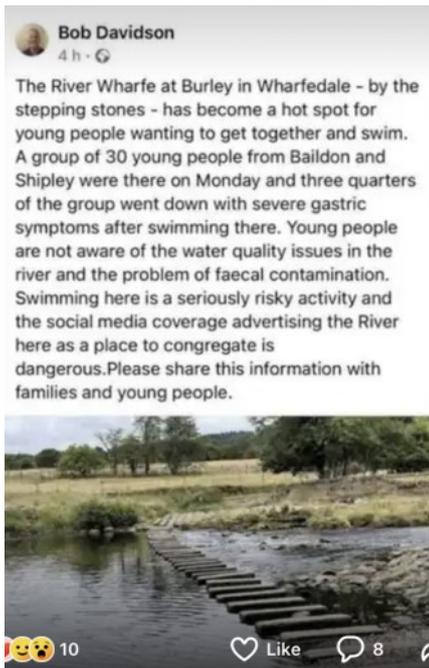
ISSUE 25 until Fri 26 Aug '22

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

YOUR Community Newsletter
every 2 Weeks

Warning on the Wharfe



This recent post on Twitter describes a large group of young people swimming in the river with most being very ill afterwards. It says 22 of the group went down with 'severe gastric symptoms' after being in the water at the stepping stones in Burley.

Burley is between

Otley & Ilkley, about 15 miles upstream of Wetherby. It is a popular place for having a dip. The Editor witnessed a weekday group of 4 ladies bathing in the waters there last year.

Another Award for Sandringham Park

Friends of Sandringham Park were delighted to win their 11th Community Green Flag Award.

There are 8 criteria, all of which must be met to fly the flag. Winning the flag 11 years running is testament to their dedication in keeping our green spaces for all to enjoy.

Kazia Knight, Chair of Friends of Sandringham Park, pictured, says she is proud of their achievements and the hard work of all their volunteers.



We say Kazia & co are the real heroes of our town. Unpaid volunteers, like those in Wetherby in Bloom, Wetherby Civic Society etc, whose achievements are there for all to see. They promote their cause, not themselves. They are the people who make Wetherby a better place to live and visit.

We salute you.

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New Council Photo at Last but ...

Details in next issue



Next Issue will be printed, 1000 copies



Contact us at WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter: [@WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)

There has been a lot of criticism of high prices at local petrol stations on social media.



It's true that they used to be (much) cheaper than the average but in recent times that has not been the case. Large difference in prices have been noted, as much as 10p per litre, even with the same retailer in a nearby town.



Close to the £2 barrier in July

Many low-income residents have to use a car/taxi because their trips are not possible by bus. And it may affect our shops

if residents go to Harrogate, Boroughbridge or Leeds for cheaper fuel - they may be tempted to shop there.

Let's hope our local stations stay competitive.

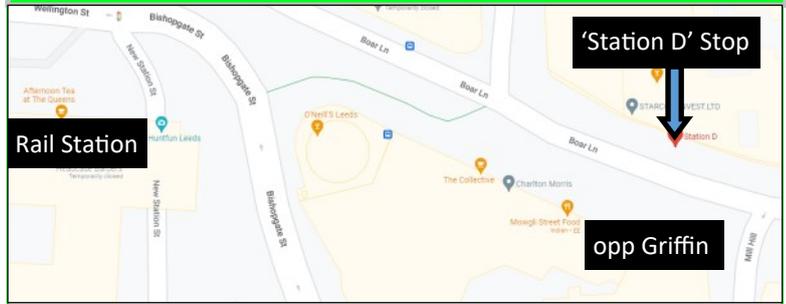
Good to see the onboard display screens actually working now with next stop visual and audio announcements on the X98/99 First bus to Leeds.



All London buses have had them for years, as have Harrogate Bus Company.

Let's hope this encourages more car owners to try the bus. And let's hope First use them to inform passengers of roadworks, changes to services, delays and Special Offers.

Location of X98/99 Bus Stop in Leeds



Metro have changed the name of their bus stops again. Shame they could not get it right first time. From 'City Square' (not on City Sq) it is now called 'Station D' (not near station). Far too sensible to call it after the street it is actually on - Boar Lane! The bus company First should make sure their passengers are not inconvenienced by nonsense like this. But not even an apology from them. See previous issues for poor communication about the 2 stops for this bus.

The only other stop for the X98/99 in Leeds is 'Victoria A', which is actually on Eastgate. Pity the poor visitor asking for directions to this bus stop. No problem with the old name - Eastgate.

Send your views to us and those ultimately responsible:

Ben Still, MD of West Yorks Combined Authority

<ben.still@westyorks-ca.gov.uk>

and Tracy Brabin, Labour Mayor of West Yorkshire

<mayoral.enquiries@westyorks-ca.gov.uk>

Cheap Evening Single Fare after 7pm

£1.40 on route X98/99 to Leeds
£1 on route 7 to Harrogate until 31 Aug



London Routemaster

Iconic London Red Bus at the Racecourse

It was an unusual sight. Possibly the most famous and recognisable bus in the country paid a visit to the racecourse on a sunny Sunday.

The event was to celebrate 20 years of Connexions Buses (Harrogate Coach Travel) serving the local community. It was a



fun-filled day for enthusiasts and local families alike.

A journalist from a national transport publication wrote an article for the weekly magazine about the event.

The organisers reckon about 500 visitors came to enjoy buses old and new. It attracted many families and the children loved to ride on the older double-deckers to York and Harrogate.

Over 40 historic buses attended - the oldest dating from 1947 (a Grimsby Corporation AEC double decker), and the newest being a 3 day old Volvo single decker of Easingwold-based operator Reliance Buses.

Local operators York Pullman, Ghost Bus Tours and Reliance sent buses as well as some from further afield including Hulleys of Baslow in Derbyshire.

Managing Director Craig Temple said "It was a wonderful day, great weather and everybody enjoyed themselves. We were pleased the book commemorating our 20 years of Connexions Bus operation sold well and a few more orders were put in for the next print run."



Alec Shelbrooke, 46, has been our Conservative MP for more than 10 years. His basic salary is £84K (£2,200 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, in Mar 22, against the party whip.

Space for Alec to tell readers anything he wants, unedited

(max 400 words)

Wetherby Issues, Cost of Living Crisis, Issues he's Pursuing, Work he's Done?

Nothing received



18 Tweets in One Day for Liz Truss



Alec tweeted 18 times on 1 August in support of Liz Truss. He has made one anti-Rishi Sunak tweet. He is clearly very keen for Liz Truss to become PM and not his Yorkshire colleague up the A1, Rishi Sunak. *Good to know where he stands.*

Not so good is that not a single tweet in the week 1-5 August was about the devastating effects of high inflation, higher interest rates, high energy costs, high fuel costs, an expected recession etc. This is a very worrying time for many of his constituents. Nothing about Wetherby issues either.



How do you make a duck more soulful? Stick it in the oven until its bill withers (It's a joke, snowflakes, we love ducks)

What has 4 wheels and flies? A bin lorry

My dog ate a few Scrabble tiles the other day. No ill effects but he kept leaving little messages around the house.



Security Lapse at Sellafield nuclear plant, shown on BBC's Countryfile. Private Eye



the truth will win

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In more "there's no future in print journalism" news, Private Eye's circulation went 👍 UP 👍 by 4% in the first six months of this year, to an average of 246,784 copies per issue. Thank you to EVERYONE who subscribed or bought a copy on the newsstands!



Conservative Town Councillor Paul Rowden - Refuses to Answer Most Questions

Our search for answers to simple, reasonable and legitimate questions goes on. Here is another councillor who provides little information about themselves, how much time the role takes up and exactly what it entails.

1 How long have you been a councillor? **“co-opted as a Councillor in August 2021”**

2 On average how many phone calls or emails from constituents do you receive or send every month?

Not Answered. (In his email he says “the information you are looking for is available on the Town Council website” - this is not true for this question.)

3 Roughly how many visits to constituents do you make or receive every month?

Not Answered. (In his email he says “the information you are looking for is available on the Town Council website” - this is not true for this question.)

4 On average how many hours do you spend on council duties per month?

Not Answered. (In his email he says “the information you are looking for is available on the Town Council website” - this is not true for this question.)

5 Areas of specific interest:

He says “I take an active interest in local policing and crime matters and attended were possible PACT meetings. I take an active interest in public transport and highways issues effecting Wetherby.” Cllr Rowden meant ‘where’ not ‘were’ and ‘affecting’ not ‘effecting’.

Cllr Rowden claims to be interested in these issues but we can find no evidence of this. He has not contacted the Wetherby Free Press about any of the many issues regarding buses and Leeds North East Police that we raise.

6 Achievements / Difficult Case where you helped resident:

He says: “Due to confidentiality reasons, which I am sure you will understand, I am unable to discuss individual cases.” We do not expect Cllr Rowden to go into any detail but he can speak generally. He decided not to. Has he helped any of our readers, or pushed anything forward? Please let us know and we will gladly publicise it.

7 Frustrations and Joys of being a Town Councillor: **Not Answered**

8 What role does party politics play in this town council? ie why is it relevant what party you belong to? **Not Answered**

9 Any specific plans for improving Wetherby before the next council elections: **None specified in his email**

10 Your preferred methods of contact by constituents (email, phone, social media etc): **Not Answered**

11 Please could you also comment on Cllr Chapman's assertion that WTC is non-political. If you agree with him will you run at the next election as an Independent? **Not Answered**



Image from Council Website



There are no biographical details about Cllr Rowden on the Town Council website, like there are for some other councillors, see right.

The only piece of information we discover on the Register of Interests is that he works for a bus company in York. His form was signed in August 2020 which would suggest he has been a councillor for longer than a year.

Perhaps Cllr Rowden could explain this apparent anomaly.

No Biography - Cllr Rowden is one of nine councillors who has not written anything. This is Cllr Harringtons.

Biography
<small>In June 2016 Councillor Harrington was elected as Mayor of Wetherby, having been co-opted on to Wetherby Town Council in 2012. Councillor Harrington has served on the Council's planning and finance & general purposes committees and is also a member of the Neighbourhood Planning group.</small>
<small>Born in Scotland, Councillor Harrington's family moved around the country with her father's work until settling in Thorp Arch where she attended Tadcaster Grammar school, taking employment with Barclays Bank in Wetherby after leaving full time education. Councillor Harrington started a successful career in the prison service in 1988, progressing through the grades to become Governor of HMP Wealstun in 2008.</small>
<small>Councillor Harrington is married with two daughters, a step-daughter and six grandchildren. She met her husband Tom whilst living and working in East Anglia and they moved to Wetherby eight years ago after she took up her post at Wealstun Prison. Her daughters still live locally with their families and Councillor Harrington counts her hobbies as music, reading, flower arranging, foreign travel, walking and spending time with her family.</small>
<small>Taking early retirement, has allowed Councillor Harrington to become involved with a number of community organisations in Wetherby. She is now a trustee of WISE (Wetherby in Support of the Elderly), Chair of Trustees for the Wetherby and District Foodbank and an active member of Wetherby Methodist Church.</small>

Cllr Rowden's email address is paul.rowden@wetherby.co.uk

Town Council News - Problems with Internet

In July's Council Meeting, it was 'noted that, over the past two months, there have been significant issues with the internet connection in the Town Hall which Touch Telecomm are struggling to fully resolve. This has negatively impacted on the work of staff in the Town Hall.'

No details of what these problems are or the costly effects of them.

Does anyone use the free Wifi in the town? If so, is it reliable?

General Town Council meetings are monthly (2nd Tues)

The last meeting was on 9 Aug.

The minutes of the July meeting are available on the website





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Issue 26 - Fri 26 Aug, Full 1000 print

Issue 27 - Fri 9 Sept

Issue 28 - Fri 23 Sept, Full 1000 print



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What's On

Tell our large readership about your event -
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Message from our Cinema

"Hi Everyone, It has been a very busy few months for the Wetherby Cinema team. We have made great progress improving your cinema – from vital repair work to making the space accessible for everyone.

With the second screen fit well underway we will soon be able to offer a wide and diverse range of films with our newly expanded film programme! From all the latest releases to independent films to arts theatre

right on your doorstep. We can't wait to welcome you all to a new and improved community cinema experience.

As always thank you for your ongoing support. Wetherby Cinema Team"

Next issue - details of Harrogate Film Society's upcoming Season of films, starting on Monday 12 September.



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Sun 14 Aug - Old Silkstone Sun 21 Aug - Barnsley

Sun 28 Aug - Shepherd Group

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It's YOUR Newsletter - Please tell us your news, views, articles and ideas for items



A fantastic start for Leeds United with a 2 - 1 win at Elland Road. Wolves went ahead after just 6 minutes and the



manager claimed after the match they were the better side . But Jesse Marsch's team fought back with a Rodrigo goal and one that almost gave American Aaronson his first goal for the Whites but it was given as an own goal.



Southampton v **Utd** on Sat 13 Aug at 15.00

Utd v Chelsea on Sun 21 Aug at 14.00



Harrogate in League 2 won their first match 3 - 0 then lost their next match at Crewe 3 - 0.

Crawley v **Town** on Sat 13 Aug at 15.00

Gillingham v **Town** on Tues 16 Aug at 19.45

Barrow v **Town** on Sat 20 Aug at 15.00



Newly-promoted York City had a great start in the National League winning 2 - 0 at Woking.

Maidstone v **City** on Sat 13 Aug at 15.00

Solihull v **City** on Wed 17 Aug at 19.45

City v Eastleigh on Sat 20 Aug at 15.00



The Rhinos needed a strong performance against play-off rivals Salford to stay in the running for a play-off place. And they did not disappoint. A delighted Headingley saw 5

tries in the sun that saw

off the Red Devils, who never looked likely to threaten. It ended 34 - 14.

Just look at the table to see how tight it is with only 2 games to go. Thankfully, fans who can't get to Hull can watch it on Sky.

5	Castleford	22
6	Leeds Rhinos	21
7	Salford	20
8	Hull FC	20
9	Hull KR	20

Hull KR v **Rhinos** on Fri 12 Aug at 20.00

Rhinos v Warrington on Fri 19 Aug at 20.00

Don't Miss the Next Issue - in Print

- ⇒ **Mystery of the Wetherby Community News**
- ⇒ **An Experience of Our 'Justice' System**
- ⇒ **The Missing Councillors**
- ⇒ **Your Suggestions to Improve Wetherby**
- ⇒ **An Old Chestnut**
- ⇒ **Plus all the Usual Items -**

Funny & Informative



Free Press
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Everyone mentioned in the WFP has a right to reply. The reply will be published unedited, unless it is too long.

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

We quote directly to avoid any misunderstandings. We don't do spoken interviews – summarising what people say is a difficult skill and the interviewee will often not be happy with the result.

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

Trying to intimidate us without justification is bullying behaviour and will not be tolerated. Unjustifiable threats of legal action that are made more than once could be used in a criminal case of harassment.

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Thank You



The Dove of Truth

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Facebook: [wetherbycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/wetherbycouncil) Twitter: [wetherbytc](https://twitter.com/wetherbytc)

Leeds City Council: 0113 222 4444 www.leeds.gov.uk

Facebook: [Leedscouncil](https://www.facebook.com/Leedscouncil) Twitter: [LeedsCC_Help](https://twitter.com/LeedsCC_Help)

W'by Library: 583144 libraryenquiries@leeds.gov.uk

W'by Tourist Info: inside library 582151

W'by Leisure Centre: 0113 378 1265 wetherby.lc@leeds.gov.uk

W'by Health Centres: Hallfield Lane 585669
Crossley St 543200

Buses: Connexions: 01423 339600 www.connexionsbuses.com

First Leeds: 0345 646 0707 www.firstbus.co.uk/leeds

Harrogate Bus Co: 01423 56 60 61 www.transdevbus.co.uk/harrogate/

Metro: For all West Yorkshire bus times & all issues with bus stops, shelters and stations 0113 245 7676 www.wymetro.com

W'by Social Media: Facebook: Wetherby Grumbler 22,600 members

W'by Foodbank: info@wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Twitter: [WBYFoodbank](https://twitter.com/WBYFoodbank)

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