



ISSUE 42 until Fri 21 Apr '23

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

Not-for-profit Community Newsletter

↔ Contents overleaf ↔



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www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



4 Town Councillors (Conservatives) Quit - leaving 4 Vacancies



Sam Bennett is MP Alec Shelbrooke's secretary. She attended 1/3 of meetings last year. *Sam ignored every single one of our emails asking her to comment on issues.*

Alan Lamb attended 74% of meetings last year. *He refused to answer any of our questions in writing since Aug 22.*

See Page 6 for more news about Cllr Lamb.

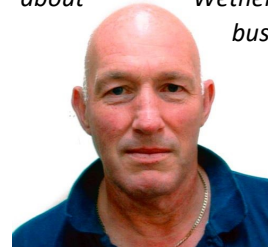


Jo Maltby attended less than 1/3 of meetings last year (5/16). She was on the Markets Cttee.

Jo ignored every single one of our emails asking her to comment on issues.

Paul Rowden was co-opted in Aug 2021. He attended 100% of meetings (13/13). He has an interest in buses.

We can find no evidence that Paul took any action about issues we raised about Wetherby buses.



Comment It is a shame we have only ONE new Town Councillor - **Billie Ager-Mills**. She is 'non-political', unlike all our other councillors who are Conservative. Welcome to Wetherby chair **Victor Hawkins** quit last year, meaning the town needs 4 people to make up the numbers. Why has just one resident volunteered?



The so-called 'professional media' (Wetherby News, Y Post, YEP) has NOT reported the 80% W'by Council Tax Rise!

Next Meeting - Tues 11 Apr at 7pm, Town Hall
ANNUAL TOWN MTG - Tues 16 May at 7pm

Elderly Caring & Domestic Help

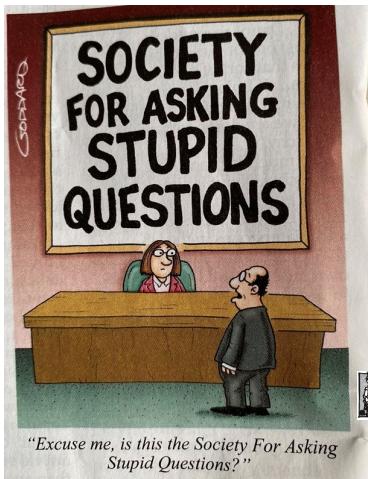
15 years Experience



NVQ Level 2 Qualification

References available

Call Kerry on 07876 525 589



Centrica (British Gas) boss **Chris O'Shea** was rewarded with a five-fold pay increase from 2021 to almost £4.5m in 2022. Whilst many of us are struggling to pay exorbitant energy bills. Sadly, no joke.

I just watched a documentary about beavers. It was the best dam show I ever saw!

What did the buffalo say when his son left? Bison!

Why can't you hear a Pterodactyl go to the bathroom?

Because the pee is silent!



PRIVATE EYE

ITV The Chase

Bradley Walsh: What symbol of German unification faces Pariser Platz in Berlin?
 Contestant: The swastika

Harry Enfield



as 'Loadsmoney'

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW

WetherbyBeerFest.com



Beer . Gin . Champagne
 LIVE MUSIC . LOCAL FOOD

28-29 APRIL || GRANGE PARK

WFP favours no political party - we aim to make those in authority accountable whoever they are



There were queues for Kendalls the Jewellers closing down sale ** Tues 4 April 2 cars involved in accident on York Road opposite Tatterton Lodge. One ended up on its roof! Witnesses say a man smashed a window and a lady crawled out ** **The Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress of Leeds (2 cllrs) visited on 30 March. The Town Clerk produced a long press release containing everyone they met with 9 photos. Why do they need a 'Communications Officer' costing 10s of £1000s when the Town Clerk can do it? More in next issue on this subject.**



Tales from the River Bank

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TRANSPORT NEWS

Easter Services New DalesBus Season

Pages 3 & 4

Comparison of Wetherby Pubs & Events

Page 5

Local Democracy - MP & Council

Page 8

Certificate of Achievement from Lions for WFP!?

Page 6



Both Live on TV - Easter Sunday
sky sports



Page 9



WE'RE BACK!

Opens 7am
£1 entry for buyers over 16s

Sellers: from 6am No booking necessary
£12 cars, £16 vans, +£3 trailers

Please have exact money

Dogs welcome on a lead

Ample parking, refreshments & toilets



Amazing Variety of Old & New Items to Buy Every Week!

Postcode LS22 5EJ Tel: 07990 938142 Facebook: W'by Racecourse Car Boot

Nominations for the Leeds City Councillor Position



Cllr Linda Richards

Using Social Media to the max



We acknowledge that our Ward Councillors do some good work in certain areas. That is obvious. Examples are contacting Leeds City Council about roadworks, missed bin collections, litter bins etc.

But there are many other issues we have raised in this newsletter where they have taken no action. They give no good reason for ignoring our issues. One excuse is 'not our responsibility' yet they claim to be heavily involved in cleaning the Wharfe up and that has as much to do with their responsibilities as the issues we raise. They pick and choose what they want to do, it's as simple as that. Cynics would say they choose the issues where they can get some good publicity and photos (see page 6), and the boring, troublesome or politically sensitive issues aren't followed up.

We are not saying another party would be any better but other towns like Otley seem to do better than us.

As the last Free Press showed for Jan & Feb, there were half the number of Facebook posts from our Ward Councillors 3 years ago when there was no election. There was also a large number of posts in March too, particularly from Cllr Richards, left, whose position is up for grabs.

The Conservatives are putting a great deal of effort and money into the **WRITTEN WORD** on social media and in glossy 'newsletters'. It is particularly ironic as these councillors refuse to address our issues or answer any questions **IN WRITING** from the Wetherby Free Press, or the Editor as a resident of over 30 years.

Their excessive use of social media could be seen as a sign of desperation which is caused by a newsletter (us) telling people the facts and because their main competition, Penny Stables of the Green Party (right), was only 1000 votes behind last time, see page 8 for details.

The Labour party has a candidate called Lucy Nuttgens. They had a stall by the Town Hall a couple of Saturdays ago. Lib Dems have James Prince. **If you disagree with any of our opinions, we will give your views EQUAL prominence in the next issue.**



Penny Stables, far right, and Green Party team

It's YOUR newsletter. Plse send, preferably with images, to wetherbyfreepress@pm.me

TRANSPORT NEWS

Cost of Unleaded *Correct on Thurs 6 Apr to nearest p*

Shell £1.56 Morrisons £1.54
Hawes in Yorks. Dales £1.44

Diff b/w Shell & Morrisons fill av tank is £1.10

PRICE FREEZE

Same for 6 weeks!



B Wetherby via Follifoot

Wednesdays & Fridays

Sainsburys Harrogate	1035	1245
Follifoot	-	1251f
Spofforth	-	1255
Wetherby Market Place	1045	1301
Hatfield Lane	1048	1305
Kirk Deighton	1049f	1307f
Aire Road Shops	1050	1309
Ansty Road (opp shops)	1052	1311
Templar Gardens	1054	1313
Wentworth Gate	1059	1318
Spofforth	1103	1322
Follifoot	1107f	1326
Sainsburys Harrogate	1113	1331

This free bus for shoppers is not advertised anywhere in Wetherby. Either by Sainsbury's or Connexions. Bizarre!

Low Standard of Work (again) from Metro / WYCA

Destination	Your
Wetherby YDNP Car Park	874
Wetherby Bar	X98
Wetherby Bus Station	8
Wetherby Bus Station	874
Wetherby Cemetery	7
Wetherby City Bus Station	874, 87
Wetherby City Square	X98
Wetherby Rail Station	874
Wetherby	X99
Wetherby Thantgate	412
Wetherby Bus Station	874
Wetherby RUF	923
Wetherby Fields Hospital, Wakefield	174

Leeds		
Monday to Friday	Saturday	
		1537
1438		0613
1509		0643
1540	B	0754
1648	B	0837
1752		0937
		1845
		1945

Hidden Destination & Times!

Filthy Timetable Case, York Rd

Again, the Transport Authority Metro / WYCA cannot get the basics right.

Metro promised the Editor they would correct the alignment of the poster at Wetherby Bus Station above. But it has not been done yet 3 weeks later. These bureaucrats and Labour Mayor Tracy would like to be in charge of running the buses too. *Would you trust them to do a good job?*

Our Ward Councillors & the Town Council's Climate Emergency Group (all Conservative) claim to take an interest in buses. What are they going to do about these low standards? They did nothing last time with the incorrect bus stop info, despite the fact they could make political capital out of it.

Mystery of Transdev Boss

Mystery surrounds the exact position of Alex Hornby, CEO of Transdev which runs the 7 & X98/99 to Leeds. The Editor keeps a close eye on social media and realised he had not seen a Tweet from Alex for a while, the last one on 18 Feb. His Twitter account disappeared then re-appeared with no new Tweets. This is most odd. Rumours were aflurry in the Twittersphere so we asked Transdev about it. All they would say is that 'Passenger Transport reports that Alex is taking some time away due to a personal issue, not that he has stepped down.' They asked us to respect Alex's privacy at this time. We did so and said nothing in the last issue.



We wrote again asking who is taking over his responsibilities and when we can expect a general press release. No response. *Like the unexplained bus crash in Wetherby in July 2021, Transdev are keeping silent about issues that are surely in the public (and passenger) interest.*

6 Month Review of New X98 / 99

First Leeds gave up the X98/99 route to Leeds in October 2022. We asked passengers on social media, image right, what has changed for the better and worse on this important Transdev service. Our thoughts:

Better

- No annoying 3 minute + driver changeover in Leeds
- Tables
- Friendlier drivers and better customer service online
- Printed timetables

Worse

- No more limited stop after Oakwood, making it slower
- No Metro newspaper

Your thoughts in next issue. Send to WetherbyFreePress@pm.me

Your Opinion of X98/99 Service

Better, Worse or Same?



Fancier buses but is Transdev more reliable than First?



Single Bus Fares



£2



on most buses

until 31 June



Evil **Prosperes When**

3

Good People Do Nothing

Bus Cuts in West Yorkshire from 2 April

There were many - see www.wymetro.com.
The most disturbing cuts were:

- ◆ **508 Leeds to Halifax, pictured.** This route was every 20 minutes at one time but is now being cut back from every 30 minutes to hourly by First West Yorkshire.
- ◆ **9 Ring Road bus Horsforth to Seacroft via White Rose centre.** *This means frustration for passengers who must go into the city centre to get to anywhere on the outskirts. This is ridiculous. Leeds must have the worst orbital bus services in the country.*



508 Leeds - Halifax now hourly

Easter Bus Services

Bus Services will mostly operate: West Yorkshire

- **Good Friday, 7 April** - Saturday service. Stourton Park & Ride, [PR3](#), will operate a Saturday service. Elland Road, PR1 and Temple Green, PR2, will be closed
- **Easter Saturday, 8 April** - Saturday service. Stourton Park & Ride, [PR3](#), will operate a Saturday service. Elland Road, PR1 and Temple Green will be closed.
- **Easter Sunday, 9 April** - Sunday service. Leeds City Park and Rides will be closed.
- **Easter Monday, 10 April** - Sunday service. Leeds City Park and Rides will be closed.



This year, there will be an additional Sunday and Bank Holiday service (DalesBus 876) running from York, Leeds, Otley and Ilkley to Grassington, with onward connections to Upper Wharfedale and Hawes.

DalesBus 875 is also extended to start from York, calling at Seacroft.

DalesBus services 875 and 876 will both normally be operated by double-decker buses to provide more space and great views.

£2 single fares will continue to be available until the end of June.

On Sundays and Bank Holidays from 9th April, these DalesBus services will be running:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Nidderdale DalesBus 24: Harrogate - Pateley Bridge | DalesBus 72: Skipton - Grassington |
| Wensleydale Flyer 856: Northallerton - Bedale - Leyburn - Aysgarth - Hawes - Gayle | |
| Cravenlink 864: Bradford - Ilkley - Skipton - Malham | Cravenlink 873: Ilkley - Bolton Abbey - Skipton |

DalesBus 874: Wetherby - Leeds - Otley - Ilkley - Bolton Abbey - Grassington - Buckden

DalesBus 875: York - Leeds - Ilkley - Grassington - Buckden - Aysgarth - Hawes DalesBus 876: York - Leeds - Ilkley - Grassington

Other Sunday and Bank Holiday DalesBus services will start later in the year.

www.dalesbus.org
TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR THE YORKSHIRE DALES

twitter  @DalesBus

Our City Councillors Have Still Not Met with publicly-funded Transport Authority Metro / WYCA or the Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin. They are the ones that Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington can influence.
Why haven't any of our councillors met these public servants yet?

Scarcroft Spring Craft Market & Café
at
Scarcroft Village Hall
on
Saturday 15th April
20+ Craft Stalls
Pop-Up Cafe
Gingerbread Decorating!
10am-3pm
Free Entry

Bee-Crafty Markets

Transdev Harrogate Bus Company (routes 7, 8 & X98/99) are running a Saturday service on Good Friday & Easter Saturday. They are running a Sunday service on Easter Sunday & Monday

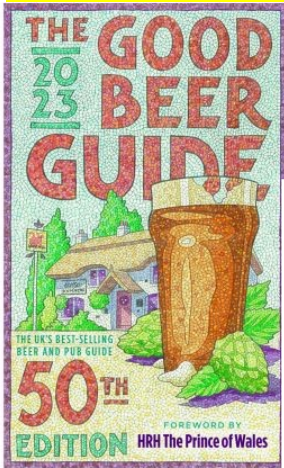
Summer timetables will start at Easter for DalesBus services to Wharfedale, Wensleydale and Malhamdale



Catch a Double-Decker to the Dales!

Pubs Featured in this Year's Good Beer Guide by CAMRA

(Campaign for Real Ale)



Knaresborough Blind Jack's Cross Keys Half Moon Mitre
Otley Black Horse Junction Inn Old Cock
Wetherby None

The above is just one indication of the state of Wetherby's pubs. Judge for yourself what it says about it.

Knaresborough & Otley both have a Wetherspoons pub with frequent real ale festivals and special offers. These bring drinkers into the town. Over 200 'Spoons pubs are in the Good Beer Guide. If you liked a pint of real ale and lived in Harrogate or Leeds and fancied going somewhere different, would you go to Wetherby?

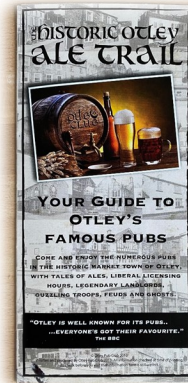
We see very little, if any, promotion by Wetherby pubs to attract (new) customers. What are they doing to compete with each other, or other towns? There isn't a food and drink booklet to promote our pubs, restaurants, cafes and takeaways, like the one we featured from Richmond in Issue 29, see image. There isn't a pub guide, like Otleys - see image.

Perhaps the Council's 'Welcome to Wetherby' & Wetherby Business Association can tell us why.

Pubs are one of the few businesses where you have no idea of the cost before you go in. A pint could cost anywhere between £3 & £5. A cider in one of our pubs can cost twice as much as it does in JD Wetherspoon, where they have prices on the hand-pulls and on cards.



Clear Pricing at 'Spoons



No promotion for Wetherby pubs



No booklet for Wetherby

Why don't Wetherby pubs do the same & promote their offers (if any) effectively using WFP or social media (it's free!)?

Agree? Disagree? Write to us at Wetherbyfreepress@pm.me

Comparison of Events & Entertainment in Otley & Wetherby for April

Otley Courthouse is 'an arts and resource centre for everyone' in the centre of town. It is a unique development run by the people of Otley. After an eight year development period they transformed a redundant 19th century magistrates court into a unique arts and resource centre for the community. It also has a cinema. Wetherby has a cinema too, of course.

Otley COURTHOUSE

an arts and resource centre for everyone

 Fair 1 April, 10am - 4pm, FREE Otley Courthouse	 Workshop 1 April 23, 10am - 1pm, FREE Otley Courthouse	 Workshop 1 April 23, 10am - 4pm (drop in), FREE Otley Courthouse	 Workshop 1 April 23, 1pm - 3:30pm, Free Otley Courthouse
 Otley Green Weekend Workshop: Make a Caterpillar planter 1 April 23, 1.30-3pm, FREE Otley Courthouse	 An Evening with Tom Heap: 39 Ways To Save The Planet 1 April 23, 7.30pm, £12/£8 Otley Courthouse	 Otley Green Weekend: How Can We Make Our Communities Thrive? 2 April 23, 10am - 4pm, FREE Otley Courthouse	 Half-term Zine Making Workshop (12-18 years) 4 April 23, 11am - 1pm, £6 Otley Courthouse

The above are some of the 19 events (excluding films) in April, including music, comedies, lunchtime recitals, many different workshops, family theatre, folk & tribute bands.

The Engine Shed on York Road is Wetherby's main entertainment venue. It is a private business not in the centre of town (which would encourage use of the bus and pre-event drinks).

In April it has 3 events - a Robbie Williams tribute act, an Easter meal (Sunday Sharing Platters) and a 70s & Motown Night.

The Engine Shed
Wetherby

70's and MOTOWN NIGHT

SATURDAY 15th APRIL

DJ PLAYING ALL THE 70's & MOTOWN HITS FROM 7.30PM
BAR OPEN UNTIL 1AM | £5 ENTRY | FANCY DRESS ENCOURAGED!

For further information please contact 01937 588884 or visit our website engineshedwetherby.co.uk

WEDDINGS • PARTIES • EVENTS

YORK ROAD, WETHERBY, LS22 7SU

Wetherby Town Council Website - 4 'What's On' Events

Wetherby Beer Festival not mentioned, nor Easter!

Indoor Market	Solomon by GE Handel	Artisan Crafts & Gifts Pop Up Shop & Tea Room	Wetherby Women's Institute
Wetherby Town Hall 1 Apr 23 - 10:00 to 15:30 Over 20 stalls - Free Entry	St James Church, Wetherby 1 Apr 23 - 19:30	Wetherby Town Hall 6 Apr 23 - 09:00 to 15:00 Ericallilli & Dippy - Meet the Makers	St James Church Rooms, St James' Street 12 Apr 23 - 19:30 Speaker Stephanie Davis on Lotherton Hall and Florence Nightingale

We are not making any comment on the quality of the two venues themselves. The number and variety of events should be larger in Otley and they can attract the bigger names. The Wetherby Festival usually has a celebrity or two but why can't we expect them throughout the year. Does Wetherby have the community spirit to find and run a community venue, like the Otley Courthouse?

5,000 online readers 5 (provable) in Sep & Oct 22



Certificate for Alan Lamb

The charity Wetherby

Lions has awarded Alan Lamb a certificate a few weeks before the local elections. He said "I'm really humbled to have been awarded this honour from @wetherbylions for cooking their annual senior citizens lunch each year



which is always a pleasure to do."

Cllr Lamb then put this certificate on his Twitter profile for his 1600 followers. (*Not very humble and surely 'helped to cook' would be more accurate*). In other news, Cllr Lamb has left his post as Chair of the Children & Families Scrutiny Board of Leeds City Council. We found no reason provided.

'more than annoyed'

Serving up a treat for Wetherby's older people

The Annual Wetherby Senior Citizens' Lunch took place at Wetherby High School in January. Councillor Alan Lamb was in the kitchen cooking up a treat, whilst our MP Alec Shelbrooke, Councillors Linda Richards and Norma Harrington joined local volunteers to serve food and drinks to the town's elderly.

Councillor Linda Richards said: "We were delighted to help organise this special event. Wetherby is such a special place and our community events are some of the best in the city.

Linda added: "Thank you to the many people who gave up their time to help organise the annual lunch."

Next year's Wetherby Senior Citizens' Lunch will be Saturday 27th January 2024.



Related to the lunch mentioned above, one anonymous person on social media was 'more than annoyed' that councillors & our MP used a photo of themselves at this lunch in their Conservative newsletter, see left. He complained that they were taking all the glory for organising and delivering the dinner when it was in fact done by the Lions (who were not mentioned in the article). The person claimed that the councillors were not present at the start or the end clearing up after the meal or out 'on cold nights' 'collecting the funds with Santa'.

This post was swiftly deleted!

Luckily we took a screenshot of it. If the person regretted their language why not edit it, instead of delete it? If they were pressured to remove the post, this type of censorship is disgraceful. We do not know whether what he said is accurate or not, but the person never claimed to speak for the Lions and has a right to freedom of expression, like anyone else.

This should be a reminder that ALL Wetherby organisations should be very wary of local politicians who have photos taken at an event which can be used in self-promotion. We

wonder what non-Conservative members of the Lions think about this (if there are any). Please tell us - we can anonymise you if you are afraid of speaking out. The Lions are a Registered Charity and charities are supposed to be non-political. This may be why they did not have their name in the above article but everyone knows the Lions organise it - it is widely publicised and happens every year.

Certificate for Town Council & WFP?

As for handing out pieces of paper to the Great and the Good in the town, the Wetherby Free Press looks forward to receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from the Lions for

- * Services to Making Wetherby Town Council and other Town Organisations Accountable
- * Being the Only General Newsletter for Wetherby Giving People the Freedom to Say What They Want
- * Going from Zero Readers to 5000+ in Sept & Oct 2022



Perhaps The Wetherby Free Press should have a Certificate of Non-Appreciation, see right.

We could have also one for organisations who serve themselves and their cronies ahead of the general good of the town. Or for organisations who have ignored, tried to censor and not supported in any way (without giving any good reason) the only free speech newsletter in Wetherby. Any suggestions?

A Closer Look at Wetherby Lions

In 1987 the constitution of Lions Clubs International was amended to allow for women to become members. Since then many clubs have admitted women, but some all-male clubs still exist.

Is Wetherby one of them? They do not say on their website.

They say nothing to encourage women to join. There are no details of the Chair or any of the Trustees on the website. Or any indication of how many members they have.

Why are the senior members so shy (like some other organisations in Wetherby) when they are the ones giving out these certificates? How is it decided? Are they being open and accountable to the public who see these certificates on social media?

We have to go to the Charity Commission website to find out who the main Wetherby Lions are: The Chair is Timothy Ritson. Trustees are Kenneth MacKenzie, Alan Creighton, Martin Doxey & John Wardley (also a Trustee of WISE). It says they have 8 volunteers. For year 21/22 they had an income of £14.5K and expenditure of £16.7K. They are Charity No 1166656 .

We note there are no women as Trustees. We acknowledge that the Wetherby Lions do much good work, which we would publicise if they sent us details and images. But they don't.



Wetherby Town Council & Councillors

- + For increasing the precept by 80% in a cost of living crisis
 - + For no simple explanation why 2 new officers are needed
 - + For not giving reasons or apols for 33% meeting attendance
 - + For not explaining why posts are advertised internally (when Dep Clerk 'retired' then jumped straight into Burials Manager job)
 - + For refusing to answer simple questions in writing
 - + For doing nothing about serious issues raised in WFP & social media
 - + For low standards, especially compared to other towns eg website, Welcome to Wetherby literature
 - + For not bothering to read (so they claim) the only regular general newsletter in Wetherby
 - + For not including the WFP in their list of correspondence
- The list goes on

Thank You for All Your Support 6 Your Kind Messages Keep Us Going

Mystery of the Wetherby Means Business Social Media Group

We were bemused when 'Wetherby Means Business' Facebook Group suddenly disappeared a few weeks ago.

It had 1000s of members and was frequently used by businesses to promote themselves, mainly to other businesses.

facebook

It was the main Facebook group purely for Wetherby businesses and we used it to promote the newsletter and attract advertisers.

We suspect it has been taken down by pressure from our detractors who hate free speech, as well as the facts we tell and our advertising to the businesses in Wetherby.

Of course, it may be our paranoia so we asked Jamie Hullah, Chair of Wetherby Business Association if he could shed any light onto this unusual occurrence. We also asked for his views on such groups promoting Wetherby businesses and whether his organisation has any plans to replace this group.

Eight days later and no response or even acknowledgement of our email from the Wetherby Business Association.

If anyone knows anything about the disappearance of this important group, please tell us (anonymously if you wish).

What do Wetherby businesses think about having no Facebook group specifically for businesses to promote themselves?



As 80s icon Toyah would say 'It's a Mystery'

Tales from the River Bank

On a recent trip to South Yorkshire, the Editor came across this sign on a sewage pumping station. Severn Trent Water are encouraging the public to grass them up so-to-speak.

We asked our 3 ward councillors (Conservatives), who claim to be campaigning to clean up the river Wharfe, whether Yorkshire Water has anything similar. And if not, whether any of them will be asking the company to introduce them immediately.

We also asked Mark Barrow, campaigner and Penny Stables of the Green Party. Mark queried why the sign was Severn Trent when it was in South Yorkshire. We gave him the exact location (River Idle in Bawtry).

Sadly, no hint of any of these campaigners taking this up with Yorkshire Water so far.



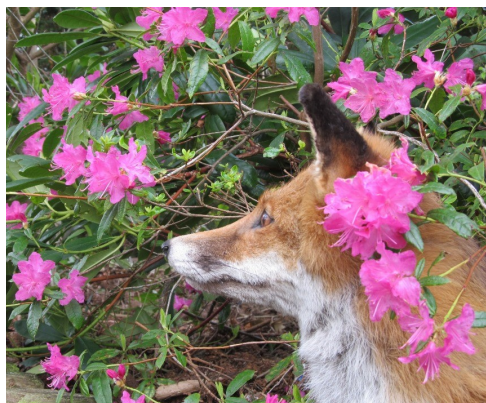
Mark Barrow, underwater cameraman & campaigner, has criticised the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust who, he claimed, are managing the fish pass project at Flint Mill, Boston Spa, left.

He says '4 years on still incomplete and a complete disgrace and no sign of it ever being finished'.

Mark acknowledges that landowner disputes, costs and the weather have been factors for the delay but complains that work has ceased completely for the last 2 years. He ends with 'all this from a charity meant to protect the river'.

We asked the Rivers Trust Charity (No 1107918) for comment and they said they are no longer involved.

Meanwhile Ilkley have a coordinated campaign group called 'Ilkley Clean River' led by Prof Becky Malby with a professional website. They are piling more pressure on Yorkshire Water and featured on the BBC Six O Clock news recently when the sewage discharge figures were released.



Real or Not? Answer in future issue



The Grey Heron



A common sight in our skies and in our rivers. And in your pond after your goldfish! Typical lifespan is 5 years. A large bird but only weighs 1.5Kg. Popular to eat at medieval banquets! Editor saw one standing in River Aire near Royal Armouries in Leeds.

Michael Cook
ACTION STILLS PHOTOGRAPHY

Local Democracy Page - Our MP & Councillors

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for 13 years since May 2010.

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.



Very Old Photo Alec still uses

Space for Alec & Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington

& other Wetherby Town Cllrs (Conservatives)

Unedited (max 400 words)



Email them at: linda.richards
alan.lamb norma.harrington
@leeds.gov.uk

Nothing received

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk

Dog (Owner) Behaviour a Constant Concern on Social Media

Almost every week on social media, there is a warning or appeal for information about aggressive behaviour by dogs or their owners or both.

Dog owners and walkers are very concerned about the small number of irresponsible dog owners on our footpaths and bridleways.

In Issue 38 we showed you the poster from Otley, right.

Putting these up may have some effect and is certainly worth the little time and expense it would take. But not a single one of our Town or City Councillors took up the idea. I guess we have to wait until a serious incident occurs before they do anything.



£157K spent on Town Hall Building Works last year



A market trader wondered why some of the windows were still in such a dreadful state after the scaffolding came down (Issue 40). We asked the Town Clerk for details and it was treated as an FOI request. We are grateful for the info - the works cost a total of £157K so far.

The job is not yet finished and the Council response said "The contractor was not asked to continue to decorate the windows in the west end of the building, due to the delays which had been experienced throughout the project, and another contractor will be sourced for these works."

Wetherby Town Council seem to be unlucky with their choice of contractors - Little Bird quit the Thursday market (still don't know why) and now this. Let's hope there's no problems with the Church on the Corner cemetery wall costing 10s of £1000s to rebuild.

The Rules about Local Elections - Electoral Commission

"What can candidates say about one another during the campaign?"

As at all elections, it is illegal to make a false statement about the personal character of a candidate in order to influence the result of the election. Rules about defamation also apply to election materials. The police may investigate allegations of the specific electoral offence of making a false statement.

Defamation issues are a matter for the civil courts. As with all elections, the Electoral Commission does not have a regulatory role in relation to the content of campaign material or what candidates say about each other, though we encourage all campaigners to undertake their vital role campaign transparency."

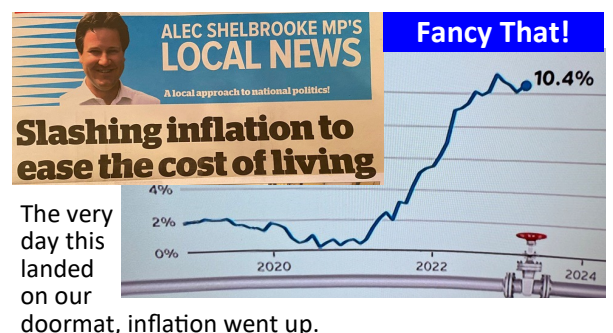
Politics can be a unsavoury business, yes even in Wetherby - a few years there were allegations of misbehaviour.

If you are aware of any false statements made about any of our candidates, you should contact the candidate or the Police. If you value the democracy we live in, do the right thing.

Reminder of Local Election Results in May 2022

Out of 16,600 who could vote, less than half did so (45%)
Norma Harrington, Conservative Party, won with 3,500 votes
Penny Stables, Green Party, came second with 2,500 votes
(Labour 880, Lib Dem 480)

It's our money they spend so make your vote count



Treat People How You 8 Would Like To Be Treated



Away at Arsenal Leeds had a bright first half hour against the League Leaders. They had 3 good chances before Ayling made a rash (stupid) challenge in the penalty box. Arsenal ran out 4-1 winners in the end.

Three days later United faced Notts Forest, another team fighting for survival at the bottom. The visitors to Elland Road had not won in 7 games. Although they hit the post and scored first, they continued their poor run of form, thankfully.



Harrison scores equaliser in 2-1 win

All the goals came in the first half with Leeds first goal a rebound from the goalie. A fantastic shot from Sinisterra just before half-time sealed all 3 points in the end. United played well and had more chances than Forest in the second half. Heading into Easter Leeds are 13th, only 2 points above the relegation zone.

Utd v Crystal Palace on Easter Sun 9 Apr at 14.00 **sky sports**

Utd v Liverpool on Mon 17 Apr at 20.00 **sky sports**



What an up and down season the Rhinos are having! Beating Saints and coming back for a fantastic win against top team Catalans Dragons in contrast to a dreadful first game and close defeats to teams they should be beating.

Leeds were in front of the Sky cameras again at Hull KR. The wet



conditions did not suit Leeds and Hull scored first from a 5th tackle kick that Leeds let bounce. At half time they were 18-0 down with hardly an attack to their name. Roberts scored for the Rhinos to give

them a lifeline. With 6 minutes to go they scored again but it was too late. 20-12 to Hull KR it ended. The Rhinos go into the Easter break in the bottom half of the table 4 wins behind the leaders Warrington.

Rhinos v Huddersfield Giants on Sun 9 Apr at 18.00 **sky sports**

Rhinos v Hull FC on Fri 14 Apr at 20.00

Leigh Leopards v **Rhinos** on Fri 21 Apr at 20.00

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Next Issue 43 - Fri 21 Apr



News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

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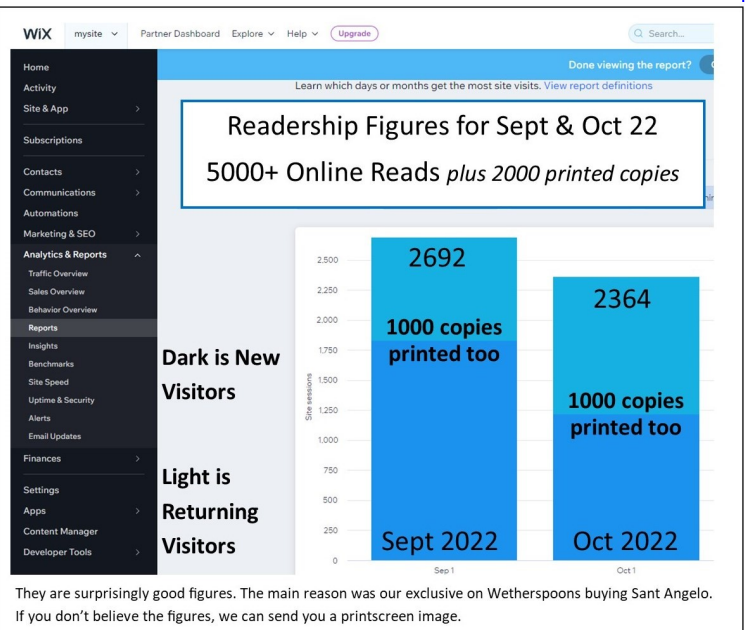
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No Wetherby News again in the so-called 'Wetherby News' (6 April)

