

WETHERBY



Thursday 4 May

ISSUE 43 until Fri 12 May '23

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

Quality Citizen Journalism

Contents overleaf



Read Full Issue at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



Lucky Ducky Record Sales Help Cancer Charity

A local charity has received nearly £900 from selling a record-breaking amount of duck food in the last year.

"It's amazing", said Elisa Morrirt, manager at Cancer Research UK, "We did not expect to sell more than last year which was a bumper year too". Elisa added that they are very grateful to all their customers who are providing the ducks with a healthy diet.

Local entrepreneur Paul Kirby is delighted at the sales, too. "I never imagined my idea would be so successful. We sold 2300 bags in 2021/22 from two shops in Wetherby, and over 3000 in 22/23".

The enterprise started in 2020 when Paul saw many people giving the ducks a lot of bread. He wanted to provide an alternative and researched the best ingredients for the bags, which include oats, peas and floating pellets. He found local shops, like Treasure Toys, willing to sell the bags and the rest is history. Everyone benefits - a charity, 2 local businesses, many children and, of course, the ducks.



Marketeer & Duck Food Maker Paul Kirby and Elisa Morrirt, Shop Manager



The Best Fed Ducks in Yorkshire / The World!!



Message for Local Entrepreneurs

Paul explained why he wants to publicise this successful venture: "This is a good example of finding a gap in the market, persevering when organisations and people are not particularly helpful and using simple, cheap and effective marketing". "The marketing is very important", Paul says. "You must use every means possible to tell people about your product. It is sad to see so many businesses go under when they have not used simple marketing, like an eye-catching logo or using Facebook groups (or this newsletter) for free advertising." Paul is willing to give local businesses advice and help for little or no charge. He can be contacted at PKmarketing1@yahoo.com

Brass Band Concerts by the River are Back

Why not feed the ducks whilst you're there?

2.30 - 4.30

Sun 30 Apr (Chapeltown) & Mon 1 May (Harrogate)



We are 4 Cllrs Short!

Wetherby Town Council needs 4 residents for these unpaid but important roles. We need people with common sense, who turn up to most meetings and are willing to be open and accountable for their actions/inaction ie answer questions and not ignore issues. Most importantly they must put the town before party and close alliances. After raising our council tax by 83% without public consultation, this council (all Conservative bar one) needs to be closely monitored. Could you help?

Contact Town Clerk for details: Tel 583584 or clerk@wetherby.co.uk

JD WETHERSPOON
Free House

What's Happening?

A rumour about the new 'Spoons has come up again on social media. This one has a 'good source'. See page 6 for their official response.

W'by Beer Festival

Beer . Gin . Champagne
LIVE MUSIC . LOCAL FOOD

28-29 APRIL || GRANGE PARK

WFP is a 'Marxist Rag' and now the 'Gutter Press'

Yes, the only free community newsletter for Wetherby was called a 'Marxist Rag' last year. More recently Ian Giddings said on social media we are the 'Gutter Press'. Thanks, we like opinions, we have free speech. But they should be backed up by at least one example or fact or detail or information or piece of evidence. The more examples, the stronger your argument. Unfortunately not one was provided. If say, 5 examples are sent to us, we'll print them and have a civilised exchange. *Wonder if we're as bad as the Star/Sun/Mail*



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TRANSPORT NEWS

X98/99 Review, 'Smart' Motorways

Pages 3 & 6

Anger at Cricket Club Closure

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Local Democracy - MP & Council

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Local Business - Stables Bar & Restaurant

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11 goals against

2 wins



Page 10

Cllr Lamb and other cllrs claim not to read the Wetherby Free Press. Just look at the variety of contents in this 10-page issue. It is very surprising that there's nothing in it any of them would find interesting.



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



You seen that film about Eddie Stobart's life yet? Should be good, I've seen the trailers (Thanks Michael Bell)

Ever eaten a clock?
Don't, it's time consuming.

I'm thinking about removing my spine.
I feel like it's only holding me back.

How True



Yes, it is the same picture!

What's the best part about living in Switzerland?
I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.



I'm terrified of lifts...
... so I'm going to start taking steps to avoid them.

I used to have a job designing calendars but I got the sack because I took a couple of days off.

Elderly Caring & Domestic Help

15 years Experience



NVQ Level 2 Qualification

References available

Call Kerry on 07876 525 589

Wetherby Town Council Mtg - March

4 councillors were absent. 3 residents attended.
With their 83% rise in our C Tax in the bank, they agreed to employ a full-time Communications & Events Officer to be paid at SCP18 - no detail how much that is. We found it is £27,000 plus.

Admin Assistant to be renamed to Admin Officer - no explanation why.

Payment to Newspace Media for £2880 in March - No details why in any of the minutes.

Buses or the Library were not mentioned at all in any of the minutes.

Wetherby Business Association did not attend Welcome to Wetherby mtg in Feb despite being invited. No reason given.

A list of correspondence was again missing. Why? Surely not because we write to them and they would have to put us in it if they did produce one! Pathetic if it is.

6 Month Review of New X98 / 99 Operator

Cost of Unleaded Correct on Thurs 20 Apr to nearest p

Shell £1.58 Morrisons £1.56 - 2p difference as usual

Morrisons H'gate £1.445

Diff b/w Shell & H'gate to fill av tank is £7.40



PRICE FREEZE

in Wetherby ends
(lasted nrly 2 mths)

We asked 3 questions on the most popular online community groups - Wetherby Grumbler & Nextdoor, both with 1000s of members. There was a large response, including some comments from Leeds residents who use the route. The post on Nextdoor had over 5,000 views.

1 What has changed for the better and what is now worse?

Better - many mentioned the comfort, cleanliness and friendliness of drivers. The Transdev app was praised too. **Worse** - see below

2 Taking everything into account, is it a better, worse or the same service?

The overwhelming majority found the new operator an improvement on the last. The negative comments were mainly about reliability and cancellations.

3 Are there still many cancelled buses?

Reliability was a problem at the beginning with driver shortages but most responses did not mention it. However, some are having bad experiences. Cancellations are more often down to roadworks/accidents than driver shortages/bus breakdowns. Here are some comments:

"They come when they come great, when they don't it's an absolute pain"

"90% of the buses I've used have been on time"

"For the most part the buses are pretty much on time with very few cancellations"

"Every time I catch it in Leeds, its always late"

"When buses are cancelled more are cancelled in a row and there's often no notice"

"Still cancel quite often resulting in 2/3 hr delays like the other day"

"Buses seem just as reliable as they were previously, and I commute to Leeds regularly!"

"It has been a no show for me a couple of times which makes it unreliable"

"Good service, despite all the roadworks they have to contend with in Leeds"

"The cancellation of buses on our route is atrocious" (Bardsey passenger)

General Comments for Transdev to Address

"Why isn't there a limited stop bus service, especially early 7am and later after 7pm? That would get my vote and frequent use".

"Shame that the buses aren't fast from Oakwood clock anymore because in peak times it is taking much longer to get into Leeds"

"I wonder why Transdev are making such a mess of the no 7 bus route from Harrogate to Leeds. It's appalling they are only running every hour and a lot are cancelled with no prior warning. We have to use it to go to work and currently it's not fit for purpose"

"The connection times to get to Harrogate via Wetherby are just impossible, even if the x98/99 is 3 mins late (which more often than not is more than this) then we've missed the connection bus to go to Harrogate"

Most comments were complimentary like this one: "We have had a brilliant service through East Keswick thank you, and the drivers are exceptional"

One that we can all agree on is "I am hoping this improvement will continue because it is exactly what we need - a reliable and regular bus service to get people out of their cars". Here, here.



'Every 30 minutes' - Let's hope it stays that way

It was disappointing to see no response from any of our 15 Town Councillors or Leeds City Councillors, especially those on the 'Climate Emergency Ctte'. There is no evidence that any of them use this vital community service.

In the continued absence of Transdev boss Alex Hornby, we will ask Matt Burley, Commercial Manager & Paul Turner, Commercial Director for their comment on the issues raised above.

Figures just released - Transdev made a loss of £2.7m in 2021

Your Opinion of X98/99 Service

Better, Worse or Same?



Fancier buses but is Transdev more reliable than First?



Luxurious interior praised by many

Fun Facts

The Conservatives deregulated the buses in 1986 ie allowed private companies to run services. The £3bn Boris Johnson (Con) promised for buses did not stop the Wetherby to Leeds route 7 cut by half ie every 30 mins to hourly. Cllr Richards (Con), who lives on the route in Bramham, met the bus company boss and did not stop it either.



Single Bus Fares



£2



on most buses

until 31 June



Guide Dogs Fundraiser at Easter

The Harrogate & Wetherby branch of Guide Dogs (for the Blind Association) organised a fundraising tea party at the Easter weekend.

A group of Wetherby neighbours who cemented their friendship during Covid got together in one of their gardens. There was an open invitation for friends and the surrounding community. Local businesses Wetherby Framing Company, Blu Hair, Pink Beauty, The Animal Barn, Kool Kids, Artisan Cheese Co, The Gourmet, Wetherby Cinema & Appletons Butcher generously donated raffle prizes. The most unique donation was from one



of the neighbour's dogs who sponsored "Guess the Name of the Guide Dog Puppy". He is a chocolate labrador called Bodhi and his prize was a basket full of M & S Easter treats.

Over 50 people were involved with or attended the party and a great time had by all. A fantastic total of £482 was raised for Guide Dogs.

Fascinating Fact! The first known example of a special relationship between a dog and a blind person was depicted in a first-century AD mural in the ruins of Roman Herculaneum.

For more information about this charity, go to www.guidedogs.org.uk

If you would like to get involved locally, the email is harrogatewetherbyguidedogs@gmail.com

Editor's note - This is a charity well worth supporting as they do not waste money on expensive 'communications' staff. This item of news was sent to us by a 'Volunteer Media Assistant'. Anyone with half a brain can write a simple press release and take a photo. Remember many charities, including local ones, spend our/your money on themselves instead of the cause - see Issue 29.



Bodhi's owner who also sold the sweepstake tickets

In Defence of the W'by Town Council Precept Rise of 83%

We have been asking for somebody to explain or defend the 83% increase in Wetherby's part of the council tax. We thought the Council's 'Budget Bulletin' did not fully explain why expensive new staff were necessary in a cost of living crisis and when other councils could cope perfectly well with existing staff.

Not one of the 15 councillors who made the decision would answer our questions in writing but one resident has written to us on the subject. Here is his letter, unedited ('you' means the Editor):

Dear Sir

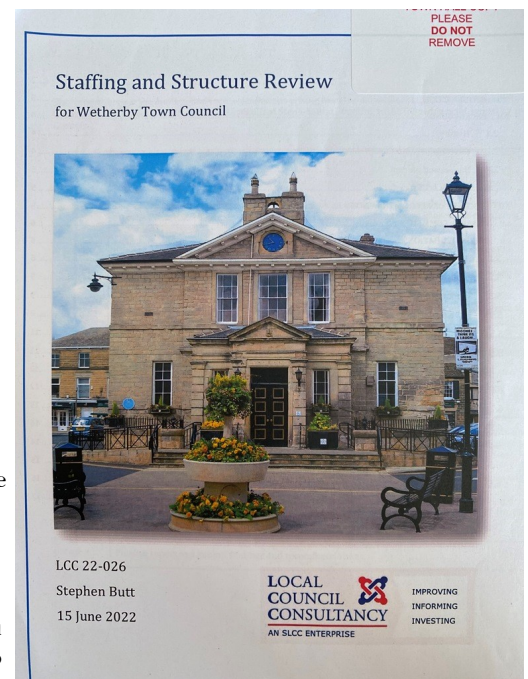
This letter is a follow up from an exchange of comments on the Nextdoor forum regarding the Wetherby Town Council precept for the financial year 2023/4.

I appreciate that, on the face of it, the rise seems outrageous but, on the forum, it was explained that, as well as needing to cover the costs of maintaining those areas and buildings within the town for which the town council is responsible, the rise is necessary to cover the cost of additional staff to be employed by the council. The need for the additional staff arises out of a report commissioned by the council and the contents of that report were outlined in a post, by a third party, on the Nextdoor forum.

From comments that you have made, you appear to say that this town does not require the extra staff as Otley, with which comparison is made, does not have the posts that are to be created in Wetherby and your response to the recommendations of the report was that it would tell the councillors what they wanted to hear.

In my post on the Nextdoor forum, I asked on what basis you made the claim that the report would tell the councillors what they wanted to hear and I asked if you had read the report. If you have read the report then you are justified in holding the opinion that it tells the councillors what they wish to hear and I can respect that but if you have not read the report, how can you make your claim that it tells the councillors what they want to hear? With this in mind, are you prepared to say if you have read the report or will your reply be (as it was to a question some time ago as to whether or not you have attended council meetings) "none of your business"? If the latter, the implication, to me, would be that the answer, in both cases, is no in which case how can we take, seriously, any reporting, in the WFP, of council matters plus should we be considering if reports on other matters arise out of a full investigation or are just headlines based on little knowledge of the full facts.

Yours faithfully, Stephen Ramsbottom



The £2000 report (with not enough detail and no benchmarking ie comparison with similar towns)



Editor's Response:

We read the 'Staff & Structure Review' report. We could not have written the article on the next page without reading it. It was in Issue 38 (page 5).

In addition to the still unanswered questions in the article on the next page, we noticed the report has a table saying a 'small town' like Wetherby should have 'up to 20 staff' and have a budget between '£250 - 750K'. Such a wide variation makes the figures almost totally useless.

Still No Clear Answers - Why the Extra Staff are Wanted & Why Now

The answer is mostly STAFF. They will cost us £300,000 a year!

They want an extra £145,000 on personnel alone. The council commissioned a report from 'Local Council Consultancy', a private ltd company, costing £2,000+. It starts by describing the history of Wetherby, which is irrelevant.

It recommends restructuring and 'several new posts', the main ones being:

- ◆ a new full time 'Operations Manager', costing nearly £30,000
- ◆ a new full time Communications & Events Manager, costing over £25,000

They already have a Facilities Manager and Burials Manager.



**Fascinating Facts - Otley does NOT need a Communications Manager (their admin staff / cllrs can cope)
Otley does NOT need an Operations Manager (their Clerk & Deputy can manage)**

A full-time Wetherby Town Clerk would be paid £41,600 & her full-time Deputy nearly £30,000!

The Wetherby Free Press knew this was coming. The Councillors are clearly fed up of the WFP telling everyone the truth and giving residents the facts, with a dose of common sense opinion. They would prefer to pay a 'Communications Manager' to promote the councillors and their work. **Just like many other public organisations, including the Mayor of West Yorkshire & local charity WISE, they prefer to spend our public money on PR than actual services.**



Infamous
John McEnroe
in the 70s

A Communications person for a local council should be independent of mind and non-political but does anyone seriously think they will be?

In a list of local media this report mentions the (one item of news a week max) so-called Wetherby News but not the Wetherby Free Press. This report did not make any comparisons with other similarly-sized councils, like Otley. Could that be because they outperform Wetherby in so many areas?

These facts alone prove that this report is not comprehensive or to be taken seriously in important areas of performance, accountability and openness.

Stress is Up - Staff are 'Firefighting'

The report contains the usual waffle but there is an interesting hint that all is not well in the Town Hall. Staff say that "stress levels are increasing with more time taken up 'firefighting'".



Why is that? We think it is because the Council has made such little progress in recent years, as highlighted in the WFP, that it's no wonder they can't cope with all the issues we raise with them.

Will the recruitment process be open? We remind you that a 'retiring' staff member wasn't retiring at all last year, as she jumped straight into another job at the Town Hall! This post was advertised INTERNALLY only! Is that fair? No reassurance was given that everything was above board when we queried this. We do not trust this town council. Why the silence?

It is incredible that between 15 Town Councillors and several admin staff they are incapable of sending tweets, composing Facebook posts and writing simple press releases. It is not rocket science. If they could manage that between them, it would save £25,000 of our money - plus £1000s of other expenses for the job, like computer equipment.

Otley do not need a 'Communications Manager', and nor do we. We believe this PR person will produce a newsletter to tell you only positive stuff to try and counteract our factual, questioning coverage. That's fine, but don't use public money for it; they should get friends in their party or local businesses to pay for all of it.

We think this massive increase of 43% for mostly staff to cost £300,000 in a cost of living crisis is outrageous

If you agree with us, it is time to act.

- Question the Town Clerk, your 14 Conservative councillors and contact BBC Look North & Calendar, as well as the national media, with your views
- Start a campaign and we will back you.
- Make your views known at Town Council meetings:

If anyone thinks the Council's plans are perfectly reasonable, please contact us and we will print your views.



Read Report at: www.wetherby.co.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Town%20Council/Staffing/LCC%20Wetherby%20Final%20Report.pdf

Comment

Government Finally Seen Sense over 'Smart' Motorways

You wonder what planet these so-called experts and politicians are on sometimes. In what universe can turning the hard shoulder of the motorway into a live lane be safer? Common sense tells you it can't be. But that is a rare commodity these days.

We would love to know the name of the person who thought of this idea in the first place - they should be named and shamed. Of course, it is the Secretary of State for Transport who is ultimately responsible. But nowadays people don't resign do they? There is little shame in incompetence any more .

It has taken many lives to be lost and the hard campaigning work of Claire Mercer, the lady from South Yorkshire who lost her husband, to stop this madness from continuing. They even put live lanes on stretches of motorway with bends. And lorry drivers with their elevated viewing position have been involved in accidents, too.

We could not believe our ears when Duncan Smith of National Highways said he would prefer to be stranded in a live lane than the hard shoulder. Yes, he actually said that. Spencer Stokes interviewing him for Look North said many viewers would be 'surprised' at this (BBC understatement).

We wondered why the police, ambulance and fire did not complain or refuse to work in such dangerous conditions when there's a blockage in a live lane they have to attend. Of course, it takes them much longer to get to it because there is no hard shoulder. Lives are lost because of that too. Crazy!

Governments don't admit to costly errors so they have blamed the U-turn on the public's unease about them and the cost. Will they now turn all those live lanes back to hard shoulders?



Editor of WFP has 4 Page Article Published in National Magazine



Is the superb scenery in the Lake District matched by superb services by Stagecoach? **PAUL KIRBY** found out during a 10-day holiday in Summer 2022

In my mind, the Lake District has the most scenic routes in England, if not the UK. It was on the incredible 77 Keswick to Buttermere circular where I first thought of carrying out a nationwide survey to see whether people agreed. They didn't, as it happened; the top three winning routes in 2019 were in North Yorkshire, Scotland and the South Coast. The Lake District did not feature in the top 10 and I wondered if there was any particular reason.

So, five years after my last visit to Britain's most popular National Park, I spent 10 days there with my partner in peak season. We stayed in the south (Barrow) and the northwest (Maryport) so we could experience most of the main Stagecoach routes in the Lake District and its coast.

Background
In 2021 there were nearly six million visitors to Cumbria who stayed overnight. They spent an average of 3.4 nights in the county, according to Cumbria Tourism. The organisation claims that the visitor economy contributed £3.1bn in 2019.

Keswick Town Council carried out a "Transport Study" in 2019 with partner organisations. It was disappointing to see the word "bus" was not stated once in the first three parts of the report – summary, recommendations and background. They concluded that they would like:

- A 30-minute frequency between Keswick & Penrith rail station instead of hourly;
- Bus shelters provided or upgraded around town; and
- Real time information displays introduced at main stop by Booths and elsewhere.

Stagecoach Cumbria and North Lancashire need to attract more of the six million long-stayers onto their buses. Day-trippers may be tempted onto the open top 599 between Windermere and Grasmere, but are unlikely to use more of the network.

Planning the Trip
The company's main promotion tool is their impressive "The Lakes by bus" booklet. Stagecoach should be congratulated on its wide distribution – it can be found everywhere, including in a miniature bus by the lake at Bowmoss. It was empty on our first visit, but the company was quick to remedy this after we informed them on Twitter.

Our first task was to obtain the timetable booklet before we left home. It was kindly sent to us in the post after emailing customer services. Stagecoach seemed reluctant to promote the booklet outside Cumbria. I'm sure the same bus users who enjoy DalesBus and Moorbus in Yorkshire would be tempted by the same scenic services in another part of the North. They could all cross-promote each other's



Even on holiday the Editor cannot stop working! He wrote about his experiences in the Lake District last summer in a 4-page article containing an equal amount of praise and constructive criticism. You can read it in May's issue of Buses magazine (the 'World's Biggest Selling Bus Magazine' at £5.50 in larger newsagents).

The aim is simple - to help get people out of their cars in a unique National Park with its crowded roads and limited parking in summer.

Let's hope the people with influence and authority take the points on board and make improvements.

Previous published articles have been on the disappearance of Leeds' night buses & a comparison of transport in Leeds & Köln.

Have you featured in a national publication or been on TV and would like to share your experience?
Write to us at WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

J D WETHERSPOON
Free House
What's Happening?

It was reported from a 'good source' that the 'deal is off due to planning constraints'. Apparently, the planning permission has not been submitted because 'the sticking point is that some of the work that they wish to carry out would be refused due to the building having listed status'. WFP asked our Spoons contact for reassurance and they replied "Apologies but we won't comment on this".

Fact: 5,000 online readers 6 in Sep & Oct 22

Anger at Wetherby Cricket Club Closure



We received this letter:

Town the size of Wetherby (17k?) has just lost it's Cricket Club. The club has folded and the ground is being taken over by the Rugby Union club.

Otley has 3 senior teams in the Aire/Wharfe Senior League as well as junior teams in the age groups U9 to U17 in the Aire/Wharfe Junior League.

Locally, Collingham and Linton C.C. has 3 senior teams in Aire/Wharfe Senior league as well as juniors in U9 to U15 leagues (Aire/Wharfe and Leeds/Wetherby leagues). Thorp Arch and Boston Spa has 2 senior teams in York Senior League as well as juniors in the Leeds /Wetherby League. Kirk Deighton run 2 teams in the Nidderdale League as does Spofforth who also have



Final Over at Wetherby

junior sides. Bilton in Ainsty run 2 teams in the York Senior League. Bardsey run 2 teams in the Aire/Wharfe Senior League as well as juniors in the Leeds/Wetherby League. Even Little Ribston run a team in the Nidderdale League.



*What is the problem at Wetherby (original founders of the old Wetherby League)? It's the same as the rest of the problems in the town - nobody can be ar**d, it's a town for old people who couldn't give a monkeys.*

What do you think? Is there an apathy problem in this town? The Bowling Club is looking for new members to keep their club alive. Yes, we have some great volunteers doing some great work eg Wetherby in Bloom but the evidence is mounting to suggest there is a problem with apathy. Disagree? then don't be apathetic, write to us.

LEEDS UNITED SHOW SUPPORT FOR LEEDS 2023

LEEDS 2023 recently launched Part Two of its year-long programme, 'Playing', which encourages people to find wonder in the everyday and the unfamiliar, and includes several sports-themed projects across the city.



To kick off Part 2, Leeds United dedicated its game against Liverpool on 17 April to LEEDS 2023 in support of the city's Year of Culture. The stadium was a colourful celebration of LEEDS 2023 with the screens and LED lights lit up in its brand colours.

Agnus Kinnear, Chief Executive at Leeds United said: "It's fantastic to see the extraordinary range of community events in the programme and we hope that fans will get out and experience some great culture on their doorstep this summer."



Leeds player Archie Gray in the middle

The year-long programme, 'Playing', includes several sports-themed projects across the city:

19-21 May: Northern Roll Festival - around the city: a celebration of skating with a packed weekend of workshops, roller discos and a roller derby. The Royal Armouries will transform into a huge skate rink where everyone is invited to have a go (skate hire available). Organised by LS-TEN charity, it offers free and paid for events with all proceeds going to the charity to fund Skate Scholarships for young people and their families.

27- 29 July: Kick Off – Leeds City Centre: A bold and joyful live performance celebrating the dynamism and skill of women's football and its link to the history of women's protest and activism through an eruption of dance and live music.

12 August: No Home Advantage – Online and at the LEEDS 2023 Trinity Hub: Babeworld – an organisation which seeks to create a more representative art world – will deliver an online workshop alongside a physical event at the LEEDS 2023 Hub at Trinity Leeds exploring how to create safer spaces for marginalised people to watch football.

'My LEEDS' summer events are part of festival in June, July and August in local parks, high streets and village halls, as communities in the 33 wards of Leeds put on their own events to showcase local talent and bring people together.

Events are free and organised by LEEDS 2023's Neighbourhood Hosts, like Kazia Knight.



Thank You for All Your Support 7 Your Kind Messages Keep Us Going

Fancy a Meal Out? Try this Local Hidden Gem

If your travels usually revolve around seeking out good food, you should check out the Stables Bar & Restaurant. It is situated at Maustin Park in Netherby on the road to Kirkby Overblow after Sicklinghall.



The Stables Bar & Restaurant has been No. 1 on Tripadvisor for over 2 years and it's not surprising with some of the fantastic reviews they have received.

Serving locally-sourced good quality food, they offer a great menu with specials including traditional roasts on Sundays, classics like pie of the week and fish n chips.

**** Steak Night + Quiz at just £35 for 2 every Thursday - includes a bottle of house wine ****

Linda & Stephen Disney have been running the independent bar for the last 5 years and have built a great reputation for food and entertainment. They are currently planning their 2nd beer festival to take place Fri 23 to Sun 25 June. It will include a great range of



SUNDAY LUNCH
 Traditional Sunday Roast with a choice of meats, served with all the trimmings.
 from £12
 EVERY SUNDAY
 12 - 5PM
www.thestablesbarandrestaurant.co.uk

real ales as well as live music across the weekend, so make a note in your diary.

The Stables has great beer gardens to the front and rear where you can see plenty of red kites swooping down for food. They have disabled access and are very dog friendly!

CAMRA members receive 20p off a pint and there are plenty of guest ales due on over the next few weeks!

If you fancy a drive out for a traditional Sunday lunch, it's well worth a visit. But be sure to make a reservation as they do tend to get busy - the best restaurants usually are!

Call Linda on 07946 413879 for bookings or visit www.thestablesbarandrestaurant.co.uk



Local Businesses - Take the Opportunity to Promote Yourself

Bee-Crafty Markets

Wetherby Spring Craft Market & Café

Wetherby Town Hall
 on
 Saturday 22nd April

10am-3pm
 Free Entry

[Bee-Crafty Market](https://www.facebook.com/Bee-Crafty-Market)

Wildlife of Wetherby



Real or Not?
 Answer in next issue



Curlew



An unmistakable bird in many ways - in song, in flight and in beak shape. Seen this week by the old railway line near the racecourse. More often seen on moorland or the coast.

Until 1942 you could still buy curlews in UK Butchers. 50% decrease in numbers in 30 years.



Leeds City Council are investing more than £124,000 into Wetherby Leisure Centre. It said membership is down 20% since Covid. It hopes the funding will attract extra 200 new members every year.

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)



Cllr Linda Richards

Cllr Alan Lamb

Cllr Norma Harrington

Email them at: [linda.richards](mailto:linda.richards@leeds.gov.uk)

[alan.lamb](mailto:alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk) [norma.harrington](mailto:norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk)

[@leeds.gov.uk](https://twitter.com/leeds.gov.uk)

Nothing received

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk

Cllr Lamb's Response to Last Issue

We featured Cllr Alan Lamb in Issue 42 regarding his resignation from Wetherby Town Council, his resignation from his post as Chair of Children & Families Scrutiny Board of Leeds City Councillor, and his 'Certificate of Appreciation' given to him by the Wetherby Lions (a non-political charity).

There were many questions raised and general topics about councillors too. As always we send an email to every councillor asking for comment.

Most do not have the decency to acknowledge the email, let alone address the issues. They prefer to ignore us and you, our readers. Very rude and arrogant, we think. And showing a desire to be unaccountable.

Cllr Lamb does respond but is not very helpful. In relation to Issue 42, he writes:

Dear Paul,

From the editions I have read, the publication is poorly written, ill informed and a vehicle for one person to share their opinions which are often referred to as "facts."

Cllr Lamb does not provide a single example of a 'poorly written' article, why it is 'ill informed' or 'opinions referred to as facts'. Just a general lazy attack on us (and our readers) with no helpful suggestions for how WFP can be improved. A handful of people say similar things on social media but, like Cllr Lamb, provide not a single example to back up their insults.

In the meantime, I will get on with serving the people of the Wetherby Ward to the best of my ability and will keep them informed through our social media channels and reputable and responsible media outlets.

Oh dear! What about the many people who have no internet access or do not wish to follow him on social media or cannot afford £2 for a paper. Sadly, he does not name a single 'reputable and responsible media' outlet. Surely he does not mean the MAXIMUM-one-item-of-news a week so-called Wetherby News! Or the Yorkshire Evening Post / Yorkshire Post, none of whom have reported on the 83% C Tax precept rise, probably the highest in the country and in a cost of living crisis. Not newsworthy? The WFP is the only community newsletter Wetherby has. We are fair, independent, straight to the point and don't put up with waffle and generalities. The fact Cllr Lamb and his Conservative colleagues don't want to engage in the written word tells our readers all they need to know.

If you do wish to meet, please let me know.

Best wishes,

Cllr Lamb, I have no wish to meet you or any of your colleagues at the moment and am not going to repeat my reasons again. You and your colleagues have treated me (and our readers) disgracefully, refusing to put answers to simple questions in the public interest in writing. We have little respect for you. We write facts and if we do not know them because you refuse to tell us in writing, we will make reasonable assumptions about that. This is true; otherwise we would have many people in responsible posts suing us for defamation, or threatening to.

This is all a distraction while the REAL issues are not being dealt with. We await your action on the A1 sign and all the other issues (Page 4, Issue 39)

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



More Leaflets & Posts by Conservatives

There continues to be a large number of posts on social media by Cllr Richards and colleagues as we approach the Leeds City Council election on Thurs 4 May.

As we stated in Issue 41, in Jan & Feb there were double the number of posts to 3 years ago (no election).

Another glossy leaflet to all houses means they obviously think the printed word is an effective communication tool - but not if it's in the Wetherby Free Press on this page.

There were many mistakes in this leaflet, including the old-fashioned and sexist term 'binmen'.





Leading 1-0 after 45 minutes at home to Crystal Palace on Easter Sunday, things were looking good for Leeds. How they lost 5 - 1 was a mystery to the Elland Road faithful in such an important game to win.

Their next opponents were Liverpool; inconsistent this season and against United. Leeds had an early chance but it remained goalless until the 35th minute when the Reds scored after a clear handball. Salah made it 2 - 0 but Leeds were given hope by a dreadful defensive error and Sinisterra got the Whites only goal. Fans started heading for the exit after the Scouse team's fifth goal. This bad defeat leaves Leeds fifth from bottom, 2 points above the relegation zone. Nail-biting times ahead!



Leeds early chance saved

Fulham v **Utd** on Sat 22 Apr at 12.30

Utd v Leicester on Tues 25 Apr at 20.00

Bournemouth v **Utd** on Sun 30 Apr at 14.00



At one point it looked like the other big team in Leeds would get a mauling too on Easter Sunday. The Rhinos were soon 12 - 0 down to a strong Huddersfield side at Headingley. But they went in at half-time with a try scored by Handley. Leeds upped their game in the second half, like in

previous games, and came back to lead by a point. An exciting climax saw the Giants fail to score a drop goal and the Rhinos went above them in the table with an 18 - 17 win.

Another home game followed against Hull FC. A very satisfactory day at the office and a comfortable win for the Rhinos. They were 18 - 0 up at half time and Handley's try in the second half made a Hull comeback almost impossible. With 2 points in the bag, Leeds are now in the top half of the Super League table three wins behind leaders Warrington.



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

Rhinos v Salford on Fri 5 May at 20.00

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Next Issue 44 - Fri 12 May



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.

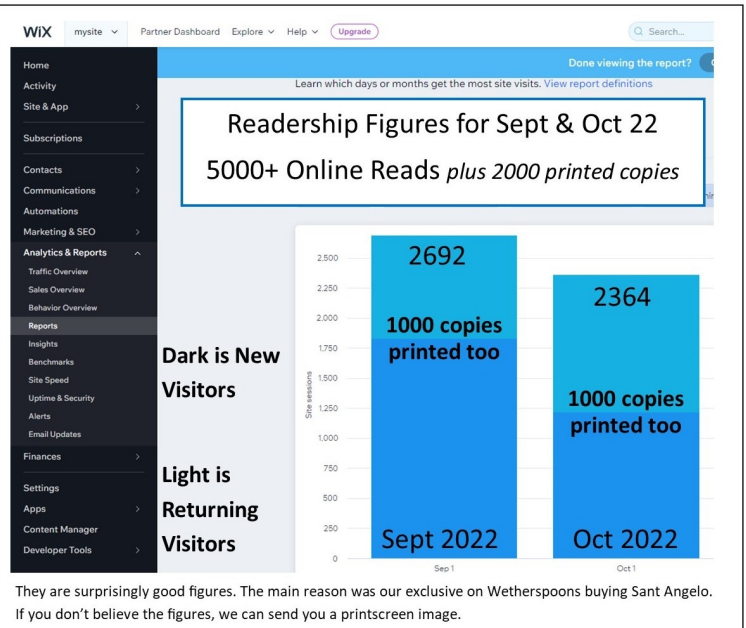
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