



Issue 51 until Sat 14 Oct '23



1000s of Readers - Thank You



Read Full Issue at

www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



Swimming in the Wharfe - is it Safe for Children or Not?



Cllr Alex Riddell (Labour), left, informed 28,000 members of Wetherby Grumbler Facebook group of the dangers of swimming in the Wharfe: "It's been brought to my attention that someone's child was taken ill after swimming in the Wharfe near Wetherby recently - although not certain it was sewage-related, I'd urge residents to be careful letting their children swim in the Wharfe (especially after spells of heavy rain, when sewage overflows are commonly triggered)."



WFP reported on a serious bout of illness affecting a group of swimmers in Burley-in-Wharfedale in Aug 22 (Issue 25).

In Issue 50 of WFP we highlighted a post from Bramham Parish Cllr Linda Richards (Conservative), Chair of Wetherby & Villages Clean Rivers Group (WAVCRG) which invited children down to swim in the Wharfe on 3 & 4 Sep. We criticised the tone and language of the post and Cllr Penny Stables (Green) thought the content was 'irresponsible'.

We asked Mark Barrow, campaigner, underwater cameraman and lead member of WAVCRG the question:

"Would you let your children swim or paddle in the River Wharfe?"



He did not answer the question directly. Nor would he say whether he was an official spokesperson for WAVCRG or condone / condemn Cllr Richards' post. WAVCRG has no website now because, as Cllr Richards states on page 11 in a statement, as she is 'no longer a city councillor the funding for the website has dried up'. The Group does not have a constitution, unlike Ilkley's Clean River Group. The last tweet from the Group was in July. It is not promoting the event in Leeds, below left, but Mark Barrow is.

What is going on in this Group?



Our Troubled Waters documentary is currently being repeated on BBC2. The 2-part documentary features Mark diving with Paul Whitehouse in the Wharfe at Ilkley. Part 2 is on Tues 3 Oct.

Water Quality Campaign Showcase

Join us to celebrate the city voices calling for an end to sewage pollution in our rivers.

Imagine Climate Hub City Exchange

2-4pm Sat 30th September

PLASTIC FREE NORTH WEST LEEDS
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

Wetherby Deserves Better

Mark Barrow promoting effective campaigning in the Severn Trent water area on his Twitter (X) @underwatermedia



More on the River Debate on pages 10 & 11

WHAT'S ON

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TRANSPORT NEWS Page 4 & 5

Pavement Blocking & Air Ambulance

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Solicitor's Charity Walk

Page 9

Unsolved Mysteries & Horsefair Incident

Page 8



Angry Man (child)

Poor End



Page 12



Irish Joke:

Irishman goes into a bar. Landlord recognises him and says 'Top of the morning to you Michael, what will it be?' 'Guinness please', he replied. Landlord pours the pint and asks for 2 Euros. Wow that's cheap thinks Michael, pays and goes to sit down. 'Excuse me', says the Landlord with a cheeky grin, 'that will be 15 Euros to sit down or 10 to stand, please Mr O' Leary'.

What are you if you reverse a Subaru? U r a bus



People in Dubai don't like the Flintstones. But the folk in Abu Dhabi do.

I accidentally took my cat's medication this morning. Don't ask meow!



Elderly Caring & Domestic Help

15 years Experience



NVQ Level 2 Qualification

References available

Call Kerry on 07876 525 589



Wetherby Racecourse

Sundays open 7am

£1 entry for buyers over-16s



Sellers: from 6am No booking necessary
£10 for all vehicles, +£3 trailers

Response from Wetherby Town Council



We write to all councillors and Town Hall staff after every issue. They continue to ignore the serious issues we raised in the last issue (and the issue before that

Wetherby Deserves Better

Notes on September 's Town Council meeting in next issue

Pub News

More than two pubs a day closed in the first half of 2023.

Not so surprising then that Wetherspools aren't interested in Wetherby any more, especially when they announce they are selling off 2 more pubs in West Yorkshire, on top of the 39 already announced in the past year. They are in **Todmorden** in the Calder Valley and the **Norman Rae in Shipley**. The latter is always busy when the Editor visits.



The Crown Inn in town has been closed for years now. Hopes were raised on social media it may re-open because a Sam Smith's pub in Tadcaster has just re-opened.

But **The Tankard** (another Sam Smiths) in Rufforth has just closed surely for the final time. The young tenants, 19 & 20, said that the brewery refused to invest in the kitchen.

MEET THE EDITOR

Morrisons New Café, nr the entrance



Fri 24 Nov at 10 - 11

& Sun 26 Nov at 10 - 11



Come and say 'Hello' and tell us your thoughts. It's YOUR community newsletter and we'd like to know what you think of it and whether you can help and take on one part of it.

We have a few detractors who throw insults, like 'Marxist rag', 'vanity project' and 'nit-picking idiot'. That's fine having an opinion but you must provide some examples to back it up. We'd like to know why such people ignore all the positive articles we publish praising the good citizens in our area.

We sincerely hope that the anonymous critics, who complain to Wetherby Grumbler admin about us, can summon up the courage to meet the Editor and have an adult conversation on what they have against us and where the town/WFP can improve.

Councillors and Council staff are most welcome too, of course. Most continue to ignore us. Please come and tell us why.

The Wetherby News (£2!) has all but given up on the town. Until there's an alternative, please help us to help our community.

WHAT'S ON



New Issue
Out
Fri 29 Sep

Autumn Craft Market
at
Wetherby Town Hall

Saturday 7th October

10am-3pm

Bee-Crafts Markets

Wetherby Musical Theatre Group presents:
Registered charity no: 700570

Fancy dress strongly encouraged

The Addams Family
A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY

Book by MARSHALL BRICKMAN and RICK ELICE
Music and lyrics by ANDREW LIPPA
Based on characters created by CHARLES ADDAMS

31 October — 3 November 2023
Wetherby High School - Doors: 7pm, show starts 7:30pm

Tickets on sale now: www.ticketsource.co.uk/wmtg

Tickets only £13

Supported by:
Hopkinson Dental

Book now!

The Addams Family is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), www.theatricalrights.co.uk

It's here already ... our 45th Festival starts on 29th September. Ticket sales are going well and a couple are already sold out - 'Call My Wine Bluff' and *Silent Movies Legends Afternoon*.

MUSIC EVENTS:



Leeds Symphony Orchestra
from £0.00



District Blues Band
£10.00



WETHERBY FOLK CLUB at the Festival
£12.50



Phoenix Concert Band
£15.00



Wetherby Light Music Singers
£7.50



The Swing Commanders
£15.00



Wetherby Silver Band & The Elysian Singers
£10.00



COMEDY NIGHT
with Hal Cruttenden & Neil Delamere
on Sun 1 Oct

TRANSPORT IN WETHERBY on Mon 2 Oct

CAMERA CLUB TALK on Tues 3 Oct

MOUNTAIN FILM ADVENTURE NIGHT on Thurs 5 Oct

LITERARY LUNCH with Joanne Harris OBE and Matson Taylor on Fri 6 Oct

For Details of Other Events and Tickets visit
www.WetherbyFestival.co.uk/

TRANSPORT NEWS

Good News - New Mercs for Route 7 Ordered

Harrogate Bus Company are investing in new buses for the 7 to Leeds via Boston Spa & Bramham.

Many of their current buses are 14 years old and, though much better than their rivals Connexions buses, they are beginning to look a little worn. For example, a window would not stay closed on a recent journey the Editor took.

As we all know, the Germans build reliable cars and buses. Their buses may not be the most exciting design but they get you from A to B in comfort. So we should be pleased at this good news.



Cost of Unleaded Still Creeping up

Shell £1.65 Morrisons £1.62 up 14p from 3 mths ago

H'gate S'burys £1.54 Correct on 28 Sep to nearest p

Diff b/w Shell & S'burys to fill av tank is £6



Single Bus Fares £2 until 31 Oct



Still 4 More Sundays to Use DalesBus

W'by 9.44 - No 7

H'gate 10.08

H'gate 10.20 - No 24

Pateley Br 11.11

Pat Br 11.15 - No 822

Grassington 11.40

Return Times:

822 dep 3.55

24 dep 4.25

7 dep 5.20

Or direct to G'ton

W'by 8.35 - No 874



New Bus Shelter that Nobody Requested



We will ask Cllr Alan Lamb, board member of Metro/WYCA, what he thinks about their system of choosing where to put shelters; they must cost at least £1000 each of public money. We will also ask him for any progress on other issues, like the bus station exit blocking problem.

A new bus shelter has replaced a bus stop on Audby Lane on the Sandbeck estate. Great news you may think but why was it done? The Editor lives nearby and has never seen any

passengers waiting there though one person has told us that it is used. Four buses a day use the stop, none on Sundays. We wondered if someone had requested a shelter there. And was there any consultation with passengers, residents or councillors about this?

Metro/WYCA were kind enough to respond to our enquiries. They told us nobody had specifically asked for it, nor was there any consultation.

Many more people would benefit from a shelter at the stop near Goldenfry foods; it is a more central location on the estate and is closer to the 'new' houses by the A1.

If Metro/WYCA have some money for infrastructure, why not use it for maximum benefit for the most amount of people eg a shelter on the large Aire Rd/Ainsty Road estate? One is very much needed at the 'Aire Road' bus stop, one passenger has told us.

Another lady on social media said they could do with one in Bardsey (Keswick Lane/Woodacre Green).

Buses back under Public Control in Manchester



Manchester's New Bee Network

Cost to set up: £100m+ Apart from all buses being yellow, what difference will it make to Manchester passengers? Time will tell.

For an excellent analysis, read a blog at www.busandtrainuser.com/

Private bus companies still operate the services but the Mayor and Civil Servants decide on fares and services. Would we in West Yorkshire want a Politician (Tracy Brabin) & Metro/WYCA controlling our buses?

NO! is our resounding answer; Metro/WYCA can't even install bus stop flags properly in our town. They are failing miserably in so many of their basic responsibilities areas (see previous issues). It would cost a fortune and in all probability be no better than what we have now. Partnerships, like that in the West Midlands are better.

We will ask the our local politicians and bus companies for their views. What do you think?

Reminder of Important Bus Facts (to inform our councillors)

- ◇ Transdev's route 7 to Leeds via B Spa was reduced to hourly from half-hourly in Nov '22
- ◇ The late night route 7 service from Harrogate at 11.30pm was cut in Nov '22. The last bus is now 10.20pm
- ◇ There is NO Saturday service to York (Connexion's route 412) or Otley (Connexions route 923)
- ◇ There are no evening services to York
- ◇ There is not a single bus shelter on the Aire Road/Ainsty Road estate
- ◇ Wetherby has old and new bus stop flags, and dirty cases with minimal information.
- ◇ WYCA/Metro have stopped printing their 7 invaluable network maps



On York Road - One of Metro's many filthy bus stops

Changes to Major Bus Services on Leeds & Harrogate routes - X98/99 & 7

After operating the X98/99 for a year, Harrogate Bus Company (Transdev) say they are carrying 21% more passengers.

Changes from 29 October for the X98/99 means the bus will enter Leeds the same route as it leaves ie it does not turn right on Regent Street but carries on towards the bus station and Eastgate. This means no stop on Headrow any more, just Eastgate, Corn Exchange & Boar Lane/City Square. Some times will be 'tweaked' to improve reliability, they say.



The first Transdev X98/99 on Sun 2 Oct '22

21%



Evening and Sunday X98/99 services will still run hourly but now alternate buses will run as either an X98 or an X99 which 'ensures everywhere gets an evening and Sunday bus.'

On route 7 from Sun 29 October most times from Leeds and Harrogate will stay the same but times along the route will be adjusted, so please check the new timetable available soon. On Sundays before 5pm, buses will leave Harrogate at 10 past the hour rather than 20 past. Please tell us if these changes are good or bad for you.

It is nearly a year since they cut the 7 from Boston Spa to Leeds from half-hourly to hourly. We will ask them whether passenger numbers on that service have increased, decreased or stayed the same.

Abnormal Load Causes Large Disruption in Boston Spa

A lorry turning left from Bridge Road onto the High Street has caused long delays in Boston Spa.

Motorists were held up for 4.5 hours from 1 - 5.30pm on Wednesday 27 Sept.

It caused much amusement and some frustration as people shared their photos and videos on social media, like Boston Spa Grumbler on Facebook.

As one Transport Manager put it:

"Ps Poor Planning Produces Poor Performance"**

But we must not jump to conclusions as to who was responsible. The Transport Manager says that it is not really the driver's fault: "The company (KMS Transport) goes on a government website to generate a movement order.

The company then completes the required data and it's sent automatically to the authorities including the police. It

would seem, in this case the police should have checked the route more carefully. They were probably too busy doing other duties and it went overlooked. **Also, the company shouldn't perhaps rely upon the route generated by the abnormal loads website.** It should have been checked out beforehand."

Street furniture had to be removed, including 2 bollards, a post and a large planter.



Onlookers watched in amazement as another lorry came to remove street signs, see image left.

The story appeared on the late edition of BBC Look North that evening.



Our thanks to Mark Grayson for the photos and information

SERENADE RADIO

THE BEST IN EASY LISTENING

Simple Radio that plays stations from all round the world. The music they play is varied and relaxing, and all are tuneful. It was founded by Andy Marriott, who has worked in broadcasting, both radio and TV since 1981. **And there are no adverts to annoy you!!** Sit back and enjoy an oasis of calm in a frantic crazy world.

Radio Like It Used To Be

Tired of the dullness of most of the BBC Radio 2 presenters and the same old music they play, then listen to Serenade Radio online or on your smartspeaker.

Find it on www.internetradiouk.com or there's an app called



will be joining the team at *Furever Pets* on Aire Road, Wetherby.

We specialise in small to medium sized dogs.

To make an appointment for your loveable pooch for a Full

Groom or just a freshen up with a Bath and Blow Dry, please

call **Vanessa** on **07970 546615**
or email **info@pawsgrooming.co.uk**

Now taking bookings for **October**



Free Press Promote Our Great Town (again)

Paul Kirby ▶ Seacroft Community Forum
September 22 at 8:21 AM · 🌐

Morning Folks, It's Catch the Bus Month so why not try it this Sunday. You'll be surprised at what a pleasant experience it is, if you've not been on a bus in a while.

The 7 to Wetherby leaves Seacroft Bus Sta on Sundays at 9.28, 10.28, 11.28 etc . £2 singles until the end of October. It's a great day out by the river and easy on the wallet. Sit back and enjoy a brass band whilst the kids feed the ducks 🦆.

The Sunday 875 & 876 DalesBus take you to Grassington and Kettlewell until Sun 22 Oct. The 875 carries on all the way to Hawes - an incredible journey up Wharfedale & Wensleydale. They leave Seacroft bus station at 9.00 and 9.55.

See www.dalesbus.org for all details or timetable booklets in the library/community hub by the bus station. DalesBus is a not-for-profit organisation running a network of bus services set up to allow everyone to enjoy the Dales. 😊

CATCH THE BUS MONTH GET ON BOARD SEPTEMBER 2023

Two Suggestions

The Dales on DalesBus 875 & 6

Seacroft Bus Sta 9.00 & 9.55 [@DalesBus](http://www.dalesbus.org)

£2 Single
£10 Rover
£18 Group Rover

Wetherby on Rte 7 - Final Brass Band Concert by River & Feed the Ducks too!

2.30 - 4.30 Sun 24 Sep

Lucky Duck Food from **CANCER RESEARCH UK** & **TREASURES Toys**

only £1

OPEN SUNDAYS

Paul Kirby ▶ Roundhay Community Chat
September 16 at 8:49 AM · 🌐

It's Catch the Bus Month so why not try it this Sunday. You'll be surprised at what a pleasant experience it is, if you've not been on a bus in a while.

Pure luxury on the X99 on the hourly Sky Class double-deckers to Wetherby. £2 singles until the end of October. Buses leave Oakwood Clock opp library at quarter past the hour on Sundays. Brass band by the river, where you can feed the ducks too.

The Sunday 874 DalesBus at 8.57 takes you all the way to Grassington and Kettlewell until Sun 22 Oct. Rover tickets are £10 and for a family group £18. See www.dalesbus.org for all details. DalesBus is a not-for-profit organisation set up to allow everyone to enjoy the Dales. 😊

CATCH THE BUS MONTH GET ON BOARD SEPTEMBER 2023

Two Suggestions

The Dales on DalesBus 874

Oakwood Clock towards Leeds at 8.57

£2 Single for any journey

www.dalesbus.org
@DalesBus

Wetherby on X98/99 - Final Two Brass Band Concerts by River & Feed the Ducks too!

2.30 - 4.30 Sun 17 Sep
Sun 24 Sep

Lucky Duck Food from **CANCER RESEARCH UK** & **TREASURES Toys**

only £1

OPEN SUNDAYS

Community groups on Facebook have 10s of 1000s of members. The Editor recently promoted the town's river, the brass band concerts and public transport. The two posts to suburbs of Leeds took him a couple of hours of work.

We hope to report in these pages similar cheap, imaginative, easy and effective actions by the Town Council's Climate Emergency Cttee & Welcome to Wetherby.



Red Admiral



Butterflies have suddenly appeared late this summer in great numbers. This is a relief and gives us great joy to see them all, especially the Red Admiral. It was the most spotted butterfly in the Big Butterfly Count 2023, with overall butterfly numbers up on last year. But results still show a worrying decline of butterflies across the UK, due to habitat loss.

Charity *Butterfly Conservation* says that in spring and throughout summer Red Admirals migrate here from North Africa and continental Europe. The females lay eggs that emerge as adults from about July onwards. They continue into October or November and are typically seen collecting nectar on garden buddleias or flowering ivy, and on rotting fruit.

There is an indication that numbers have increased in recent years and that overwintering has occurred in the far south of England.

Caterpillars feed on nettles mostly.


The *Butterfly Conservation* website is www.butterfly-conservation.org/

Blocked Pavements - Jeremy Vine Reacts to Local Campaigner

Jeremy Vine @theJeremyVine

Sound up for this one

Doug Paulley @Doug_Paulley · 2d
Sue me. Outside Selly Oak Station yesterday.



17:52 · 27/08/2023 from Earth · 134K Views

Doug Pauley is a disabled rights campaigner who took a case about wheelchair users rights on buses to court in 2017 and won.

On a recent visit to Birmingham he experienced some thoughtless parking and posted a video on Twitter (X). Channel 5 & Radio 2 presenter Jeremy Vine has 790K followers and commented on Doug's post, which had 134K views.

Of course, there are stupid and selfish car owners in Wetherby too, see right.

Clr Harrington says it is not illegal and would like a change in the law.

Naming and shaming would be an effective way of dealing with these drivers on local social media.

But many, not all, Facebook and other community groups will not show number plates.

Rachel #unpaidcarer @RachelAd... · 5h

Over a year plus being asking to tackle pavement parking and nothing changes. Sorting out pavement parking and stopping it is of paramount importance @NormaCKH @WetherbyClrs @penny_stables @beckileighanne @bairbre32

Rachel #unpaidcarer @Rachel... · 19h
Reasons not to park on pavements



Norma Harrington @NormaCKH · 4h
Unfortunately it isn't illegal so there are powers to stop it. We hope there is a change in the law

Air Ambulance at Woods nr Wetherby

Images from YappApp on Facebook, Twitter & other social media

The Yorkshire Air Ambulance was called to a wooded area at the back of Aire Road / Kings Meadow in north Wetherby late on Monday afternoon (25 Sept).

A spokesperson for Yorkshire Ambulance Service said that an injured teenager was taken to hospital. No other details were given by the authorities. The incident was not reported in the Wetherby News.



YappApp is the best way to keep informed of incidents throughout Yorkshire. It is amazing what the mainstream media do not tell us. This is real life. YappApp turns you, the public, into anonymous reporters - they verify, edit & share your stories. Join them with this QR code.



Apology Demanded from Former Cllr

Wetherby Town Council Accounts

09/08/2023	Farm & Land Services	6492, Maintenance & Caretaking	E878.40
09/08/2023	Ward Signs	Replacement Blue Plaque, Weir	1396.00
09/08/2023	BHA Trees Ltd	Tree Inspections	£1,100.00



In the last issue we queried which plaque the payment referred to and why it had not been replaced yet. No answers.



Victor Hawkins · Wetherby · 2w

I look forward to your next 'publication' with an apology to the Town Council, the Wetherby Civic Society and the Wetherby Historical Trust. The Blue Plaques around Wetherby are nominally owned by the Town Council but have NEVER been paid for by the Council. The Trust and the Civic Society organise the production, placement, and wording on the plaques and make a full donation to Council incurring NO COST TO THE WETHERBY TAXPAYER for their purchase.

Paul Hutchinson · Wetherby · 2w
Victor I suggest that you ask Paul to clarify this in the newsletter rather than try to score points here.

Victor Hawkins · Wetherby · 2w
Paul As 'The Wetherby Free Press' is so quick to demand apologies I expect a published apology when they are so obviously wrong in their published facts

Former Conservative Councillor (and former Chair of Welcome to Wetherby) Victor Hawkins has been critical of the Free Press in a post on social media, see image.

He demanded an apology from the Editor because the newsletter was so "obviously wrong" in our published facts about payment for a blue plaque. *Judge for yourselves.*

We saw the accounts (see image) in Council minutes and they **had clearly paid for a blue plaque**. Mr Hawkins expected us to know all the other facts he introduced in his comments, which were not stated anywhere in the minutes. We have no problem apologising for things we should have known but this is not one of them.

If he had sent us evidence from meeting minutes of £1000 paid into the Town Council account from these other organisations, then that would merit a clarification in these pages we would be pleased to provide.

We were disappointed that Mr Hawkins, given his knowledge in this matter, did not clarify any of the other issues we raised in Issue 50 ie which plaque was to be replaced and why it had not been done already.



After 2 years of giving you the facts and asking the questions, there are an incredible amount of secrets that people are keeping in this town.

We think it is quite unusual to have so many unresolved issues in one place. Too many people think it's OK to keep schtum, even when the issue is clearly in the public interest and it looks suspicious when they say nothing.

Can YOU help us solve these Wetherby mysteries?

1 What caused the bus crash into the Paper Shop in July 2021? We asked Harrogate Bus Company & Town Councillors - No answer.

2 Why did the 'Wetherby Means Business' website for local businesses suddenly disappear? We asked Wetherby Business Association - No answer.

3 Why is Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd a Limited Company instead of a Charity? No answer.

4 Why do so many people find it difficult to be mature and accept criticism as well as praise? We find it bizarre that people are so sensitive and ignore all the positive news in this newsletter.

We should not let these organisations and councillors get away with not giving us straight answers to straight questions. If you fancy being a Sherlock Holmes and finding out the answers, or perhaps you know them already, please tell us (anonymously if you prefer).



Quiz Time

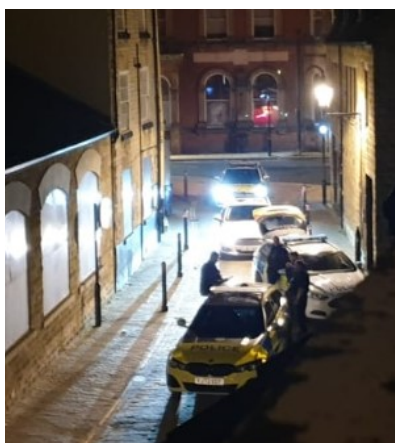
What's the name of this rare visitor that got Twitchers and Ornithologists excited in Collingham? And how many years ago was it?

Answer on page 12 at bottom



Leeds North East - West Yorkshire Police

nel.npt@westyorkshire.police.uk

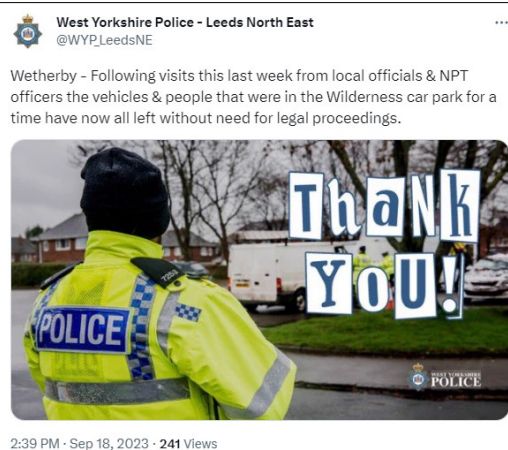


No details from West Yorks Police about the incident that required 3 vehicles at 2am in Horsefair on Sat 23 Sept. No request for information, if it was another attempt at robbery, as many on social media suspected.

But they have time to Tweet about 'vehicles and people' leaving the Wilderness car park, right. Are the Police too frightened to say 'travellers' now? Seriously! They are travellers. They call themselves gypsies and travellers. What is the problem?

Crazy over-sensitive world we live in, folks.

Leeds NE division also had time to wish us all a 'Blessed Yom Kippur' on Twitter.



We Keep Saying - The Truth Will Always Come Out In The End

MP Alec Shelbrooke: Very Quiet - 2 Tweets in 4 Months!

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for 13.5 years since May 2010.

In 2019 he won 58% of our vote beating Labour by over 17,000 votes. He was a Remainer.

From Dec '19 to 21 June 2023 he has voted 640 times out of 817 (78%)

In that time he has rebelled twice against the party whip.

Source - www.publicwhip.org.uk/

He refused to inform his constituents whether or not he supported Boris Johnson in the party's No-Confidence Vote.

Alec was a strong supporter of Liz Truss in the Leadership Battle.

As PM Liz Truss promoted him to an MoD Ministerial post in Sep '22, which he then quit / was sacked after 49 days, the same length of time his boss lasted in post.

In June 2023 Alec voted for the Privileges Committee report which stated that Boris Johnson repeatedly misled parliament ie knowingly lied about parties in Downing Street whilst the rest of us had to follow the rules.

Source - www.theyworkforyou.com/



Alec has 17K followers
No Tweets in June. One

Tweet in July. No Tweets in August. One Tweet in Sept (up to 27th), see below.

He is not even in his constituency!

Wetherby deserves better than this



Rt Hon. Alec Shelbrooke MP @AlecShelbrooke · Sep 27
Great to be out in beautiful North Yorkshire this week helping David Huggill in the Hutton Rudby & Osmotherley council by-election.



Space for Alec to Say Anything to Constituents

(Unedited, max 400 words)

Nothing received
since we began 2 years ago

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk

Solicitor's Charity Walk to York for Local Domestic Abuse Charity

Staff from Jordans Solicitors recently walked from one of their offices to the York offices of local charity Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS), raising £770 in vital funds to support their lifesaving services.

Jane Matthews of the Yorkshire-based firm, said, "As a proud partner of IDAS, Jordans' Abuse and Personal Injury Department joined forces to take part in a sponsored walk this summer, to raise money and awareness for IDAS and the work they do. This was our second fundraiser, and this time we decided on the 15-mile walk to IDAS' offices in York.

"The weather was fine and dry at the beginning of the walk, but did end in a heavy rain shower, but this didn't dampen our spirits as the end was in sight! We all thoroughly enjoyed the walk and were very proud to finish in less than 5 hours."

Sarah Hill, CEO of IDAS, said: "We are proud to work closely with Jordans Solicitors. As well as raising much-needed funds, they also raise awareness of our charity here in Yorkshire, helping us to reach more victims and survivors who urgently need our support. We hope the wonderful work Jordans is doing encourages other local businesses to follow suit".

Jordans Solicitors opened almost 75 years ago and have many offices in Yorkshire, including Wetherby. Their specialist services include Family Law, Child Care Legal Advice, and Child Abuse Compensation Claims.



IDAS provides support to anyone subjected to domestic abuse or sexual violence, through refuge accommodation, outreach services and a free, confidential helpline. Their services include community-based support, peer mentoring, group work, emotional support and safety planning, and support through the criminal justice system.

If you are worried that you, or someone you know, may be experiencing abuse, you can

call IDAS' helpline on 0300 110 110 or email info@idas.org.uk

Closure of Gourmet Cafe

The owner, Karen Brittain, now in Spain, said it feels like the heart is being ripped out of the town with all the chains like Costa and Caffè Nero. She also blamed rising wholesale costs. Many people were shocked the café closed on 3 Sept without warning or any notice on the windows or doors. She praised her staff in the YEP but did not thank her customers, some of whom had been going there for over 15 years. She didn't mention other competition providing hot drinks like WISE, the library (costing nothing) and churches. *We think we are not being told the whole story here. Other cafes are surviving. We ask ourselves whether the owner put the customer first because the staff certainly did. We would like to ask Karen if she tried anything to compete with the other cafes - like special offers, loyalty cards, getting publicity from social media (free), the Free Press (free), improving her online presence during Covid (website, social media). Did she ask for help from the landlord, W'by Business Assoc'n, councillors when she first hit trouble? If you know her, please ask her to email us with a response.*

WFP favours no political party - we aim to make those 9 spending our money accountable whoever they are



Two local politicians are approaching the River Wharfe clean water issue in a very different manner.

Former Conservative Councillor Linda Richards (2019 – 2023) brought her clean up campaign to national attention back in March this year for the River Wharfe to hold recognised 'bathing area status' by the government. The Guardian's Sandra Laville wrote not only about Linda's campaign but those of other conservation groups in both Kent and Tyne.

When a river has recognised bathing status it means the Environment Agency must regularly test the water for safety. Collingham Beach for example is an extremely popular swimming, water sports and as a recreational destination for families. It is recognised by Leeds City Council as one of the 7 beaches of Wetherby.

However, last week Green Party Cllr Penny Stables hit out at the continued campaigning by Mrs Richards, who called for people to go to the River Wharfe and demonstrate to show how popular the river is with locals and why the status is needed. Cllr Stables stated, "It is highly irresponsible to encourage people into the River Wharfe whilst we know that the water is dangerously polluted with raw sewage and run off from farmers' fields". It was not stated which farms Cllr Stables was accusing of polluting the river though.

In July Mike Blanshard of Paddle 26 and SUP Yorkshire, along with Mrs Richards' Wetherby Villages and Clean Rivers group –note their website is no longer functioning and we would invite Mrs Richards for an update on this and the now defunct Facebook page, organised a paddleboard protest to highlight the problems on the River Wharfe; additionally Beneath British Water (a freshwater and education group) came and gave a speech along with individuals from both BBC and ITV supporting the day.

Cllr Stables who chairs Boston Spa Wetherby & Villages Community Green Group, went on to say "we all want a river that is safe for all to enjoy, but there are other ways to achieve this".

Locals, in a project is called 'iWharfe: improving water quality in the River Wharfe from Oughtershaw to the Ouse' collected their own samples of river water 2 years ago that they sent to a Coventry laboratory demonstrating there was E.Coli in the water. E.Coli or Escherichia to give it its scientific name, is a bacteria commonly found in the gastrointestinal tract and faeces of warm-blooded animals. Although usually harmless, E.Coli can cause illnesses such as meningitis, sepsis, urinary tract, and intestinal infections, but usually it is only minor tummy upsets. Note we strongly advise never to drink river (or sea) water.

It is unclear what Cllr Stables plan of action is. As she also has not updated her Facebook or Twitter feeds with a solution and as yet does not have a website for the Wetherby Green party having only been elected 4 months ago. Like Mrs Richards – we invite Cllr Stables to update us with a local Green Party Website and/or social media platform saying what her plans are for the River Wharfe.

In a statement given to The Guardian newspaper, Mrs Richards said, "This is the only measure that will compel the Environment Agency to regularly monitor the water quality of the river. We understand improvements will not happen overnight, but unless the EA are actively monitoring the situation, then improvements might never happen," explaining the decision to apply for bathing status.

What do YOU think? Do you think that Mrs Richards approach of getting the river recognised as a bathing area to force DEFRA to monitor and keep the river clean is the answer. Or do you think Cllr Stables is right and no one should use the river at the moment?



Cllr Richards



PICTURES FROM BENEATH BRITISH WATERS

We thank our reader, who wishes to remain anonymous, for her contribution. We asked Bramham Councillor Linda Richards (Conservative) and Leeds City Councillor & Boston Spa Councillor Penny Stables (Green) for their response. Judge for yourselves who states their case clearly.



Cllr Penny Stables

Cllr Stables says: **“ Firstly, I stand by my statement that it is highly irresponsible** to encourage anyone to swim or paddle in the river Wharfe currently, when we know that there are high levels of pollution in the river. Although the river was running low, this does not unfortunately mean that there is no pollution. The current law allows water companies to legally dump raw sewage into our rivers after heavy rain to prevent back up into homes. However, we know that Yorkshire Water have and continue to allow raw sewage to enter the river Wharfe even when the river is low and during dry weather.

Unfortunately getting Bathing Water status for Wetherby is also not the solution, as although it is true that it would put an obligation on the Environment Agency to regularly monitor the river; it would not give them the money or resources to do it or to prosecute, a problem caused by massive cuts in funding from the Government. The only way to get real change is to bring the water companies back under public ownership and control, which is what I and the Green Party will continue to push for.

Unless this happens profit will always be put before the environment.

What can we do to make a difference? We can all lobby our MP and the Government to bring about this change. I will continue to support the iWharfe project through the Community Green Group, by organising and assisting in river testing and doing all I can as a Ward Councillor on Leeds City Council to continue to push the importance of the clean rivers campaign.

I regularly tweet on this subject; follow me on @penny_stables .

We also have a Rivers page at www.bostongreengroup.co.uk/rivers/ ”

Cllr Richards response on next page

The Great River Wharfe Debate cont'd from previous page

Cllr Richards says: **“ Improving the quality of water in our rivers is an issue close to all our hearts. Wetherby Ward Councillors have been working with a wide range of groups and people involved with this issue over the last four years including contributing to the iWharfe monitoring Project.**



As I am no longer a city councillor the funding for the website has dried up. But I have been continuing to work with Mark Barrow of *Beneath British Waters* who contributes practically to the water monitoring on the river Wharfe, as part of the the Clean River group in Wetherby and with other River Wharfe users such as the Paddlers and Wild Swimming Groups.

To gain bathing water status means improved monitoring, management and investment of a river. That is why achieving this is still important for our river Wharfe. No one doubts the potential seriousness of sewage and land run-off coming into our rivers, and that this has the potential to affect the health of those who use the rivers. I have personally spent many hours on the riverside talking to those who use the river and who enjoy having it as a community asset. They are aware of the dangers and like all the users including the paddle boarders, anglers, swimmers, and children, they wish to continue to use the river. As with all situations individuals can and should assess the risk for themselves and decide accordingly. A decision not to use the river, would be totally understandable in that context but is the responsibility of the individual themselves.

Note: we were at the river because two days of data were needed in a particular way to allow the application to be made.

It is the intention to pursue bathing water status application and to pursue other means of agitation for change. As a long-term member of the Conservative Environment Network, which has worked hard to raise public awareness and push for government action, I am hoping that the action of the Wetherby and villages clean river group and all the volunteers who have worked hard to acquire the data will have the desired impact and that Wetherby, and its residents will have an improved chance of clean river water. **”**

Charity Guide Dogs are holding a dining event with a difference on Saturday 7 October at Ridding Park Hotel, Harrogate.

Dining in the Dark



'Dining in the Dark' will see diners trying to eat the middle course of a 3 course dinner whilst blindfolded, to simulate what dining out is like for people with a visual impairment.

Local guide dog Jango will be there with his owner.

Tickets for this unusual event are still available at £53.30 and are available from www.dine-in-the-dark.eventbrite.co.uk or

email Nicola.Ridgway@guidedogs.org.uk

Guide Dogs provides support to help people with sight loss live their lives safely and as normally as possible. All funds raised at the event will go to support Guide Dogs UK.

Wetherby News

NEWSWATCH



In a free democratic society, a questioning independent press is vital for accountability. We have not had that in Wetherby for many years. You are lucky to get more than 1 story about Wetherby / B Spa these days for your £2 Wetherby News. There are so many important issues they could cover in this town but they do not even attend council meetings now. Wetherby Library no longer keep a copy. That says it all. We will keep a tab on the number of **general** news items about Wetherby / B Spa & letters from residents in the paper. We do this in the hope they will wake up and take some of our stories up.

Issue of 14 Sep '23: News Items - 1 Letters - 0

Item in Yorkshire Evening Post about Gourmet café manager calling Wetherby 'soulless' after its sudden closure.

Issue of 21 Sep '23: News Items - 1 Letters - 0

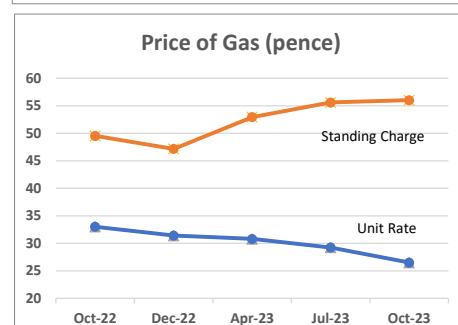
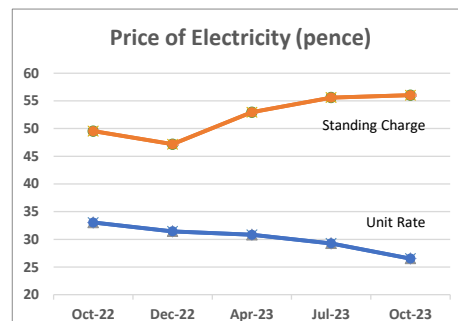
A charity press release

Issue of 28 Sep '23: News Items - 1 Letters - 0

A charity press release

Consumer Corner

Oct Energy Price 'Cut' is a Price Con



They give with one hand and take with the other. Unit Rate goes down but the higher Standing Charge goes up. This is a Scottish Power account.



An unexpected 3 - 0 win at Millwall on TV boosted fans' confidence for a promising season ahead.

In the last WFP we asked whether anything had changed at such high tension



Someone needs a chill pill

matches. These Millwall fans were not too pleased during the game and a Leeds fan sent us this photo of one man losing all self control. Apparently he was jumping up and down like a demented child for over 5 minutes. Millions watched his antics on social media. A steel fence meant no confrontation could ever take place. Not such a brave fellow! A 0 - 0 result at Hull City followed where Leeds had their chances. Then came another 3 - 0 win this time at home to Watford taking United up to 6th place in the Championship.

Let's face it Yorkshire is pretty poor at football. Its only Premiership team Sheff Utd got thrashed 8 - 0 at home and is firmly at the bottom of the league

Southampton v **Utd** on Sat 30 Sep at 12.30 **sky sports**

Utd v QPR on Wed 4 Oct at 19.45 **sky sports**

Utd v Bristol City on Sat 7 Oct at 15.00

It was a humiliating end to the season.

To score no points at home is quite shameful. To have 9 tries scored against you at home live on the free Sky Sports Channel (Mix) is quite unforgivable. Leeds 0 - Wigan 50.



The following game you expect a big response to that defeat. Not to be. The Rhinos were crushed 61 - 0 in the south of France.

You might expect the manager to be sacked immediately after those results. Not in rugby league. The team managed to regain some dignity in the final meaningless match, beating lowly Castleford 46 - 0. Leeds finished 8th, 16 points behind the league winners.

Tight at the Top
Well Done Wigan
Winning on Points
Difference



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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. We or you cannot be sued for libel/defamation as long as what is published is:

True or Honest Opinion or in the Public Interest

Unjustifiable threats of legal action can be seen as harassment

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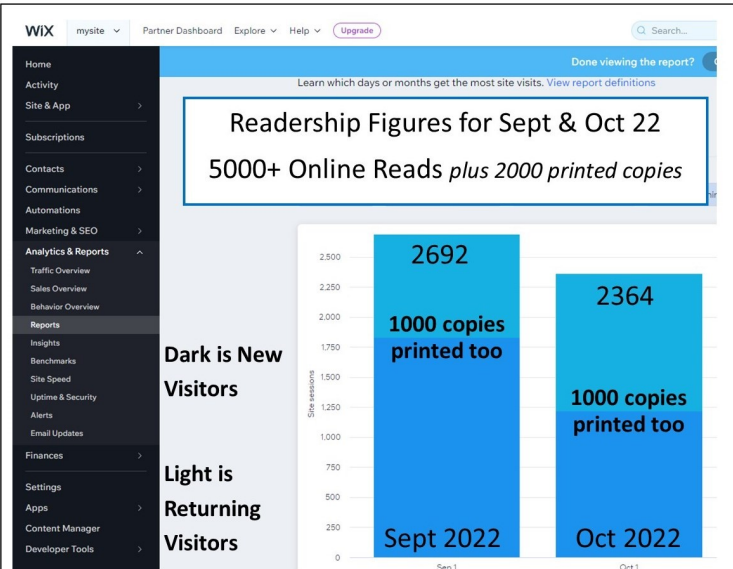
Next Issue 52 - Sat 14 Oct



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

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Let's Make Wetherby Better Together in 2023